

TAA 25 Year Club - Newsletter No. 67 – Feb. 2011

Editor: Frank Sullivan & John Wren

Avalon Airshow 4th – 6th March

It's on again – 1st to 3rd for 'trade' visitors only and 4th (from 1400 hrs) to the 6th for everyone else. It's a bit special this year; apart from your TAA 25 Year Club being asked to arrange a show display stand and 'Hawdon' attending, it's the RAAF's 90th anniversary, the famous Spitfire celebrates its 70th birthday on Sat. 5th March and it's the 10th event at Avalon.

Rumours are about that the US will show a F-22 Raptor, the RAAF will have a Super Hornet, Wedgetail (B737 in surveillance CAC mode), and KC-30A while Boeing will bring an EA-18G Growler electronic attack version of the Super Hornet. The oldies - DC3, Connie, Spitfire, Kittyhawk, Catalina, Mustang, Sabre, Boomerang and Vampire, to mention a few, will also be there

Come and see us at the **TAA 25 Year Club display stand** where you can get a **Club cap**.



VH-AES "Hawdon" at the Qantas 90th Year celebrations at Tullamarine Maintenance Base (Photo John Wren)

TAA 25 Year Club Annual General Meeting – 15 March 2011

The TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Annual General Meeting will be held on 15 March 2011 at 1200 hours at the Museum, 7 York St, Airport West. Refreshments will be provided; and to ensure we all enjoy the day, please RSVP to Ron Adams on 9280 8114.

TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Inc ABN: 25 953 761 724

7 York Street, Airport West 3042 ☎ 9280 8114 or 9280 8114 📧 taamuseum@bigpond.com

Page 1

STARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch - 2011

The next STARS Lunch get-together at Moonee Valley Race Course is on **22 February**. Dates for the remainder of 2011 are: **17 May, 23 August** and **22 November**.



Photo of just some of the TAA retirees at the last STARS get-together at Moonee Valley Race Course (Photo: by John Wren)

Bus Trip – Flowerdale

Our next bus trip for TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club members (and wives / friends) will be to Flowerdale (one of the towns impacted by the 2009 bushfire) on Tuesday 5 April 2011. We will travel through some of the bush fire areas, with a morning tea provided: and visit the Donnybrook Cheese Company for some sampling before having a 2-course lunch at the Flowerdale Hotel. These trips are always great – just sit back and relax and enjoy the company, sights and meal. See the application form on page 6.

Busy, busy, busy at the Museum – by the bus load!

If you would like to visit your Museum (7 York Street, Airport West), we are open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 1000 to 1500 (closed on Public Holidays). Free entry for 25 Year Club & Museum members.

Well, it's still been busy in the last few months of 2010, even with the holidays, since we have opened (for groups) on Fridays and even the weekend, with group visits from Wings Away (16), RAAF Cadets (14), St.Helena Probus (24), Ballarat Bus Lines (40), Banyule City Council (30), Sunbury RSL (7), Ventura Seniors (51), Banyule City Council (16), Somerville Probus (35), Balnarring Men's Probus (19), Midlands (40), Baronia Men's Probus (26), Sterling Seniors (16), Monterey Seniors (7), Scope St.Albans (5), plus visits by individuals just coming in to have a look. Word is getting around.

If you would like to assist us at the Museum doing computer work, painting, rearranging exhibits, photographing / cataloguing the assets, dusting, carpentry – you name it, we could use your talents if you have a spare day now and then.

Stocktake at the Museum

We didn't get many takers for our once only task of stocktaking all the changes and additions to the collection. If you have a spare day (or two) that you could lend a hand with our stocktake – give Ron Adams a call at the Museum on 03 9280 8114.

Happy Birthday Rae Ball

Rae Ball, widow of our much admired TAA General Manager / Past President of the TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club (Frank Ball) has reached a great milestone – her 90th Birthday. Congratulations Rae.

'Hawdon' DC3 Flights – will be back in 2011

After a bit of a break, the flights we all so enjoyed will be back in 2011, but **only for financial Members** (see there are some advantages to being a financial Member!) Details are still in the planning stages, so watch out for our next Newsletter with all the details.

