

# ALDECC Inc.

Australian Long Distance Experienced Coach Crews Inc.



January – March 2012 Newsletter  
[www.aldecc.org.au](http://www.aldecc.org.au)

## 2012 ALDECC Committee Members

### President 2011/2012

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### Committee 2012/2013

John Gullock 1/85 Murdoch Rd Wangaratta Vic 3677  
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Garry Higginson 20 Buckley Road Diggers Rest Vic 3427 03 93105286

Rosemary Trease 85 "Treases Lane" Mirboo North Vic 3871 03 5664 1292

### It's not to offend but to amend

As you are all aware we pay our subs each year to be a member of ALDECC - \$20.00 single member \$30.00 per couple.

We all lead busy lives and some may forget to pay this small sum. Should you find a X in the following box's with a \$figure then that is what you owe.

By being a member you receive newsletters throughout the year and the right to come along to our annual Reunion organised by members for members. You also have the right to stand for Committee to help organise the continuance of ALDECC.

2011

2012

#### New Banking Details for ALDECC

ANZ Bank BSB 012-708 Address Centro Lavington S/C  
Account No 3692 76963 Lavington Shop 80 Griffith Rd  
Lavington NSW 2641

Mary Purtill: secretary@aldecc.org.au

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## Presidents Report Feb 2012

Well, another reunion has just been had, its always great to see those that can make it, and to those that have come for the first time it was good to meet them. It was a wonderful weekend, the weather was perfect, great company, good food and tons of laughs. It was a bit scary though, on the Saturday night to see yourself on the big screen from an old Centralian promotanical video, thanks Gary! All that attended loved the new venue, The Tocumwal Golf Resort, with its extra comforts, including air conditioning and a bar fridge in every room, age makes those little extra's a great inclusion. It was a unanimous vote to return to Tocumwal next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank first of all, our Secretary Mary P ,who does so much work to make my job so easy, we all work well together. To our publicity officer Gary (the title sounds good), thanks for all the work on the newsletter s and of course our ALDECC website, for those that don't have a computer take the time, and find a family member or friend to show you our great site. To the committee thanks for all your input in the last 12 months and to our incoming committee I look forward to working with you in planning the 34<sup>th</sup> ALDECC reunion in 2013.

Well the nostalgia trip to Alice Springs for 2015 is in the planning, The committee will endeavour to book accommodation, especially in Alice Springs in the next few months to secure a bed . I think most of us would like a bed rather than sleep on the floor, in a tent. Not enough bin space for all of us!

Please remember to keep sending all that news, and the bits and pieces for our newsletters. Have a great year, the President and Secretary plan to have a great one, visiting London, Paris, Rome, Amsterdam and much more in May, we may even run into other Aldecc members on holiday!

Stay safe and well.

Mary Greenham President

## Secretary's Report Feb 2012

Hello to you all

Welcome to our first ALDECC Newsletter for 2012. After a great weekend at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Reunion held in Tocumwal the committee are once again back into the lines of communication with each other in organising the next reunion to be held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2013. Don't worry it will come around quickly enough. We will be returning to Tocumwal so for those who missed this year it would be great to see you next year.

Our numbers topped 61 for the weekend and a lot of laughs and talk of old and new times were had by all. Our Committee members who stood down after 2 years being John Gullock, Steve Damm, Bernie Greely, Garry Higginson and Rosemary Trease were re nominated from the floor and accepted the nominations. Thankyou to the members that voted with confidence the return of the Committee I am sure that they will continue to contribute to ALDECC for the benefit of all.

Our calendar received by those attending the reunion was a big hit once again. I have a few left if anyone would like a copy for the sum of \$7.50. The Committee also purchased new car sticker labels, a new design and they stick to your window like a rego sticker. You can purchase these for the small sum of \$2.00 per label.

Until next time, start looking in those old photo albums for any days on the road pictures that could be included into next years calendar and don't forget that you can send bits n pieces in via email or snail mail for all to share in for the newsletter.

Mary Purtill Secretary

# Newsletter Bits n Pieces

Margie Byrnes (Lattey) had the afternoon of her life at the reunion in Tocumwal. Being a keen golfer, Margie took on the three Tim's (Lattey, Purtill and Higginson) over 18 holes of golf at the golf course right next to where we were staying. After nine holes the group stopped to refuel with drinks, sunscreen and of course a toilet stop to the amusement of all watching. Celwyn Curtis and David Purtill followed the group in a cart giving tips along the way. Awards were given at dinner Saturday night with Margie coming away winner for the day.

