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**SECRETARY/TREASURER**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mary Purtill  
Jo Wigg  
Bernie Greely  
Garry Mathewson  
Kevin Bryant  
Garry Higginson  
Greg Reid  
Sue Grant  
Carmel Mc Cartin



**ALDECC**

2003



## AREA REPRESENTATIVES:

JOHN GULLOCK  
(08) 8953 2797

LISA & PHIL HANSEN  
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GREG OAKLEY  
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NSW

TAS

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ELWYN HOLOHAN  
(07) 3379 4291

BRYN & REEN HILLMAN  
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JIM HEYWORD  
(03) 6326 6262

**Annual Subscription: \$15 (Couple \$20) Due: 1 Feb, 2003**  
**Joining Fee: \$5 (plus Annual Subscription of \$15)**

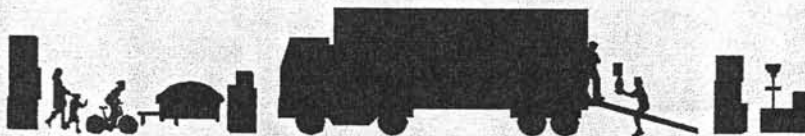
Membership is open to extended tour coach crew employed for a period not less than 12 months full time (full time casual for hosties and cooks), on tours of a duration of 7 days or more (5 days or more for Tasmanian crew).

## ARE YOUR ALDECC SUBS NOW DUE??



If at the time of preparing this newsletter, our records indicate you to be unfinancial, an X will appear in this square.

Orange is one year overdue. Green is two years overdue.



**CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?**  
Please advise our Secretary of the change

## LOGO ITEMS



Iron-on Transfers - Black or White	No charge
Transfers and Stickers	No charge
Replacement Badges	\$5.00
ALDECC Keyrings	\$5.00



*Please place your orders with the Secretary  
Cheques or money orders payable to ALDECC Inc.*

## A . MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT .

Hello Members and Partners,

I hope everyone is in good health (If not get better real quick). Here we are June already where has the year gone. Everything is starting to fall into place for the 2004 reunion (A couple of hick ups but things are better now). The people still in the industry I hope the SARS has not effected you too much especially around Alice and the Rock area. Myself have been very busy for the first part of the year , better than usual . A special hello to Greg Oakley see you at the 2004 ALDECC reunion.

Thats all from me now. A special thanks to Ruth and the Committee for all work done up till now. Excellent contribution by all.

Bye for now,

KEVIN.....



## A . MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY / TREASURER .

Hello to all members,

What surprises lay in store for us!!!!

As mentioned in the last newsletter our venue for the 25th reunion just needed "A few teething problems addressed" – well we are now gob-smacked !!!!

After the committee traveled to Howlong and discussed at length with the proprietor our needs for 2004, and left feeling very confident with the outcome of our meeting, we were stunned when the "Good Lady" rang us 2 days later to say in "no uncertain" terms that our custom was: no longer required!!!! Hmmm.

All I can say is thank goodness for a very diligent committee, because they have rallied in the most amazing way especially two ladies from up near Albury way, not forgetting of cause the work put in by the gentlemen as well. Thank you all so very much.

So at present we are doing our very best to locate a suitable venue and some positive options are being investigated this week. We bear in mind suitability of location, price and amenities for our general comfort and recreation. We will notify you the minute we confirm our "Resort"!

Continuedec Next Page.....



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Our theme for our 25th reunion will be along the lines of silver for colour, and reminisce so we're asking for all sorts of memorabilia from years ago- Uniforms, Promotional items like pens, bags, badges, caps etc etc. also photo's. All will be returned to owner – we just need a lend of please. This is just the first ask – we'll give more details further down the track.

Thank you to members who have sent little notes to me – it's very encouraging and a thrill to hear from you. I hope I've been able to sort out any little problems that may have cropped up here and there.

Thank you also for snippets of news from various folk, some of which was very informative for special reasons.

Until the next edition, I wish you all good health and safe travelling.

Cheerio  
Ruth



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**To make this newsletter interesting and to supply upto date information about members and whats happening around the track I need to be kept informed please keep forwarding your contibutions to me, I can be contacted in the following ways,**

**Snail Mail .. Garry Mathewson, 34 Roberts Ave, BOX HILL South Vic 3128  
Phone: 0402042746  
Fax; (03) 9310 4923  
Email: aldecc@bigpond.com.au**

Regards Garry,



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#### IN MEMORY OF LANCE RUST..

