

Welcome to 2003

- a year to set new goals and standards.

Since the Museum was established on the 11th floor in Franklin Street in 1997, we have been blessed with generous personal donations of memorabilia, along with many alert ex-staff recovering items that otherwise would have finished up at the tip. The membership of the club has demonstrated a deep and sincere loyalty to the cause of preserving the history of our airline, and a group of dedicated volunteers who have made our museum an icon of historical facts.

It reminds me of a number of telephone calls received over the past 12 months, which at the time were not considered of any importance, but on reflection, the inquiries were significant.

We are the only source of TAA's history in a visual and documented form, and as such we have been able to answer numerous questions regarding fares and charges in the 50's and 60's (Queensland University). We have been able to supply via e-mail, pictures of numerous TAA aircraft in various livery (Aviation Historical group). We have supplied many items of clothing to accommodate requests for period fashion parades (Aviation theme), and provided many people who have visited the museum, with an insight into the changing face of TAA and aviation in Australia. There have been numerous requests from overseas as a result of our website, so we believe that we are well represented in the aviation arena, and will continue to identify our contribution to the people of Australia.

Not to be complacent with our achievements, we have again set our sights on further expanding our collection. The demise of Ansett and our small collection of items from other airlines provides the opportunity to further portray our history. This year we will increase and expand our collection, and establish a new body composed of ex-employees from Ansett, Compass, Impulse and any aviation employee for the preservation of all Australian aviation memorabilia. It is now time to commence to canvas government support as this can only benefit the Australian Aviation Industry and its heritage.

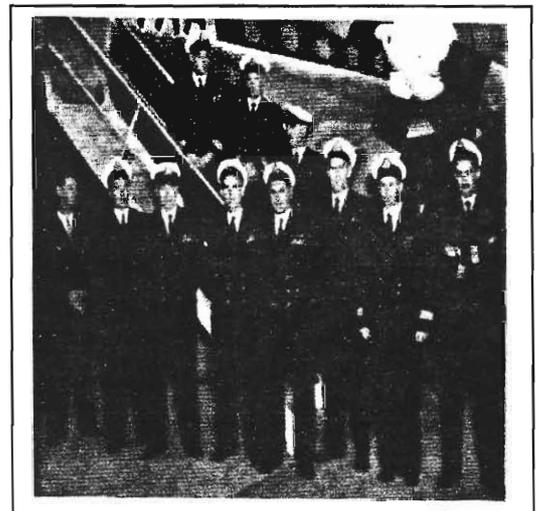
We would like a little more assistance, but are prepared to co-ordinate all activities to ensure that we do not go off on a tangent that would jeopardise the initial purpose of our club – the preservation and collection of items created by TAA \ AUSTRALIAN airlines. This will operate under a separate title, yet to be decided. It is hoped that we will also attract other groups and even historical aircraft so that our case for government support has greater influence when it is time for deliberation as to the extent of support that is necessary to maintain our collections. It will be an interesting year and when combined with our continual documenting of our memorabilia (currently in excess of 23,000 items) it is easy to see that we still have a lot to do.



Essendon 1967



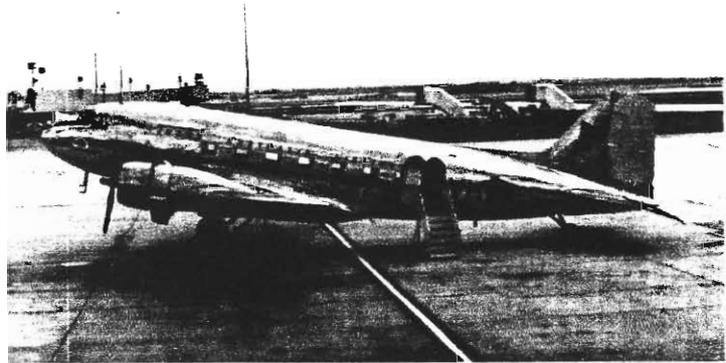
Nola Rose poster 1955



Crews of the 3 new aircraft types 1959

Hawdon - 60 years - 6th November 2002.

