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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mary Purtil  
John Gullock  
Bernie Greely  
Garry Mathewson  
Kevin Bryant  
Garry Higginson  
Greg Reid  
Sue Grant  
Carmel Mc Cartin

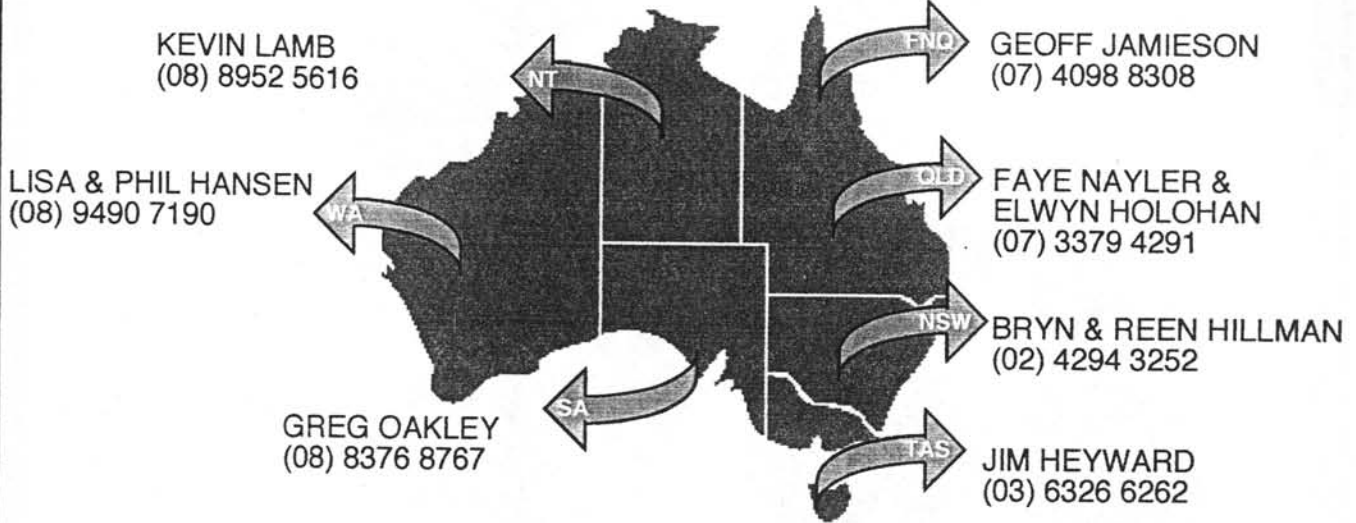


**ALDECC**

2004



## AREA REPRESENTATIVES:



**Annual Subscription: \$15 (Couple \$20) Due: 1 Feb, 2004**  
**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.

## Presidents Message.



Hello Members,

I hope members and family are well, where has the year gone, the 2005 reunion is fast approaching, everything is progressing well, all we need is our members support to make it a wonderful weekend so organise yourself and come along.

Kind Regards

Kevin Gough

## Secretary's Message



Hi Everybody,

It's the busy time of the year again, not only for each of us personally, but for ALDECC committee too, as we put the wheels in motion ready for our next reunion (no pun intended – but very apt!!!!)

As previously mentioned Great Aussie Resort and February 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> are the date and place. Prices may be a fraction higher due to rising costs on both sides but I am sure everyone will agree that for a full weekend and all meals and the exceptional facilities available to us, it is still a great bargain.

Thank you to all of the folk who have sent in their subscriptions. We are lacking somewhat at the moment as we are short of quite a few dollars and that equals to quite a few members. It helps to balance the books, pay for printing, glassware and other on going expenses. So could you please cough-up? Ta!

Thank you to various members who have contributed "items for newsletter" sections. It's beautiful to hear from you and particular thanks to so many who expressed their enjoyment at last February's gathering. The committee really appreciate the feedback. A particular phone call to me from a member of yester year – he's not enjoying the best of health at present is our Neville Hood. He wanted a chat with a Tassie member, and I'm pleased he made the contact and had a wonderful catch-up. Thanks for responding to a mates request – it made his day.

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Cont:.....

It's beaut to know that we are a caring mob and a chance call to a mate to share memories is quite a boost to both giver and receiver.

