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Editor James E. Meehan

Officially – We are open !

The 5th of September, four days short of our 61st anniversary, proved to be a memorable day when we officially opened the new museum at Airport West. Over two hundred people attended, many who had joined the airline in 1946, others who had joined in the 50's, and by 'bush telegraph' many who had been part of the TAA family over the intervening 47 years until merged with QANTAS, and then enjoyed afternoon refreshments (tea, coffee, soft drinks, cake, biscuits and lots of conversation) until 5.00pm.



Part of the crowd that attended the official opening and with limited seating many had to stand for the 30 minutes ceremony.

It was good to see so many of those staff who joined during the early years of TAA, including Frank and Rae Ball, Peter and Lorrie Chapman (representing the SA and NT Chapter of the club and representatives from Queensland chapter.

The chairman of QANTAS, Ms Margaret Jackson, was unable to attend due to a commitment at APEC, but provided an inspiring and understanding message of the efforts of the volunteers over the years, and acknowledging our efforts in composing the museum.

The message was delivered by Capt. James Boland, Manager Boeing 737 operations and an ex Australian Airlines pilot: this I thought was very appropriate, as the Boeing 737 was the last aircraft TAA introduced into the fleet, (arriving in the AUSTRALIAN Airlines livery after a repaint) therefore maintaining that extra link through our aviation history now on display in the museum.

The afternoon proved to be a great success with everyone spending time looking around the 53,000 odd exhibits on display, resurrecting many fond memories of bygone years and instances that should never be forgotten.

To date, and including attendees on this day, we have had over 540 people visit your museum. A special thanks to those Qantas members who throughout this period have provided every assistance to ensure that our displays were constructed as expeditiously as possible.



Gathering for the official opening, members of the TAA AUSTRALIAN Airlines 25 Year Club, members enjoying a little chit chat before the ceremony.

To all who attended – thank you for your support on the day.

The team of volunteers have done a great job, and can now proudly say that they have created a worthwhile and colourful display as we have received many complimentary remarks from visitors to our museum and the variety and content.



Pre ceremony activities included making the refreshment sandwiches and thanks to our 'girls' this activity was handled very efficiently.

We have now included in the museum a seating area for about 20 people where lunches and all food may be consumed, ensuring that the museum is maintained in top condition, although a recent group of 40 made seating a little difficult.

Thanks girls, a great effort and nothing was left.

Museum facilities-

The museum facilities are now being reorganised to include a theatrette, (Room 12) and a meeting room with a special table and chairs. Space permitting, we may also include a magazine and reference library to make better use of the area. Room 13 is currently our film recovery area with nearly 600 rolls of film, and VCR tapes for conversion to DVD with the new equipment recently purchased after receiving a government grant.

With this a grant we also purchased a modern laptop computer and a professional projector (operates from the laptop) and shortly we will receive 30 aircraft seats to be placed in the theatrette.

This will provide the comfort and seclusion expected with a theatrette but no soft drinks or popcorn will be sold, and definitely no hostess service.

It was a busy week

September 6th 2007. ABC channel 2 – Filming your museum.

Stateline – 7.30pm 7th September was the time that we went to air, with an introduction at the very beginning of the show and our segment as the final presentation.

Again we have been blessed by ‘a friend of a friend’, with ABC Channel 2 responding after visit by one of their production staff who was visiting the QANTAS EP facility. He ‘just happened to see our museum and drop in’, and I am pleased to say that he was impressed and suggested that we might get a minute segment at the end of either the 7.30 report or Stateline.

As arranged, the ABC team arrived, consisting of Kathie Bowlen, and her film and sound men, Chris and Bill (respectively). I think they got a shock with what we had to display and the history about Australia’s aviation, as a ‘couple of hours to do’ turned into nearly 5 hours, and instead of a small segment on the end of the program, we managed to get nearly 5 minutes, including an interview, allowing us to tell how this history was saved and our long-term aspirations to expand and enhance on what is now on show.

A big thank you to Kathie Bowlen of the ABC, and her team, as we have received numerous emails and phone calls from people who saw the segment, and many people have since visited our museum, and they too were impressed with our collection.