Hawdon turned 60 on 6th November 2002, and I am pleased to say that a group of members and the club guests celebrated with a flight to Mildura for the weekend of the 23rd \24th, and “yes” this “old bird” continues to perform without major problem. This is obviously due to the dedicated volunteer staff who maintain and lovingly attend to the essential upkeep. In recognition of the need to preserve this wonderful aircraft we have agreed to recruit from within our membership people who are prepared to donate a little time and effort to ensure that this aircraft continues to ply our skies, this could be 3 days a year.



HAWDON Preservation Volunteer Group –

Australia’s early Aviation Heritage is composed of a diminishing number of historic aircraft. “HAWDON” has just celebrated a 60th birthday in November 2002, and is the last remaining aircraft carrying TAA’s (original) colours and name.

VH-AES “Joseph Hawdon” is the epitome of postwar aviation, and the contribution by TAA to creating a national and unified network of air-routes that was “the Empires largest domestic aviation Network”.

To ensure that “Hawdon” remains in pristine condition, it is our responsibility as a club to contribute to this cause. If you would be willing to contribute 1 or 2 days a year to assist with the normal cleaning and maintenance of the aircraft then you may register with the museum on any Wednesday or Thursday by ringing 86962692. We are willing to create a database on our computer to register all volunteers.

We would be the central contact point and be able to advise of manpower availability when this maintenance is to be conducted and the type of maintenance assistance required, ie interior cleaning, exterior cleaning, curtain maintenance or replacement (if you can sew) etc. This is not limited to manual work, and your skills and experience will greatly assist with the continued support and flying of this aircraft. It may also be possible to make this another social day, and we will investigate this aspect with a view to an organised luncheon or similar.

As volunteers, we would be able to make regular use of this aircraft and ensure that it is provided with adequate flying hours throughout the year, and not just leave it in the weather to deteriorate, after all it’s our aircraft.

This offer is extended to you and interested family members and friends irrespective of age.

The cause is worthwhile and your participation can make our image a permanent feature in the public eye.

HAWDON PRESERVATION Our motto - SCHEDULE IS IMPORTANT, SAFETY IS MOST IMPORTANT,
and our HERITAGE PRESERVATION IS VITAL.

VOLUNTEER REGISTER TELEPHONE NUMBER **86962692**
WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY each week or E-MAIL your details to
us at taamuseum@bigpond.com.au or

CALL IN TO THE MUSEUM and have a cup of tea or coffee with our “Friendlyway” staff.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – This year the AGM will again be held in the museum and we can cater for 100plus members with seating and catering facilities. This is a date that should not be forgotten as it is vital that members continue to support and provide input into your club.

Date Tuesday March 19th 2003 Venue – TAA MUSEUM

Time Meeting commences at 1800 Hours – Museum open from 3.00PM

TO Reply – PLEASE CALL 86962692 (MUSEUM NUMBER) and register your attendance on our voice mail service

Landmark Luncheon – Single Members and Surviving Partners

Membership records indicate that we have an ever-growing numbers of single members, be they original members or surviving partners of members. We believe that if we provide the venue and a time that is suitable to all, then there is the opportunity for these members to get together and either make new friends or renew old friendships. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS LUNCHEON and provide SUPPORT.

The Entertainment Committee has deliberated long and hard and decided on a central location, and a luncheon would be the most appropriate time, as nobody wants to be out after dark, and travelling during the day would be acceptable. This outing is also available for ALL members, but we would like to see more of our single members at this function, allowing everyone to come along and share the experience.

To this end, we have tentatively reserved the function room at William Angliss, 550 Lt Lonsdale Street, Melbourne (Spencer St end) for Wednesday 26th of March 2003, commencing at 12.00 hours.

Cost of \$15.00 per head for members (subsidised) and \$20.00 for NON- MEMBERS , So you can bring a friend.

Menu - 3 course (Choice of 3 mains)

Drinks – at bar prices

We would ask that you consider this as the opportunity to form another friendship group, and we will run this as a 6 monthly function for the benefit of our members.

