

NEWSLETTER 42 Issued May 2005
 Telephone (03) 86962692 e-mail taamuseum@bigpond.com

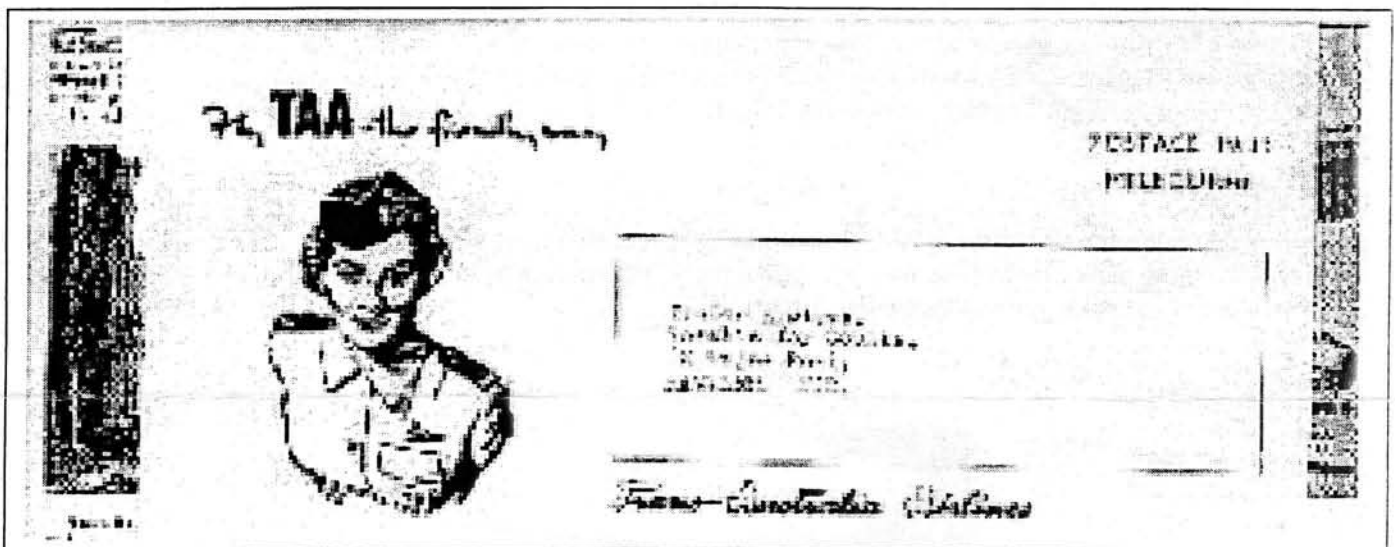
AGM – 2005

This year's AGM was held at 50 Franklin St in the Museum and attended by some 40 members of the 25-year club. The presidents report outlined the progress throughout the previous year with regard to the museum development, the expenditure of the grant received from the Community Heritage Grant foundation in Canberra, the progress with the re-development of the museum to permit an improved facility increasing the display capabilities of our restricted floor space, and of course a special thank you for the continuing efforts of the volunteers and members who continually watch out for memorabilia pertinent to our collection. The Treasurers report confirmed the financial stability of our club and the expenditures throughout the year in supporting functions for members and a number of worthy charities including the Royal Flying Doctor Service and kiddies with Down syndrome.

A real treasurer chest –

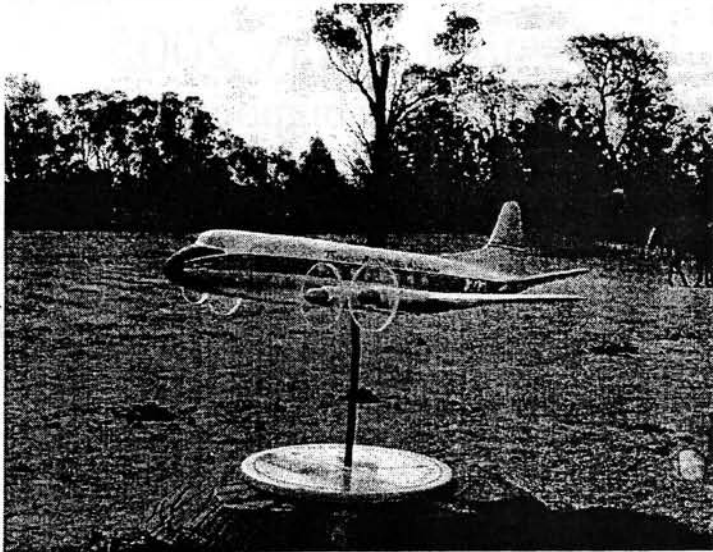
Visiting Melbourne for family reasons, the ability to attend the AGM was the perfect opportunity for one member now residing in Queensland, to bring forth some family memorabilia that had been 'stored under the house' for a few years, as it needed a home. It was also a time to renew some old friendships that had formed over the years when he was employed as a Flight Engineer Officer.