Word has it that Joy Harry – winner of our Ghan raffle had a wonderful trip to Darwin and return. I daresay we'll find out all the finer details at our next reunion but I believe met "quite some characters" in her recent travels .!

That's it from me this time – things are gearing up now and I'm looking forward to working with our grand folk our committee to put together another memorable reunion. See you there.

Cheerio & Safe Travelling

Ruth.



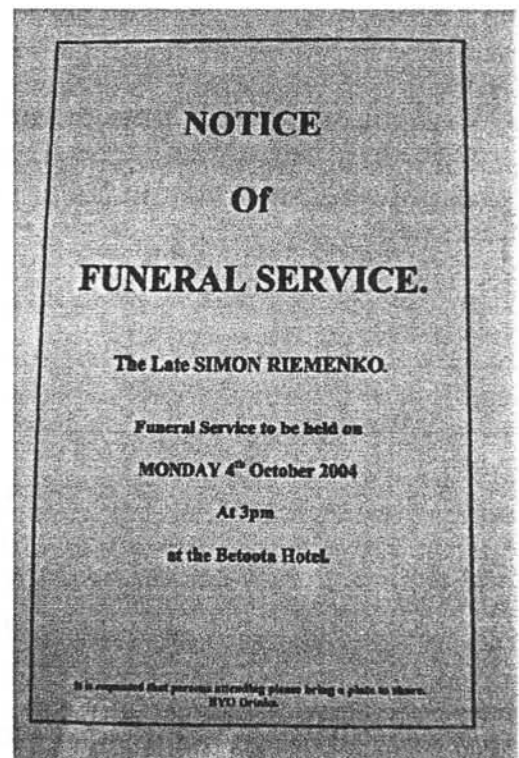
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The Passing of Simon Riemenko  
of the Betoota Hotel

We all at some stage had stopped at the Betoota Hotel on the way to Birdsville. The Hotel closed its doors on the 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 97. Which was simon's (Ziggi) birthday.

Simon Riemenko passed away in a Charleville Nursing home on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2004. A his request he was buried behind the Betoota Hotel on the 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2004.

The funeral notice was from the notice board Of the Windorah store.



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On my recent visit to Kynuna and the Blue Heeler Hotel , I was told that Barry Patrick passed away this year. He and his family had visited the hotel in April this year for the last time. (Unable to find out the exact date of his death.)



# Advocate

CENTRALIAN

Vol. 59 No. 22

ALICE SPRINGS, FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 2004

PHONE (08) 8950 9777

\$1.10 incl. GST

# \$15m plan turns resort into units

By SAVIN KUNA

RED Centre Resort is to close and be turned into a \$15 million apartment complex.

The redevelopment will also fund more than \$2 million in upgrades of Aurora hotels in Alice Springs.

Aurora Resorts and Hotels own and operate the Red Centre Resort on the Stuart

## Aurora to close Red Centre

Highway about five kilometres north of Alice Springs. The company also owns Heavtree Gap Outback Lodge and Aurora Alice Springs.

Aurora managing director Ian Drummond yesterday confirmed Red Centre Resort will close on October 31. It will relaunch as North Edge Apart-

ments. More than \$3 million will be spent converting three or four motel rooms into single apartments to yield around 45 strata-titled units.

More than 30 blocks of land for development will also be available at the site. Red Centre Resort staff will be redeployed to Aurora's five

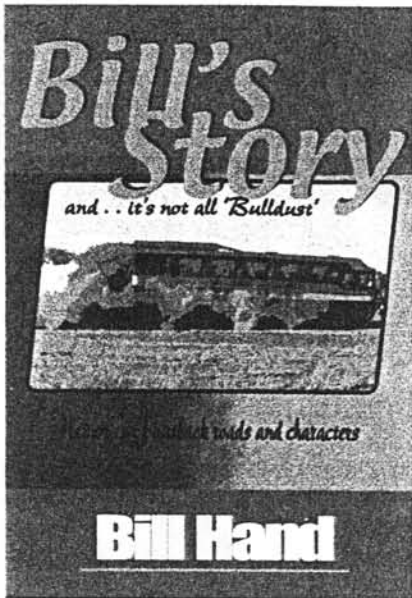
other Northern Territory properties.

