

Newsletter 57 September 2008

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KEILOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM VISIT JUNE 11th 2008.



Growing interest by Probis Clubs, and other common interest groups is providing increasing visitations to the museum, and wherever possible we endeavour to accommodate at times that suit the group.

The Keilor historical society (22 members in this visit) arrived and spent a pleasant evening reminiscing with the visual history that had been part of their lifetime and memories of this area.

Feedback has been very positive and as a result we have again received further enquiries from other groups including one from Frankston Heights and Lilydale, so our reputation is gathering momentum and we expect to see many more such associations requesting visits.

Museum re-organisation –

The need to re-organise some features of the museum has provided the opportunity to create a new thetrette, seating 21 people (the same number as our first DC3 configuration), and the conversion of VCR cassettes to DVD is progressing and expanding the number of films that we now have and can show.

One of the more popular and shown regularly to school groups and work experience students is “Airline in Action” which is a cross sections of all TAA operations in the mid 1960’s, and after our ‘little’ talk most of these students

have a greater appreciation of how aviation developed in this country and the part TAA played during those early years. A second film 'Flight Plan' from 1951 is also a favourite with groups and another insight into early aviation.

Memorabilia continues to arrive and be catalogued for display, and recently included have been some interesting items from personal collections, one that immediately springs to mind is the photos from Elna McKee, a passenger (and staff member) on the first DC4 flight from Melbourne to Adelaide in 1947.



Left – Elna McKee (now Koch), Miss Dempster, and Margaret Cap (in uniform) were all staff of TAA, decided to be the one's who would create a little part of airline history by travelling on the very first DC4 flight to Adelaide and back, whilst the picture **on the right** – shows the big DC4 being checked, fuelled and prepared for the flight. Note the fuel truck, the long hoses and the three flight and ground crew on the wing (one holding the hose nozzle and two supervising – sounds bureaucratic). I'm surprised that it didn't have a hand pump for the fuel, as was the case with many outback places TAA services during these early years.

And two other interesting photos of the Convair -



The one on the left is VH-TAQ on the tarmac at San Diego, all bright and highly polished and the second photo is in Melbourne after it was decided that the upper part was to be painted white to reflect the sun and reduce the heat inside the aircraft during turnaround. Note where the name *Trans-Australia Airlines* was painted on the initial aircraft, and it was later repositioned along the fuselage and above the windows.

Joke - Bob, a 70-year-old extremely wealthy widower, shows up at the Country Club with a breathtakingly beautiful, very sexy 25 year-old blonde who knocks everyone's socks off with her youthful sex appeal and charm. She hangs onto Bob's arm and listens intently to his every word.

His buddies at the club are all aghast, and at the very first chance, they corner him and ask, "Bob, how did you get the

trophy girlfriend?" Bob replies, "Girlfriend? She's my wife!" Amazed they ask, "So, how did you persuade her to marry you?" "I lied about my age," Bob replies. "What? Did you tell her you were only 50?" Bob smiles and says, "No, I told her I was 90."

Pre Christmas Get Together – Daytime Christmas Luncheon

When Thursday 4th December 2008.
Where William Angliss 550 Lt Lonsdale Street Melbourne (Spencer St end)
Time Commencing 1200 hours
Cost Member / Partner \$ 20.00 Per Person
 NON MEMBER / GUEST \$ 25.00 Per Person

Three course meal, DRINKS AT YOUR EXPENSE AND AT BAR PRICES and a good time assured a it will have that Christmas spirit

Closing Date WEDNESDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2008 so please BOOK EARLY

-----Cut here -----

Mr. Ross McDonald – Events Co-ordinator
 TAA 25 Year Club inc.
 QANTAS EP Building
 1-7 York Street
 Airport West 3042

– Christmas LUNCHEON.

Members name	/partner	\$ 20.00 pp
Non Member	/ Guest	\$ 25.00 pp

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

It will be another great day

Museum Milestone –

One event that is worth noting is the birthday in July of our volunteer George Wren who turned 90 and who continues to attend two days a week to help with the chores or maintaining the appearance of the museum. George was with us in Franklin Street and when we moved to Airport west was again first to put his hand up to help.

George's sons John and David, with the assistance and direction from Wendy (John's wife) organised a get together on 19th July for George's friends and associates and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all. Congratulations George from all your mates at the Museum.

Our George –
 caught in two poses –
 serious and concerned
 and then with Helen
 Stanley – light hearted
 and frivolous, flirting
 and wearing a wig
 from one of the
 mannequins. Just goes
 to prove that it is not
 all hard work.



There are - Two ways to look at everything ?

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table. My wife asks, 'Do you know her?' 'Yes, She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since.' 'My Goodness!' says my wife, 'Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?'

So you see, there really are 2 ways to look at everything

Additions to the Museum –

It still keeps coming and from many and varied sources, surprisingly many items are now being donated by visitors to the museum who have either 'been looking for somewhere' to place keepsakes that they just can't throw away. One such item was a framed large poster of the introduction of the Viscount, showing it flying over the MCG, so we now have this and the Electra poster making a nice matched pair.

