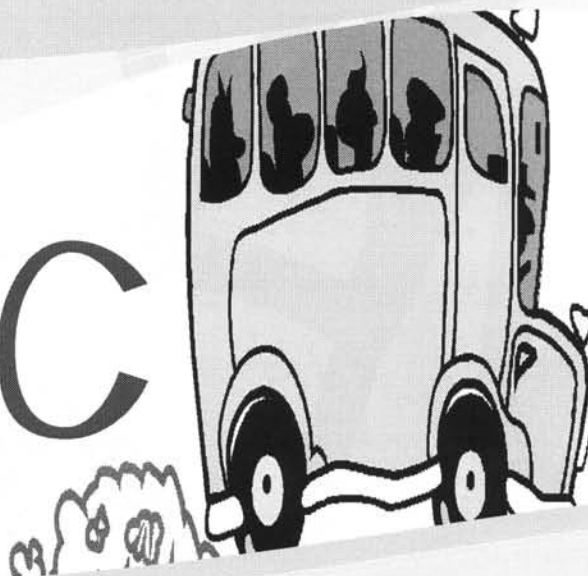


August 2005



ALDECC

newsletter



Keeping in touch with members and friends ...

Hello Members, I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health. Our committee have been very busy looking for a venue for our 2006 reunion. Recently the committee met at Wangarratta and visited 3 possible venues at Beechworth, Porepunkah and Yarrawonga. It was a fun day and I'm happy to report that we decided that the venue at Porepunkah was the most suitable for our group.

So members, rally together and join your committee at Porepunkah in 2006.

Regards, *Kevin Gough.*
(President)

Hi Everybody

Good news for our 2006 reunion! A suitable venue has been found and the committee attending was unanimous in the choice of POREPUNKAH PINES RESORT for the 3rd, 4th & 5th Feb 2006.

Whilst some places we looked at were a 'bit scary' and some a 'bit top hat' (weren't they Hazey?) this place reminds me of Goldilocks and the three bears - porridge (food) chair (leisure) and bed (accommodation) were 'just right'.

At this point I must say "thank you big time" to all the committee members who scouted around getting information from various places in the N.E Region; and for traveling long distances to attend meetings to exchange ideas etc. Your work is very much appreciated.

Back to the venue... It is suitable for camping and caravans as well as cabin-style accommodation, and is similar to the

last 2 years with air-conditioning and easy access. Prices are yet to be finalised but will be quite reasonable and somewhere around the same costs as last year.

It's been great hearing from the various 'reps' from here and there. Thank goodness for mobile phones... I've had word from members telling me of folk they'd met in the most unusual places. Somebody rang me to say they were short of drivers in the Alice, and even though I've passed the word around, the response hasn't exactly been enthusiastic.

We're still a little behind in outstanding subscriptions, so if you know you're behind... Please send in your money!

Until the next newsletter... Safe traveling.

Ruth. (secretary)



RETURN TO The Outback

They say you can't keep a good man down, and from the looks of things, Greg Oakley is well and truly back on his feet and roaring around the countryside again. Having recently celebrated the 2nd birthday of his new kidney, Greg and his partner Helen, have been travelling and working throughout the Outback.

At the start of May, Greg hit a cow "with the troopie" and managed to sustain around \$10,000 worth of damage to the vehicle and some wounded pride. At the time, they were working at Mataranka Cabins managing the place while the owner was away, attending family business.

From Mataranka, Greg and Helen found themselves as relief managers of Warakurna Roadhouse. Warakurna is approx. 300km west of Ayers Rock, near Giles Weather Station, on the Great Western Hwy, in W.A.

Sounds a quiet place?? Not likely !! There were 450 extra people in town who were attending 3 funerals. (all to be held on the one day). As you can imagine ... Both of them managed to put in over 70 hours in just the first week, and they were glad when the place quietened down again.

They had a 'good' look around, and then it was time to be flown out again, to gather their strength in the Alice, before the next destination

By the middle of July it was time to pack again ... This time to head North to Warmun Store. Where's that you ask? It's just 1km from Turkey creek, which is in W.A, between Kununurra and Halls Creek. Obviously a busy place, as Greg & Helen were taking over while the managers were having a well-earned break.

At the end of August this year, Greg Oakley will be inducted into the Transport Hall of Fame. It was 1979 when he opened his roadhouse at Marla ... And the rest is history.