## Birthdays

Congratulations to Doug Lever for reaching the ripe young age of 70  
John Gullock, Lorraine Sternberg and Graeme Hayes are not that far behind.

## New Member

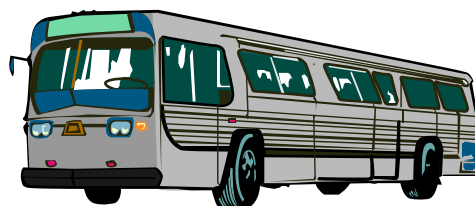
The Committee and Members would like to welcome  
Glen Calvert who worked as a courier for Centralian in the 1980's.

## Reunion Raffle Prizes

Raffle prizes are always a big hit at the reunion with this year being no exception.  
The committee would like to thank all those who kindly donated prizes at the reunion.

Our lucky winners are

Prize	Donated By	Won By
\$100.00 Voucher to Family Fun Park Bairnsdale	Glen Calvert	Julie Keatley
Garden Bench	Gough Family	Doug Lever
Boot Box	Gough Family	Ray Higginson
Aboriginal Painting	Steve Damm	Alfie Greenham
Aboriginal Painting	Steve Damm	Bernie Greely
Tourist Bunny	Garry Mathewson	Merril Gough
Wine Box	Garry Mathewson	Ruth Carmichael
RFDS Bunny	Garry Mathewson	Claire Curtis
Ceramic Koala	Garry Mathewson	Rosemary Trease
Soap & Candle Package	Garry Mathewson	Ray Brewer
Soap Package	Garry Mathewson	Frances Higginson
Booby Prize		Ruth Carmichael



## Subs

If you didn't get to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual ALDECC reunion to pay your annual subs you are quite welcome to send along a cheque to the secretary or transfer the funds into our ALDECC bank account, only \$20.00 for singles and \$30.00 for a couple.

Bank account details are on page 2 of this newsletter.

## Condolences

The Committee would like to inform Members of the passing of Nemo Webster Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012.

## Medical Alert

Paul Beames recently spent 6 weeks laid up after coming a cropper with a serious foot problem. Now back on two feet Paul would be quite welcoming to any members who venture up to the Kununurra area.

It was good to see that Doug Lever was back on his 2 feet at the Reunion.

## On the Move

Warwick (rocky) Rock and family have made the big move from Pt McQuarie to Broome to head up the managing of APT Kimberly Wilderness Adventures.

Rocky will be the regional manager for the area so be sure to look him up if you are up that way.

## ALDECC Website

A lot of work has been done to the ALDECC Website over the past few months.

[www.aldecc.org.au](http://www.aldecc.org.au) Nearly all of the ALDECC newsletters printed over the years have been added to the site and they sure make for an interesting read. Feel free to leave a comment on the visitors page or just check out the news page to keep up to date with what's happening. Of course this doesn't happen over night and our Guru Garry has been kept hard at work in his retirement for ALDECC.



