

ALDECC inc.



30 years

1979 — 2009

Newsletter

August— October 2008

2008 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 !!!!!





A Message from the President

Hello to you all !

Spring has sprung and your committee have been hard at work so far, and I am pleased to report that plans for the reunion are shaping up well. I greatly appreciate all the time and effort that everyone has put in thus far.

Prices have been confirmed and we think we have all bases covered for what should be a great reunion! It has been fabulous to hear from quite a few people who we have not seen for a while!

Don't forget to please confirm back to Sue your replies for the reunion, and if you have any ideas that you would like included—then you need to contact Sue, myself, or any member of the committee pretty quickly.

Take care, and stay safe and well.

Best Wishes
Bryn



From our Secretary - Sue.....

Well, as the year slips by, our reunion is looming upon us at a steady rate. Your committee has had very lengthy and interesting meetings this year. I'm sure "the goods" we have planned will fall in to place on the weekend.

It has been great to hear from quite a few members indicating their attendance. Some have been members for ALDECC's entire life and have decided to attend the "big one"

Accommodation is usually in shared rooms, however these will be allocated for you. Sleeping is only a small part of the weekend. Our invitations are out early this year as we need to know numbers by December. Please take time to fill out the tear off section and return by December 15th. It will make planning much easier for us all.

Quite a few members have been holidaying with fellow members in other states. It's great to hear of their antics and special times spent together. (even if work is on the agenda) It's really pleasing to hear our members who have been a bit "second hand" are up and going again. As for myself I am now using 2 feet after 14 months. It's a case of learning to walk again (at my age)!

Well, I trust and hope this newsletter prompts some minds thinking of the great times spent while in the great land of ours, enjoying those memories.
Until next time

Kind regards
Suzie

AROUND THE TRAPS.....

CONGRATULATIONS to:

MARGIE GOATES – for being the longest continuous serving Hostess / Cook / Tour Director within the Australian Coach Industry. Margie has been sharing her vast knowledge and looking after passengers for around 38 years!!!! As with a few others, Margie decided to do a tour with her sister, thought that this would be a good career change – and the rest is history. Margie started with Centralian back in the late 60's early 70's with a couple of "youngsters" – Eric Blizzard and the late Norm Brown! What a team they made! She is well known for being one half of one of the longest serving crews while working with the late but highly respected Val Mack at Australian Pacific – achieving many "firsts" in the industry – although many were never actually scripted in the brochure! Like many of us, Margie has seen vast changes within all aspects of the coach industry – but still manages to baffle the tourists with her own unique style and sense of humour, as she regularly loads her well traveled bag into the bin of another coach for another tour. Maybe she will write her memoirs when she slows down a bit? It would make a great read... with all names changed to protect the unwary of course!



ERIC BLIZZARDUnlike Margie, Eric has finally "parked his bus" and is now enjoying retirement. We wish you well. Maybe you could help Margie with the book ??

BILL HAND - on being welcomed into the Stockmans Hall of Fame. Bill and Doreen, have been a great partnership for many years and this honour is well deserved.

Thank you to Wendy Morisson for the following :

Nina's Roasted Veggies with Pasta (suitable for Vegan diet)

- 3 bunches asparagus
- 2 punnets cherry tomatoes
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 2 tblsp pine nuts
- 2 tblsp olive oil
- ¼ cup flavoured breadcrumbs (such as McCormack herb and garlic)
- 1 tblsp Parmazano (Dairy free Parmesan Tuppine)***
- 250gm dried pasta (wheat – no eggs)

Cut asparagus into 2cm pieces and cherry tomatoes in half.
Toss with garlic, olive oil and pine nuts.
Spread evenly in baking pan, sprinkle with breadcrumbs and top with parmazano.
Roast in 220 degree oven until the topping is golden brown, approx 20 minutes.
Cook pasta in salted boiling water.
Reserves about ½ cup of pasta water whendraining.
Toss together pasta and veggies. Add some of the pasta water to moisten if it is too dry.
Serve immediately with crusty bread and salad.
Serves 4.

Note. This is a versatile recipe which works well with many other combinations of veggies. Use your imagination or try zucchini and cherry tomatoes or cauliflower, cherry tomatoes and pine nuts.