Model collection – We now have a Micro model collection donated and showing aircraft that were developed during the second world war and through the years up to the present time. These are all the same scale and have attracted a lot of attention from the Probus and Early Retirement Groups that have visited the museum.

We have also procured a couple of more display cabinets to remove from public access and protect those small items from wandering hands when we have school groups or allow small parties to roam free in the museum.

Additional Assistance – Recently we have managed to gain two additional volunteers for the 25 Year Club Committee (David Axon) and the Museum (Ray Splatt) who has experience in film making so we just need to show him how to convert VCR's to DVD's, so this will now progress a little faster, and we will have more to show (pun) for our efforts in saving this material.



Revised layout of Australian Airlines display now hides a small theatrette of 21 seats with its own projector (paid for by heritage grant) reflecting the 21 seat capacity of our first DC3 (configuration). This is also a talking point for visitors and we are now able to show various DVD's depicting those bygone years and TAA's advertising and other interesting pieces of memorabilia.



1962 graduation – Engineers.

Visitors to the museum are amazed that we have most of the graduation photographs of TAA's apprentices from day 1, and many people recall either someone in the photograph or reflect on their own training under the guidance of people like Cec Wright, Lance Irwin and even J.J. (Jack) Davies.

It is a shame that we no longer value the apprentice training schemes and send a lot of our manufacturing and production overseas these days.

Website – This has been an ongoing development and I am now pleased to say that we have got phase 1 up and running. For those who have the internet you can call up our site with a Yahoo search using the words TAA MUSEUM and we should be top of the list, if not then type in www.taamuseum.org.au and it will appear.

It is proposed that in time all our history, our association with the RFDS, and exploits in New Guinea will appear along with a photographic history of our development, our people, our aircraft, and representations of many of the departments that made up TAA.

Our photographic library now extends to well over 10,000 pictures of aircraft, people, places and events, so when it is finished in about 10 months, people around the world will have a better appreciation of the contribution made by TAA's people towards the development of air services and the national network now operating in Australia.

LOOKING FOR - We are still seeking photographs of pilots, hostesses and engineering staff for this project, and although pilots and engineers made TAA a lifetime career, hostesses, in the main, only had a short time in service as the rules regarding married women limited their service, but none the less they were our frontline staff and deserve recognition for their efforts. Unfortunately many of these were lost during the name changes so we have to rely on our members to recover this history.

Scotch and Water - This story is for Senior Citizens. If you don't yet qualify, save a copy till you do. A lady goes to the bar on a cruise ship and orders a Scotch with two drops of water. The bartender gives her the drink, and she says, "I'm on this cruise to celebrate my 80th birthday and it's today." The bartender says, "Well, since it's your birthday, this one is on me." so the woman finishes her drink, and a woman to her right says, "I would like to buy you a drink, too." The woman says, "Thank you, how sweet of you. OK then, Bartender, I want a Scotch with two drops of water." "Coming up," says the bartender. As she finishes that drink, the man to her left says, "I would like to buy you a drink too." The woman says, "Thank you very much my dear. Bartender, I'll have another Scotch with two drops of water." Coming right up," the bartender says as he gives her the drink this time, "Ma'am, I'm dying of curiosity. Why the Scotch with only two drops of water?" The woman giggles and says "Sonny when you get to my age you can hold your liquor but holding water is another problem."

Have you renewed your membership subscription yet ?

Vale

Capt. Don Winch MBE – Flight Operations Melbourne – June 2008.



Sadly we have to report the passing of yet another foundation member, Captain Don Winch, MBE, who passed away after a short illness. Don was one of those 'gentlemen' who after the war devoted themselves to the aviation industry and nurtured the many younger staff who joined in the following years, ensuring the high standard that had been established, was maintained and improved.

A long, colourful and fruitful career that created many memories for those he leaves behind. R.I.P

Capt. Col Haywood (Perth) – Flight Operations - Melbourne – June 2008.

Capt. John Whittell – Flight Operations – Melbourne - June 2008.

Capt David Pummeroy – Flight Operations - Melbourne – Jun 2008.

Another of nature's gentlemen, David was always ready to help and give guidance to new staff. R.I.P.

Harold 'Darkie' Gibbs – Stores Essendon - Melbourne – July 2008.

Known by his nickname, Harold joined in 1948 after a stint in the navy where he received a number of decorations for his service, and at 93 one could say that he had a good innings.

Ed Whiteman – Engineering Maintenance - Melbourne – July 2008.

Capt David Barnett – Flight Operations - Melbourne – July 2008.

Bob McGee – Supply - Melbourne – July 2008.

Apology – we have done it again for second time in 10 years – Last issue we included Capt. David Baker in our list of dearly departed, but low and behold, Jim Murtha advised us that he was still with us – so please disregard this previous notice and we hope that it is a long time before we make this type of mistake again.