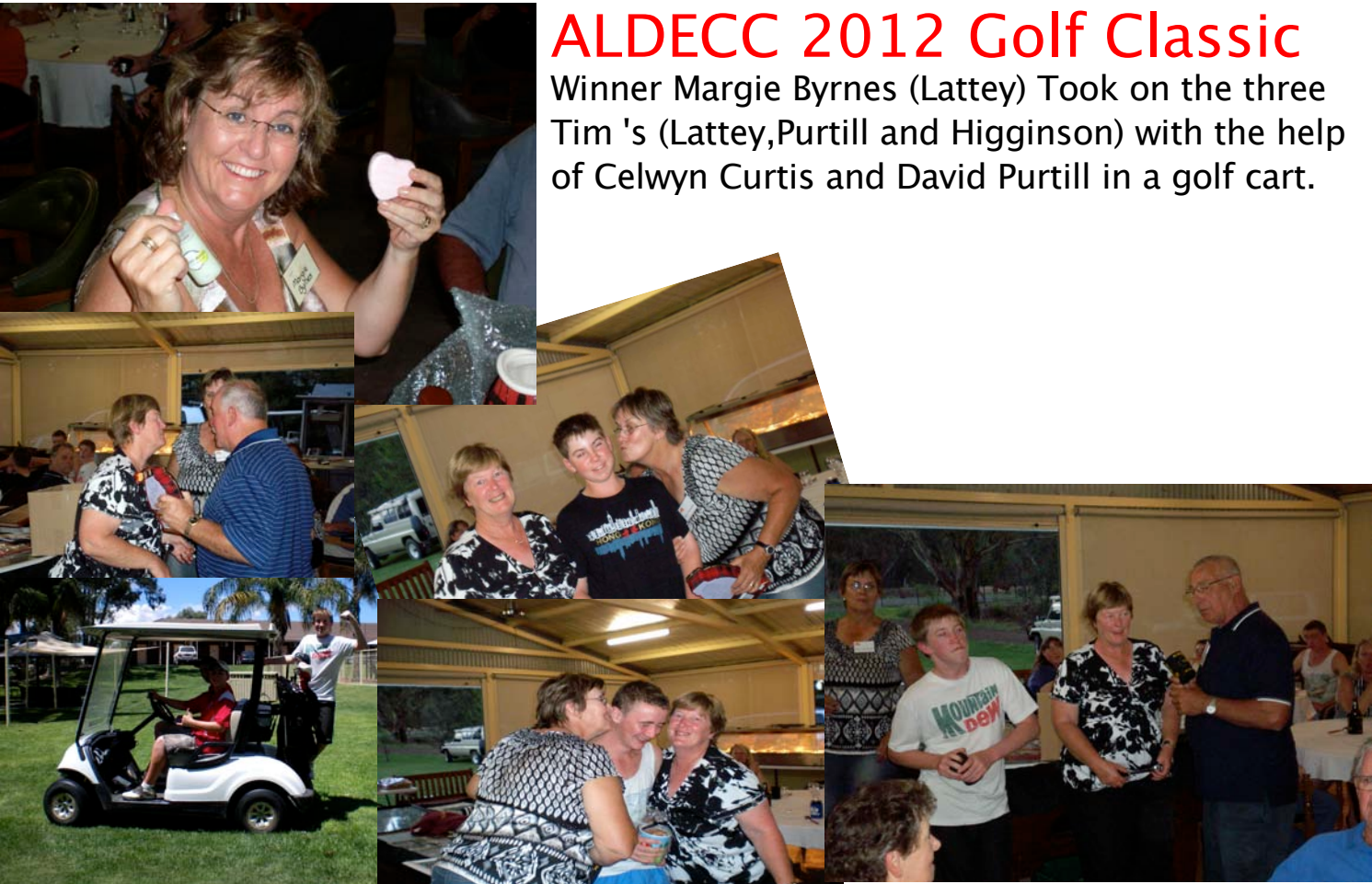
# 2012 Reunion Tocumwal Golf Resort





# ALDECC 2012 Golf Classic

Winner Margie Byrnes (Lattey) Took on the three Tim 's (Lattey,Purtill and Higginson) with the help of Celwyn Curtis and David Purtill in a golf cart.



# PETER SEVERIN

Peter Severin was established at Curtin Springs long before tourism started at Ayers Rock. In their first year Peter & Dawn saw only 6 people drive down the road.

He was instrumental in supporting Len Tuit's vision of the potential of Ayers Rock. Peter had a large role in establishing the first infrastructure at Ayers Rock (graded the first airstrip, put in septic & water reticulation systems, built Bill Harney's house & ranger station, had the contract to put the chain up the Rock etc etc).

The Curtin Springs Roadside Inn became the first tourism operation outside Alice Springs, being the first diversified pastoral business in the Central Australia.

"We didn't know the tourism industry was an industry!".

Alice Springs, Curtin Springs, Kulgera & Coober Pedy – it was a long way between stops.

Hundreds of miles from anywhere, water was even more valuable than petrol and Peter had the only bore around. After filling the thirsty vehicles, Peter & Dawn would feed Len's campers with morning tea - fresh scones & cuppas, showing those early visitors a real taste of outback hospitality. They employed their first tourist related staff in 1964.

Peter & Dawn offered water, fuel, food, fresh milk, bread, meat, ice and goodwill. These were not available at Ayers Rock. Peter is the longest serving licensee in the NT. He could (and still does) offer a cold beer to hot dusty visitors.

For many many years Peter was the only one available to help the buses and trucks. Peter covered distances up to 80 miles (one way) to give a hand. It could be anything, bogs due to dry sand or mud, broken axles, springs, steering arms, tyres, general repairs and it was usually FOC (free of charge). Many thousands of miles were travelled over the years to help people out. Peter participated in many searches for lost people and carried bodies down off Ayers Rock.

