

NOVEMBER 2013

ALDECC. INC

Australian Long Distant Experience Coach Crews



2013 ALDECC Committee Members

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Committee 2013/2014

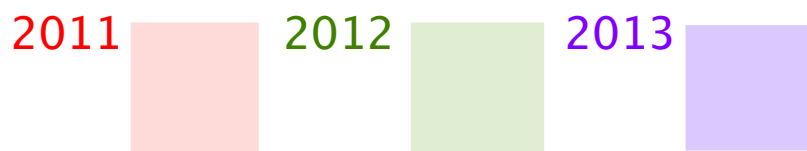
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It's not to offend but to amend

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.



New Banking Details for ALDECC

ANZ Bank BSB 012-708 Address Centro Lavington S/C
Account No 266880092 Lavington Shop 80 Griffith Rd
Lavington NSW 2641

Please put your Surname in for reference

Presidents Report

Greetings to all, Spring has arrived, the garden is blooming and the weather is warming up. It won't be long till Christmas and then its time for our reunion once again, the year has just flown.

Its been great to see that so many members have kept in touch this year and have passed on lots of news and photo's, for our newsletters .

A few special birthdays this year. Congratulations to Greg Oakley on his recent 70th Birthday and Greg Reid will soon be turning 60. Happy Birthday to all celebrating a birthday at this time of year.

It has been a very sad time with the passing of a special friend Pete Bryne, Pete was a special person and a great friend to many. At his recent funeral held in Charlton, it was hard to find an old driver that didn't have grey hair. On a lighter note Pete's family wanted to know who the hairy man was, thought he might have come for a free feed and a couple of beers, it turned out to be Bernie, we had a chuckle about that one.

Don't forget to keep saving for the reunion and the nostalgic trip in 2015, its only about 18 months away.

Have a great festive season and see you at the reunion.

Mary Greenham

Secretary's Report

Hello to you all.

I hope that this newsletter finds you all well and gearing up to the festivities ahead at Xmas time.

The year has been moving along very quickly in this household and I'm not quite sure whether it is because we are all getting older or it's always been that way and we are slowing up in our old age as the kids put it. I was asked the other night at a school function for year 12 students in 2014 of what I would be thinking in 12 months time when they had finished their schooling. My first thought was 2 down 1 to go, wrong answer ok then less to pay in school fees, again wrong answer. Gee I have trouble thinking about what I am doing from one day to the next let alone 12 months in advance. I should have been thinking about how after 13 years of schooling my child would be now entering the adult world (one might say questions and drudgery) making decisions on their life commitments and expectations. That's a lot of school fees when you think about it. Another thought is that

Our 35th Annual Reunion is coming up on Fri 31st Jan Sat 1st & Sunday 2nd Feb 2014.

It is a big achievement for an Industry to have a group of colleagues that may have worked for one or more Companies particularly within the Coach Industry to gather every year and catch up. The many friendships, good laughs, tears and help along the way are not forgotten by the members of ALDECC.

The Tocumwal Golf Resort Motel is where we are headed once again for the Reunion so start getting the word out. Let those old colleagues know and encourage them to come along and catch up. I remember at the 20th 25th and 30th Reunions a lot were questioning whether ALDECC would still be around in 10 years time.

The price for the reunion has gone up slightly (\$10.00) so start saving the dollars. Information can be found on the website and Invitations will be sent during December. Don't forget that you can contact me and other members of the ALDECC Committee at any time the contact list is always in the Newsletter.

Stay safe

Mary Purtill

Secretary

bits n pieces

Congratulations are in Order to Greg Oakley on the 10th Anniversary of his new Kidney Transplant. Greg is also reaching the milestone of 70 young years in November. Have a great day Greg and we will see you at the next reunion.

A couple of other blokes Greg Reid and Bernie Greely are nudging the 60 mark this year. Congratulations and enjoy the festivities of the day.

Recently two of our Members Barb Conner and Greg Reid were inducted into the Transport Hall of Fame in Alice Springs. Congratulations to you both on your achievement.

Keep these dates Free

35th ALDECC Anniversary
Fri 31st Jan, Sat 1st Feb, Sunday 2nd Feb 2014
Australian Wide Reunion and General Meeting
At the Tocumwal Golf Resort.

Prices for Reunion 2014 are as follows

\$210.00 per person Twin share

\$345.00 Single sup

\$100.00 meals only

(up \$10.00 from last year)

Your invitation will be sent during the month of December.