The Broilga Award-winning Red Centre Dreaming dinner and show will be relocated to the Heavtree Gap site.

Mr Drummond said Red Centre Resort had not produced a viable return.



Development director Ken Patterson at the resort yesterday.



## "BILL'S STORY"

The life and times of Bill Hand and the early days of the Australian Coach Touring Industry.

The book contains stories with early Photo's of tours and gives you a great insight in the early days of Coach Touring

The book is available from Bill and Doreen Hand  
6 Jeanette Street,  
NORTH RYDE NSW 2113  
02 98782465

Cost \$38.00 Plus \$10.00 Postage and Packaging.



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Sunday Herald Sun, July 11, 2004

### TOUR SEEKER

I'M looking for people who were on a Centralian Staff tour in 1978 with Laura Stancombe as cook and Graham Hayes as driver.

**John Owen, (03) 5482 1933  
27 Aberdeen Way, Moama NSW 2731**



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Speaking of re-unions. I found the enclosed article in last Sunday's Herald Sun. it brought back great memories as John and I travelled along side Hazy & Laura a few times. Lots of good fun and laughs.

One in particular the four of us went out one night at Uluru after many rums we hitched a lift home with a local bloke in a ute. Laura and I in the front, John and Hazy in the back. He drove rather fast given that there had been a bit of rail around. John & Hazy kept appearing over the roof of the cabin and putting their faces on the top of the windscreen. We came to a rather sudden stop at the camp sight, Hazy slid over the windscreen, down the bonnet and ended up jammed between the front of the vehicle and the bull bar. Ill never forget his face as it went down the windscreen. I recall it took a bit of going to get him out ! Plenty of laughs as well.

Enough reminiscing, back to the real world.

Take care and enjoy life.

Wendy Morrison ( Nee Kittlety ) @ Numurkah.



# The Journal

A FAIRFAX COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

CLASSIFIEDS 13 24 25

MONDAY, JULY 19, 2004

## Cyclone wreck found

# Tracy riddle solved

By **Phil McLeod**

A BOAT built in Dandenong that sank with a local man on board during Cyclone Tracy has been discovered 30 years after the massive storm devastated Darwin.

Divers last month discovered the wreck of the Darwin Princess — a 23-metre steel ferry built by Dandenong identity Max Curtain — at the bottom of Darwin Harbour. Of the 29 vessels lost in the cyclone that hit Darwin on Christmas Day in 1974, it was the last to be found.

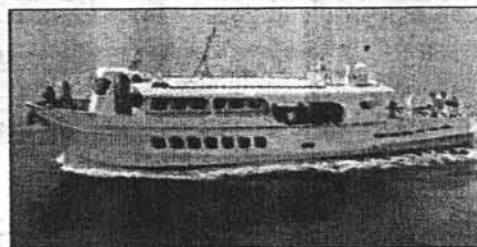
It's believed that Mr Curtain's son, Ray, 28, took the Darwin Princess out to sea on Christmas Eve to ride out the storm. The vessel, which was

**'Darwin was wrecked and in chaos when we arrived . . . we left . . . having to face the fact that we had lost Ray.'**

**Max Curtain**

used as a tourist ferry, sank in the huge seas whipped up by Tracy's 300 kmh winds.

Police divers searched the wreck this month but failed to find the remains of Mr Curtain.



**Doomed:** The Darwin Princess that sank during Cyclone Tracy.

Northern Territory authorities have imposed a 150-metre exclusion zone around the Princess pending completion of coronial inquiries.

Mr Curtain, who owned and operated the now defunct Wedge swimming pool in Dandenong, said the discovery of the Princess had solved a 30-year mystery. He hoped that it would also provide the family with some sort of closure over the disappearance of his son.

"We got a telegram [after the cyclone hit] that Ray was missing with the Princess and that's the way it's stood for 30 years up until now.

"If it's possible to get it [the wreck] up we will. At least the family may get something out of it and give us some answers."

**CONTINUED PAGE 16**



# Missing boat found 30 years on

FROM PAGE 1

Mr Curtin said the discovery of the Princess, which was built on his two hectare-plus property in Wedge Street, would also end rumours that it had become a ghost ship.

"We have heard all these stories that it [the Princess] was operating out of Singapore or that someone had sighted it here and there after the cyclone . . . it

was all Darwin pub talk. It [the discovery] was the beginning of the end of all those rumours."

