

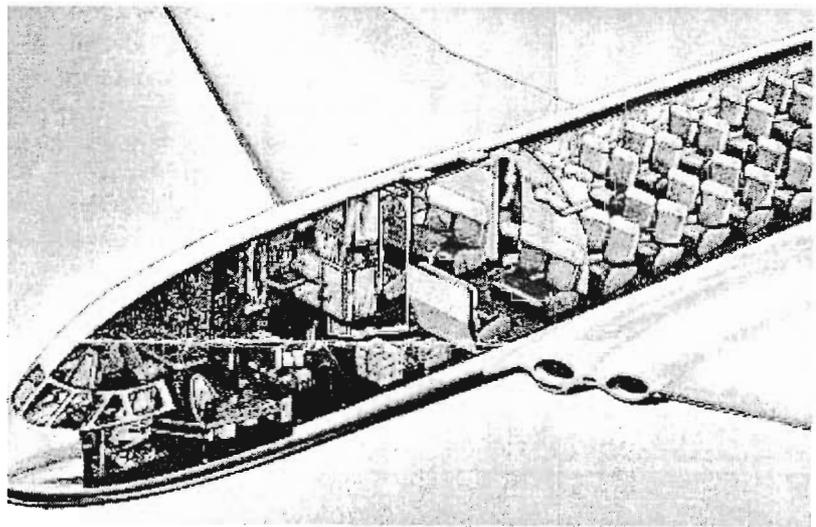
# Hello 2005 - It's nice to be starting a NEW YEAR

Our first newsletter for the New Year continues to reflect on the history of our great airline and continue the tradition of Club in support of its membership.

This year has greater potential for our Museum as the existing collection has been documented and we can concentrate on our preservation activities associated with the film and paperwork that are now showing signs of ageing. We are seeking a sponsor for our website, and submitting for grants to further our museum.

A good example of this documentation recovered, and addressed to John Watkins, Superintendent of Organisational and Technical Services was from Mr. J.W. Bennett, Acting General Manager British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines regarding an assessment by Ben Cochrane, TAA Sales Manager UK, detailing his experiences on a COMET Mk 1, from London to Beirut and return, dated 9<sup>th</sup> May 1952.

Right – Interior of the Comet as attached to the original notes from J.W.Bennet with some interesting comments regarding high noise levels in the rear of the aircraft and preferred area where noise levels are low. Another interesting comment related to ice forming on the lower edges of the windows during flight although the air conditioning appeared to work perfectly. Criticism of the aircraft galley, should this aircraft be used on trans-continental flights, was a major concern and one which B.O.A.C. was addressing at that time. It made interesting reading.



**AGM** - This year the Annual General Meeting of the TAA AUSTRALIAN Airlines 25 Year Club Inc. will be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2005 at 50 Franklin Street in the Museum on the 11th Floor. Museum open from 4.30 PM - Meeting of financial members to commence 6.00 PM.

**Refreshments and snacks served at the completion of the meeting.**

## Joke

### A MAN AND AN OSTRICH

A man walks into a restaurant with a full grown ostrich behind him and says to the waitress: "I'll have a hamburger, fries, and a coke". He turns to the ostrich and says "What's yours?", "I'll have the same," says the ostrich". The waitress departs and returns with the order. "That will be \$11.40 please," and the man pulls out the exact change from his pocket.

The next day the man and the ostrich come in again and the man orders the same, and the ostrich says "I'll have the same". Once again the man reaches into his pocket and pays with the exact change. This becomes a routine.

Late one evening, the two enter again. "The usual?" asks the waitress. "No, this is Friday nite, so I will have a steak, baked potato and salad," says the man. "Same for me says the ostrich".

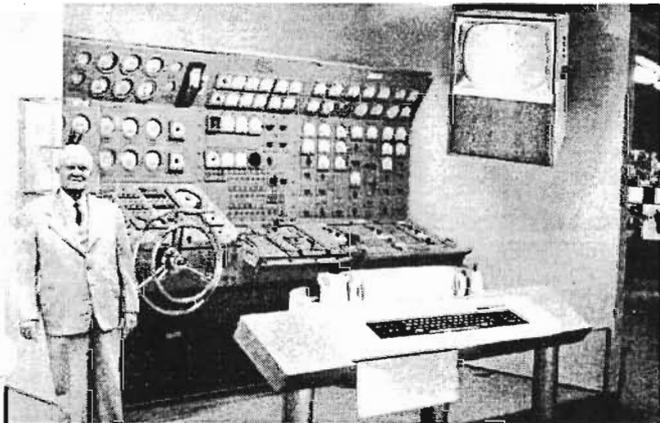
The waitress comes with the order and says, "That will be \$18.62." Once again the man reaches into his pocket and pulls out the exact change, and places it on the table.