More than 50 years down the track, Curtin Springs receives visitors regularly who remember a kind act, a fixed bit, a tow, a loan, a meal or a conversation they had with Peter.

*Inducted 2009*



# KEVIN "KB" BRYANT

Kevin "K.B." Raymond Bryant was born 5<sup>th</sup> August 1938 and died 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007. He was buried at Necropolis, Springvale, Melbourne.

K.B. left school at 15 to commence a motor mechanic apprenticeship, and he became mechanic in 1963 for Sandringham Bus Lines, Melbourne. He was a pioneer of outback tourism as an owner-operator of camping tour coaches. He drove tours throughout Australia for 16 years.

K.B.'s love of the outback began when he drove two bus tours to Alice Springs for Sandringham Bus Lines. At Easter 1969 K.B. became one of the first owner-drivers for Centralian Tours, Melbourne, when he purchased the first of two Leyland-Freighter coaches and named it Elma 1. This was always his favourite coach. A Hino (Elma 3) and two bogey-drive Dennings coaches (Elma 4 & Elma 5) were to follow. For some years he employed a driver for his second coach.

K.B. always maintained and repaired his own vehicles and his dirty white overalls were a trademark. There were many roadside repairs done over the years such as repairing a tyre or replacing broken spring leaves. K.B. completed the repairs and the tour continued.

K.B. was a founding member of A.R.C.S.C. - Ayres Rock Cook Sock Club, and of A.L.D.E.C.C. - Australian Long Distance Experienced Coach Crews. He pioneered the north-south Tanami Track tourist coach route 3-5 May 1972, camping at Rabbit Flat on May 4<sup>th</sup>. K.B. always found extra things for passengers to see or do and was usually the last coach to arrive at camp!

After Centralian Tours folded in January 1974, K.B. became a founding director of Centralian Staff Pty Ltd (trading as Camping Tours of Australia) and continued as an owner-driver for them until 1983. He believed the sealing of many roads, the Ayres Rock Pub closure, (K.B. was a lifetime teetotaler) and the change from Ayres Rock National Park campsites to the upmarket Uluru marked the end of an era. It was time to move on and he retired from "The Track".

K.B. began Mobile Production Facilities after he was asked to drive a bus for "The Slim Dusty Movie" (thanks to his outback knowledge). There he saw the opportunity to replace the inadequate make-up and wardrobe caravans with buses. He had found a new niche in the film industry and in late 1983 he purchased three ex-school run Bedford buses to set up as mobile make-up and wardrobe facilities. These have been used on location for many Australian film and television productions. He continued to work in this industry until his death. His son Peter continues to run Mobile Production Facilities.

*Inducted 2009*



"Elma 4"

"Elma 1"



