

Newsletter 59 February 2009

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Editor James E. Meehan

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Round the bay trip



Members of the club enjoying morning tea at Queenscliff during our February 'Round the bay' trip. The weather was kind and the crossing to Sorrento smooth. Again we had a full bus and it proved to be a most enjoyable day.

Our next trip will be a visit to the Shrine and Victoria Barracks in May. See page 2 for details.

BUSHFIRE DONATION – In response to the appeal for donations for the victims of the bushfires, the club has, on your behalf, donated \$1,000.00 via the Commonwealth Bank at Airport West, and also have a collection box for visitors to the museum which will be donated at the end of February.

And speaking of the bushfires, Alec Johnson (Flight crew) was caught up in the fires, lost everything, but he is OK, unfortunately his wife suffered a heart attack and is recovering.. We trust that she will fully recover and send our best wishes to the family.

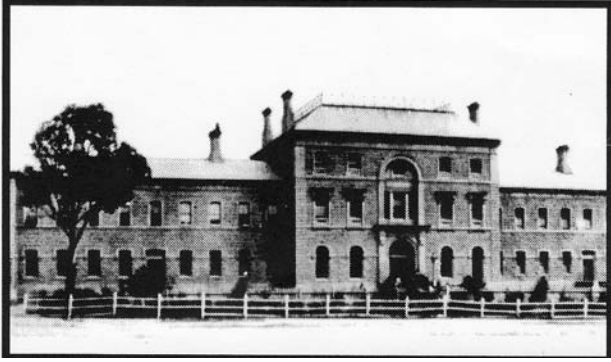
Film recovery – Ray Splatt is our film recovery expert, and since taking on this job, we now have 31 films converted from 16mm to DVD, and we have found some rare footage of Charles Kingsford Smith circa 1936 with his Altair, Southern Cross and a variety of other aircraft and people. There is also rare footage of Papua New Guinea showing activities in the 1930's – and the innovativeness of loading Junkers aircraft with everything from cattle to cars and mining equipment. Thanks Ray

Museum visits.

We are experiencing increasing numbers of visitors thanks to Tim Acton, who continues to 'spread the word' about the museum, along with 1377 3MP radio and Mark Irvine and of course by word of mouth. Probus groups and other retirement organisations, and the bus company Western Coaches, where we are number 3 on their list of places to visit, has also helped the numbers.

We are **still seeking tour guides** who would like to spend a couple of hours taking groups around, and who are willing to give their time for this purpose. It can be on an 'on call' and 'when available' basis and it is not difficult, as each area is identified and information sheets highlight the items of historic interest, comic interest, visual interest, so you cannot miss anything. Every group we have had so far have thoroughly enjoyed their visit and wished that they had more time to look around, and have indicated that they will again visit later in the year. Large groups (40 plus) are split into 2 for convenience To encourage patronage group tours are organised to accommodate requests for Mondays and Fridays, including evening tours, so if you can help then please contact the Museum (92808114) any Monday though to Thursday - 10am til 2.30pm and speak with Ron Adams or Jim Meehan.

Victoria Barracks Melbourne



Our next tour
Victoria Barracks
256-310 St Kilda Road,
Southbank
and
the Shrine of Remembrance

Ross has done it again, another venue with historic interest - A trip to Victoria Barracks and then on to the Shrine on WEDNESDAY 20th May 2009, at 0930 hours. This will be a walking tour of Victoria Barracks (256-310 St Kilda Road, Southbank) a site that has been occupied since 1856, and during WW2 a site where the Curtin and Menzies Governments were located. The tour is approximately 2 hours and involves some stairways as no lifts are available and not suitable for people with restricted mobility.

Please note – You will require photo ID, either Drivers licence or passport to enter these premises.

Transport – Public transport is recommended to this location as parking is very limited. Tram travel from the city central along St Kilda Road to tram stop 18, and assemble at the entrance to Victoria Barracks at 0920 please.

After the tour we will have lunch in the Officers Mess and then **continue to the Shrine of Remembrance** for a tour of the areas of interest commencing at 1.30pm, lasting approximately 90 minutes.