The waitress can't hold back her curiosity. "Excuse me sir. How do you manage to always come up with the exact change out of your pocket every time?" she asks.

"Well", says the man, "several years ago I was cleaning the attic and I found an old lamp. When I rubbed it, a genie appeared and offered me two wishes. My first wish was that if I ever had to pay for anything, I would just put my hand in my pocket and the right amount of money would always be there." "That's brilliant," says the waitress, "most people would wish for a million dollars or something, but you'll always be as rich as you want or as long as you live." "That's right, whether it's a gallon of milk or a Rolls Royce, the money is always there," says the man.

"One other thing," says the waitress, what's with the ostrich?" The man sighs, pauses, and answers, "Well, my second wish was for a tall chick with long legs who agrees with everything I have to say".

## Talking technology 1954 style. (from our historical records)



*Scientists from the RAND Corporation have created this model to illustrate how a "home computer" could look like in the year 2004. However the needed technology will not be economically feasible for the average home. Also the scientists readily admit that the computer will require not yet invented technology to actually work. But in years from now scientific progress is expected to solve these problems. With adequate resources and the Fortran language the computer will be able to do.*

The RAND Corporation of America in 1954 created a mock-up of the home computer that would be available in 2004, so I thought that I would include this article just to show you how wrong some people can be with predictions. The large panel is at the rear represents the computer, with a TV set mounted on the wall and control console desk in the foreground. The system would use teletype logics with a Fortran language program. RAND Corp. admitted that much of the technology was still to be developed and systems refined but I am sure that if the original designers were (or are) alive today I think they would be embarrassed to have predicted a unit of this size, and positively flattened by Laptop and micro technology as we know it.



The closing of 2004 celebrates the end of the beginning of an era, for in 1964 TAA introduced the first all pure Jet aircraft – the Boeing 727 -76 VH-TJA 'James Cook'. I still remember my first flight on this aircraft and marvelled at the vast improvements over the piston and turbine aircraft that had been the prime and secondary aircraft introduced since 1946.

Long live the era that changed the face of domestic travel and the friendships that grown with the airline.

The jet age in Australia has a colourful history, from proposals in the early 1950's for the introduction of the British Trident, and/or French Caravelle, then through the two airline policy years to the introduction of the wide-bodied Airbus. It was the thrill of flying and expectation with these new Jets where now we have settled into accepting airtravel and technology as an everyday routine with well defined expectations.

## **Charity flight - Hawdon**

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2004 the TAA 25 Year Club in conjunction with Eastern Hill Travel sponsored a day trip to Warrnambool raising money for the EPIC Centre and the care of children with Down Syndrome and other disadvantages.

The weather was fine and clear and the route along the Great Ocean Road provided some spectacular views from about 2500 feet. Possibly a first for Hawdon was the fact that on board were four generations of the one family,- great grandmother at 93, grand mother, her son and his daughter.

The money raised was all donated to the Epic Centre, a cause that adds that little difference for children who in many ways do not have the opportunities experienced by so many other children.

A special thank you to Frank Sullivan (our representative and Treasurer) who accompanied the group, Eastern Hill Travel and to Ross McDonald, Events Co-ordinator and David Laurie (Secretary) who ensured that the day was a memorable one for all who participated.



## **Museum volunteers**

**Little is said about the volunteers who continually attend to preserving our history and identifying our heritage items and it's time that they were recognised and acknowledged.**