The follwing message was sent along with flowers to the family of Lance Rust.

*"Our sincere condolences to all family members.  
Fond memories of times spent together at Ayers  
Rock."  
From Committee and members of: Australian  
Long Distance Experienced Coach Crews.*

#### **RUSTY RUST, Lance Howard**

Lately of Oakey, QLD  
Born 24/2/1921, Murray Bridge, SA  
Passed Away 26/3/2003, Sydney, NSW

Survived by Betty Ronald Maria Grant  
and Bennie Pam - Matthew/Sophie  
and Grandson Michael

Rusty built and managed the first licensed  
hotel at Ayers Rock in the early Sixties  
(Boomerang Hotel)

A legend who won't be forgotten  
by his old mates.



NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA BY, FROM & ABOUT ALDECC MEMBERS...

**A report sent on the 10 June 2003 by Email from Reen Hillman who recently visited Greg Oakley.....**

We have just got back from Adelaide and were able to catch up with Greg and Helen. It is now 3 weeks since Greg's kidney transplant on 18th May, and he is doing well. After making it home after only a week in hospital, he managed to land straight back in there after only one night (into the maternity section no less!! - typical Oakley. Said that's where the only available bed was) - for some complications to be sorted out. This was a slight setback he could have done without but he is now on the mend - willing to show off his fairly impressive scar for anyone brave enough to look!

While he still has a long way to go, his progress is good. No more dialysis! (He also managed his first Scotch last week - which he needed because some low life stole Helen's car)

**Greg asked that I pass on his and Helen's thanks to all those who have been in touch to offer their support. It has helped him tremendously through a "bit of a tough time" knowing that there were so many people out there wishing him well.**

He usually has to report into the hospital first thing in the morning for a couple of hours so the best time to catch him is in the afternoon. Don't hesitate to give him a call as it will give him a boost and help him pass the time as well. His aim is to see everyone at ALDECC next year - so we wish him well and look forward to that.



**Barb Conner sent me this email on the 5th June 2003 giving an up date about a few members.**

Eric Blizzard has had a valve replaced in his heart. He has joined the Blood thinner group and all is well.

Margie had to have a spot removed from her nose and all is well there.

Val Mac had a kidney stone removed and not much of a scar to show for it. He reckons this retirement caper has it's uses.

Lance has had a problem again with his fingers again this time a bit of bone went west with the fingernail and has had it worked on by a cosmetic surgeon. He had to have the bone chips removed and the end of the bone cleaned up. Did a good job this time !!

PS.... I hear that this finger is a bit shorter now !!!!!.....



Some of the "Older Members" of ALDECC would remember Jol Fleming.