<u>Cost</u>	Members/partner	\$15.00 pp
	Non Member / Guest	\$22.00 pp

RSVP by Wednesday 6th May 2009

To – Ross McDonald Events Co-Ordinator
TAA Museum
1-17 York street
Airport West 3042

Walking Tour – Victoria Barracks/Shrine

Member/ Partner names

FULL ADDRESS IS REQUIRED

Guest or non-member

FULL ADDRESS IS REQUIRED

Please make cheques/Money orders payable to TAA 25 Year Club inc.

Any enquiries or queries to Ross McDonald on 0419 115 396

Joke

A husband and wife came for counselling after 20 years of marriage.

When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a passionate, painful tirade listing every problem they had ever had in the 20 years they had been married. She went on and on and on: - neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, and an entire laundry list of unmet needs she had endured over the course of their marriage.

Finally, after allowing this to go on for a sufficient length of time, the male therapist got up, walked around the desk, and after asking the wife to stand, embraced and kissed her passionately as her husband watched with a raised eyebrow. The woman shut up and quietly sat down as though in a daze.

The therapist turned to the husband and said, 'This is what your wife needs at least three times a week. Can you do this?'

The husband thought for a moment and replied, **'Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, but on Fridays, I play golf.'**

We went to our first Taliban birthday party the other day!

Musical chairs was a bit slow... but goodness me, pass the parcel was fast!



Picture from the Past .VH-TAO – Convair 240 stands ready in preparation for the Royal Visit in 1954. Note the Royal insignia on the side of the aircraft just aft of the pilot's window. This is just one of a series of photographs on display at the museum concerning the first visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Australia.



Recent tours – Lilydale Ladies/Gents Probis Clubs - 44 members - enjoyed lunch in our café area, films in our theatrette, and tour of the museum spending 4 hours engrossed in our collection of history and memories. Group included 2 ex members of the flight staff, Rona Glenn and Joan Swinchat who related their experience and their part in TAA's history.

Tour group – Keilor Historical Society – typical of the visitors to your museum.

Reflection of bygone years. Where are they now?



Hostess school 223 – Graduated in September 1970

Slowly we have been able to recover many photographic records of the staff who passed through the ranks of TAA, and again expanding our collection which is becoming a major interest for people who visit or have requests concerning people and the experiences of the second half of the 20th Century.

Website – This is an ongoing development and I am now pleased to say that we have got phase 2 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. Phase 3 should be in shortly so as you read through it links to relevant information about other airlines, our people, and items of interest.

Membership – Just a reminder for those people who may not have renewed their membership over the last couple of years. Your dues enable us to produce the newsletter, and subsidise outings for members as well as support the surviving partner/s of a deceased member/s who do not have to contribute to the Club, but enjoy our company and newsletter.

In addition - 25 % of membership fees are allocated to the museum for the purchase of display cabinets and other units so as we can protect the items that we have been able to recover, and the replacement of aging computer equipment so that we can maintain records, convert 16 mm film to DVD, and a million smaller tasks which can be quickly accomplished on this type of equipment.

We pay no wages, so all the fees are used for the betterment and advancement of the club and museum, so your contribution assists in perpetuating our history and our people. We would appreciate your ongoing support, and have included a renewal form for your consideration, and/or advice as to your continued support. Your current status is identified top right hand corner of the envelope address label and we will again remind members that dues renewal is 1st July 2009.

Membership renewal - Subscription remains at \$20.00 per annum											
To Mr Ross McDonald Membership Co-Ordinator TAA MUSEUM 1-17 YORK St Airport West Melbourne 3000	please indicate RENEW YES or NO										
Please make payment payable to TAA 25 Year Club Inc.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Member name</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Address</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phone</td> <td>Mobile</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Email</td> <td>Other TAA details</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Join date</td> <td>Leave date</td> </tr> </table>	Member name		Address		Phone	Mobile	Email	Other TAA details	Join date	Leave date
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Donation of memorabilia – our collection continues to grow and items that may never have been recovered if the museum had not existed, are coming to light. Just as an example, Roy McLean (volunteer) through a twist of fate ‘found’ the daughter of JJ Davies, a foundation member within the engineering section and apprentice training school, and John Watkins associate. Again a treasure trove of history has been exposed and we will ensure that it is appropriately displayed within the museum, and some items relate to the Convair in 1948, and the first apprentice school. We thank the Darvall family for their contribution and now their association with our museum.