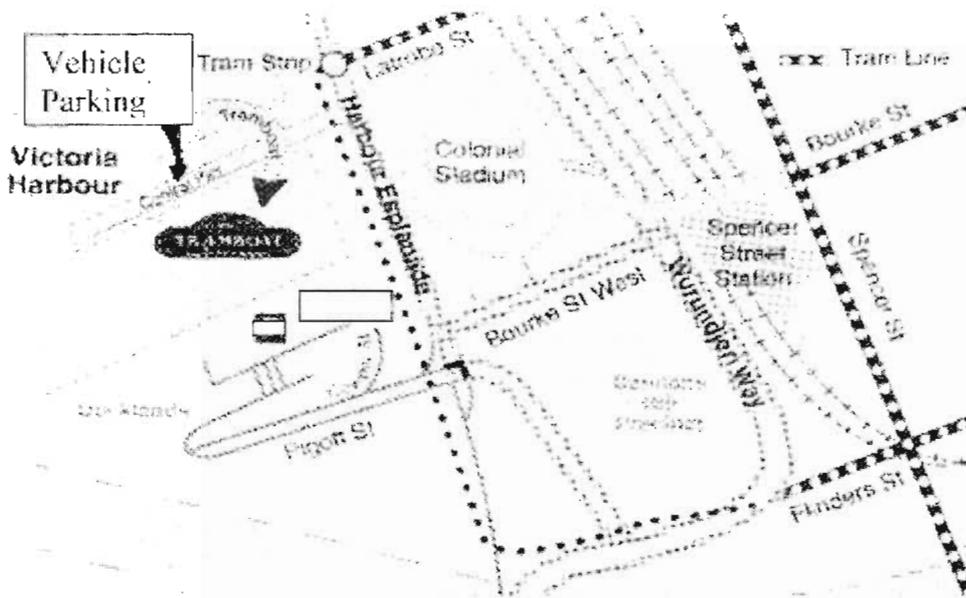
Ross Mc Donald	attends to membership and social event organisation.
David Laurie	maintains correspondence and club secretarial activities.
Dorothy Tuff	entrusted with the photographic proof copies and development.
Lois Gale	aids and assists Dorothy in this mammoth task.
Kelvin Hawthorn	35mm film collection controller co-ordinating cataloguing
Ron Adams	still photography negative controller – a huge task in identifying and grouping.
Don Owen	Magazine extraction and conversion of photographic prints to new technology.
Mike Kelly	aids and assists Don in this recognition and conversion process.
Allan Bunker	Team Leader for Uniforms, Posters, historical equipment and inventories.
Nancye Hesketh	aids and assists Allan
David Laing	aids and assists Allan
Jack Murphy	aids and assists Allan and Ron Adams
George Wren	aids and assists Allan, Ron and Alan Nock.
Alan Nock	Storeroom control and aircraft technical libraries
Jeff Fry	Movie film – development of conversion to modern media
Barry Gawyne	aids and assists Jeff Fry
Duncan Cameron	Development of new website material.
Murray Watson	Picture framing and assistance as required with other activities
Alan and Elaine Whatman	Hostess manual and hostess photographic collection restoration
Robert Masters	Development of a commercial sales area for surplus items.

## **A special thank you to all for your efforts**

James Meehan      Hon. Custodian and Museum Controller

*It's time for another TRAMBOAT Cruise.*

*Date Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2005*



<p><b>CAR PARKING</b></p> <p>Available on Central Pier – ref Melways Directory 2E – F5.</p> <p><b>ASSEMBLY TIME</b></p> <p><b>10.10 AM</b></p> <p><b>BOARDING</b></p> <p><b>10.20 AM</b></p> <p><b>DEPARTURE</b></p> <p><b>10.30 AM</b></p>
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This outing is a cruise to Williamstown with a 1-hour stopover then lunch of Fish and Chips being served on the TRAMBOAT on the return trip to Williamstown. The outing starts from Central Pier, Victoria Harbour, and return 2.00 PM (approx).

Cost per member\partner \$22.00 per person

Cost per non-member or Guest \$29.00 per person

Drinks available on the cruise at an appropriate cost. Tea and coffee is complimentary.

THERE IS A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS – and these will be allocated as received.

BE EARLY IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND

**CLOSING DATE 5th of April 2005.**

PLEASE RETURN THE SECTION BELOW WITH YOUR REMITTANCE TO –  
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Mr. Ross McDonald – Events Co-Ordinator  
TAA 25 year club inc.  
11<sup>th</sup> floor  
50 Franklin Street  
Melbourne 3000

**TRAMBOAT CRUISE**

Members \ partner names..... Contact PHONE Number.....

Guest \ Non Members Names \s .....

Enclosed please find my Cheque \ Money Order \ other to the value of \$..... and made payable to TAA 25 Year Club Inc.

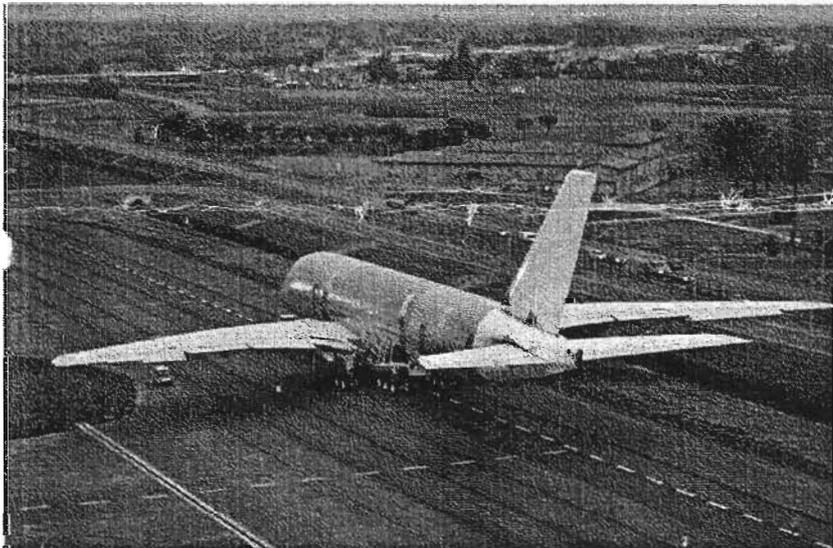
Quote – For pilots - weather forecasts are horoscopes with numbers.