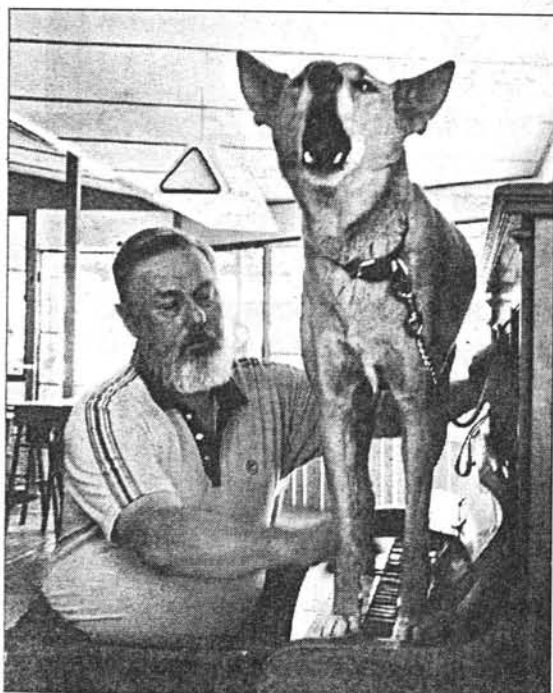
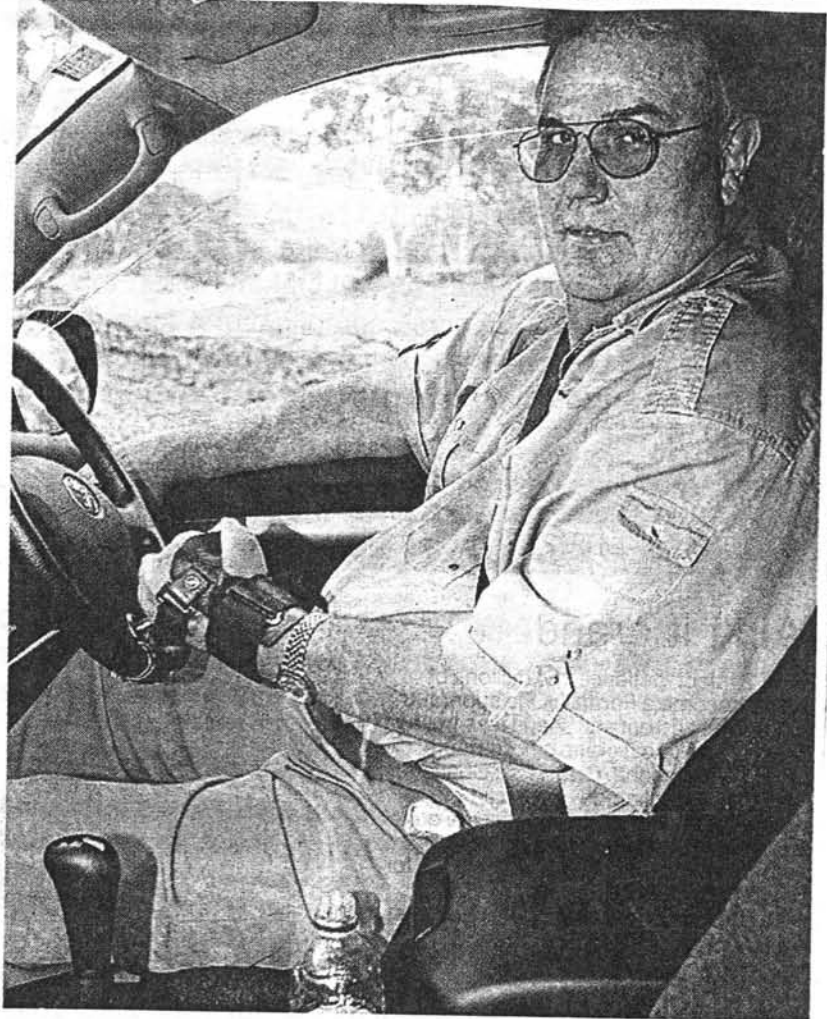
Jol Fleming uses a wheelchair but that doesn't stop him from doing what he really loves.

A car accident 20 years ago left him a paraplegic, but Jol was determined to continue driving the outback's rugged trails.

He runs a four-wheel-driving school in Alice Springs and uses a hand device to control the steering and a lever to control the throttle and the brake.

Jol says most people who come to learn how to drive a 4WD are surprised to see their instructor in a wheelchair.

"It's a bit of a shock for them to start off with" Jol says. "They ask, 'Are you taking the class?' but after a while they become relaxed with it."



**Singing dingo:** Dinky Di struts his stuff with Jim Cotterill at the Stuart's Well roadhouse. Picture: AAP

## A fair dinkum howling success

By KAREN MICHELMORE

A DINGO called Dinky Di is creating a sensation in outback Australia — for his musical abilities.

The three-year-old dog is believed to be Australia's only singing, piano-playing dingo, and he's proving a howling success with tourists.

Dinky Di has strutted his stuff across the keyboard for hundreds of fans at the Stuart's Well Roadhouse, about 90km south of Alice Springs, since being rescued from certain death two years ago.

Roadhouse owner Jim Cotterill says the dingo creates a din every time someone plays piano at his roadhouse, Jim's Place.

"Every time someone starts playing the piano, he starts howling, or singing as we call it," Mr Cotterill said.

"(With) a chair alongside the piano, he will actually walk up on to the chair then ... on to the keys — we call that his playing. And he stands there and he sings.

"Depending on the type of music, too, he tries to alter his pitch and the sound. He could be down low if you're playing low, or if you play it faster or a bit higher he follows suit."

Although Dinky Di has no favourite song, classic tunes such as *Chariots of Fire* and Beethoven's *Fur Elise* are popular with piano-playing tourists who accompany Dinky.

Dinky was rescued during a dingo baiting program when he was a cub.

