

MARCH 2015

ALDECC. INC

Australian Long Distance Experienced Coach Crews



2015 ALDECC Committee

**Rosemary Trease, Mary Greenham, Steve Damm, John Gullock, Lyn Higginson,
Tracey Whitelock, Keven Gough, Garry Higginson, Garry Mathewson,
Bernie Greely, Mary Purtill.**

2015 ALDECC Committee Members

President 2015 / 2016

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Secretary 2015 / 2016

Mary Purtill 14 Peninsula Crt Thurgoona NSW 2640

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Committee 2015 / 2016

Garry Mathewson
Lynne Higginson
Kevin Gough
Tracy Whitelock

Committee 2015

John Gullock
Steve Damm
Bernie Greely
Garry Higginson
Rosemary Trease

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.

2013

2014

2015

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

Well, another reunion has just been had, its always great to see those that can make it. It was a wonderful weekend, the weather was good, great company, good food and lots of laughs. It was a bit scary though, on the Saturday night to see so many old photos, thanks Garry! It was a unanimous vote to return to Tocumwal next year, we all like our comforts now.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank first of all, our Secretary Mary Purtill, who does so much work, we all work so well together. To our publicity officer Garry (the title sounds good), thanks for all the work on the newsletters and of course our ALDECC website. To the committee thanks for all your input in the last 12 months and to our incoming committee including a new committee member Tracey Whitlock, I look forward to working with you in planning our next reunion.

Well the nostalgia trip to Alice Springs is only a few months away, we have about 30 people going so still a few seats left if you would like to book.

Please remember to keep sending all that news, and the bits and pieces for our newsletters. Have a great year.

Stay safe and well.

Mary Greenham President

Secretary's Report

Hi All

Welcome to another year in the ALDECC community. Another great weekend was had by all those who attended the 36th Annual Reunion once again at the Tocumwal Golf Resort. For the first time in many years we missed the company of Mary Kirk, Amy McClaggish, Doug & Dawn Lever and Ray & Ros Brewer who were all battling with health and family issues. We all hope that you are able to join us again next year.

Our thoughts are with Helen Oakley on the recent passing of Greg on the 23rd January. Greg fought a fine battle to the end and will be remembered by many.

There are a few seats left for those of you wishing to join us on a trip of a lifetime in August to the Transport Hall of Fame. We have included the itinerary for your perusal. We welcome Tracy Whitlock to the Committee and thank Brian McLauchlan for his service over the past 4 years.

Don't forget that you can always send in bit's n pieces for the newsletter for all to share in. take care in the cooler months.

Regards

Mary Purtill Secretary

Bit's N Pieces

2015 Annual ALDECC Reunion

What a great time was had by all who attended the 36th ALDECC Reunion held once again at the Tocumwal Golf Resort.

59 people enjoyed the cooler weather, good company and lots of laughs over the weekend. It was good to see new faces in attendance and a few older faces that hadn't been able to come along for a few years.

Terry and Bob Clarke bring along their 40 foot limousine and encourage old Coach Crew from the past to come along for the ride and become members of ALDECC. One day they may just fill that Bus. Ian McMillan, Barb Woosey and Garry Mathewson were busy scanning old photos from the Albums and put a great display together onto discs that were viewed on the central television in the recreation room. For any members that would like to add to the collection bring your photos along with you next year.

Elections

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

The following Committee Members stood down after 2 years of Service.

Mary Greenham President

Mary Purtill Secretary

Committee

Garry Mathewson Brian McLauchlan Lyn Higginson Kevin Gough

Nominations were called for President and Secretary with both Mary Greenham and Mary Purtill being re elected unanimously by the floor.

Garry Mathewson, Lyn Higginson, Kevin Gough and Tracy Whitelock were elected as Committee members for the next 2 years 2015 / 2016.

A big thanks to Brian McLauchlan who stood down for his input over the past 4 years.

New Members

The Committee accepted the nominations and welcome to ALDECC the following New Members. John Leadbeater, Terry & Robin Young, John McLennan, Adrian Stuart, Peter Thornton and Diane Redley.

There are many old / Ex Coach Crew whom are now retired and have time to check out ALDECC on the Website which Garry Mathewson keeps up to date at regular intervals. www.aldecc.org.au

Congratulations are in order for Brian McLauchlan and Christine Russell who will happily tie the knot in March. We wish you both the very best for your future years together.

Nostalgia Trip

Preparations are well under way for the Nostalgia Trip to Alice Springs from Wednesday 26th August - Wednesday 2nd 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. At the time of Print we have 33 Members and Guests joining us for a trip of a life time.

On the Morning of Departure Wednesday 26th August we will meeting at 6.30am for a 7am Departure from Garry Higginsons Depot at 6 Tullamarine Park Rd Tullamarine Vic 3043.

Garry has kindly offered those who need to leave a vehicle whilst away the facility of parking in his Yard.

There are still a few seats available so if you want to come along for a good time please let Mary Purtill know ASAP. A copy of the itinerary and booking sheet are attached to the newsletter.

Vale Greg Oakley



Greg Oakley grew up in McLaren Vale in South Australia. After a short time working for the PMG as a technician he moved back to help his parents. He also did casual work around the area including some truck driving for McLaren Vale Transport.

At 19 years of age he travelled to the Northern Territory with a friend and decided he'd like to build an outback roadhouse. At 22 he moved to the Territory to work on the Beef Road Construction Program. During the wet season he'd return to McLaren Vale to work driving buses on the south-coast for Briscoe's Motor Service.

