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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mary Purtill
Jo Wigg
Bernie Greely
Garry Mathewson
Kevin Bryant
Garry Higginson
Greg Reid
Sue Grant
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ALDECC

2003



AREA REPRESENTATIVES:

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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 SECRETARY / TREASURER

Hello Everybody,

Good news we have a venue! "The Great Aussie Resort" a few minutes drive north of Albury on the shores of Lake Hume. Many thanks to committee members who have worked so diligently with such professionalism to negotiate a suitable outcome. Thank you for your hard work, time and effort.

Incidentally our cost this year will be a fraction higher than last – but considerably cheaper than alternative venues – final figures will be given after the September committee meeting.

Now that the "Place" has been settled we can concentrate on the finer details for a successful reunion.

This 25th year being a significant milestone we thought it might be nice to renew acquaintances, friendships and camaraderie from way, way back ... So anyone you know or have thought of lately, or not seen or heard from please mention the names to us. We'd like to have them along for old time sake and will therefore endeavour to contact and invite to the reunion.

We still need memorabilia such as uniforms, (still on your backs or not!!) bags, pens badges etc. etc. for display. All will be named and returned to owner. Also photo's with captions etc. or odd events snaps.

Its so nice to have had little notes from various members here and there – gladdens the heart one might say – all are kept and popped away in my little ferret box for future reference.

So until the next newsletter, I wish you good health and safe travel

Ruth,



RMB 204 Wymah Road, BOWNA NSW 2644

ALDECC REUNION
13th -15th February 2004
25 Years

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Words **Sandy Guy** Photography **John Henshall**

NORTHERN TERRITORY PIONEER **PETER SEVERIN** IS A FAIR DINKUM OUTBACK LEGEND.

When Peter Severin stayed in the luxury tent named after him at Longitude 131° last year, he admits he was overwhelmed, not just by the luxurious surroundings but by being honoured for his role in promoting tourism to the region over the past 48 years.

Fifty years ago, Uluru (Ayers Rock) was known only to indigenous locals, a handful of explorers and determined travellers who had braved the difficult journey across the harsh Australian desert, often by camel train.

It is thanks to the work of outback pioneers such as Severin, 74, that today the rock is visited annually by tens of thousands from around the globe. Some fly directly into Yulara, the small resort town near Uluru, and some travel by luxury coach or car from Alice Springs.

It was a different story in 1956 when Severin, his late wife Dawn and their three-year-old son Ashley moved to Curtin Springs, a 4162 sq km cattle station 80km from Uluru.

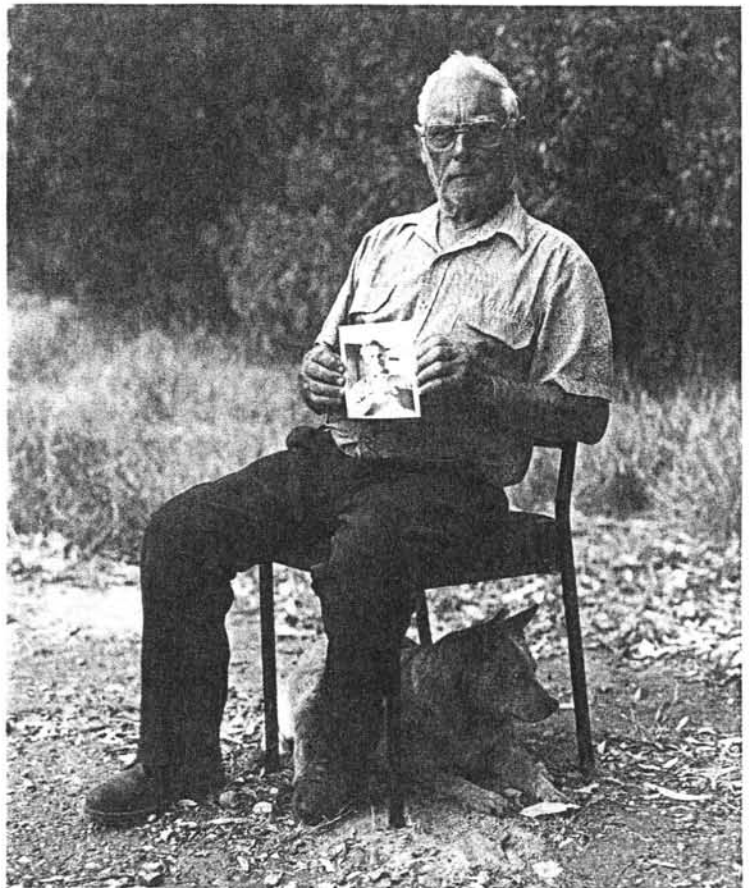
"It was very isolated out here in those days," says Severin. "There was nothing but a goat track out to the rock, and it was a five-day return trip on a dirt track to Alice Springs. It was hell during the summer months, when temperatures can reach above 45 degrees. We only saw six people during our first year at Curtin, and our only communication with the outside world was via pedal radio.

