

Remembering Pat Broad

We were saddened at the death of our former colleague, Pat Broad, who died on Friday, the 28th July, 2017, after a short illness. He was aged 78 years.



Pat was born in England just days before the start of World War Two and emigrated to Australia with his family after the war.

Apprenticed as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) – Sheet-metal in 1956, he later requalified to an AME – Airframe holding many LAME licences. Pat spent 37 years with the airline and retired from a Foreman's position in Dock Maintenance in 1993.

Eddie worked at TAA for seventeen years, and he says he thought he knew what TAA was and what it meant but it was only after he met Pat at the TAA Museum and listened to Pat's stories that he finally got to understand the essence of the airline that was TAA.

It was whilst listening to Pat telling his stories, which were legion and legendary, he learned that TAA stood for much more than he ever realised.

Pat was a valued member of the TAA 25 Year Club, a keen volunteer and a knowledgeable and yes, amusing tour guide to the visitors to our museum; the tales he told will be fondly remembered and he will be very sadly missed.

We treasure the time and the stories with which Pat entertained the other volunteers at the museum. Broad by name, broad was his knowledge of aircraft and broad he was in his generosity in how he shared his knowledge and his anecdotes, both amazing and amusing.

Pat was always willing to lend a hand. On one of his later caravanning trips, he painted the propeller tips of a former TAA Viscount located in the Possum Park Caravan and Camping park at Miles, Queensland.

Pat and his section were important cogs in the operation of a great airline, and Pat was an important cog at the Museum.

His sudden and untimely death was a shock.

Pat's funeral was a true reflection of the man he was and of the way he was loved and respected. It was the happiest funeral ever, because his family, his friends, his colleagues all told anecdotes about Pat, most of the stories reflecting Pat's love of life and his sense of humour.

The attendance of over 200 people gathered to remember and to honour Pat was well in excess of expectations.

Kevin Anderson and Eddie Creaney