What a great way to catch up with Friends and their families at the next ALDECC reunion.

Who said that we wouldn't last this long? A lot of us actually questioned whether we would still be around 20 years ago.

All the details will be on the Invitation to be sent during the month of December. Make sure you let all those you keep in contact with that the Reunion is coming up. A copy of the Invitation and details will be place on the ALDECC website for further browsing.



After a long and courageous battle with Cancer Peter Byrne passed away on the 22nd September 2013.

Peter worked for Australian Pacific Tours in the late 1980's into the 1990's on Camping and Accommodated Tours.

Peter was also heavily involved with his local Community of Charlton lending a hand to the many groups in town. Whether it be as a Bus Driver for a Day excursion for the oldies or for the local football team on an away trip for a game.



Peter Michael Byrne

4th August, 1959 – 22nd September, 2013

As a Member of ALDECC Peter came to many reunions and remained friends with many of his colleagues from the Road. Our thoughts are with Pete's many friends and family.

To the ALDECC crew

On behalf of the Byrne family – Margaret, Chris, Cathy, myself and our families I would like to express to you all our gratitude for the kindness and loyalty shown to Peter over these past months whilst he was ill. Your sympathy and support shown to us at the time of his passing on September 22nd has been a great strength to us all.

Your kind thoughts, words, cards, phone calls, flowers and presence at his funeral with us in Charlton, was very much appreciated, and a testimony to the strength of the friendship your group of colleagues formed over the many years you all spent touring this great land.

Peter's approach to his illness was like all he did in life, with a positive outlook and a cheery smile. He gave it all he had and left no stone unturned in his endeavour. No doubt a trait he used on the road many times. He will be dearly missed by a very large circle of family and friends spread far and wide which was very evident from the crowd at his funeral and the contact we have had from many people who were unable to be with us.

Again, our grateful thanks for your kindness, and if you have anything you would like to share with us, we would love to hear from you or if ever you are passing through Charlton please look us up.

Kind Regards to all, Fran Byrne Lee (Pete's youngest sister, alias F Troop) enpac@bigpond.net.au

We pray also that his next journey is in eternal peace.

Our thoughts are also with the family of Noel Fullarton on the recent passing of Isobelle on the 19th August 2013. Isobelle was buried on the 30th August 2013 in Quorn S.A.

Many of you would remember Noel and Isobelle from the Noel Fullarton Camel Farm out of Alice Springs.

John Gullock has written an interesting article on what he is up to working wise.

Enjoy the irony of where our Country has headed over the past years that John has been working.

With my present employer Terry Plant Hire, every two years we get river rehabilitation work on river banks at various Coal mine sites near Moranbah 200kms west of Mackay. This time was slightly different being a construction site for what will become the largest open cut coal mine in Australia. It's called Caval Ridge, for BMA part of BHP Billiton. On site there are 3200 construction workers, construction due to be completed 2014 which includes haul roads, coal conveyers, infrastructure to process coal, rail line extension and coal loading facility and **my** little part, restoration of creek bed!!!! Total cost of construction 6 billion {approx}

To work on any coal mine site you need:

Two day induction Generic Coal License, completed in Melbourne.

Full medical, including physiotherapist. Fit for Work certificate

All this is required 2 weeks prior to being on site.

We arrived midday Sunday and picked up a 4wheel drive hire utility all fitted out to mine specifications.

Monday: Defensive driving course

Tuesday: Site inspection

Wednesday: Site induction 100 plus in class. Seated in the back I could not hear anything, unable to hear answers to questions so copied off person next to me!!! We corrected and ticked own answers!

Thursday: VOC [vehicle operator competency} to enable you to operate the excavator on site even though already have license to operate. 60 questions plus operating test, also VOC to operate light vehicle [work Ute} Part of reason for previous days defensive driving course.

Friday: Work Ute inspection. To obtain special sticker for windscreen.

Saturday: Mobile phones banned on site unless for special circumstances. After completing a 30 question test I was privileged to be permitted to use my mobile phone. A sticker of authorisation had to be displayed on helmet.

Sunday: DAY OFF!! Sick of all the BULLSHIT!

