

Newsletter 61

August 2009

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## **Life Membership – TAA 25 Year Club**

There are many retired members who dedicated a life's work to developing TAA and continued to support the TAA 25 Year Club even when retired.

The Committee recently agreed to establish a special award recognising the achievements of individuals and their service to both the airline and the 25 Year Club and based upon these criteria, the award grants Life Membership to the 25 Year Club.

The committee has reviewed the qualifying members and decided that the nomination for the first award should be to a foundation member and it is with pleasure that we announce our last General manager, Frank Ball, foundation member, foundation pilot, Manager Flying Operations and a member who had risen from the ranks to become General Manager by the time he retired in 1985, as the first recipient.

During this time Frank also held the position of President of the TAA 25 Year club from 1981 until retirement, and attended numerous functions with Rae, his wife, in retirement.

Frank's career was indeed a colourful and varied one influencing the future of the airline and the many people with whom he came in contact, not only pilots.



Left : Frank, when he was General Manager and about to retire in 1985/6.

A special award presentation was conducted in July at the retirement village and friends helped celebrate this occasion. Frank was presented with a certificate and small engraved obelisk identifying our appreciation.

It is hoped that Frank will attend our September anniversary celebration at William Angliss.

## **New Patron of the Museum**

In June we have a special visitor who is not only interested in Australian history but the preservation of history. I refer of course to Ms Margaret Jackson who, as Chairman of Qantas, arranged for the area now occupied by the TAA Museum at York Street, Airport West when the building in Franklin Street was sold.

This visit proved to be most enjoyable and made even more significant by the fact that Margaret accepted our request to become Patron of the museum, a position that we thought appropriate considering her initial interest in preserving aviation history and the fact that the facility provided enabled the museum to continue to grow and place on display the history of Australia's aviation network creation.

## **New Museum Committee of Management -**

To ensure the future of the museum and to introduce new thinking regarding the policy associated with the development and assistance with the museum operation, a new committee has been established permitting additional input from people with long airline experience and management skills and linking QANTAS to the TAA brand name to preserve our Australian aviation heritage.

### **New Museum Committee Members–**

This new committee will provide additional policy and promotional activities and hopefully attract additional volunteers to expand the current hours of operation and release current members for museum and other activities.

The preliminary meeting was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June and the invited participants attended along with the current museum members who had established the museum and are members of the TAA 25 Year Club.

It was decided, with their agreement, that **the Executive** would be –

**Keith King** ( ex TAA, QANTAS and JetStar) would be Chairman,  
**Paul Criticos** (ex TAA and currently with QANTAS would become Deputy Chairman  
**Helen Stanley** (ex TAA and QANTAS flight Attendant) would assume the role of Secretary, assisted by  
**Kelvin Hawthorn** (ex TAA and retired from QANTAS) would be Assistant Secretary  
**Frank Sullivan** Treasurer & 25 Year Club Treasurer  
the role of Assistant Treasurer to be filled at a later date.

**James Meehan and Ron Adams** -joint Curators to continue the daily management of the Museum.

### **Committee Members –**

**Ray Woodford** (ex RAAF and now QANTAS cabin Management  
**David Axon** (Ex TAA and QANTAS)  
**Derek Perkins** (Ex TAA and QANTAS GT Facility Manager)  
**Jim Douglas** (Ex TAA and retired from QANTAS)  
**Alan Nock** (Ex TAA and retired from QANTAS)  
**Allan Bunker** (Ex Ansett and Museum Volunteer responsible of Ansett and other airlines displays).

**We welcome the new committee who are able to provide increased support and promotion of your museum.**

**Memorabilia** – Our collection continues to grow with many donations now being received from visitors who continue to be amazed by the size and display methods in your museum. Many visitors are members of Probus Groups who arrive by bus and Moonee Valley Council have agreed to relocate a bus stop outside the front door of the museum and Tim Acton is vigorously recruiting visitors with his many talks. We are eternally grateful for all donations as it ensures that our history continues to exist and the collection continues to grow.

### **Theatrette and Film Conversion-**

The relocation of the theatrette to the body of the museum has allowed us to recreate the seating that was applicable to the configuration of our first flight DC3 back in 1946 i.e. 21 seats and in an area similar in size to the cabin of that aircraft. This is a real bonus as it allows us to split group visitors and conduct a tour for part of the group whilst the other part views some of the recovered 16mm film which is now on DVD. And speaking of film conversion since Ray Splatt (Ex TAA Engineer) joined our volunteer group;



## **Joke**

A beautiful blonde teenager, wanting to earn some extra money for the summer, decided to hire herself out as a 'handy-woman', and started canvassing a nearby well-to-do neighbourhood.

