

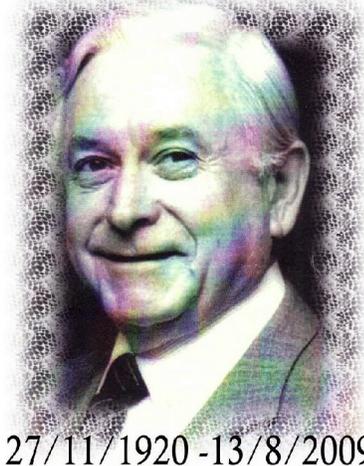
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## Farewell to an era



27/11/1920 -13/8/2009

Left - Frank Ball as a line pilot in Brisbane and (right) Frank on the day he retired after 40 years service with the airline. In retirement Frank enjoyed visiting his country property which I am sure would have returned many memories from his youth growing up in Coolgardie- Kalgoorlie area in Western Australia.

Sadly we have to report the passing of Frank Ball, AM AFC ,who recently received the Inaugural Life Membership Award of the TAA 25 Year Club in recognition of his contribution to TAA. As a foundation member of the airline Frank experienced the birth and growth of our airline and later services with his participation in the operation of the 25 Year Club, which he was President of from 1981 until his retirement in 1985.

Frank had a colourful and varied career. Born in Kalgoorlie, WA, 27<sup>th</sup> November 1920 he had embarked on an accountancy career and when the war broke out he had to defer his studies to join the RAAF, accruing over 2000 hours flying C47 Dakota aircraft and B24's. In 1945 he was selected to command 200 Squadron. This was a secretive and specialised group undertaking missions behind enemy lines in Borneo and Timor. The aircraft were stripped of all armour and fitted with long range tanks for the carriage of troops, flying at low level in all weather conditions. Frank not only commanded but flew many missions and it was during this period that he was awarded the Air Force Cross.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 1945 after being demobbed from the RAAF Frank joined TAA as a line pilot in Brisbane and by 1949 he was the area training captain but at the same time he realised the numerous opportunities that were evolving within the management area of this industry and so returned to his studies whilst continuing to fly for TAA.

Frank's memorable experiences include an incident with the new Convair and as a result he revised the training and line operations procedures which were adopted by the aircraft manufacturer and introduced as standard practice for pilots. Frank was the first Australian pilot to be registered to operate the new turbine Vickers Viscount in 1954.

In pursuing the management career Frank moved to Melbourne in 1957 as Operations Manager, a position he held until 1974 when he was appointed Operations Director. With the retirement of Lyn McKenzie, Frank, now Commercial Director, became General Manager and now in charge of overseeing the introduction of the aircraft that would take TAA into the next millennium, our new AIRBUS A300B4 from Europe, a venture that would prove difficult when the national economy took a major downturn.

It was ironical with Frank's retirement the airline would change its name signalling the end of the era that created history with the numerous 'firsts' and 'innovations' in publicity, engineering and customer service, making TAA a household identity with its theme song 'Up Up and Away with TAA'.

Frank epitomised the spirit of TAA and its achievements in Australian aviation history.

R.I.P.

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## George Roberts – QANTAS – Qantas Museum Sydney.



George Roberts with Alan Joyce, QANTAS CEO at the ceremonial naming of the new AIRBUS A380 fleet in Sydney 2008. Since retiring in 1970 George would spend 1 or 2 days a week in refining the documented history of QANTAS with other volunteers ensuring that information was readily available should a query arise and need a response.

Yet another page of Australian aviation history turns with the passing of George Roberts who joined QANTAS in 1936 as an engineer and allocated the employee number 50 when QANTAS had less than a dozen planes including the DH86 which was certified to fly over water. In 1938 George relocated to Rose bay in Sydney where he worked on the Empire Class flying boats. George always had a passion for aviation and in the 1920's, along with his brother, they constructed a 'flying machine' but I could not establish whether this project ever got off the ground, but I do know that it resided in a shed for many years.

George had many fond memories of the early years of aviation including meeting Ross Smith, Bert Hinkler after his record breaking flight in 1928, and when he assisted in the extraction of Amy Johnson from her Gipsy Moth when it 'flipped' on landing at Brisbane.

George retired in 1970 but was a passionate member of the volunteer team at the QANTAS historical collection at Sydney until 2008. George could answer or assist with providing most information related to QANTAS over the years and in 2000 George assisted with the publication of a book, - 'By George' - detailing his experiences in the airline and it was an interesting read.

