

DECEMBER 2014

# ALDECC. INC

Australian Long Distance Experienced Coach Crews



## 2014 ALDECC Committee Members

### President 2014

Mary Greenham Pental Island Caravan Park 03 5032 2071  
519 Pental Island Rd Swan Hill Vic 3585  
Email :pentalislandholpark@bigpond.com.au

### Secretary 2014

Mary Purtil 14 Peninsula Crt Thurgoona NSW 2640 02 6043 1640  
0438 431640  
Email: secretary@aldecc.org.au

### Committee 2014/2015

John Gullock 1/85 Murdoch Rd Wangaratta Vic 3677 Mobile 0412 260732  
Steve Damm 33 Firestone Way Wodonga VIC 3690 02 6059 3315  
Mobile 0409 907463  
Bernie Greely 13 Westgate St Oakleigh VIC 3166 Mobile 042 6887963  
Garry Higginson PO Box 18 Diggers Rest Vic 3427 03 93105286  
Rosemary Trease 85 "Treas Lane" Mirboo North Vic 3871 03 5664 1292

### Committee 2014

Garry Mathewson P O Box 59 Forest Hill Vic 3131 0402 042746  
Brian McLauchlan 93 Bennu Circuit Albury NSW 2640 0417 516199  
Lynne Higginson Rivervue Village, 10 Bella Vista Drive. Avondale Heights ,Vic 3034. 03 99889310  
Kevin Gough 326 McAuley St Hay NSW 2711 0409 745437

### 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.

2012

2013

2014

### New Banking Details for ALDECC

ANZ Bank BSB 012-708  
Account No 266880092

Address

Centro Lavington S/C  
Lavington Shop 80 Griffith Rd  
Lavington NSW 2641

## **Presidents Report**

Season's greetings to all, Spring is nearly over, and the garden is blooming, with the weather warming up. It won't be long till Christmas and then it's 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 . We send our thoughts and prayers to those who are not travelling so good, especially Greg Oakley.

Don't forget to put down your deposit for the nostalgic trip to Alice Springs in August 2015, bookings are steadily coming in, its only 9 months away.

Have a great festive season, stay safe and well and see you at the reunion.

Mary Greenham

## **Secretary's Report**

**Hi All**

**We have now reached the busy time of the year coming up to Xmas where it seems that everyone wants everything done now before the end of the year. I thought that I would give you a little something to think about over the Xmas and New Year period.**

**Attached to this newsletter is your Invitation to the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual ALDECC Reunion. Yes 36 years and we are still going strong maybe a little slower but still strong in mind and spirit to catch up with those many friends that we have met over the years of travel on the road. Dates of the Reunion are Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015.**

**We have also added again the Itinerary and booking form for those wishing to come along on the Nostalgia Trip from Wed August 26<sup>th</sup> to Wed September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015.**

**The little something that I would like you to ponder is will I, We, or You be attending one or both of the events? Reunion Twin share price \$215.00 per person. Nostalgia Trip 7 Days \$750.00 per person. Both are reasonably priced so maybe if you are asked the question of what you would like for Xmas perhaps family can put something towards one or both events.**

**It's a Bumper Issue of the Newsletter enjoy the catch up and Have a Safe and Wonderful Christmas and New Year.**

**Regards**

**Mary Purtill Secretary**

# bits n pieces

Many Happy Returns are in order for Bryn Hillman and Ruth Carmichael on reaching their 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday milestones.

Congratulations to Tony and Simone Hayes on the news of a little Brother or Sister on the way for big brother Sam. Hope to see you all at the ALDECC reunion if you are not in that uncomfortable position to travel.

Upon turning 70 years Ruth Carmichael decided that a right hip operation was in order. Having the operation just a week after the celebrations Ruth needed to travel by ambulance to the rehab centre in Frankston to get back on her feet. Along side her in the ambulance was a lady who had just had a hip operation on the left side. Good o thinks Ruth three legged races down the corridor will make for a speedy recovery. On arriving at Rehab Ruth and her new friend Sue Whitehead (Max Whiteheads wife) find that they are sharing the same room and routine for rehab. Oh what a small world we live in.

Max Pryse at the young age of 88 is still riding his horses but says that he now needs a ladder to get on and off. It now takes him 2 days to mow the lawns one for the front and one for the back and his wife nags him cos he's too slow. Keep up the good work.

Reen and Bryn Hillman have settled for the present into a renovated Church whilst their new home is being built. During the last storms in Sydney the wind took out all the Church signs and gave the roof a good rattling. Maybe it wasn't the wind????