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Please return this section with your remittance to
MR ROSS McDONALD EVENTS Co-ORDINATOR
TAA 25 Year Club Inc.
11th Floor
50 Franklin Street
Melbourne 3000

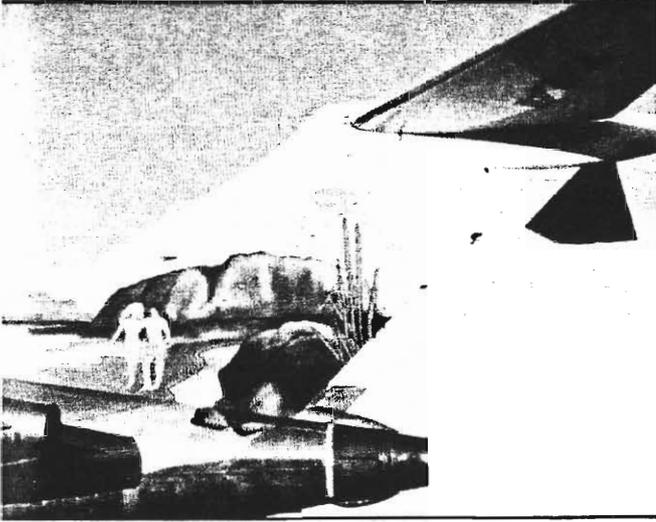
EVENT
LUNCHEON WILLIAM ANGLISS

MEMBERS NAME
NON MEMBER /s
GUEST /S

Total attending **RSVP NO LATER THAN 12th March 2003**

ENCLOSED IS MY CHEQUE | MONEY ORDER | POSTAL NOTE / OTHER – made PAYABLE TO
TAA 25 Year Club Inc. for the value of \$.....

We look forward to seeing you at this inaugural event.



Our FIRST – Apart from being the first airline (believed) to paint scenes on the tails of their aircraft depicting unique areas of Australia this was also the first time that a recall was necessary to amend the basic theme. It appears that initially the two figures were flesh coloured outlines – the recall required that they be “suitably clothed”

The above extracts from our magazine This Air Age of April 1980 depicts a worlds first, and caught in the act are two of our employees “commissioned” to apply their skills in the creation of the “Ayers Rock” depicting of one of most patronised holiday destinations. In case your cannot recognise the faces – the one on the left is Ian Stewart and the one on the right is Charlie Radford, Charlie being well known for his helpful and obliging manner when it came to solving problems. Obviously when this picture was taken they were either admiring their handywork or contemplating where to put the two outlines of our “much travelled travellers.

Incidentally, originally it was planned to have 4 aircraft painted in this style, a DC9-30 which was painted with a scene depicting the North Queensland coast – called the Coral Islander – this was completed , and another Boeing 727 depicting the Gold Coast with a surfing scene, and another DC9-30 depicting the serene scenes of Tasmania.



Whilst on the topic of aircraft I came across another rare photograph of yet another unique event created by TAA, and as reported in a previous copy of our newsletter, this was the mounting of a camera on the tail of our Boeing 727 VH-TJB. The previous story showed individual pictures of the camera and mounting before it was fitted to the aircraft, but at that time I could not recall seeing a picture of the finished product.

Again whilst reading This Air Age of 1972, low and behold I came across this one, showing the final fitting of the camera mount, the “Observer” ensuring that the mounting was as per the “specification” and the crane used to manoeuvre both the people and camera prior to fitting.

Employees who were around in 1964 when this aircraft arrived would remember the enjoyment of all staff who were permitted to take a “familiarisation flight” on these aircraft, before they went into service. This was usually a one leg journey to the nearest port, and then queuing up for a ride home on the Electra, Viscount, Friendship or DC6B, all of which took twice as long to travel the same distance.

This was a great era in the history of Australian Aviation.

A special “Thank you” – We would sincerely like to thank those members of the club, who sent Christmas cards and good wishes to the volunteer staff at the museum. Your kind words make it all worthwhile, and it has inspired us to continue to work to ensure that the achievements and efforts of the staff and of our airline do not go without recognition in the history of Australian aviation.



Remember this group? In 1959 TAA introduced 3 new types of aircraft into Australian skies, The Lockheed Electra L-188, the Vickers Viscount 816 and the Fokker Friendship F27. Everybody remembers the aircraft fly past at Essendon, but who knows the names of the pilots who flew the aircraft.