— AAP



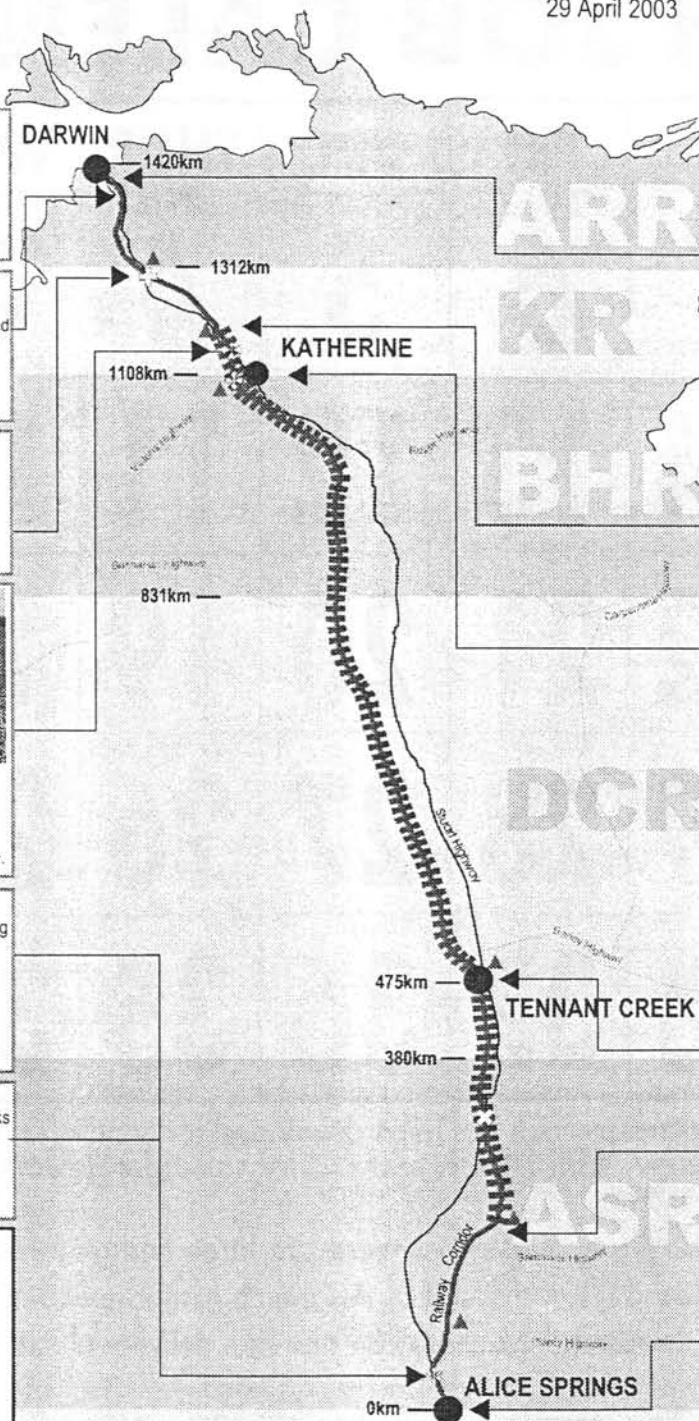
# RUSH JOB CALENDAR

MIR	FRI	FRI	FRI	THUR	WED	TUE
8	7	6	5	4	3	2
16	14	13	12	11	10	9
23	22	21	20	19	18	17
32	29	28	27	26	25	24
39	38	37	36	35	34	33

1. This is a special calendar which has been developed for handling rush jobs. All rush jobs are wanted yesterday. With this calendar a client can order his work on the 7th and have it delivered on the 3rd.
2. Everyone wants his job by Friday, so there are three Fridays in every week.
3. There are eight new days at the end of the month for those end-of-the-month jobs.
4. There is no 1st of the month — so there can't be late delivery of end-of-the-month jobs on the 1st.
5. A "Blue Monday" or "Monday morning hangover" can't happen, as all Mondays have been eliminated.
6. There are no bothersome non-productive Saturdays and Sundays.
7. With no 15th, 30th or 31st, no "time-off" is necessary for cashing salary cheques or paying bills.
8. "MIR DAY" — A special day each week for performing miracles.

# AustralAsia Railway Construction Progress

29 April 2003



**Bridges**  
All major and minor bridges on the project have now been completed.

**Earthworks**  
Earthworks recommenced in April, on rectification works and Crossings. Clearing 100% complete between Darwin and Adelaide River (ARR). Earthworks 92% complete.

