

OCTOBER 2015

ALDECC. INC

Australian Long Distance Experienced Coach Crews



2015 ALDECC Nostalgia Trip

Melbourne ~ Alice Springs ~ Melbourne

Group Photo Taken at Faye Nayler's House Coober Pedy

2015 ALDECC Committee Members

President 2015 / 2016

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Committee 2015 / 2016

Garry Mathewson
Lynne Higginson
Kevin Gough
Tracy Whitelock

Committee 2015

John Gullock
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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 the nostalgia trip to Alice Springs is now a lovely memory. After all the years of planning we headed out on the Wednesday morning from Higgs's depot, to Clare, Coober Pedy, and our destination Alice Springs. Catching up to many members along the way. We had a coach load of wonderful people with plenty of time to reminisce, and laugh and laugh and laugh. The dugout in Coober Pedy will stick in our minds as the chorus of snoring and other noises came from within our midst. There were too many highlights from the trip, so enjoy the photos.

A special mention to our Inductees Garry Higginson and David Rounds into the Transport Hall of Fame in Alice Springs, Garry was very surprised when we arrived in Alice to see the three boys appear from the bunkhouse, he was surprised. Also to the members that got inducted into the Naked Hall of Fame in Alice, that was a surprise, won't mention any names!!!

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf all those on the trip to thank Gary for his wonderful driving. Also special thanks to Mary Purtill and Frances Higginson for all the organisation and bookings. Special thanks to Lorraine and Dieter for our accommodation in Coober Pedy, a memory that will last a life time. To Garry Mathewson thank you for your work in Alice Springs with tickets and shopping, and for surprising us with a few visitors. Thanks Smurf for your courier duties, Twistie and Bernie managed just fine on the way home. Thankyou also to Greg and Anne Reid for the quizzes and of course the lollies. Thanks to all that helped at meals with preparation and clean up, and to the bus packers, thank you. And to all on the trip, thank you for making our trip a happy, fun and memorable one.

Please remember to keep sending all that news, and the bits and pieces and of course photos for the newsletters.

We would like to mention the sad passing of two legends from our days on the road, Faye Naylor and Noel Fullerton, who recently passed away, condolences to their families.

Stay safe and well. Hope to see you at the next reunion

Mary Greenham President

Secretary's Report

Hi All,

Welcome to Spring. After a wonderful couple of weeks away enjoying the good company and lots of laughs with those who travelled on the Nostalgia trip it was back to reality and cooler weather with a great thud. Preparations are now underway for the 37th Annual ALDECC Reunion commencing on Friday 5th February, Saturday 6th February and Sunday 7th February 2016.

Prices are still being worked over so start saving the pennies now. There will be a slight increase to the 2015 price. For those that like to play serious golf there will be a major competition at the Tocumwal Golf club on the Reunion weekend. Golfers are invited to enter. Even though we have exclusive use of the Motel it will be necessary to make sure that you confirm your attendance as early as possible which in turn will help out with the room allocations.

Our calendar for 2016 will include many of the photos taken whilst away on the Nostalgia trip. For those of you who took some great shots please send them through in PDF format so as they may be included.

Until Summer hits us stay safe and well.

Regards

Mary Purtill Secretary

Bit's N Pieces.

Vale Faye Nayler

Our thoughts and best wishes are with Elwyn Holohan and the family of Faye Nayler on the recent Passing of Faye at the age of 82 on the 25th August 2015. As a past President of ALDECC Faye put in a lot of hard work and effort to help make ALDECC what it is today.



We also remember and think fondly of Noel Fullarton who passed away on September 6th 2015 at the age of 81. Many of the Cooks and Hosties will remember the nose pegs that Noel gave out freely to the Drivers on our visits to the Camel Farm in Alice Springs.

Been a bit unwell

Some of our Members have been doing it tough over the past few months with different ailments causing a little pain and grief.

Please spare a thought for Kevin Lamb, John Thornely, Dub McCartin, Doug Lever and Mary Kirk who all put on cheerful faces with their battles.

For those of you who came home from the Nostalgia Trip with a heavy cold and flu like symptoms we hope you recovered quickly.

Available to go to a good home

Kevin Lamb has been doing a bit of a clean-up around the house and has a large set of ALDECC glasses available to go to a good home.

So as you appreciate them as much as Kevin does they are available at \$0.25c per glass the money raised will go to a good cause. Please let the secretary know if you are interested.