Monday: VOC for chainsaw. When asked what sort of chainsaw I told them it was an old 090 Stihl with a 4 foot bar and NO chain brake!! Seems like these guys have no sense of humour as I got a severe reprimand for this comment! After 30 questions and an inspection of our operating ability, {We already had chainsaw tickets} we obtained VOC for chainsaw.

Tuesday: START WORK!!!

Every day you must blow in the breathalyser at the security gate and if you blow any numbers you get two choices, either the aisle seat or the window seat on the first plane out of there!! On site were 2 draglines which had been moved from Peak Downs mine, 19kms south, which took one month to walk them, each weigh 2500 tonnes worth 50million dollars each!

This is the strictest construction site in Australia! Very FRUSTRATING! Maybe carrying OH&S a bit far??

John Gullock

Greg Reid Inducted into the Shell Rimula Wall of Fame at ReUnion 2013.

Greg Reid was initially employed driving buses for Peter Harding's father where he became well known for his excellent skills in developing the coach tour market and prompting the companies product. Greg's knowledge and professionalism was a great asset to the team, He had a real passion for the bus and coach industry generally and loved promoting all facets of the Australian tourism industry.

Greg has held various roles working for the Harding family over the years predominantly driving coaches. He loved the open road and showing the diversity of the Australian landscape and culture to his passengers who came in from all corners of Australia and the world.

Greg is regarded by his peers as one of the leaders in his field due to his personal attention and care to make sure every little detail is perfect from his grooming right through to the cleanliness of the coach. It was always said that breakfast could be eaten off the floor of Greg's vehicles. They are always immaculately presented and he has great pride in showcasing this to his travellers.

For the past the13 years, Greg has worked for Grand Pacific Tours, predominantly driving their Gold Class Coach of which he has had complete control and management.

Grand Pacific Tours is 100% Australian owned and was started by Peter Harding in 1996. The Harding family is synonymous with the Australian and New Zealand coach holiday market.



Barb Connor Inducted into the Shell Rimula Wall of Fame at ReUnion 2013.

Barbara Florence Connor (Barb) was born in 1949 in San Mateo, California USA. She came to Australia, her mother's birth place, to work as a Kindergarten Teacher to travel the big country in school holidays. Her first Centralian Safari Coach tour was as a passenger in 1970 with Grenda's Bus service. Lance Grenda was the Coach Captain with Peter Hopgood the courier. Passengers were unaccustomed to cooking on a camp fire, so they pooled their money and asked Barb to be their cook. She loved it and excelled at it. This led to a job, where she could both travel Australia and get paid for it. From that point Barb worked as Safari Cook for four years with Grendas during the school Holidays.



In December 1974 Barb started full time with Lance at Grenda's Bus Service as cook on camping tours. Her first tour was to Darwin. Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin on Christmas Eve 1974. They only reached Winton in Queensland before having to rewrite the itinerary so the tour could continue to a different destination. Lananda Tours was born on 1 July 1975. The old Bedford buses were replaced with a new Denning Coach. Lananda did their own tours as well as subcontract work for other companies such as Grenda's, AAT, Hoys, Evergreen and Camping Tours of Australia. In those days much of the work was with school groups. Lananda had overweight problems and, in 1979, Barbara helped Lance design a 15-foot trailer to help with this issue. A radical idea of side doors each side of the big trailer meant the camping gear could be packed separate from the kitchen and supplies. It worked very well. Lananda still had weight problems so a new 45 foot DenAir with a lazy axle was ordered and commissioned in February 1980. Barb continued to travel all over Australia with Lananda. The coach's lazy axle didn't help in deep sand but they always managed to reach their destination.

Barbara also planned tour itineraries which included leaving the coach at a main point and joining four wheel drive tours to Cape York, island stays on Fraser Island and Coach and Trailer trips by boat to Tasmania for a 28 day Tour. She compiled a commentary book for each tour they did in Australia.

Lance Grenda was Barb's main influence in the industry. Such was their friendship that they worked together for 30 years. Lananda Tours was retired in 2003 but Barb did some school work and the occasional short trip around Victoria. Lance passed away in 2006. Barb retired at this time and returned to working in Primary Schools and volunteering at Abbeyfield.

Barbara says *“Working in the coach industry from 1970 to 2000s was a wonderful time. The early days on the road were full of challenges, the mud, deep sand, dirt roads and dust in everything. The friends made in those days are still friends and help keep those good and bad times in mind with stories told at Australian Long Distance Coach Crew reunions”*.