Joke (for John) -

A primary teacher starts a new job at a school in Collingwood and, trying to make a good impression on her first day, explains to her class that she is a Collingwood fan. She asks her students to raise their hands if they, too, are Collingwood fans.

Everyone in the class raises their hand except one little girl and the teacher looks at the girl with surprise and says: "Mary, why didn't you raise your hand?"

"Because I'm not a Collingwood fan," she replied.

The teacher, still shocked, asks: "Well, if you're not a Collingwood fan, then who are you a fan of?"

"I'm a Tigers fan, and proud of it," Mary replied.

The teacher could not believe her ears. "Mary, why are you a tigers fan?"

"Because my mum is a Tigers fan and my dad is a Tiger fan, so I'm a Tigers fan too!"

"Well," said the teacher, in an annoyed tone, "that's no reason for you to be a Tiger fan. You don't have to be just like your parents all of the time. What if your mum was a prostitute and your dad was a drug addict and car thief, what would you be then?"

"Then," Mary smiled, "According to my Dad I'd be a Collingwood fan."

Edward Oliver (Ted) Prisk – Engineer – Adelaide – January 2009



Ted Prisk - 3 January 1921 – 3 January 2009.
President TAA 25 Year Club – South Australia Division.
Born in Murray Bridge, then moved to Adelaide with his family. Joined RAAF 1940, serving in Tasmania, New Guinea and Darwin. Joined TAA as an aircraft engineer 1949, moved to Alice Springs, and Darwin and was in Darwin when cyclone Tracey hit Darwin, and involved Ted in the evacuation of some 4000 people to the other states. TAA provided 18 flights to assist with evacuation. He retired in Adelaide in 1980. He returned to Darwin to maintain old friendships made during his years of service. Ted was a staunch supporter of the 25 Year club serving in all positions for a period in excess of 35 years, and an active member of the National Committee. R.I.P

TAA 25 Year Club committees knew Ted as a strong supporter of the club and in 2006 Ted joined other members on a trip to outback NSW and Queensland on our DC3 'Hawdon', and it was a pleasure to have Ted and the other members with us on this trip, again re-affirming the strong friendships within TAA. Ted died on his 88th birthday - farewell old friend.

Captain John Hickey DFC – Flight Operations – Melbourne – January 2009



Captain John Hickey (DFC) was a well known and well respected member of TAA's flying staff, and Fleet Manager, who contributed to the introduction of the Lockheed Electra and Boeing 727-100 aircraft. John's career was not confined to TAA, as he had served in the RAAF during WW2, and attained the rank of Wing Commander. All who knew John also knew his love for his football and in **particular the Collingwood Football Club where he served as President for many years.**

Captain Ray Knight – Flight Operations Dept - January 2009

Posted to Japan on DC3s ferrying to Korea during the conflict, Ray joined TAA and flew all types including tour on DC4s in the late 50s as a Grade 3 Captain., and he was one of the few F/Os flying in the Captain grade 3 position, which was a command position on "cruise" with 3 man crews, whilst other captains who were 4's were doing all long haul work. A real character who often reflected on his time in Japan, because although being short in stature, he revelled at being taller than everyone up there.

James 'Jimmy' Gunn – Engineering – Melbourne – January 2009, Jimmy was one of the original apprentices who commenced in 1946, and was another character on Essendon's tarmac. I would not be surprised if he arranged for his coffin to be in the shape of a Monaro.

Tony Zarka – Supply Dept Provisioning Melbourne – December 2008

Ted Best – Melbourne – December 2008

Kevin Smedley – Stores – Tullamarine – January 2009.

Keith Kenworthy –Engineering – Melbourne – January 2009.