Seen in Albury very recently all clad in Lycra and riding a bicycle was Dave Rounds. Dave was participating in the Great Victorian Bike Ride from Albury to Lilydale for 9 days. Sleeping arrangements are in 2 man tents set up in straight lines in very large paddocks. From driving Buses to driving Bikes, not much has changed.

For those of you who picked up on the miss spelling and print on the heading page of the last newsletter thankyou. It's good to know that members take the time to read the newsletter and feel comfortable enough to let us know when things are not quite right.

Special thoughts and prayers go out to Greg and Helen Oakley. Greg is not travelling to well at present and Helen is travelling back and forth to the Flinders Medical Centre where Greg is resting at present.

*The Committee would like to wish you all the  
Peace and Joy of Christmas and a  
Very Merry and Happy New Year*

## Nostalgia Trip

Preparations are well under way for the Nostalgia Trip to Alice Springs from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015.

A lot of work and effort has gone into organising this trip for those who put their hand up and said that they would like to go.

Of all the hands that went up not many have put their intentions and deposits on paper or in the bank.

Its now coming to the crunch time of either going with the numbers indicated or cancelling due to the lack of support and numbers shown.

We have once again attached the Itinerary and dates along with the booking form with this Newsletter and encourage all those hands to send their intentions.

For those intending to travel who would like to have a meal at the Hall of Fame on either the Saturday or Sunday it would be a good idea to go onto the Transport Hall of Fame website to make a booking as these functions fill fast.

The Group on the ALDECC Coach have the option of dining together at the Heavitree Pub at their own expense. (See Itinerary).

Jeff Spence will be in Alice Springs at the same time as the Nostalgia Trip travelling on Bill Hand's ex vehicle which has been restored. Jeff will be leaving on the Monday morning from Alice Springs continuing on to the Birdsville Races and has seats vacant for those who would like to continue on with a camping tour.

## Elections

At all our ALDECC Reunions elections for the Committee are held at the Annual General Meeting held on the Sunday Morning.

Standing down this year after 2 years are

Mary Greenham	President
Mary Purtill	Secretary
Garry Mathewson	Committee
Brian McLauchlan	Committee
Lyn Higginson	Committee
Kevin Gough	Committee

These positions will be declared vacant at the AGM and you are all asked to give thought and consideration for those you would like to be elected for each position for a period of 2 years.



## Doug & Dawn Leaver Finally Retire

Doug & Dawn first became involved in the transport business when she was 15 and Doug was 17 in 1958. Doug put his age up 2 years to enable him to obtain a truck licence. They operated International, Bedfords, Volvos and Kenworths, from tabletops, tippers and semi-trailers doing both local and interstate transport.

In 1977 Doug decided that he had had enough of interstate driving, so they moved to Queanbeyan with their two children, Karen & Brett, and purchased Quodling Bros Queanbeyan – Canberra route and school services. Ray and Ros Brewer also packed up their family and moved with us to help in the operation of the business. The business consisted of 10 buses operating 10 return services to Canberra and Queanbeyan and 11 school services. They renamed the business Leaver Coach Lines. It was a mixed fleet of vehicles – Reos, Bedfords, AEC's Mercedes and a fully imported 1948 White (which they still keep parked in the Bega Depot).

Dawn took over the administration of the business and over the next few years Doug set about replacing and increasing the fleet of route and school service vehicles to keep up the demand with the expansion of the business. Leylands were the main choice for the route and school services.

Doug could see an opportunity for tour and charter so purchased Domino and Denning coaches for long distance and Central Australian Safari Tours. Doug was away continually for the first few years, whilst Dawn managed the ever growing route and school services, plus organising the Central Australian Tours.

For the first few years, Dawn also went with Doug as Tour Leader and Cook, but workload became too great, so had to stay back and concentrate on the administration and management of the business.

By 1990 the business had increased to 40 vehicles and they decided to sell the Queanbeyan – Canberra Services to Dennis Deane. They retained the tour and charter side of the business with 11 coaches. With introductions from Mr Russell Penfold to the Eagle Coach Manufacturing in USA, enabled them to purchase 3 Eagle Coaches which allowed them to offer specialised tours to clients using dependable luxury coaches. Leaver Coach Lines became the preferred carrier for the Australian Government and exclusive carrier for their Overseas Parliamentary Delegations such as President Bush Snr, President Clinton, Pope John Paul 11, King and Queen of Denmark, President of Italy, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany and many more. This would involve receiving their itinerary, which we would then have to organise all coach transport throughout Australia.