September Anniversary Dinner – 7th September 2007.

Our venue at William Angliss was again well supported, and a great night had by all.

Over 100 members, partners and friends attended with prizes being sponsored by Eastern Hill Travel being the major prize, ‘Mistral’ with kitchen appliances, - thanks to the daughter of a ‘friend’, William Angliss, and our TAA 25 Year Club, returning some subscription money back in the form of prizes.

The meal and service were excellent, and apart from the usual ‘suspects’ conducting the evening we had a couple of impromptu speakers who requested to express their gratitude for the encouragement and support provided to their branch by the Victorian/ Tasmanian Chapter, and that we still manage to keep in touch throughout the years. The evening finished around 10.30 pm and was enjoyed by all. Saturday and Sunday we rested for the week ahead.

New South Wales re-union - **The NSW branch is holding a**

TAA/Australian Airlines Reunion
Wednesday 14th November 2007 11:30 thru 16:30
Brighton Amateur Fishing Club
100 Bestic St Kyeemagh

This is the first time since 1993 that staff have been organised, thanks to Bob Gilliland, David Reece and a few of his crew, who believe that old friendships can be renewed at any time, and present indications are that it will be well attended. This is a great opportunity ‘to spread the word’, I am sure that the rollup will again reinforce the effort of the local staff to again ‘fly the flag’ for our great airline, and perhaps re-establish a NSW Branch Chapter, thus swelling the number of ex TAA employees who wish to continue a now well established tradition.

I have been asked to attend (and renew a few old friendships as I worked in the NSW branch in the early 70’s) and show what we have set up at our new location for the museum. I have created a slideshow presentation on DVD which will enable a visual portrayal to be available for the day and if required provide copies to members who are unable to attend the museum in person.

A little bit of history –

Vickers Viscount – Australia was the first country outside Europe to order this aircraft and TAA, the first airline to introduce it to Australia. The Viscount prototype was designated the Type 630, and first flew on 16th of July 1948. With further development, the more familiar V700 series completed its maiden flight in August (28th) 1950.

British European Airways introduced it into service in January 1953, and Air France in March of the same year, with large orders being made by North American Airlines, and many other smaller orders from airlines around the world. Various configurations were offered and airlines could choose the most suitable for their region and style/type of service. TAA opted for 44 first class seating initially, but this would change to 48, and when ‘tourist class’ was introduced, 56.

The Viscount had 4 Rolls Royce DART engines (we have the instructional model engine in the museum), but when the FOKKER F27 was introduced in 1959, this aircraft had 40 seats and only two Rolls Royce DART engines.

Viscount 700 series had a maximum take-off weight of 56,000 lbs initially, and the later introduced V800 series could uplift 69,000lbs with the final version capable of lifting 72,500lbs attributable to the increased performance of the ROLLS ROYCE DART engines.

TAA’s first Viscount was delivered on 5th October 1954, and the sixth V700 series on 2nd April 1955. This aircraft was also unique as it had been modified to accept ‘slipper’ tanks for additional fuel to be carried on the EAST WEST route to Perth. Four more V700 aircraft were delivered in 1956, and two in 1957, and the last three in 1958, with fifteen aircraft in all being purchased by TAA. Many will remember the ‘unfair’ operating advantage imposed on Australia National Airways, and the government directing TAA to transfer 3 Viscounts to ANA, and for TAA to ‘accept’ 2 DC6B aircraft in return.

The only other operator in Australia to receive new Viscount V700 aircraft was BUTLER AIR TRANSPORT, the first on 27th September 1955, and the second on 14th September 1956.

Ansett Airways Ltd purchased ANA in 1957/8 to become Ansett-ANA and their first Viscount aircraft was an V800 series delivered on 12th March 1959, although they had operated the three ‘cross chartered’ TAA aircraft for some time. In total eleven V800 series were purchased and operated in Australia, the most unique of these being purchased by the RAAF and fitted with ‘slipper tanks’ for the long haul performance needed by the RAAF VIP fleet.

(MUSEUM) Open house for members –

When - Sunday 18th November from 10am til 4pm

There have been numerous requests from members to provide an open day on a weekend when parking and public transport allows families the choice and non peak -relaxed travel.