Nostalgia Trip

Wednesday 26th August 2015 – Wednesday 2nd September 2015

Day 1 Melbourne - Clare

After 5 years in the planning the morning of Wednesday 26th August started with a prompt 7am get away from Higgs' Depot. 38 old and new faces took their seats with trepidation on what was to come. Settling in for the long day ahead to Clare old Coach Captains wondered about which roads we would be travelling on and the old cooks began swapping recipes'. Ararat was our first stop for Morning Tea, more like breakfast for some and Macca's did a roaring trade on the coffees and Hash Browns. Mary Purtill gave a quick run through on what would be happening over the next 7 days and was a little surprised with the reactions and looks on faces when she told all that we would be having a couple of Roadside lunches along the way. One even asked if there would be 3 bean mix included with the salad. After a G.Y.O lunch stop at Nhill we headed towards Murray Bridge where the old road maps started appearing in the hands of Old Coach Captains to advise Garry on the correct road to take to Clare via Palmer instead of travelling through Adelaide. Upon our arrival in Clare close to the 6pm mark there was a rush to the grog box to quench the dry throats of all. After a great dinner with wine and laughter we all settled into our warm beds for the night with a 7am breakfast call awaiting us.

Day 2 Clare – Coober pedy started as day one with a prompt 7.45am departure from Clare. Stopping at Pt Augusta for fuel and Morning tea it took 7 cooks 10 minutes to gather the necessary goods for our first picnic lunch of the trip. Heading towards Woomera we stopped for a quick hello to Laurie Walsh travelling home on his Motorbike from the Black Dog ride to Uluru. Lunch at Woomera was over and done in 45 minutes with all on board getting involved with the preparation. "Tom Tom" "Navman" Graham Hayes became our tour guide for a sights and frights trip around the Woomera Township bringing back many memories for some. Glendambo was our next stop for afternoon tea. Many comments were made about the price of a beer and the sorry looking state of the premises. "Looks like the Indians have taken over the running of the Business "and "I'm glad that I never brought that 5 acre block of land back in 1985" were just a few to mention. Our arrival into Coober pedy for the night at 6.30pm saw the grog box get a work out again before heading into the dugouts and the hospitality of Lorraine & Dieter to find a bunk for the night. Dinner saw us head over to John's Pizza shop across the road. One passenger was inadvertently locked in the coach and was found by the stragglers heading over to dinner. Oh Bernie we thought of leaving you there but then thought better of it. Our night in the Bunkhouse was ?? what can one say. "Well 1st time I have ever had to stay underground and I never will again, snoring, farting and laughing".

Day 3 Coober pedy – Alice Springs saw us all up early and ready to go by 7.45am. It was interesting to watch all the old Coach Captains and cooks check that the Urn was on on their way to the showers before breakfast. Funny how old habits are hard to break. Our first stop was for a Group Photo at Faye Naylers house before heading up the road to Marla for Morning Tea. "Tom Tom" "Navman" Hayes gave us a great talk on how Greg Oakley started the township of Marla in 1979 and we all gathered around the Plaque of Marla for a 1minute silence in honour of Greg. Leaving Marla we did a town tour before heading to the NT Border for a lovely roadside lunch made all the merrier when it was found that there wasn't a can opener in the tool box. Big M came to the rescue by asking one of the caravan people alongside us if they could help us out. No it wasn't for the 3 bean mix but the beetroot tasted great. Our afternoon saw us stop at Stuart's Well for a quick break then it was into Alice Springs to set up for the next three nights.

Our numbers swelled on our arrival into Alice with John Whitelock, Dean Cash and the Higginson Boys joining the group. Garry Mathewson and Alison Coop of whom were already in Alice had been grocery shopping picking up the extras that were needed for our BBQ dinner in camp. A few were heard to groan on the thought of climbing onto bunks again for the night (mainly the women) so a few adjustments in some rooms were made with the sleeping arrangements. Remember what goes on on the road stays on the road.

Day4 Alice Springs Transport Hall of Fame Day. What a surprise for Garry Higginson who had no idea until the night before on being told that he was to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. We all headed out to the Hall of Fame to watch the Inductions and cheer Garry on. David Rounds was also being inducted so we all gave him a big cheer too. It was a day spent checking it all out. A few old cooks thought that the sign living display at Lance's bus was for real, and so jumped the roped off fence and put a bit of life into the display. Bernie was caught taking a nap around the campfire and migh oh migh there were even a few of the nude calendar shots framed up and on display in the coach section. One old fellow asked Mary P if she would mind taking her clothes off so he could make sure it was her. One comment overheard by a few ALDECC members checking out the photos was "Boy what kind of Bus Trips did these people go on"? After a fun filled day we left the Hall of Fame and headed out to Simpsons Gap passing the sight of the Twin Ghost Gums along the way. We thought better of disrupting the wedding ceremony about to start at the Gap and headed back into town and up Anzac Hill for a panoramic view of Alice and yes she has grown. After shopping and pub time in town we headed back to camp and set about organising dinner. What a fun filled night a great BBQ dinner in camp, lots to drink and many old friends to catch up with. Our numbers increased with David and Sue Rounds, Pete Mellick, Jim Heyward, Jim & Mardi Cotterill, Judith Corney, and Doug & Dawn Lever joining us for the evening.

