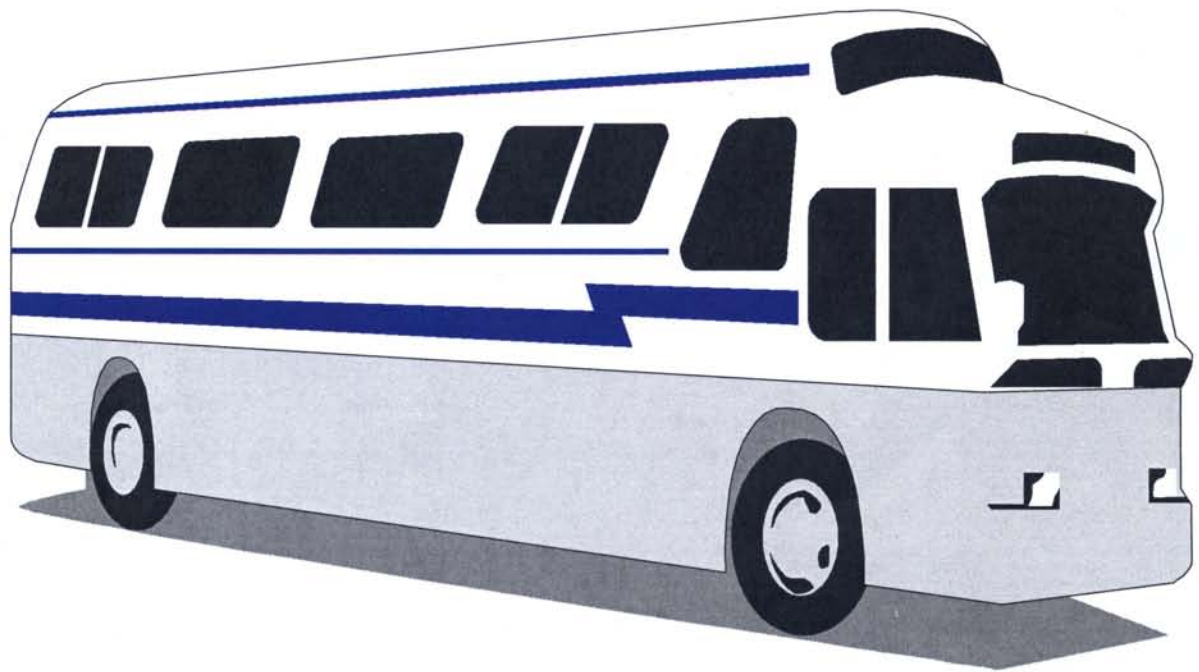

ALDECC



Newsletter
June - September 2007

ALDECC COMMITTEE

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Please contact any of the committee members listed above if you have anything you would like included in your ALDECC newsletter – hatchings, matchings, despatchings – you know - just any interesting bits of gossip that should be shared !!!!!



Message from our Secretary:

Since our last newsletter, your committee have been sorting out final arrangements for our 29th Reunion. This is an amazing time frame to have been meeting yearly on the same weekend each year. There are a few of us who have been to each reunion and we have all seen so many changes in lots of ways.

There are not many members who are still out there showing people our wonderful country and those people we dip our lids to as things have changed so much in almost 30 years.

We are starting to plan for a momentous 30th Reunion. We, as a committee hope we will make it one we will always remember.

For many of our members our lives have taken a slightly different turn of late. Speaking to Committee members, we are all dealing with our parents or loved ones who aren't as young and able as before.

I am sure there are many of us who have faced challenging times dealing with our closest family members, and facing the prospect of not having them around. HOWEVER, through personal experience the friendship and caring phone calls and chats from friends in ALDECC have made a huge difference. Remember we are only a phone call away if a chat is what you need.

We are the next generation and it will be us in as many years.

Thanks to all the people who have come to our call with photos. You will see the result at the next reunion.

We are hoping to be able to put together some great memories for the 30th, so if you have anything please bring them along to our next reunion.

Trusting this note finds everyone well and able.

Kind regards,

Sue

And From our President.....

Hello All,

Time is galloping by and the Committee are working hard finalizing details for our 29th Reunion. The venue for this year - Feathertop Chalet has been confirmed. I'm sure some of you will remember Feathertop, and if the alcohol haze was too much, there will be plenty of your mates who will remind you of your past escapades! (Some will even have photos).

Special thanks to Sue who has continued to soldier on between surgeons scalpel, crutches & fighting off Storky for his "go - go mobile".