George was 99 years of age.

R.I.P.

## Another blast from the past

Recently we received another piece of 'history when Patricia Chassagne (Nott) in Brisbane sent us an envelope containing three pages of Rosters, a summary listing for hostess assessment, and the names of all hostesses for the first 25 schools, along with photographs with names of some of these young ladies.



One such photograph

Left to right –

Olive French, Lexie  
Maunder, Betty Brewer,  
Joan Glen, Patricia  
Bell, Shirley Huxham,  
and Laurel Murray

**Note Note Note**

## Annual general meeting to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> march 2010

An early reminder that the AGM for your 25 Year club will be held at 1200 hours on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2010 and that this reminder should be on your 2010 calendar and in your diary.

### A Child's thoughts.

While sitting in the reception area of my doctor's office, a woman rolled an elderly man in a wheelchair into the room. As she went to the receptionist's desk, the man sat there, alone and silent. Just as I was thinking I would make small talk with him, a little boy slipped off his mother's lap and walked over to the wheelchair. Placing his hand on the man's hand, he said, 'I know how you feel. My mom makes me ride in the stroller too'.

### Computers !

During a recent password audit at the museum, it was found that a blonde volunteer was using the following password: "MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofy"

When asked why she had such a big password, she said that it had to be at least 8 characters long...



## Joke

A chemist walks back into his shop after a short break and sees a man leaning against the wall.

"What's wrong with him?" he asks his assistant

"He came in for cough syrup but I couldn't find any so I gave him an entire bottle of laxatives" replied the assistant.

"You idiot" exclaims the chemist, "you can't treat a cough with laxatives"

"Of course you can" replies the assistant, "look at him, he's too flaming scared to cough"

### And -

Little Johnnie's neighbour had a baby and unfortunately, the baby was born without ears.

When mother and new baby came home from the hospital, Johnnie's family was invited over to see the baby, but before they left their house, Little Johnnie's dad had a talk with him and explained that the baby had no ears.

His dad also told him that if he so much mentioned anything about the baby's missing ears or even say the word ears, he would get the smacking of his life when they came back home. Little Johnnie told his dad he understood completely.

When Johnnie looked in the crib he said, "What a beautiful baby."

The mother said, "Why, thank you, Little Johnnie.

Johnnie said, "He has beautiful little feet and beautiful little hands, a cute little nose and really beautiful eyes. Can he see?"

"Yes", the mother replied, "we are so thankful; the Doctor said he will have 20/20 vision."

"That's great", said Little Johnnie, "coz he'd be in trouble if he needed glasses".

## Another year –

Again it's that time when we review the accomplishments of the volunteer group, the museum and the club. Again I am pleased to report that all aspects of our organisation appear to be 'top line', with stability and growth with the club and museum but we could still do with a few more volunteers to assist with the museum tours and tour talks concerning the contribution that TAA made to the development of air services in Australia. If you have time then 'Think about it'.

**SIMPLY TAA RETIRED STAFF**

STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) luncheon dates for 2009 **24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2009**  
and **23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2010 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010 17<sup>th</sup> Aug 2010 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2010**

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## **Christmas 2009**

Yes it's that time when we would like to extend our wishes to all and hope that the coming festive season is truly an enjoyable one for all members. The committee of the TAA 25 Year Club extend a big 'thank you' for your support which has enabled the volunteers to continue to expound the virtues of working for a great airline with lots of great people and the creation of memories that we all share.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and may you enjoy 2010.

## **Vale**

**Terry Holbrook – Design Draftsman – Technical Services – Melbourne August 2009**

**Capt. David Spring-Brown Flight Operations – September 2009.**

**Capt. Eric Krieg (93) Flight Ops Foundation member – September 2009**

**Capt. Bob Slater – Flight Operations Melbourne – September 2009**

**Capt George Tiemens – Flight Operations – Melbourne – September 2009.**

**Keith Tatt – Power Plant – Engineering Melbourne September 2009**

**FEO Jim Ryan - Flight Ops Engineering – Melbourne - November 2009.**

Jim was the F/E on the B727 at Sydney on 29 January 1971 when it made contact with the tail of Canadian Pacific Airlines DC8-63, and landed safely after this incident.