Through many ups and downs ... It's good to see him still blazing a trail through the Outback.

Get well wishes to George Cadzow who is a "tad second hand" at the moment. Having recently had a lung removed, and a few complications, George is now recovering at home in Charlton. We hear that his sense of humour is still intact, even if his body is not.

What happened?

Apparently, there is some concern with the "Blessing of the Rocks" at the now defunct Red Centre Resort formerly the Alice Travellers Village...

John Stanley and Greg Reid have further information on that subject - maybe pop them in the 'bins' and put 'em back !

Eh? Fellas??

True Story ...

Several years ago, when I was a resident of the opal mining town of Coober Pedy, I was sitting in my ute adjacent to the B.P. On the top of the hill in the main street of the town. It was lunchtime and I was eating a very hot pie. The favourite pastime was watching tourists and the clothes they wear in the outback. A Toyota 4WD pulled up at the bowsers and a rather short female (40 - 50 yrs) stepped out from the drivers seat, dressed in full safari gear, large boots with socks folded down over the boot tops. After fuelling her vehicle she went inside to pay. Sitting there, juggling the hot pie, I noticed her vehicle starting to move towards the rather steep slope of the driveway, with nobody at the controls. I hastily threw the pie onto the seat and ran over to the moving vehicle. Propping my back against the bullbar, I finally managed to stop the moving vehicle. Feeling rather pleased with myself, having

AROUND THE T R A P S

Des Tindall is also on the 'Not Well List'. Our thoughts are with him and his family at this time.

With Regret

It is with regret that we inform members of the passing of Paula Collins. Who can ever forget that cheeky laughter and mischievous sense of humour? Paula was one of 'the old girls' from A.P. And we're sure that she's got her Union Jack knickers still hanging in the window of a coach, wherever she may be.

We also mourn the passing of Mayer Page, (from Australian Pacific) who had a very long battle with cancer. Colin Stubbs represented Aldecc members by attendance at the funeral.

Ross and Joan Eldred have been spotted on the highway towing a custom built caravan, complete with inbuilt BBQ and personal 'crapper'. Grey Nomads personified !!

Seeking:

For those who remember Margueritte Hendy, she writes:

" I am trying to locate an internet forum I can visit to talk & discuss with others my experiences gained while traveling Australia and overseas in bygone days. I am a retired cook/hostess from APT during the 70's and although I have the internet connected, I am not having much luck in finding a forum." She can be contacted on ...
Mkhendy@mail2me.com.au

prevented a nasty accident, I was suddenly confronted by this very angry female standing with her hands on her hips. "What do you think you're doing, you F*****N Smart Ass?" she bellowed. I meekly explained that I had stopped her vehicle from rolling down the hill. "Well for your information, I was beside the drivers door trying to push start it, because the starter motor has packed it in, so now PISS OFF before I punch you!!" Very embarrassed I slunk back to my ute to find the contents of my pie had run down the back of the seat.

Moral of this true story? **When it's all happening, finish your lunch first!!**

John Gullock

Just For fun!

Read a story recently about a coach driver who met the love of his life whilst on tour. Married for some time now, Sean and Teresa McMahon, and their brood were featured in a popular magazine, that tells all! Hhmm...

That's Life !!

Some things never change

..... Heard a sad tale about a recent tour that got washed out in several towns, which changed the itinerary; the trailer broke, which changed the itinerary; the coach broke down, which changed the itinerary; they were 2 days behind, and had to change the itinerary; and then they were a day ahead ... So the itinerary had to be changed !!

Sound familiar ???

Things you don't want to hear during surgery :

- ** oops!!
- ** Has anyone seen my watch ?
- ** Damn! Page 42 of the manual is missing
- ** Better save that. We'll need it for the autopsy
- ** What do you mean, he's not insured?
- **Nurse, did this patient sign the organ donation card?
- **That was some party last night. I can't remember when I've been that drunk.

Ever wondered ??

Have you ever wondered why A,B,C,D,DD,E,F,G, and H are letters used to define bra sizes??

A = Almost Boobs

B = Barely there

C = Can't complain

D = Dang !

DD = Double Dang !

E = Enormous

F = Fake

G = Get a reduction

H = Help me, I've fallen and I can't get up !

And don't forget the German bra ...

Holtzemfromfloppen !!



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