Best Wishes

Bryn



ALDECC MEMBERS

Sadly there are several people who have been removed from our ALDECC mailing list. Despite a tremendous effort by our secretaries over the past few years, for whatever reason, some people have either moved on and we don't have forwarding addresses, have no interest in ALDECC or the industry any more, or have fallen more than 3 years behind in their subs and have been too embarrassed to come back.

Do you know anyone in the industry past or present who is not a member of ALDECC and would perhaps like to be or would like to rejoin and has lost contacts? If so pass their details onto Sue or any member of the Committee and we will arrange their membership.

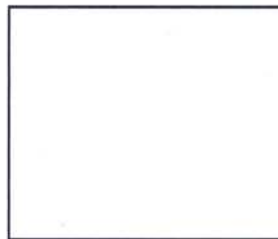
We would especially love to have past members attend our 30th Reunion, so please get the feelers out and see who you can find out there!

All welcome!

Do you have a coloured X in your box??

If so you could owe subs for:

1 year, 2 years or 3 years



Please contact Sue for any queries regarding this or just send her a cheque. Subs are \$20 for a single or \$30 per couple. Again – if you owe for more than 1 year please talk to Sue. It is very important if you wish to stay in touch with what is happening around the traps! Don't run the risk of missing out on your newsletter and contact with fellow ALDECC friends.

Thank you to all of our members who contributed with tid bits for our newsletter. The next edition will be just before Christmas with your 29th Reunion invitation enclosed.

29th ALDECC Reunion – 2008

As previously mentioned, our 2008 reunion will be held on the weekend of 1 - 3 February at Feathertop Chalet, Great Alpine Rd, Harrietville.

Prices will remain the same as last year:

\$160 per adult for the full weekend

\$140 per child under 17 years.

Sue will be able to advise you any variation to the above prices should you wish to camp or just stay for one night.

Please start hunting out your memorabilia to bring to this for our 30th Reunion!!!

NEWS FROM AROUND THE TRAPS

The Eldreds are now footloose and fancy free after deciding to finally retire! Good luck to you both!



I saw a bumper sticker this week on a 4wd with a couple of grey nomads aboard and thought it was a great motto, and maybe we should all adopt

it.

It read:

“ADVENTURE BEFORE DEMENTIA”

There is a very strange sight amongst the locals in downtown Ungarie. A desperate plea was ushered amongst the locals and Tony Keatley stepped up to the mark once more. He helped the local White Leghorns (alias Lawn Bowls team) grasp their victory – while in full uniform dress – yes you read correctly – it was a dress! Those legs were a hit Tony. (Please note: any nightmares you may experience from this vision are your responsibility and the editor remains blameless)

Mary P was up against some stiff competition when she spotted Paul Beames in the bar at Heavytree Gap. Unfortunately as Beamesy didn't know Mary was in town, until she threw her arms around him, he was unable to cancel his “grab a granny” night out at the Over 35's disco! He should have had a bit of success. By all reports, he is looking trim and terrific. Go Beamesy!!!!

Jim Heyward – what was the reason for the two black eyes??? Did the surgeon win?

It seems that a good time was had by those at Carmels recent ½ century celebration. Mary and Red woke to find a confused Hazy headed for the loo in the wee hours of the morning. He was just a little off course as he stood beside their bed. He was very quickly woken up and pointed in the right direction we hear. Apparently Red slept with one eye open all night in case Hazy walked in his sleep again.



And still more.....

And speaking of Carmel – it could be said that the birthday girl may have celebrated well into the night as she arrived VERY LATE to the Committee meeting the next morning, with dark glasses on, and a mountainous sized hangover, complaining simply of lack of sleep! Dub however set the record straight – no secrets now!

You've heard of "seeding the clouds" – when they fire rockets or whatever up into the sky to make it rain – well we have our own version. Thornelys went up in a helicopter over Sydney Harbour and it rained for a week..... Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS & a very
HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Peter
Severin who has turned 80!!!
Hope you celebrated in true Severin style!!!

80



An Australian Love Poem

Of course I love ya darlin
You're a bloody top-notch bird
And when I say you're gorgeous
I mean every single word

So ya bum is on the big side
I don't mind a bit of flab
It means that when I'm ready
There's something there to grab !

So your belly isn't flat no more
I tell ya, I don't care
So long as when I cuddle ya
I can get my arms round there

No Sheila who is your age
Has nice round perky breasts
They just gave in to gravity
But I know ya did ya best

I'm tellin' ya the truth now
I never tell ya lies
I think its very sexy
That you've got dimples on ya thighs

I swear on me nanna's grave now
The moment that we met
I thought you was as good as
I was ever gonna get

No matter what ya look like
I'll always love ya dear
Now shut up while the footy's on
And fetch another beer.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Tracey White who has recently
become engaged to David (The fire-
man!)