She went to the front door of the first house, and asked the owner if he had any odd jobs that she could do. "Well, I guess I could use somebody to paint my porch," he said. "How much will you charge me?" Delighted, the girl quickly responded, "How about \$ 50?"

The man agreed and told her that the paint brushes and everything she would need was in the garage.

The man's wife, hearing the conversation, said to her husband, 'Does she realise that our porch goes

ALL the way around the house?' He responded, "That's a bit cynical, isn't it?" the wife replied,

"You're right. I guess I'm starting to believe all those dumb blonde jokes we've been getting by e-mail lately."

Later that day, the blonde came to the door to collect her money, "You're finished already?" the startled husband asked. "Yes", the blonde replied, "and I even had paint left over, so I gave it two coats."

Impressed, the man reached into his pocket for the \$50, and handed it to her along with a ten dollar tip.

"and by the way...." the blonde added, "it's not a Porch, it's a Lexus".



**And**

## **It's Tough Getting Old**

A senior citizen goes in for his yearly physical with his wife tagging along. When the doctor enters the examination room he says, "I will need a urine sample, a stool sample, and a sperm sample. The man, being hard of hearing, turns to his wife and asks, "What did he say?"

The wife yells back to him, "GIVE HIM YOUR UNDERPANTS"

## **Papua New Guinea recalled.**



VH-SBV the Catalina flying boat leaving D'Albertis Junction circa 1963 and perhaps the best part of the flight was taking off and landing on the water. If calm weather prevailed then the sounds were as expected, but with choppy water one could say that 'buffeting' was a bit unnerving in an old aircraft and you found yourself looking around for 'water leaks'.

**And speaking of New Guinea there is a reunion of all employees (all airlines that operated in TPNG) being held in Brisbane, and the details appear below for interested parties.**

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**Venue :** "Riverside", 50 Oxlade Drive, New Farm, Brisbane

**Time:** 2:30pm until midnight      **Dress:** Smart Casual

**Cost:** \$65.00 per person includes: Welcome Drink,

Antipasto, finger food and hot supper      **RSVP: 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

*For more information you can contact -*

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**Museum improvements** –

Recently we have made improvements with the upgrading of the aging computers providing 3 new units, now networked for convenience and the provision of a network printer eliminating the need for separate printers. These changes and the fact that our website is up and running (still to be totally developed) has eliminated many duplicated tasks and provided the capacity to introduce a specialist program which will ultimately replace 3 separate programs for 25 year club membership, the standardisation of the museum inventory, and the recording of our photographic library including the conversion of pictures to digital images permitting aging items to be digitally repaired and reproduced.

## September Outing – TAA’s Birthday Bash

Come and enjoy our annual dinner to celebrate the 63<sup>rd</sup> year of your airline.

Where? William Angliss. 550 Lt Lonsdale St. Melbourne

When? Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2009.

Cost? Member/Partner \$45.00 pp  
Non Member / Guest \$54.00 pp

**Pre-dinner drinks** at 6.30pm followed by a **sumptuous three course meal** at 7.15pm with liquid refreshments – **beer wine and soft drinks included in the initial cost.**

**Seats are limited so please book early**

RSVP by 26<sup>th</sup> of August

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**Mr Ross McDonald Events Co-ordinator**

**TAA 25 Year Club and Museum**

**QANTAS GT Building**

**7 York street**

**Airport West Vic 3042**

**9 September Dinner**

Member Name ..... Partner .....

Non member name Guest

Please ensure that your cheque/money order # ..... is endorsed to TAA 25 Year Club inc.

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**Subscription renewal** – Just a reminder to check the sticker on the envelope with your address to see if the Financial Member Code is up to date – if it is FM09 or less then please renew your subscription and support the club and the museum. If it is FM10 or a combination of alpha characters then you are up to date. Remember it is your support that keeps both the club and museum active.

## Vale

Laurie Gibson - Heavy Maintenance Melbourne - June 2009.

William (Bill) ‘Grippy’ Kerr (approx 94yo) – Baggage Master Head Office – June 2009.

Capt Don Strong (87yo) – Flight Operations –Melbourne – May 2009.

Des Lamb – Engineering Melbourne – June 2009

Stephan Theunissen – Purchasing - Buyer of Office & Stationery - Tullamarine - June 2009.

FEO Con Mahares – Flight Operations – Melbourne – July 2009.