This photograph was taken shortly after the aircraft arrived in Melbourne, and it was taken in front of the Electra VH TLA.

L to R – (Back row) Cpt. Frank Fischer, Cpt. Bill Moloney, and Cpt John Hickey (Electra), 9Front row) FEO Merv Houston, Cpt. Nev Grady, Cpt Les Lee, Cpt. Max darby (Friendship). Cpt Merv Baker, Cpt. Col Browne, Cpt. Jim James, and Cpt Phil Stone (Viscount). Indeed a moment in time.

Stamps – Please continue to save your used postage stamps and forward them to the Museum. We are grateful for these donations as they go to the Institute for the Blind in their fund-raising efforts to assist people who are vision impaired. We have now collected in excess of 15Kilos and would be grateful for your continued support.

Joke – () At a blonde convention being held at the Hyatt, and after general business, the speaker stood up and said “ We’ve all had enough of these dumb blonde jokes, let’s put this theory to rest”, to which he received a rousing ovation.

He pointed to a young lady in the audience and said “ Young lady, please come up to the podium”.

The blonde proceeded up on stage, stood beside the speaker and smiled at the audience.

The speaker asked, “What is 101 plus 20”, and the young lady replied “120”.

The speaker flinched and said, “No I’m sorry, That’s not correct”

The audience shouted, “ Give her another chance”, and so he said, “What is 10 plus 10”, to which she replied “22”.

The audience shouted in unison” Give her another chance”

Cursing under his breathe, the speaker said, ”Now, What is 2 plus 2”, and she replied innocently “4”.

The speaker was about to congratulate her, when the crowd again shouted, “Give her another chance”.

STAARS - Dates to remember This group (Strictly TAA Retired Staff) of ex-employees holds a 3 monthly get-together at the Moonee Valley Tabaret, and it’s nice to see that there has been a growing number of people attending these functions. Our objectives is maintaining contact with all members, and the dates for the year – 2003 - are - 25th February, 27th May, 26th August, 18th November

Lance Erwin and this group would be pleased to see you at the next get-together. Seniors meals make it a worthwhile day.



ESSENDON and the Electra.

Over the internet I recently received a copy of a painting procured by the son of one of our pilots, Tony Lucas, who thought that it may be of interest to us as it is very detailed regarding the buildings and the other aircraft parked at the terminal. It presents our electra VH-TLA departing Essendon airport on runway 17, and captures that realism of Essendon, with the grey skies, aircraft parked in hangars, Ansett’s DC6, DC3 and a Viscount all lined up waiting to be loaded. It brought back many memories for me, and in particular, the friendly rivalry between Ansett and TAA, to be first to get their aircraft away on time and first of the runway.

Dandenong Ranges – Here we come ! –

April is a great month in Melbourne, the autumn colours are magic, the mountain air is invigorating, and the “birds” will be in full song - this looks to be a great day –

SMORGASBORG LUNCHEON and Floorshow entertainment

MEMBERS Tickets will be \$ 28.00 per person

NON MEMBERS AND GUESTS \$ 35.00 PER PERSON.

SEATS ARE LIMITED Please advise as early as possible.

DATE Wednesday 23rd APRIL 2003

Acceptances MUST be in by 11th April 2003

Pick-up points will be AIRPORT WEST (INTERNATIONAL HOTEL) 9.30 AM

Therry street 9.55 AM

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To make a booking please return this section, with your remittance, to –

Mr. Ross McDonald – Events Co-Ordinator

TAA MUSEUM

11th Floor

50 Franklin St

Melbourne 3000

MEMBERS NAME.....

SPOUSE Name Guest/s.....

Total in party.....

Preferred pick-up point

please circle preferred

Airport West Therry Street

Enclosed is my cheque \ Money order \ other to the value of \$ Made payable to
TAA 25 Year Club Inc

Still in the festive spirit – Is this a late night departure? Which one is really Santa? What’s in the bag? Which airport is it? And Did you get what you wanted for Christmas?

The answer to these burning questions will be answered in future issue of your newsletter.

We hope that this year will be better than the last, and from the volunteers at the museum we wish your all the best for the future and hope that you had a very

Happy New Year.