We all wish you every happiness for
your future together.

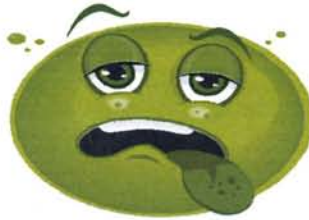
R.I.P.

Deepest condolences to the Oehm family on
the recent passing of Jim Oehm. Jim was a
well respected member of the industry and
well known at Fearn's of Wagga and also
around Junee.

While not a current member of ALDECC,
many of our members know Mike Gunn (ex
APT, Mel, Syd & Alice. Now in Bendigo)
Mike recently lost his wife Pam. Our sin-
cere sympathy to Mike and their 2 young
children.

HELP ??????????

We are after suggestions for a theme for the 30th Reunion. Who could forget the “P” party we had for our 10th reunion – it was a very funny night as the video shows. Please put some thought into it and contact any member of the Committee with your suggestion.



Best wishes to those feeling a tad second hand or on the mend from being a bit crook of late.....

Here are a few who have come under our radar!

- ◇ Greg Oakley & Helen have headed south. Greg was given an excellent report at the Dr in Adelaide, then in his excitement, had a little “turn” in a very crowded shop filled with a great deal of breakable stuff. Greg managed to make it down and did not smash a single thing in the shop on the way. He should now be just about recovered from the cracked ribs he scored though when he hit the deck. Helen is very relieved as it could have been a very expensive fall!
- ◇ Joan & Ross Eldred have both had a few running repairs but on the mend again.
- ◇ Rod Baird – his dicky knee has slowed him up for a spell but not stopped him altogether yet.
- ◇ Col Stevens has also had a stint in hospital
- ◇ Our very own secretary – Sue has had her fair share of woes with the latest being extensive surgery on her ankle. For someone who does everything for everyone, being forced to be immobilised with plaster then crutches for some weeks was a challenge! Florence Nightingale (aka Simone) was put through her paces and surely earned a medal, and Keith was very glad when Sue finally got semi mobile again without his scooter!

To our members who are finding the going a bit rough at the moment with those near and dear giving them some “challenges” – Hang in there! Our thoughts are with you.

Blokes on Friday

Camping, fishing and vanning

Monster rig best for touring – and avoiding funerals

Pulling the Pin

with Chris Butt



If you reckon size doesn't matter, then sit down for a few minutes with Rod Baird and Nancy Reis.

The Cairns-based couple have gone from the mundane to the sublime by upscaling from their traditional 18-foot caravan to a monster 30-foot US-built 5th wheeler.

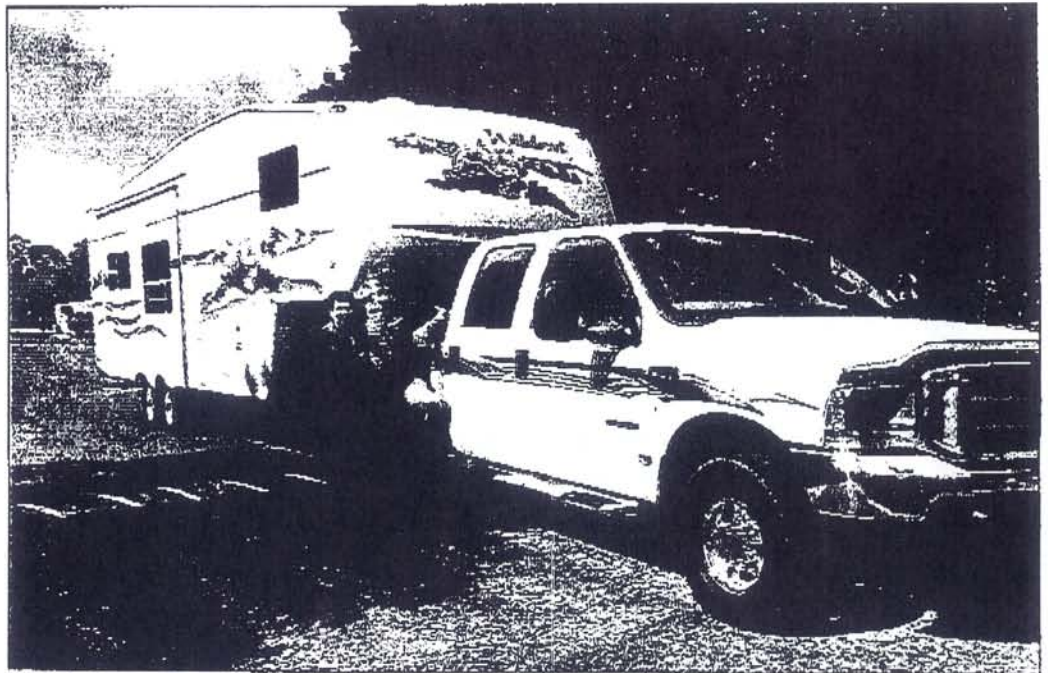
And bigger is much better as far as the couple goes.