24th November 2010 Luncheon

TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Luncheon at the William Angliss centre in the City was thoroughly enjoyed by the 85 members attending. It seems the day time timing of this event is popular, particularly if night travel is difficult. Dave Axon updated everyone on the progress at the Museum and wished all members of the Club a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

TAA Uniform items

At the Museum, we have dressed mannequins in all the different uniforms - starting from 1946 through to the last day of Australian Airlines. There are however some items that are not given up lightly by former flight attendants, so we thought we would put out 'the word' in the Newsletter that we are looking for:

- Female navy and white jockey hats (early 70's)
- Female navy pillbox hats (late 70's)
- Male and female wings for uniforms (1964 - 2003)
- Wings and kangaroos for TAA uniform hats

If you can help us, or know of someone that might be able to assist with these items, please drop the items into the Museum, mail them or call Ron Adams (Curator) on 03 9280 8114. Thanks.

Photo's

Eric Sundstrup, an ex TAA Pilot (1963 - 1987) lost all his logbooks and photographs in the Ash Wednesday bushfires. A friend of his is writing Eric's memoirs and would appreciate any photos for inclusion. If any ex-aircrew have any photos of Eric's flying days please contact Ron Adams (Curator) on 03 9280 8114 at the Museum. Thanks.

Happy Birthday Qantas – 90 Years

November 2010 saw Australia-wide celebrations of Qantas' 90th Birthday, and at Melbourne it was Saturday 13th. IT POURED – but 4500 visitors braved the weather at the Maintenance Base to enjoy (in the main Hanger) the entertainment which included AFL stars, formula grid girls and of course John Travolta who popped in with his B707 (with engine noise mods done) and he even sang a few songs.

Despite the pressure to make every aircraft available to cover for the A380's that were all slowly being grounded with the RR engine problems following the spectacular mid air fire / landing at Singapore, they had a B747 and B767 out in the weather for all the muddy feet to trample through (wouldn't want to be on the cleaning shift that day) . 'Hawdon' was there as well (see pic on front page – we were smart; the aircraft wasn't available for 'muddy feet' viewing), and everyone got a birthday red cap.

The TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club was invited to set up a display in the main hanger showing something of the contribution TAA / Australian made to aviation in Australia. We even featured in 'Qantas News' (staff newspaper) December 2010 edition with a small photo – so we followed it up with their editor, and he kindly sent us the original so you could see it below.



Museum volunteer Duncan Cameron and committee member George Wren 'on duty' for the Qantas 90th Birthday. (Photo courtesy of Qantas News)

Local (Airport West) History

The Moonee Valley Council has asked the TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club to advise 'local' Members and their friends of their efforts to collate experiences and stories of living in Airport West. The project will focus on the stories of long term residents, including those from Greek, Italian and Maltese backgrounds. If you or a friend are interested – contact Anne Callanan at Moonee Valley City Council, 9 Kellaway Avn, Moonee Ponds or phone 03 9243 8802

Vale

Jean Moor (Simpson) – 16.10.2010 (a “Wings Away member”)

Rod Murrells – Oct 2010 (Engineering Instructor)

Mike (Sambo) Johnson - S/LAME Melbourne Line Maintenance)

Albert Boniface – 20.05.2010 (Heavy Maintenance Inspector). Albert was the engineer who despatched VH-AES on 9 Sept 46 (TAA's first flight)

John Nugent – Aug 2010 (Supply Essendon)

Reg Atkins – Nov 2009 (Cargo Senior Clerk Adelaide)

Coach trip to Flowerdale – Tuesday 5 April 2011

To: Ross Mc Donald – Events Coordinator
TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club
7 York St, Airport West 3042

Name: _____ Partner: _____

Non Member Guest: _____

- Tick one** Pick-up at Therry St, City at 0900 hrs OR
 Pick-up at Westfield Shopping Centre, Airport West at 0930 hrs
(between Safeway Petrol Station and Skyways Hotel)

Please find enclosed my cheque / Money Order to the value of \$ (made payable to TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club)

Member / Partner \$33.00 eachor Non Member \$38.00 each

RSVP by 23 March 2011 (any queries to Ross Mc Donald 0419115396)

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