The volunteer staff have responded and would be pleased to provide guided tours for family and friends, on SUNDAY 18TH of NOVEMBER 2007, with the first tour commencing at approximately 10.15am, and a half hour intervals.

The 25 Year Club will provide morning and afternoon refreshments – tea coffee soft drink – biscuits – but you may have to provide a picnic lunch.

Ample parking will be available in York Street as we have an arrangement with the factory opposite to use their car park on weekends, and York Street will be deserted, and the QANTAS car park in Earl street will also be available, so the only excuse not to visit should be if it is snowing and you can’t find your ski boots.

Joke

A doctor addressed a large audience in Canberra. "The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here years ago. Red meat is awful. Soft drinks corrode our stomach linings. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. High fat diets can be disastrous, and none of us realizes the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water. But one thing is the most dangerous of all, and we all have, or will have eaten it.

Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?"

After several seconds of quiet, a 75-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said, "wedding cake."

Museum Visits –

We have gathered momentum as our name has started to spread, and many individuals, families and small groups have visited the museum, but the largest was the Rotary Club of Essendon, with 39 members attending an evening visit arranged by John Edwards.

'Wings Away', the organisation of ex TAA Hostesses also paid us a visit at our new premises, and we may have our website soon as amid the crowd were two gentlemen who realised that we needed help in establishing a site, and volunteered to 'give us a hand' with its development. In all 33 members and partners attended and I am sure that they had a great day reminiscing. Our TV appearance also reached many other ex employees who have since contacted us or made the effort to visit, and see what we have managed to preserve.

Again - special thanks to Kathie Bowlen and the ABC program 'Stateline', - the 'airing' on the 7th of September has produced a myriad of additional contacts and offers for family memorabilia to be included in our collection, and we have even now recovered from the family of Harry Shaw, a foundation member, his work life notes and little keepsakes add another dimension and insight into TAA in the early years.



Above – members of the Essendon Rotary Club mingling prior to commencement of the tour of the museum, and a picture of the senior members with a sign significantly displaying the Rotary Club emblem. Again these members were impressed with our collection and I am sure that they will spread the word about our existence.

Special mention – Frank and Rae Ball and daughter Susan recently travelled to Perth to visit relatives and Frank wishes to record his gratitude to QANTAS for the assistance provided to them.

Pre Christmas get together

Daytime luncheon –

Where – William Angliss 550 Lt Lonsdale St Melbourne 3000 (Spencer St End)

Date – **Thursday 6th December 2007.**

Time - Commencing @ 1200 hrs

Cost Member /partner \$20.00 per person

Cost Non Member /Guest \$ 25.00 per person

Three course meal, drinks at your expense and at bar prices.

A good time assured as it will have that Christmas spirit.

Closing date Wednesday 21st November 2007 – If you can make it we would love to see you.

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

Mr. Ross McDonald – Events Co-ordinator

TAA 25 Year Club inc.

QANTAS EP Building

1-7 York Street

Airport West 3042

November - CHRISTMAS EVENT 2007

| | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------|
| Members name | /partner | @ \$20.00 |
| Non Member | / Guest | @ \$25.00 |

Please find enclosed my Cheque (Number) or other to the value of \$ _____ and
please ensure that it is marked payable to TAA 25 Year Club inc.

It will be a great day

Vale

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Ted Daymond – (94) - | Manager Victoria – August 2007. |
| Roy Angel – | Instrument Shop – Melbourne - August 2007 |
| Tess Robertson (93) – | Finance Head Office – July 2007 |
| Capt. Frank McIntyre – | Flight Operations Melbourne – July 2007 |
| Capt. John Mainsbridge - | Flight Operations Melbourne -2007 |
| F/E Tony Best – | Flight Operations Melbourne -July 2007. |
| F/E Simon Fraser – | Flight Operations Melbourne – May 2007 |
| F/E Mike Stevens – | Flight Operations Melbourne – September 2007 |
| Fred Fellingham – (98) | Foreman – Hydraulic Shop – Melbourne August 2007. |
| Ken Newman (84) – | Cargo Manager Australia - September 2007. |