

the
ALDECC inc.
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And the Secretary Says ...

The President...

I take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families a very Happy and Safe festive season.

We look forward to being with you all in 2006.

Cheers,

Kevin Gough

Hi Everybody,

It's that time of year again, when we all slip into top gear ready to cruise into Christmas and New Year celebrations. I extend greetings for a Peaceful, Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year to all our members and their families.

It is also a busy time of year for the "engine room" of ALDECC, when checks are run for printers, glasses, raffles and rooms for our reunion in February.

I feel confident in the choice our committee have made for our frivolities for 2006 - easy access, flat ground, air conditioning, a 'loo' per couple (!!!) a good feed and a river nearby for washing, drinking or fishing. (just add soap or whiskey). There is plenty of room for vans or tents if so desired.

News has been passed on to me that our clever blokes have been out with hammer, nails, chisels and wood and a good selection of quality items are to be available for the raffles once again. These people are worth their weight in gold for the work they put in, and our sincere thanks doesn't seem adequate enough for appreciation of their skills. If it wasn't for these blokes we "wooden't" have a raffle! Thank you Gentlemen!

On Friday night of our reunion, tea will be available at the Porepunkah Pub. The publican assures us that he usually does about 200 meals on Friday nights, and it's a \$10 - \$12 menu.

So ... Until our next gathering ... Be it at Porepunkah, or at the letterbox ...

Ruth

Reunion

Feb 3rd - 5th 2006

News from all over

Keep your eyes peeled for Rod and Nancy Baird, who are somewhere in the West, and travelling in a "fifth wheeler".

At the moment they are in Kunnunurra, where Rod is driving machinery for the sugar season, and Nancy is working at the hospital.

** We hear that Barb Woosey is heading off to England for Christmas.*

** John Stanley is available for Outback Touring in whatever capacity, due to the "phasing down" of Russell Guests operations. He can be contacted via our secretary, Ruth.*

**Eric & Bernie Ashenden feel they are getting close to retirement from fruit picking. They reckon "the mind is willing but the body is protesting". They can still be found in Mackay, Queensland.*

**Garry Matthewson has had a spell in hospital this year, with kidney stones and kidney problems. We hear that he is well again and heading to China as a Tour Leader again.*

Far N.Q.

For those that have been wondering where Geoff Jamieson has gone ... He's been found again., this time in Mossman, in Far North Queensland.

Being an avid golfer, Geoff has always said he couldn't get close enough to the course. Well, This time he's actually moved in to the golf club at Mossman. in his caravan, he now lives on the golf course, near the maintenance sheds.

He fills his time by acting as Barman and working as the golf-cart mechanic. Not content with just one golf club, he is also doing a couple of days a week at the Sea-Temple Golf club.

So what does this manic golf-nut do with his spare time?? Yep !! You guessed it - he plays golf of course !! And, having just had his cataracts removed, we hear that he is a better player than ever. No excuses now for not finding lost balls.

For someone who likes to think he is a hermit, he seems to be our focal point for Aldecc travelers heading that way. Quite a few members have called in, and now that we've found him , we'd like to say ... "Geoff, we all love a beer, and a round of golf won't go astray ... Be Prepared !"

See Kevin...

Kevin Bryant has an interesting article regarding the tourist ferry that sank during Cyclone Tracy and Max Curtain. Unfortunately space doesn't permit this to be published ... Contact Kevin for more details.

China?

We hear that Charlie Holland has stayed overseas. Still working for Scania, he is now the Sales and Marketing Manager for China.

With regret...

We wish to inform members of the passing of Des Tindall in November 2005, after a short illness with cancer. Des will be remembered for his service to APT and AAT.

Congrats

Dane & Nicki Nye are the proud parents of a daughter - Charlie Rose, born in July 2005.

Reminder

Just a reminder that annual subscriptions will rise in February 2006 and are payable at that time.

Not 21 anymore...

Get well wishes for our beloved Amy McClagish who is recovering from some delicate spinal surgery in September.

We hear she has found plenty of new uses for cooking tongs and we're looking forward to seeing her at the reunion in February minus the brace and kicking her knees up!

Old age?

Mary Meyer/Greenham has long protested the fact that she is younger than most Aldece members. However, we heard recently that she has just had surgery for cataracts.

Her eyes might be old ... But the rest of her isn't !!!

(bold print, just for Mary!)

The article below was discovered recently in an edition of The Border Mail. There is no truth to the rumour that John Thornely is preparing himself to be the mascot for the Aussie cricket team ...

Retiring



NEWS

Memories of people and distant places

By BREANNA TUCKER

AFTER 37 years of driving across the outback, the tropics, country towns and busy roads, John Thornely will raise from Martin's Albany bar and club service.

John's service at Martin's took him far and wide, driving coaches as far as Alice Springs, Darwin and Perth.

Sleeping on a mattress on the coach floor and navigating the long vehicle along the then dirt roads never bothered John who is country born and bred and enjoyed walking to beautiful sunrise.

John was born at the Flighby Hospital, where Sister's Doolanow now stands, grew up on a farm at Yackandandah and went to school at Oshanes Farm.

He has been driving all his life, starting on the farm and driving around town before he had a licence.

"The police would never catch me," he said.

"When I went for my licence the policeman looked real hard for something to fail me on but he couldn't find a thing."

Since then John has been a self drink delivery, a taxi driver and for the past 27 years a bus driver.

A wheel of his changed in that time unceremoniously but it's the people John will miss regardless the most.

"If I wrote a book about all the people I met you wouldn't believe how far I wrote," he chuckled.

John has no set plans for his retirement but said he would like to spend more time with his children.

Untravelling: Mr Thornely is retiring from Martin's.

Not Again!

..Greg Oakley has been in the wars again ...

Whilst on their 'sojourn' in the Northern Territory, Greg stumbled down a hole, (no, he wasn't inebriated) and as a result of all his other medical complications, the wound became enlarged and infected, very quickly.

A mercy dash on the Flying Doctor to Broome, and then on to Perth for specialist care, resulted in an extended stay in hospital and some serious looking skin grafts.

At this point, he is back in the Van with Helen and recovering slowly.

We wish him well, but would like to say - "please, watch where you're stepping!"

History does repeat itself

Year 1981

1. Prince Charles got married
2. Liverpool crowned Champions of Europe
3. Australia lost the Ashes
4. The Pope died

Year 2005

1. Prince Charles married (again)
2. Liverpool crowned Champions of Europe (again)
3. Australia lost the Ashes (again)
4. The Pope died (different Pope)

In future, if Prince Charles decides to re-marry, and Liverpool wins another European Crown ... Please warn the Pope !

Lost ...

Members would be interested to hear that the Panorama painted by Henk Guth in Alice Springs, is now gone.

The main building that housed the 360 degree panoramic painting was lost in a fire at the beginning of November. The incident is now under investigation by Interstate experts.

ALDECC inc.

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