In 1968 Greg started with Ansett Pioneer driving express coaches to Melbourne, Broken Hill and Perth. In August 1969 he flew to Alice Springs to start operating the Adelaide to Alice Springs service and later he did long distance tours to Western Australia, Alice Springs, Darwin and the Flinders Rangers. Many of his tours were on outback dirt roads. There were no real facilities between Coober Pedy and Kulgera. Greg saw the opportunity to realise his dream. The Giles family allowed him to establish a facility on their property and after five years of red tape, Greg was finally granted approval to start operating a roadhouse seven kms east of old Marla Bore. The Marla Bore Trading Company was formed and Greg left Ansett Pioneer in October 1978. Five Atco transportable huts and three fuel tanks were dropped there and on Christmas Eve 1978 the first tank of fuel was sold.

As well as the tourist trade, roadtrains of cattle from the Northern Territory used to travel down to Manguri and back using Marla as a fuel and food stop. Greg slept in the corner of the dining room and it was not unusual for a driver to arrive in the early hours and cook his own meal while Greg fuelled the truck. Greg would then climb back into bed telling the driver to switch out the lights and lock the door behind him when he'd finished. Marla was literally developed around the roadside facility. Greg sold the business in 1996 and retired due to ill health. Marla today is a pleasant and popular resting and refuelling stop.

We are also mindful of other Members and Associated Members who have passed away during 2014 and early 2015.

John Milne who passed away after a long illness mid 2014 and Taffy Abbotts who passed away in Darwin January 2015

Raffle Prizes and winners at the 2015 Reunion

The Committee would like to thank all those who kindly donated prizes for the Raffles held at this year's reunion.

All proceeds from the raffle are put towards the costs of holding the Reunion and subsidise the payment of the Calendars given to members who attend.

Prize	Donated By	Won By
\$200.00 Bunnings Gift Voucher	ALDECC	Keith Grant
Canon Printer	ALDECC	John Thornely
1lt Bundy Rum	Garry Higginson	Terry Young
750ml Bundy Rum	Garry Higginson	Anne Reid
Bundy Liquor Rum	Ian Gallacher	Bob Clarke
Redgum Coasters	Graham Hayes	Dieter Sternberg
Table Lamp	Garry Mathewson	Barb Woosey
Metal Spotty Dog	Garry Mathewson	John Thornely
Ceramic Spotty Dog	Garry Mathewson	Margie Goates
Darwin Stubby	Garry Mathewson	Peter Twist
Toilet & Makeup bag	Garry Mathewson	Brian McLauchlan
3 Bottles of wine	Bernie Greely	Alfie Greenham
Garden Furniture Jack & Jill Seat	Kevin Gough	Alfie Greenham
Garden Furniture Boot Box Seat	Kevin Gough	Barb Conner
Garden Furniture Lounge Seat	Kevin Gough	Tony Hayes
Octopus Straps & Driving Gloves	Ngarie Grenda	Leonie Thornley
Scotch Whiskey	Ruth Carmichael	Fred Bednarczyk
Deck of Playing cards Of Ruth Carmichael	Ruth Carmichael	Jeff Spence
Name Badge Return	Bottle Wine donated by ALDECC	Kevin Lamb

(Hayes - Grant)

Tony, Simone and Sam

**Welcome the arrival of Hamish Sean Hayes Born on the 26th March
2015- All are well**

HISTORY REPEATS

The Higginson family have repeated history recently with the purchase of two buses.

Back in 1981 when Garry first got his heavy licence, he and his father Ray flew to Brisbane to pick up 2 buses they had purchased from Domino Industries. 2 Bedford BLP's with Domino bodies (later sold to Kevin Bryant). It was Garry's first trip after obtaining his licence.

Just recently on February 11th 2015, Garry and his son Daniel flew to Brisbane to pick up 2 buses they had purchased from Stonestreeets. Daniel has had his heavy licence for approx. 18 months, however it was his first big trip since obtaining his licence.

Garry is very proud of Daniel and was also very excited of the prospect of repeating this task. It was a very proud moment and I'm sure Daniels grandfather Ray would be very proud also.



Photo is attached, taken at Culcairn Railway Station.

Hi, ALDECC members. I had an interesting experience a couple of weeks ago when an old Ansett flexible clipper bus arrived at the Glengarry Holiday Park where I live , just south of Port Douglas. I got talking to the owner, Derek Birch, and he told me that the bus was working in Alice Springs around 1970. It had the old number on the side, D47, which rang a bell in my mind, but when he told me the name that was on the bus was Elematta, I realised that it was one of two of the clippers that I used to drive in the Alice when I was working for Ansett Pioneer between 1969 and 1971. I have included a photo of this bus, which is now a motor home, with Derek and myself standing in front of it. I have also included a photo of myself in front of a clipper at Simpsons Gap around the same time. He told me to also look in the Flexible clipper club web site where I found quite a few pictures of busses that might be useful for the ALDECC bus archives. If any ALDECC members are up this way I would love to catch up. My mobile number is 0419743594. Regards Geoff Jamieson.







ALDECC
Nostalgia Trip
Melbourne - Alice Springs & return.
Wednesday 26th August - Wednesday 2nd September 2015

Day 1: Melbourne to Clare Wednesday 26th August 2015 (D)

Depart Melbourne at 7.00am 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 27th 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 28th 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 29th 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 30th 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 31st 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 26th August - Wednesday 2nd September 2015

Day 7: Coober pedy to Clare SA Tuesday 1st 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 2nd 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 15th 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 30th 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 26th August 2015 - Wednesday 2nd 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 15th December 2014.
Final Payment due 30th 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