"We saw them about 1997 in the states where almost everyone has them (5th wheelers)," Rod said this week as he checked out Fraser Coast caravan parks.

"In fact these days the traditional caravan is almost gone from the scene in the US.

"Everyone is looking at this type of rig because, as far as it goes in Australia, they are almost half the price of a similar-sized motor home."

The couple decided to hit the road semi-permanently about two years ago and have criss-crossed the country in their monster home on wheels pulled by a Ford 250 diesel ute.



Bigger is better as far as Rod Baird and Nancy Reis are concerned with their 5th wheeler.

"We started going to too many funerals so decided to sell our Cairns-based business and hit the road," Rod said.

"It (the home) has a separate bedroom, full-sized kitchen, lounge, dining room, a real toilet, and the slide outs make it almost double the size when you've pulled up for good."

The couple picked up their van in Toronto near Newcastle after it was shipped over from the States but they say there are plenty of five wheelers being built in Australia nowadays.

They believe caravan parks in Australia are now making sure they can accommodate the larger vans.

"Most parks are getting the message that bigger is the new trend so we are being looked after," Nancy said.

The couple rate Tasmania as the best place they've visited but have a fond spot for Broome in Western Australia.

"All that deep blue water off the Broome foreshore is hard to beat," Nancy said.

Bernie is confronted by Security and hasn't got a clue what is being said!



Bernie has had a mid life change! At the ripe age of 54, he has been found teaching English to the Chinese children at Summer Camp. Not only that, but he has done it with an old ex passenger / girlfriend! He met Laurelle on a trip in the early 80's and they are travelling together once again. THINGS NEVER CHANGE!
Bernie won't be without female company at any time.



Bernie outside his Yurt (tent) where they were

Bernie and Laurelle are now back from their journey. Here is a letter from Bernie written on the train from Mongolia:

"I didn't fancy spending another cold winter in Melbourne, so I packed my bags and headed to China and Mongolia where it has been over 30 most days and sometimes over 40. I spent the first 3 weeks teaching English to Chinese kids 16- 19 year olds. Most had never seen a westerner, not to mention an old Aussie bastard like me.

After being told that the lessons would be provided, that I didn't need to bring anything, the first two days there was nothing, so I told them about Australia (those commentaries coming in handy) and over the following 2 weeks they learnt songs like Waltzing Matilda, Rip Rip Woodchip and Old Man Emu (John Williamson), Kookaburra , and Rowboat, plus stuff I was mean to teach them.

I really enjoyed my stay at the school which was about 3 hours out of Shanghai, which catered for 2000 kids of which I taught 400. I then caught the train from Hangshue to Beijing and spent a few days in the Silk Market sampling the local cuisine and drinking light beer. While on the streets of China I must've had my photo taken 100 times. then caught the Trans Siberian train to Ulan Bataar - Mongolia where we organized a trip to Central Mongolia to the desert for a week.

It was over 40 some days. We met up with some local nomadic tribes which was good fun, drinking the local fire water (perhaps fermented yaks milk) and telling yarns they didn't understand but had a good laugh at.

I went to a few nightclubs but difficult to get a cold beer, but it was good beer at a good price. \$1.50 for .5 litre.

I talked a lot of the local people. I really enjoy that and spending time in market places and once again many photos taken of me, this time by Mongolian tourists.

On my last night in Mongolia, I spent it watching AFL on TV. St Kilda Western Bulldogs live. !! Am now heading back to Beijing to see the Great Wall and Tiananmen Square, and will be back in Melbourne middle Aug to complete the TESOL course."

A Laugh to Leave you with:

A tour bus driver is driving with a bus load of seniors down a highway when he is tapped on his shoulder by a little old lady.

She offers him a handful of peanuts, which he gratefully munches up.

After about 15 minutes, she taps him on his shoulder again and she hands him another handful of peanuts.

She repeats this gesture about five more times.

When she is about to hand him another batch again he asks the little old lady, "Why don't you eat the peanuts yourselves?"

"We can't chew them because we have no teeth", she replied.

The puzzled driver asks, "Why do you buy them then?"

The old lady replied,

"We just love the chocolate around them."

It pays to be careful around old people.



Until next time..... safe travelling, good health and laugh often!