## Staff Travel - Revised method of payment for travel.

Qantas have advised that as of 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2005 the payment for all staff travel will have to be made by credit card and that cash, cheques and money orders will no longer be an accepted form of payment.

For members who do not hold a credit card, QANTAS have approved acceptance of all TAA and Australian Airlines staff members to join the QANTAS STAFF CREDIT UNION who will issue the applicant with a suitable credit card. If you have any queries then please contact the Museum on 86962692 any Wednesday or Thursday after 10.00 AM.

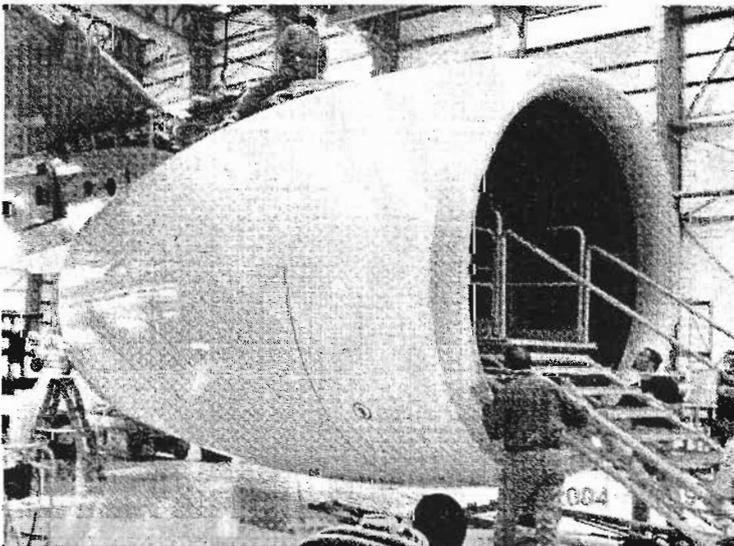
## The Airbus A380 – joining QANTAS in 2006.



Thought this could be of interest for some of our retired aviators and those enthusiastic staff who just love aeroplanes –

It's the Airbus A380 leaving station 30 after having two of the four engines fitted and other mechanical tests performed before moving to station 31 where the other two engines, electrical and other essential work will be completed.

They don't go faster but they do get bigger. The all tourist configuration – 800 +



Just to show how big the aircraft and engines will be, this photograph shows the size of the inboard (No.2) engine being fitted at station 30 – note the Engineer guiding the engine onto the pylon, with minor adjustments being undertaken by two engineers at the front of the engine. I was unable to establish the weight of the engine but expect it to be in the vicinity of 20 tonnes.

This really will be  
**A BIG BIRD.**

And reflecting on the history of aviation I received these quotations via email -

**How flying has changed** - now a flight attendant can get a pilot pregnant.

And - Pilots now know that the landing gear is up and locked when it takes full power to taxi to the terminal.

# Race Night - Dinner and Tabaret

Date **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of March** Venue **Moonee Valley Tabaret**

Starting at 6.00PM                      Seafood Smorgasbord

Cost    Member \ Partner            \$20.00 per person  
         Non Member Guest        \$25.00 per person

Includes \$ 5.00 complimentary voucher distributed on the night.

Seating is limited - Please book early

Closing date 15<sup>th</sup> of February

PLEASE RETURN THE SECTION BELOW WITH YOUR REMITTANCE TO -

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Mr. Ross McDonald – Events Co-Ordinator  
TAA 25 year club inc.  
11<sup>th</sup> floor

50 Franklin Street  
Melbourne 3000

**Moonee Valley Smorgasbord**

Members \ partner names ... .. PHONE Number ... ..

Guest \ Non Members Names \s

.....

Enclosed please find my Cheque \ Money Order \ other to the value of  
\$ ... .. and made payable to TAA 25 Year Club Inc.

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**STAARS LUNCHEONS 2005 FUNCTION DATES** PUT ME ON YOUR FRIDGE

**22nd February**    **31st May**            **30<sup>th</sup> August**            **22<sup>nd</sup> November**

**Moonee Valley Tabaret commencing 12.00 o'clock**

**Contact Lance Erwin 93864056 or John Edwards 9337 3810**

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**Vale**

Rex Lokan - Property Dept - October 2004

Capt Ron Widmer - Flight operations – Melbourne November 2004

Paul Joseph Xuereb – Publications - Melbourne November 2004

Capt Robert Baird – Flight Operations – Melbourne October 2004