Mr Curtin said the Princess was found overturned about 13 kilometres from shore near the wreck of the Booyea, a Dutch-built three-masted schooner that also sank during the cyclone and was only found last year.

"What I can gather is that he [Ray] was trying to get a line on the Booyea . . . to help it out and

they clanged together. It must have been a fearful storm."

Mr Curtin said he was having Christmas dinner with his family when he heard that Tracy had struck, and together with a family friend, drove day and night to get to Darwin.

"Darwin was wrecked and in chaos when we arrived. No one could tell us very much because a helluva lot of people were being evacuated . . . they were

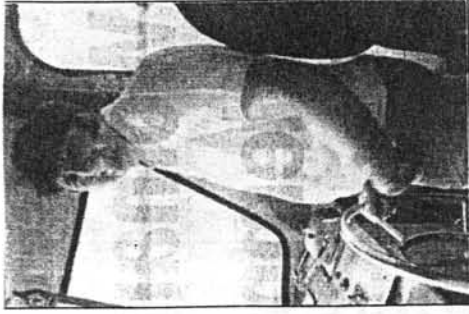
piling people on planes as fast as the planes could take off.

"It became pretty apparent that Ray wasn't going to suddenly turn up. Trying to get anything verified was hard, we left Darwin a few days later having to face the fact that we had lost Ray."

Police divers have conducted an initial search of the Princess but failed to find the remains of Ray Curtin, who is believed to

have been the only one aboard when it went down.

A Northern Territory police spokeswoman last week told *The Journal* that the search would continue during the region's dry season, which had just started. Two tourist fishing guides raised the alarm last month after their anchor was caught in an unidentified chain which led to the discovery of the Princess by two private divers.



Lost skipper: Ray Curtin.

## Princess built in backyard

THE Darwin Princess was built in the backyard of Max Curtin's home in Wedge Street, Dandenong.

Mr Curtin built the Princess for \$100,000 to work in tandem with another of his boats, the Edwina May, to ferry people and supplies to missions on the islands around Darwin.

"We were supplying the missions to all the islands around Darwin and soon realised that there was room for a bigger vessel than the Edwina May and we built the Princess."

Construction of the Princess was completed in May 1972 and was reported in *The Journal*.

The report stated: "It took 10 men working 10 hours a day more than eight months to build the Princess to complement Max's ferry fleet operating out of Darwin harbour."

### A BACKYARD BEAUTY...

IT TOOK 10 MEN working 10 hours a day more than eight months to build, but the huge steel Darwin Princess will take Max Curtin only two weeks to sail to Darwin.

Max, who manages his own construction company, says the Princess was built in his backyard in Wedge Street, Dandenong, 100 km from Darwin.

The Princess is a 100-ton steel vessel, built to carry up to 100 people and supplies to the islands around Darwin. It is built to withstand the rough seas of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Max says the Princess is a real beauty, built to last. It is built to withstand the rough seas of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Max says the Princess is a real beauty, built to last. It is built to withstand the rough seas of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Dry dock: The *Journal's* report on the Darwin Princess' departure from Dandenong.

A low-loader truck carefully manoeuvred the Princess out of Mr Curtin's yard and transported it to Tooradin where it was launched with

a crew of three including his son Ray, who took two weeks to sail it to Darwin.

The boat left its Wedge Street

home in 1974 on May 30, which was the same date that divers first searched the wreck of the Princess this year.



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PLEASE NOTE.

Due to the lack of numbers to last year  
there will be NO BUS Departing Melbourne  
for the 2005 ALDECC reunion.

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ALDECC COMMUNICATION LINE

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

Garry Mathewson

34 Roberts Ave, BOX HILL SOUTH Vic 3128

Fax: (03) 9310 4923 e-mail aldecc@bigpond .com.au

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Gtreat Aussie Resort  
February 4,5 & 6 ,2005

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**Hourly Rate. \$65** PER HOUR

YOU HANG AROUND...	\$75
YOU STAY AND WATCH...	\$95
YOU TRY AND HELP...	\$115
YOU DO THE JOB...	\$135

*Have a great day mate!*

This sign was spotted at the entrance to the workshop of the  
Shell Service Station Birdsville