Their daughter Karen, took over the inbound tour groups and son Brett managed the workshop and also did a lot of coach driving. In 1993, our son-in-law, Peter Ingram also joined the business in administration and coach driving. In 1996 Bert Potter from Ansett Pioneer joined the company and introduced Leaver Coachlines Travel Club and Potter Travel, offering Theatre tours, day tours and extended accommodated tours. It proved to be very successful.

In 2000 due to the interference of the TWU, (over sacking an intoxicated driver) they decided to sell Leaver Coach Lines to Transborder Express.

Finding it hard to not be involved in bus transportation, Dawn, Doug, Karen & Peter moved to Bega bringing 3 coaches with them and purchased Bega Valley Coaches, which operated route and school services between Bega – Tilba – Bermagui – Cobargo and Warrigal Range.

Dawn continued to attend to the administration side of the business, and Doug drove one of the school buses as well as managing the fleet maintenance.

Karen introduced the tour and charter business to Bega and then started the Bega Valley Coaches Travel Club, which is still operating to this day. Peter became our senior coach driver and in 2009 Brett with his family moved to Bega to take over as workshop supervisor.

In 2004 both Dawn & Doug were very privileged to be inducted into the Road Transport Hall of Fame in Alice Springs

In July 2014, Dawn and Doug had decided to let the family operate the day to day operations of Bega Valley Coaches, (Peter taking over Dawn's position) thus allowing them to step back and take some well earned time for themselves.

What a bit of fertiliser and diesel can do







## Jack Rogers by Joanne Wise (Daughter)

Jack Rogers is my father and he turned 80 years old this year. The reason I am writing is because I believe that Jack Rogers is the longest serving, oldest Coach Captain in Australia or perhaps the world. Jack is still driving coaches at the age of 80 and works independently. He hired mostly by word of mouth. I cannot see him slowing down anytime soon.

Jack started his career as a coach Captain in 1958, a year before I was born. He worked for Pioneer Express and then onto tours. He drove an Ansair built Clipper, powered by a Deutz air cooled motor. Won't find them around anymore... Then in 1960 he moved onto Palorcars and I remember them being around when I was a kid. Jack worked at Parlorcars with Eric Blizzard and worked there for 5 years. He moved onto Redline Coaches in 1965 with Rex Law and was driving these coaches for 2 years. After this he then moved onto Centralian tours and I do remember these coaches, as I remember them around when I was at primary school in Noble Park Vic. Not sure how long he worked there at Centralian Tours. After this from 1974 to 1997 he worked at Australian Pacific Tours and I joined the company myself as a cook when I was 21. Jack worked at Australian Pacific Tours for many years and I myself remember all the Christmas party's as I attended most of them. Good times. From 1998 onwards Jack has worked for Deluxe and now he is working Part time for whoever needs his services. He is well known and well respected in the industry.





**ALDECC**  
**Nostalgia Trip**  
**Melbourne - Alice Springs & return.**  
**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015**

**Day 1: Melbourne to Clare                      Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015                      (D)**

Depart Melbourne at 7.30am from T.B.A and travel via Ararat, Stawell, Bordertown, Taillem Bend, Murray Bridge and over the hills through the Barossa Valley into Clare for our first night. Overnight Motel Accommodation at the Clare Valley Motel. Twin Share

**Day 2: Clare to Coober pedy                      Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015                      (BLD)**

Its up early today travelling via Crystal Brook, Pt Augusta, Glendambo and into Coober pedy, where we will enjoy the hospitality of Lorraine and Dieter Sternberg at the Opal Cave bunkhouse.

**Day 3: Coober pedy to Alice Springs      Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015                      (BLD)**

Escaping the bunkhouses we head up the road to Marla for a cuppa then onto the border for a very quick photo through to Kulgera, ERLDUNDA we will stop for lunch somewhere and into Alice Springs for the next 3 nights.  
Alice Springs Accommodation. McDonnell Range Tourist Park (sole use of the Bunk House.)

**Day 4: Alice Springs                              Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2015                      (BL)**

This morning we will head out to the Transport Hall of Fame attending the festivities and checking out the many displays. You are quite welcome to spend the day at your leisure or join in for a town tour of Alice stopping for lunch at one of the many old stomping grounds of days gone past. Tonight Dinner is at your expense. A booking will be made at the Heavitree Pub for those who wish to attend.  
Overnight McDonnell Range Tourist Park Bunkhouse.

**Day 5: Alice Springs                              Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015                      (B)**

Today we will view the parade of vehicles from a suitable location on the Stuart Highway. The rest of the day is yours. You may want to spend it at the Transport Hall of Fame, shopping in town, or just R & R.  
Tonight we will make a booking for dinner at the Casino for those who wish to attend.  
Overnight McDonnell Range Tourist Park Bunkhouse.