We didn't need entertainment we had our own and the stories and laughter carried on into the night. Fancy being told at 10pm to keep the noise down.

Day5 Alice Springs Parade Day. Breakfast was served on the side of the road whilst awaiting the arrival of the first trucks and buses in the big parade. Camp stools were set up in the shade of the Coach and the egg and bacon Sangers went down well. Sue Grant kept us all amused with her enthusiasm in getting the vehicles to honk their horns as they passed. We saved our biggest cheers for Tracy and John Whitelocks son who brought up the rear of the parade in his big vehicle. 4.1/2 hours was a big feat for some to be sitting, standing and cheering in the morning sunshine. The afternoon was spent having R & R before we organised ourselves into walking down to the Heavitree Gap Tavern for a Sunday Roast dinner.

Day6 Alice Springs – Coober pedy by now if you weren't organised and ready for breakfast by the time it was on you missed out. All were up early and ready to hit the road South by 7.30am. More goodbyes were said to those leaving us in Alice to head north as we headed south. It was a quiet morning on the Coach with our Lunch stop being at Marla where John Gullock was spotted buying and eating a big greasy Hamburger. When asked why he wasn't joining us for a picnic lunch the response was "You're having S.O.S. We arrived into Coober pedy early and enjoyed the hospitality of Yanni on a mine tour before heading back to Lorraine & Dieters and the comforts of the dugouts once again. Dinner was at the Italian Club where the entertainment for the evening was watching the men enjoy the facilities of the ladies loos.

Day7 Coober pedy – Clare “it’s raining honey” was one of the comments overheard upon awakening. Showers in Coober pedy were the go and a few of the girls got a tad wet on their walk whilst waiting for the bus to pick them up on the way out of town. Morning tea was back at Glendambo where we boiled our own water and supplied our own food (bugger the Indians). Lunch was pretty quick at the Ranges view rest area 100km from Pt Augusta. We all felt the breeze on the plains and were happy to get into the bus again. Anne Reid held a Question and Answer competition over the microphone where a few were told where to go after complaining about the accent of the announcer. Arriving back in Clare for our last night away we gave the grog box and the bar a heavy workout. At dinner it was noticed that Greg Reid and Dean Cash were dressed alike in their attire. They really do look like father and son and Greg was heard asking Dean (son) if he would go and get his old man a drink and one for himself. Like a good boy Dean even brought back the change.

Day8 Clare – Melbourne Our last day and its cold wet and windy. Everyone’s had a great time. Anne Reid announced the results of the Questions and Answers with John Gullock and Margo the winners. Alfie received a special mention for one of his answers. Lunch was at Bordertown where those feeling the cold headed to the bakery for hot food while those a bit braver stayed in the park for their last Roadside pickings. Refreshed and on board again it was Singalong time to celebrate Freddy’s 60th Birthday. Balloons and all Freddy doesn’t look a day over 59. A few were concerned when they saw Garry Higgo wandering around the bus, not to worry Dean Cash steered us for a while with his capable hands. Twistie was in his element when Higgo put Pink Floyds Dark Side of the Moon on it was better than looking at the Dark skies outside. Arriving into Melbourne it was raining, thanks to Higgo for driving undercover to allow us all to unload and pack our vehicles without getting too wet. A wonderful time was had by all. Thanks to those who helped organise the nostalgic experience for us all.

Kilometres for the trip

Day 1 Melbourne – Clare	825 klm
Day 2 Clare – Cooberpedy	756 klm
Day 3 Cooberpedy – Alice Springs	690 klm
Alice Springs	
Day 6 Alice Springs – Cooberpedy	684 klm
Day 7 Cooberpedy – Clare	742 klm
Day 8 Clare – Melbourne	820 klm

An exercise book was placed in the coach for the duration of the trip. All travellers were given the opportunity at their leisure to write comments, experiences or whatever they felt whilst away. The book will be on display at the ALDECC reunion and printed copies will be available for those interested.

“Sitting up the back love hearing all the Tall Tales most true I’m told, although not part of the “crew” made to feel like I was. Thanks guys good team, good friends made along the way, loving the trip, thanks” Anne R
PS “Answer the f’ing phone”.

“Dugout brought back memories slipping off to sleep with giggling and farting echoing through the rooms Grrrr”