Little did he realise the 'bounty in the bags' now allows us to fill in some of the history of the airline regarding the 'TAA Junior Flyer's' section (see below), the introduction (or pre-introduction) of the FOKKER F27 aircraft, pilot information for the Convair CV240, numerous posters of TAA and other airlines of the 50's and 60's period, a myriad of timetables, information brochures and books depicting this era.



Above – Still in the original wrapper and addressed to “Junior Hostess Rosalie Joy Coutts” has provided us with a perfect example of the correspondence undertaken to keep younger and loyal junior flyers informed about the happening in TAA. Thanks John it was a walk down memory lane opening the bags.

Tribute – Previously we had proposed to form an association with other domestic carriers who participated in developing the Australian aviation network, and I am pleased to say that this has now been registered as an identity in its own right, and as a museum identity. We are now a participating member of this group, with a position on the Board, and a major player in its development. The demise of Ansett (Ansett-ANA) identifies that none of the original competing airlines exists and it is vital that we preserve this history. As this aspect develops future newsletters will advise of all developments, including POINT COOK as the government established site for a national museum.



Commemorative Model –

Fifty years to the day this model of the Viscount aircraft VH-TVA was taken to Mangalore on 31st Of October 2004 by one of the survivors of the crash of this aircraft fifty years ago in 1954.

The model, I am told, took five years to construct, exact in every detail with paint work detailing to within 1\1000 of an inch.

The model maker – Alf Harder – survivor and now retired regularly attends the STAARS luncheon at Moonee Valley.

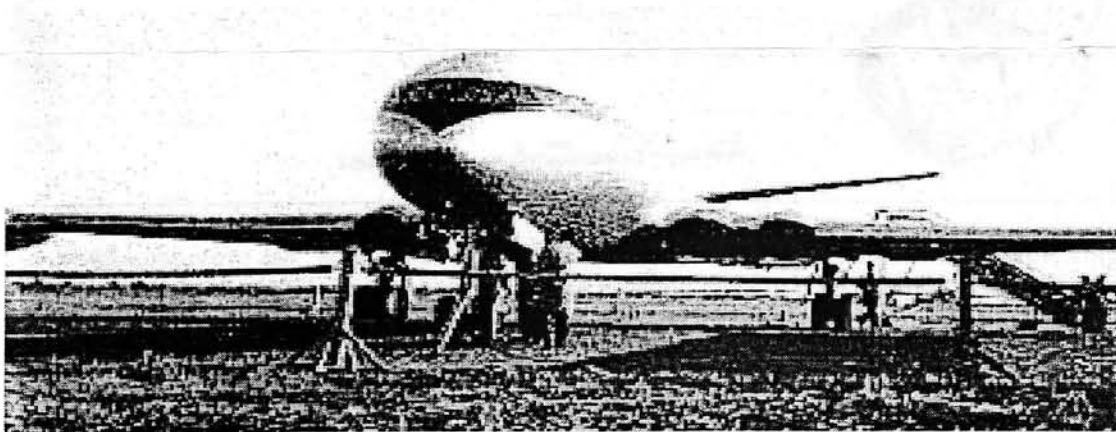
Above – although the area has changed over the years the model was placed in close proximity to the actual site. The base of the stand also reproduced the original TAA logo. The museum has the original Vickers Viscount plaque from VH-TVA, which was attached to the passenger door and a Rolls-Royce badge recovered from the site by an apprentice (at that time) who attended this tragedy in 1954. We also have the official report concerning this incident.

The museum has a model of the Viscount VH-TVB, which was originally situated in the foyer of 339 Swanson Street, and it had a cutaway on the left hand side to allow a view of the cabin seating (in this case with passengers). It is in excellent condition and situated in the engineering display amongst the many other items depicting engineering activities.

And speaking of engineering, we have photographs of all the apprentice schools and graduates, but in many cases the participants are not identified. To continue our tradition of recognising people we will include in future newsletters a copy of one photograph and we would appreciate the identification of these employees so that we can finalise this display. Robert Masters has been designated to complete this activity, and as many will remember he was a Flight Engineer Officer on DC6, Electra, Boeing 727 and Airbus.

The Comet.

It appears that our reference to the BOAC Comet has caused a stirring of memories as the Museum has recently received two more photographs (one was received at the STAARS luncheon – the other through the mail) which will be added to our era history of Essendon Airport.