## **MY HISTORY IN THE BUS AND COACH INDUSTRY. BY: GEOFF JAMIESON.**

My love affair with buses started as early as my days in high school. Family friends ran Chaplin's Bus Service in Adelaide. They did local service runs, school runs and the Adelaide to Mannum service run. I used to travel on the run to Mannum on Saturday mornings to help with the mail, freight and papers. When I left high school, I started an apprenticeship as a motor mechanic, and as my father sometimes drove on the Mannum run on Saturday afternoons, I used to travel with him. I was only seventeen then, but often, when there were no passengers on the return journey, he used to let me drive the bus back to Adelaide and out to the depot. It was a Commer Knocker bus with a Freighter body. At age nineteen I started doing regular charter work with Chaplins, taking football teams etc around the Adelaide region. One of the buses was a small Reo, that carried about fifteen passengers, and had a door for each row of seats. When I finished my apprenticeship, I got a job driving for Slattery's bus service in Adelaide doing school and service runs. After a few months I started with Streaky Bay Motor Service, driving on the Adelaide to Streaky Bay and Ceduna run. I did that for about nine months, and after leaving there was asked by Murray Valley Coaches to do a tour to Alice Springs. I left on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 1966 ( I will never forget that date ) in a Bedford petrol bus with 29 school girls and two female teachers. The cook was traveling in his own car with his wife, and as his car broke down a few times, we had to prepare our own meals. The girls flew back to Adelaide and the return journey was with a group of school boys. On return to Adelaide I had the urge to do more long distance driving, so I took a job with Pappy Withers Parlorcars, doing two day tours between Adelaide and Melbourne via Mt Gambier, and returning on a two day tour from Melbourne to Adelaide via Mildura. I also did a couple of tours doing Adelaide to Alice, and Alice to Darwin tours with Parlorcars. In early 1969 my mother was sick of me saying that I would like to go back to The Alice, so I packed up my car and headed north. On arrival in Alice I got a job driving a truck for John Drings ( the same trucking company I had done my apprenticeship with ), and worked with them until about Easter when I started work with Ansett Pioneer. I had three years with Pioneer in The Alice, doing express to Darwin (staging at Elliot ), and express to Adelaide ( staging at Wintina Station.) We also did day tours, three day tours to Ayers Rock, Palm Valley and Glen Helen. In the summer I transferred to Tasmania to do tours down there. On the fourth year with Pioneer I transferred to Adelaide and did seven day Territorian tours from Adelaide to Alice Springs and three day tours from Alice to Darwin. I also did express on the Alice run (staging at Kingooya), and Melbourne staging at Arrarat), and back to Tasmania for the summer. After leaving Pioneer I moved to Darwin and worked for Darwin Bus and Motor Service, mainly as a mechanic, but I also did some school runs as well. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of December 1974, myself and two mates, flew out of Melbourne for a trip to England and Europe. Lucky we were not still in Darwin as our original plans had changed, and Cyclone Tracy would have changed everything. After two months overseas I returned to Melbourne and took a job with Centralian Tours and did a season on the West Coast between Darwin and Perth on accommodated tours. At the end of that season I transferred to Tasmania, where I only did about two tours before Centralian went into receivership. I was then offered a job with Australian Pacific where I did their first West Coast trip from Darwin to Perth. The first trip was an accommodated/camper combined. Thank goodness they never did one of those again. Over the next four years with Australian Pacific, I did the West Coast in the winter and Tasmania in the summer. I also did the first under 30's trip to Darwin as well as a couple of ordinary campers to Darwin, and a few Melbourne to Perth tours. Between Centralian and Australian Pacific, I did a total of twenty two trips on the West Coast, ( that is eleven Darwin to Perth and eleven the other way ). Between Pioneer, Centralian and Australian Pacific I estimated that I did around fifty trips in Tasmania. At this stage I needed a break from the road, so I worked in reservations in Australian Pacific's Melbourne office for a while, before transferring to Adelaide to manage their office there.

After two and a half years there I moved to Victory Downs Station to manage the motel/camping grounds. That was a very interesting time, but without doubt, the hardest year in my whole life. I then moved into Alice Springs and did several jobs, including night auditor and poker machine mechanic at the Casino. I worked with CATA Tours in reservations and did some night tours when Haley's Comet came by. In early 1986 I had a holiday in Far North Queensland and returned to work at the Alice Traveller's Village as Front Office Manager. After about nine months there, the call of Far North Queensland was too strong, so I packed up and headed to Queensland the long way around, via Adelaide, Victoria and the ALDECC reunion, and then up the East Coast to arrive in Cairns in early 1987.

Since arriving in the north I worked for a while with Newmans Tours and Ansett Trailways. I worked for Quicksilver Cruises for three years in Cairns, transferring passengers from Cairns to Port Douglas for the reef cruises. I then moved to Port Douglas with Quicksilver to do local pickups for another two years. After that I drove limousines for a while and two years with Acacia Limousines doing transfers between the Sheraton in Port to the Cairns airport in a Coaster bus with a luggage trailer. I estimated I did around fifteen hundred return trips during that two years. I also drove a mud truck for the Mossman Sugar Mill for two crushing seasons and about ten weeks Bin Hauling. ( Driving a tractor and ten ton trailer from the harvester to the rail sidings. ) I have had a few other jobs up here including my current one as a groundsman on the Sea Temple Golf Course in Port. I have been there for four years, and hope to see out another two years, when I will turn seventy, and then retire. When reading this history, you are probably thinking I should be at least one hundred years old, but that is just about how old I feel sometimes. In February 2011, at age sixty seven, I did not renew my bus license. This is the first time since 1965 that I have not had a bus license of some sort. Well that is all I can think of for now, and I am not sure the dates and times spent in each job are really accurate, but the whole exercise of having to remember it all has made me tired, so see you all later. Geoff.



Photo's from the Geoff Jamieson collection