"Dawn cried when she arrived at Curtin Springs. There was nothing but a few old tin shacks on the property. I built a bower shed made from gum tree trunks strung with hessian with a roof of dried spinifex, and this became home until I built the homestead three years later. We had 1500 head of cattle loaned to us by a relative. It didn't rain for the first nine years we were at Curtin. There's no permanent water on the property, so most of the cattle died."

To supplement the family's meagre income, Severin put in a petrol pump at Curtin Springs – supplying the only petrol for hundreds of miles. This ensured that the few visitors who braved the uncomfortable bus ride to the rock from Alice Springs could make it to Uluru and back again.


As tourism slowly increased, Severin built the first basic toilet facilities at the rock and carted materials across the desert from Alice Springs to build the first motel. He maintained the windmill bores, which supplied the only water in the area, and ensured reticulation from the bores reached the growing number of accommodation options at Uluru – all the while working on his own station, mustering, fencing and building stockyards.

Severin's hard work and commitment to the region has paid off. Today, tourist buses stop at Curtin Springs, which



now has a general store, bar and accommodation, on the way to Uluru. The station is busy – up to 20 employees work on the property that Severin carved from the desert.

After many years of toil, these days Severin can usually be found spinning a yarn in the shade of the old bower shed, leaving the running of the cattle station to Ashley, now 50, and grandson Steve, 25.

Severin, well-known throughout the outback as a hard worker, gentleman and "top bloke", lives modestly at Curtin Springs, helping with the laundry and cleaning the "dongas" – portable accommodation available to visitors – dotted around the homestead. Once a month he drives the 800km round trip to Alice Springs along the bitumen Lasseter and Stuart Highways – a far cry from the original dirt track – in his 1964 EH Holden sedan. The car, which has clocked up more than a million miles in the 28 years Severin has owned it, is as well-preserved as he is – and almost an outback legend in its own right. 

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Qantas The Australian Way Magazine July 2003





Congratulations **Simone Grant**

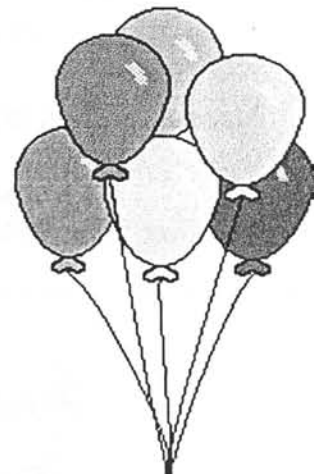
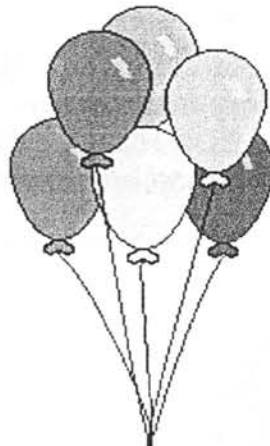
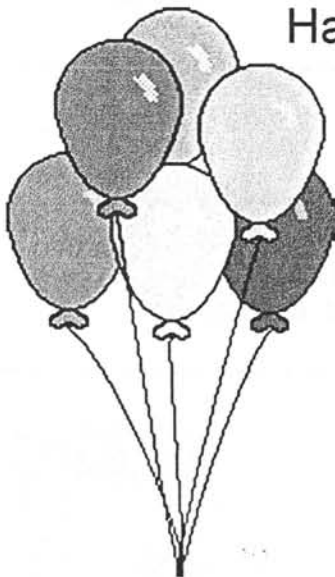
21st Birthday
09 August 2003

Simone celebrated her 21st birthday with about 70 Family & Friends.

The surprise of the night was the arrival of her Godfather
Graham Hayes who flew in from WA for the party.



Happy Birthday Simone.



**IN MEMORY OF, Ray "Bluey" Humphrey
Who Passed Away on the 26th June 2003.**

Bluey Humphrey was a driver for Centralian Tours 60s to 1974.

**At the request of the family instead of flowers a donation was made to the
Anti Cancer Foundation on behalf of the ALDECC Committee
and Members.**

An Email sent by Reen Hillman re the Passing of Trevor Legg.

Although Trevor was not a member of ALDECC – there are a lot
of people that knew him.

"Trevor Legg – Former Mechanic / Forman at Australian Pacific Melbourne and
Sydney for many years, then Scania, lost his battle with Cancer and died
On the 17th July 2003. He was 46."

Chris and Tracie Pearce announce the arrival of

*Bethany Suzan Pearce
Born 11th July*

Chris advises, She has already been told the rules

"NO BUS TOURS UNLESS DADDY DRIVES THE BUS"

*Congratulations to Chris & Tracie
From all at ALDECC.*



ALDECC COMMUNICATION LINE

Please send all items of interest for the ALDECC newsletter to:

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