*** Parmazano isn't readily available in supermarkets. This can be omitted or replaced with Dukkah or some sesame seeds.

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Spotted while heading up North— Margie & Tim Lattey, and Lyn & John Milnes, who caught up with some of our committee members recently and sent their good wishes to all.....

A laugh to finish

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, 'How old was your husband?' '98,' she replied. 'Two years older than me' 'So you're 96,' the undertaker commented. She responded, 'Hardly worth going home, is it?'



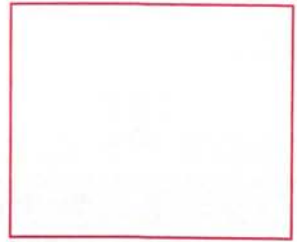


ALDECC MEMBERS

We would love to have as many past members attend our 30th Reunion, so please get the feelers out and see who you can find out there!
REMEMBER—EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Do you have a coloured X in your box??

If so - you could owe subs.



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.

Don't run the risk of missing out on your newsletter and contact with fellow ALDECC friends.

HAVE YOU MOVED?? Share your new address with us! It will make it a whole lot easier for you to get your newsletter if we know where to send it to!

SICKIES UPDATE:

Gary Higginson is on the mend and looking forward to seeing everyone at the Reunion! We have been told by a very reliable source, that not only is he recovering but “old Higgo” is back to being “grumpy” not “nice” to Gary! A sure measure of his improvement so we are told. ?



Our ever patient Secretary Sue – has finally chucked the crutches, given her boot “the boot” and is walking on two feet again. Alleluia!! Storky and Simone are breathing a huge sigh of relief as well.

Our President – Bryn is firing on most cylinders now.

Many thanks to all from Gary, Sue and Bryn for all the good wishes. It was greatly appreciated.

To all of our members who have not been or are currently unwell, we hope that you are soon sparking on all cylinders so we can enjoy your company at the 30th Reunion!!!!



Are you retired / semi-retired / and not sure of the days / dates any more? Well – rest easy friends for Mary Purtill made a wonderful discovery and willingly shared it amongst the committee at the last ALDECC Committee Meeting – “In 2009, New Years Day will be on 1st January”. Thank you Mary.

COACH DRIVER REQUIRED !

This coach in this article is the newest and most expensive luxurious coach ever built in Australia to operate one of Grand Pacific's tours in New Zealand. It is a 13.5 m Coach Design Bodied Volvo B12B with only 20 Business Class aircraft seats on board.

Grand Pacific Tours require the services of a coach driver to assist with their Gold Class Coach Operation. This is a casual position to fill in for Greg Reid at certain times of the year. The Gold Class Service transfers groups from Regional areas into either Melbourne, Sydney, or Brisbane airports. Total work would be about 6 weeks a year. This would suit a semi retired or retired driver.

Please call Greg Reid on 0438 008682 for more details.

Grand Pac's Ultimate Coach



GRAND Pacific Tours has been showing off its brand new Ultimate Touring Coach as part of a 45 city "whirlwind tour" of the eastern seaboard, which began on 29 Jul in Bundaberg, Queensland and ending in Melbourne today.

The luxury coach holiday specialist says "the launch has generated phenomenal interest" with the industry & public alike, "with a number of bookings already locked in for this season and next".

The 20-seat Ultimate Touring Coach is based on the same size as a regular 49-seat vehicle, but offering just two seats across (as above) for added comfort.

Leather, fully reclinable extra-wide seats (pictured below) offer ample leg-room and panoramic views, & are complemented with

deluxe wood grain finishes, a storage area to house day bags, cameras and accessories, a galley and a state of the art in-coach entertainment system that includes radio, CD & DVD facilities.

The specially constructed coach also comes equipped with twin-door access and a luxuriously appointed washroom.

Grand Pacific's high-end coach will be offered exclusively on the firm's *Ultimate New Zealand Experience*, a 15-day South Island round-trip package is combined with luxurious accommodation and special dining experiences.

The tour leaves Christchurch & visits Dunedin, Fiordland, Te Anau, Queenstown, Mt Cook, Hanmer Springs, Nelson, Blenheim and Kaikoura.

Other special extras included in the tour are a Breakfast with the Penguins, an overnight Doubtful Sound Cruise and a helicopter flight & landing on the Remarkables, along with 30 meals & a dedicated Escort.