This picture of the Comet was taken at Essendon, and staff particularly the engineering personnel, inspected the aircraft. Note the original TAA passenger stairs (manual push-up – motorised stairs arrived later). This photograph is now located with our memorabilia of this period in the museum.

Christmas in July – Burrumbeet Hotel

Date Tuesday 19th of JULY 2005

Cost per member / Partner \$25.00

Cost non-member / Guest \$32.00

A great day out with morning tea served at the North Ballarat Sports Club, then on to Burrumbeet for a three course lunch with entertainment at the Burrumbeet Hotel – renowned for its hospitality.

Seats will be limited to ONE BUS ONLY so you are advised to BOOK EARLY.

Pick-up points will be 0830 Therry Street (rear of TAA head Office – now QANTAS House)
0900 Airport West (park between Safeway petrol and Skyways Hotel)

CLOSING DATE – RSVP by 5th July 2005.

PLEASE RETURN THE SECTION BELOW WITH YOUR REMITTANCE TO –

----- CUT HERE -----

Mr. Ross McDonald – Events Co-Coordinator

TAA 25 year club Inc.

11th floor

50 Franklin Street

Melbourne 3000

Christmas in July

Tick or Mark pick up

Airport West

Therry Street

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.

At last we have completed some and commenced conversion of other 16mm film.

With the grant from the Community Heritage Grants people in Canberra we have been able to have some of our films stocks converted to modern media, and in doing so we have been able to convert these from DVD to VCD allowing them to be played on most modern DVD units that work with a normal television set.

The first film converted was **Airline in Action** – created in the mid sixties showing the airline at work and highlighting many departments and the people at work, with many familiar faces.

The second film converted was – **This Air Age** – another 60's production depicting the development of air travel in Australia's developing years after the turn of the century and up to the arrival of our first Boeing 727.

The third film converted was – **Balus Na Niu Gini or The aeroplane in New Guinea** – produced in the late 60's and covering the history of aviation development in New Guinea and the part TAA played after it assumed the network from QANTAS in 1960. We will be retailing these through the museum with a special club member price of \$16.95 and general sales to non-members of \$29.95 – both plus postage of \$3.95

Contact to order – email taamuseum@bigpond.com or Telephone 86962692 (answering machine and leave details) or send cheque payable to TAA 25Year Club Inc to the museum and indicate the version you require.

Joke

An Australian was sitting at the table of an outdoor café, reading the newspaper while having coffee and croissants with butter and jam when an American tourist, chewing gum, sat down next to him.

The Australian continued to read his newspaper, ignoring the American who, nevertheless, started up a conversation. The American snapped his gum and said, "You Australian folk eat the whole bread?"

The Australian frowned, annoyed with being bothered during his breakfast, and replied, "Of course."

The American blew a huge bubble. "We don't. In the States, we only eat what's inside. The crusts we collect in a container, recycle them, transform them into croissants and sell them to Australia."

The American had a smirk on his face. The Australian listened in silence.

The American persisted. "D'ya eat jelly with the bread?" Sighing, the Australian replied, "Of course, we do, only we call it jam here."

Cracking his gum between his teeth, the American said, "We don't. In the States, we eat fresh fruit for breakfast, then we put all the peels, seeds, and leftovers in containers, recycle them, transform them into jam and sell it to Australia."

The Australian then asked, "Do you have sex in the States?"

The American smiled and said, "Why, of course, we do."

The Australian leaned closer to him and asked, "And what do you do with the condoms once you've used them?"

"We throw them away, of course," replied the American.

Now it was the Australian's turn to smile. "We don't. In Australia, we put them in a container, recycle them, melt them down into chewing gum and sell them to the United States. Why do you think it's called Wrigley's?"

Museum re organisation

If you haven't been to the museum for awhile you will notice huge changes with a new floor to ceiling shelf rack and a total re-organisation of the Engineering, Royal Flying Doctor, Catering and Island Resort sections. This was all achieved with discarded shelving and brackets, and a small compactus extricated from a dumpster at no cost to the museum. Thanks crew for a job well done.

National Conference – 2005

This year the National Conference was held in South Australia, and again we managed to get the stalwarts and backbone of the airline to attend. Each state is experiencing a decrease in active membership, expected as each year passes. This year due to the above, the Victorian Chapter contributed to the running of this event, and again it was an enjoyable and memorable event – a bus trip and dinner on the river – the conference and a lot of socialising and reminiscing.

It still keeps coming – Recently we received the donation of obsolete training material from the Engineering Training Centre, including a large number of 35mm slides, Training Documents and technical memorabilia. We are grateful to staff who continue to advise us of this material and call us to collect it rather than relegate it to the rubbish bins.

Theo Van Loon (Tasmania Branch) also forwarded some old posters that had been acquired over the years and these too have been added to our collection.