**Day 6: Alice Springs to Coober pedy      Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015                      (BL)**

Heading off early today we say goodbye to those leaving us and the Alice.  
Travelling back down the Stuart Highway via ERLDUNDA, Kulgera and Marla to once again experience the hospitality of the Opal Cave at Coober pedy. A booking will be made at Coober pedy for dinner tonight.  
Overnight Opal Cave Bunkhouse Coober pedy

**ALDECC**  
**Nostalgia Trip**  
**Melbourne - Alice Springs & return.**  
**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015**

**Day 7: Coober pedy to Clare SA Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 (BLD)**

Leaving Coober pedy behind us we travel via Glendambo, Pt Augusta and Crystal Brook to Clare stopping in along the way at Pimba and Woomera for a look see.  
Overnight accommodation Clare Valley Motel Twin Share

**Day 8: Clare to Melbourne Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 (B)**

Making our way back to Melbourne via the Barossa Valley, Murray Bridge, Tailem Bend, Bordertown, Stawell and Ararat we will hit Melbourne in the late afternoon say our good byes and head back to our own beds for the night.

**Price per Person**  
**\$750.00**  
**Melbourne - Melbourne**  
**(Day 1 - Day 8 incl)**  
  
**\$630.00**  
**Melbourne - Alice Springs**  
**(Day 1 - Day 5 incl)**

**What you need to know**

Please use the attached Booking form to apply  
Seats are limited and it is a First in Best Dressed Policy

**A Deposit of \$100.00 is required upon the booking of your seat on this Nostalgia Trip.**  
**Bookings close as at the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014.**

You can either pay in full or make payments into the ALDECC account using your name as the reference code.

**Final Payment is required by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015.**

**You will need to bring**

Linen, Sleeping Bag, towels and pillow for Accommodation in Coober pedy and Alice Springs. (Please no swags)

Suitable attire for day and night activities.

A Drinks esky will be organised for the duration of the trip with Beer wine water and soft drinks available at reasonable prices. BYO Spirits

We suggest you look at acquiring Travel Insurance if it suits your needs.

Those leaving the trip in Alice Springs are required to make their own travel arrangements upon their departure.

**ALDECC**  
**Nostalgia Trip BOOKING FORM**  
**Melbourne - Alice Springs & return**  
**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015 - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015**

**Name/s** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Next of Kin**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please accept my booking on the ALDECC Nostalgia trip for 2015.**

**Price per Person**  
**\$750.00**  
**Melbourne - Melbourne**  
**(Day 1 - Day 8 incl)**

**\$630.00**  
**Melbourne - Alice Springs**  
**(Day 1 - Day 5 incl)**

**A Deposit of \$100.00 is required at the time of booking. Bookings close 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014.**  
**Final Payment due 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015.**

**I / We will be travelling from Melbourne - Melbourne @ \$750.00 per person**

**I / We will be travelling from Melbourne - Alice Springs @ \$630.00 per person**

**No of people travelling** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deposit** \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Payment** \_\_\_\_\_

**ALDECC Banking Details**

**ANZ Bank**

**BSB 012 708**

**Account No 266880092**

**Please use your name as the reference**

# BOOKING FORM 2015 REUNION

## Booking Details

Please return with your payment

I / We accept the invitation to the 2015 reunion

Cannot attend the 2015 reunion

Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Non Member \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

We wish to use the caravan park \_\_\_\_\_ please make own arrangements

We anticipate arriving at Tocumwal Friday from \_\_\_\_\_ 2pm Late Friday from  
6pm

Saturday 1 night incl meals

Meal Booking for Friday night (own expense) Yes No

I/We would like to have a round of Golf on Saturday afternoon please book me/us in

9 Holes \_\_\_\_\_ 18 holes \_\_\_\_\_ Hire of Golf Cart \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed for

\$215.00 per person x No of persons (Twin Share) \_\_\_\_\_

Meals Only \$100.00 per person x No of Persons \_\_\_\_\_

Single Sup \$350.00 full weekend \_\_\_\_\_

2015 annual Subs \$20.00 single \$30.00 couple \_\_\_\_\_

Other

Total Payment \_\_\_\_\_

### ALDECC Banking Details

ANZ Bank Centro Lavington NSW

BSB: 012-708

Account No: 2668 80092

Please make all cheques payable to ALDECC Inc

Please use your surname as a reference if paying by direct transfer

Please email or send details of payment to

Mary Purtill

[secretary@aldecc.org.au](mailto:secretary@aldecc.org.au)

All enquiries to