The tour is priced from \$8999 per person twin share departing from BNE/SYD/MEL and OOL, or \$8599 land only.

Travellers also receive a bonus Grand Pacific Tours jacket, deluxe quality travel bag, toiletry wet pack, travel diary and ticket wallet.



GPT's feedback on the new Ultimate Coach has included comments such as:



Coming to the 30th Reunion?
Great ! Do you know of anyone that spent time in the coach industry and would like to come along for the whole or part of the weekend? Just let Sue know so we can get the information to them.

ALFIE and HAZEY have made it back from Canada – a lot quicker than their missing luggage – and Canada survived them both! Need a tractor – then talk to Alfie. By all accounts they must have pulled apart nearly every tractor in BC to ship back to Oz. Rumour has it that they are in no hurry to rush back!



Please start looking out for your memorabilia to bring to our 30th Reunion!!! Great chance to clean out the cupboards, shed or the safe place you put it years ago!



ALDECC - 30 YEAR REUNION

STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW / DO!!

THE DATES: Friday 30th January 2009, to Sunday 1st February 2009

WHERE IS IT??? Feathertop Chalet, Great Alpine Rd Harrietville

IS IT THE SAME PLACE AS LAST YEAR? Yes

WHAT DO I HAVE TO BRING? TOWELS, ALCOHOL for the whole weekend, your memorabilia (photos, old uniforms, – you know – the ones you used to fit into when you went on the road in the first place + any other interesting bits / travel paraphernalia that was all a part of a special era making our industry what it was then and is today).

HOW MUCH?: Check your invitation.

CAN I GET A DISCOUNT IF I PAY EARLY – Yes. Pay before December 15 and save \$10 per person!! See the attached Early Bird form and your invitation for details.

HOW CAN I PAY? You can either send Sue Grant a cheque made payable to ALDECC, or you can make a direct payment into the ALDECC account.

Details are:

ANZ Bank Account Name – Australian Long Distance Coach Crews

BSB #: 013 – 445

Account #: 2992 – 39891

Please make sure you add your name for the reference details AND please email Sue Grant to advise that you have made a direct credit into the account so she can be on the look out for it. Her email:

keithsgrant@dodo.com.au

IS THERE COACH TRANSPORT? Yes from Sydney and Melbourne. Please check your invitation for times and LET US KNOW if you want to use this.

ARRIVING FRIDAY NIGHT??? Please let Sue know so we can let the hotel know rough numbers for counter meals. (own expense). Better pack an esky in case you win any of the meat raffles at the pub as well!

CARAVANS are welcome but you will need to book yourself in at the nearby Caravan Park. Contact Sue Grant (03 5231 5520 or 0417 341 001) for details and meal prices.

Rodney Vincent is keen to help us celebrate this fantastic milestone and will be entertaining us again for a while on the Saturday night!

to all who have already paid for the 30th Reunion. The \$10 you saved can go towards your grog or raffle tickets perhaps???

Thanks





EARLY BIRD FORM



Reunion Dates: Friday 30th Jan to Sunday 1st Feb 2009

We already have lots of people coming to the 30 YEAR ALDECC Reunion to be held at Feathertop. Many have taken advantage of the Early Bird Form and paid a deposit already. It is shaping up to be a very good weekend!

Coaches have kindly been donated out of Sydney and Melbourne by Bob Clarke and Ray Higginson for those who are interested. Please advise on your invitation if you want an easy ride to and from AL-DECC by coach. No numbers means no coach—Please let Sue know.

The cost of the reunion is **\$170 (after 15 Dec)** or early bird price of \$160 per adult for the full weekend including the usual meals. **Children: 4 – 11 yrs \$80, 12-17 yrs \$90** (usual meals included) Pay early and save!

If you want to come and share the fun and memories at the 30 YEAR celebrations - send in the form below, or the Tear Off Bit from the enclosed invitation with your payment by **15th December!!!!**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:.....

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CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:

GUESTS ATTENDING:.....

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:.....

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$.....

Coach from Melbourne ? Yes or No

Coach from Sydney? Yes or No

Please return to Sue Grant at
180 Queen St Colac Vic 3250 by 30th September 2008 .