**South of Adelaide River**  
Bridgeworks complete on Grade Separated Crossing (KR190)

**North of Katherine (KR Section)**  
Production of Ballast has been completed, with total of 1,285,000 tonnes of Ballast produced at the Witte Quarry north of Katherine. All earthworks and bridge construction complete.

**Alice Springs (ASR)**  
Rock crew continuing blasting and earthworks in cuttings through the hills north of Alice Springs. All bridges complete. Earthworks - Clearing 100%, embankment 100% and capping layer 92% complete.

**ASR17-Nth of Alice Springs**  
Diversion road open. Earthworks for Grade Separated crossing complete and bridgeworks commenced.

**NT/SA PARTICIPATION 26/04/03**  
Total Project Personnel : 699  
Staff: 183  
Labour: 516  
Direct contracts awarded: \$1,018 million \*  
Northern Territory industry: \$636 million \*  
South Australian industry: \$338 million \*  
\* Note: Official figures to 29.03.03. Figures likely to be higher. Many more indirect jobs & contracts.

VITAL STATISTICS	Total required	Completed
Clearing	1420km	1420km
Embankment	1420km	1410km
Capping layer	1420km	1369km
Bridges	90	90
Tracklaying	1420km	949km
Rail Delivery	146,000 tonnes	126,175
Flash Butt Welds	110,324	82,577
Sleepers	2 million	1,658,158
Ballast	2,835 million tonnes	2,835,000

Construction of Crossings	Total required	Completed
Grade Separated	1420km	1410km
All Curving - complete and opened to traffic	1420km	1410km
Victoria Highway Katherine - complete and opened to traffic	1420km	1369km
Stuart Highway Nth of Katherine - complete	1420km	1369km
Stuart Highway Sth of Adelaide River - earthworks and bridgeworks completed	1420km	1369km
Stuart Highway Nth of Alice Springs - bridgeworks commenced	1420km	1369km

**ON-SITE CIVIL PLANT & EQUIPMENT**  
28 graders 29 water trucks  
11 excavators 20 loaders  
15 bulldozers 31 other trucks  
15 scrapers 5 dump trucks  
15 cranes 12 rollers  
14 other plant 184 Others

**RAIL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**  
Trackworks North - 84 items  
Trackworks South - 99 items

**Darwin and East Arm**  
Installation of services conduits in container terminal area have commenced. Bulk earthworks have commenced at Berrimah Yard and Business Park sites.

Tracklaying in ARR Section scheduled to commence in July 2003. ARR Track still to be laid - 108km

**KR Section North of Katherine**  
Tracklaying North recommenced on 7 April 2003, with crossing of the refurbished Fergusson River Bridge 61 kms north of Katherine on 29 April 2003. KR Track still to be laid - 143km

**Katherine**  
Sleeper factory has produced 770,509 sleepers to date out of total 883,000 required. Rail welding underway. 33,021 FB welds complete.

**BHR and DCR Sections**  
All works including tracklaying complete to 728 km.

**Tennant Creek (DCR)**  
Flash butt welding of short rail into long welded rail sections. 49,556 welds completed. 887,649 sleepers produced 1,550,000 tonnes of ballast produced. Production of Ballast now complete.

**Tracklaying ASR Section**  
Tracklaying by Southern Crew complete to 160km. Track still to be laid in this section - 220 km.

**Alice Springs**  
Logistics Centre. Rail and equipment unloaded at Roe Creek and trucked north. 126,175 tonnes rail delivered to Roe Creek and 123,036 delivered to depots at Tennant Creek and Katherine.

**LEGEND**  
Approximate Location of Sections  
ARR Darwin to Adelaide River  
KR Adelaide River to Katherine  
BHR Katherine to Dunmarras  
DCR Dunmarras to Wauchope  
ASR Wauchope to Alice Springs

— Stuart Highway  
— Existing rail line  
- - - New rail corridor  
+ + + Completed earthworks  
+ + + Completed trackwork  
● Major town  
▲ Work or camp site

For further information contact the AustralAsia Railway Corporation. Telephone (08) 8946 9595. [www.aarc.com.au](http://www.aarc.com.au)





*Ruths*  
*"New" Weight Watchers Program*



Followed By.....



“GOOD ONE RUTH”

( This was found on Ruths kitchen bench one night while doing the News Letter)

