



TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

Newsletter No. 69

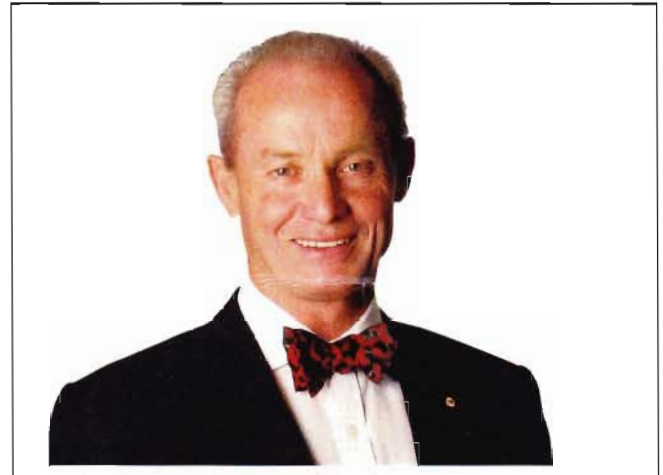
August 2011

Editor: John Wren

James Strong our Patron

The Committee of the TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club are very pleased to advise that James Strong has accepted our invitation to be Patron of the Club. Given James' previous association with TAA and Australian Airlines as its Chief Executive, it is most appropriate.

James is currently Chairman of Woolworths Limited, the Australia Council for the Arts and Kathmandu. He is a Director of Qantas Airways Limited and the Australian Grand Prix Corporation. James is also a member of the Nomura Australia Advisory Board. In 2006 James was made an Officer of the Order of Australia.



Over the years James was of course Chief Executive of Trans Australian Airlines and later Australian Airlines; formerly the Chief Executive and Managing Director of Qantas Airways Limited from 1993 to 2001, Chairman of Insurance Australia Group (IAG) Limited, Chairman of Rip Curl Group Pty Limited, Group Chief Executive of DB Group Limited in New Zealand, National Managing Partner and later Chairman of law firm Corrs Chambers Westgarth, and Executive Director of the Australian Mining Industry Council. He has been admitted as a barrister and/or solicitor in various state jurisdictions in Australia.

We are looking forward to a long association with James and look forward to his involvement with our Club and Museum.

DC3 VH-AES 'Hawdon' Flight

If you would like to register your interest in joining the next DC3 trip to Warrnambool on Wednesday 19 October 2011 (leave 0930, return 1630), please fill in the form on the back page. Remember, the trip is only open to Financial Members (and partners if accompanied) of the TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club. It's 'first in best dressed'.

**** Coming up ****

Just a quick plug for the TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club **Annual Dinner on 7 September** (night) which is as close as we could get a reservation to our foundation day (09/09/1946) at the William Angliss Centre in the city (if you haven't booked – call Ross at the Museum to see if there are any seats left). Also, at the same venue, our **Xmas break-up on the 22 November for lunch** (details below). Please put the dates in your diary so we can have the usual great roll up. And don't miss out on the **DC3 flight on 19 October** – see details above (application form on back page).

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

7 York Street, Airport West 3042 ☎ 9280 8113 or 9280 8114 ✉ taamuseum@bigpond.com

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Pre-Christmas Get Together

The TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club pre-Christmas daytime Luncheon this year will be at the William Angliss facility (550 Lt Lonsdale St in the city) which is well serviced by tram and train if you do not want to drive in to the city. Come join your mates for some pre-Christmas cheer;the details:

Date/Time: Tuesday 22 November 2011 at 12:00.

Cost: Financial Member / Partner \$20.00 Non Financial Member / Guest \$27.00

[Three course meal provided – drinks (at bar prices)] → **RSVP: By Friday 4 November 2011 to:**

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Mr. Ross McDonald Events Coordinator

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

Qantas GT Building

7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042

Financial Member Name: _____ Partner: _____

Non Financial Member Name: _____ Guest: _____

Please make your cheque or Money Order payable to "TAA25 Year Club Inc"

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Busy, busy, busy at the Museum

If you would like to visit your Museum (7 York Street, Airport West), we are open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 1030 to 1430 (closed on Public Holidays). Free entry for 25 Year Club & Museum members.

We have had a busy month at the Museum with all the groups and individual visitors from all over Australia, and, now and again, from overseas. We are able to cater (sandwiches and tea/coffee) for the groups which allows time for all the exhibits to soak in.

After the long walk around the Museum, many of the oldies like to sit down in the aircraft seats (ex DC9) within our theatre where they can watch historical footage of TAA/Australian Airlines, or even some of the old TV ads ('up, up and away' theme seems to be the favourite)

Groups that came to visit by bus this period were: Werribee Retirees, Waverley Probus, Cheltenham Life Activities, Syndal Probus, Sunbury National Service Group, Ringwood Seniors Group, RAAF Cadets, Cheltenham Ladies Probus, Eastern Access Community Health.

Flight Attendant Annual “Christmas in July”

On 22nd July, Lyn Kedge (nee Bishop), “Bisho’ to her friends, organized her last ‘Christmas in July’. Lyn has been arranging these get-togethers for current / retired flight attendants for 20 years. Without her wonderful organizational skills many of us would not have had an opportunity to catch up with old friends. I am sure the F/A’s are going to miss the reminiscing and laughs we had over the years. Lyn say’s it has been an absolute pleasure organizing the functions as she has enjoyed the nights as much as everyone else. Thanks Lyn for all the wonderful times we have had together. (Lyn also does the dress making / alterations for the TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Museum which is very much appreciated.)



Photo and article by Helen Stanley

Back Row: Val Gibson, Lyn Edgerton, Cheryl McCormack, Amanda Anderson, Maree Osmond, Desma Reed, Lucy Zamitt, Sally Rich, and Gillian Nash.

Front Row: Kathy Vass, Robyn Warwick, Lyn Kedge, Sherie Etheridge, Margie Mulhall, Aunt Di Ritchie, Helen Stanley, and Andrea Haywood. [Sonya James and Bev O’Keefe were unfortunately absent.]

TAA / Ansett PNG Reunion

Jan Hutton/Atkin (kikul@bigpond.com) tells us that the next Reunion will be on **12 May 2012** at Riverside, Oxlade Drive, Newfarm, Brisbane 1430 to 2359 hours.

If you would like to attend; contact Jan direct. [Organising something this year was made a bit hard by the Queensland floods – Jan was at Murphy’s Creek which was severely flooded – ‘they’ have only just got around to removing 2 X 20’ containers that floated into their back yard!]

12 July Bus Trip

Our ‘Christmas in July’ bus trip to the **Golf House Hotel in Ballarat** was organised brilliantly (as usual) by Ross McDonald and everyone had a great time. The three course meal at the Golf House was excellent and the side trip to St. Annes winery went down very well!

Our Members really enjoy being able to sit back with great friends, relax and enjoy the trip whilst talking about old times, and new. On the next page are some ‘snaps’ of some of the group enjoying themselves:



Enjoying lunch at the Golf House Hotel



Ahhhhhh the St. Annes Winery, and all that sampling. George Wren is doing some QA!



Vic Rudland and Ross McDonald sharing a chat before lunch.



Another photo of the Golf House Hotel at coffee time



Not too sure what Frank Sullivan is up to here – Frank please explain.



Sid Brooks in fine form convincing Val Curkpatrick (middle) and Olga Dobric.

Headline News in “the Age” – 11/08/11

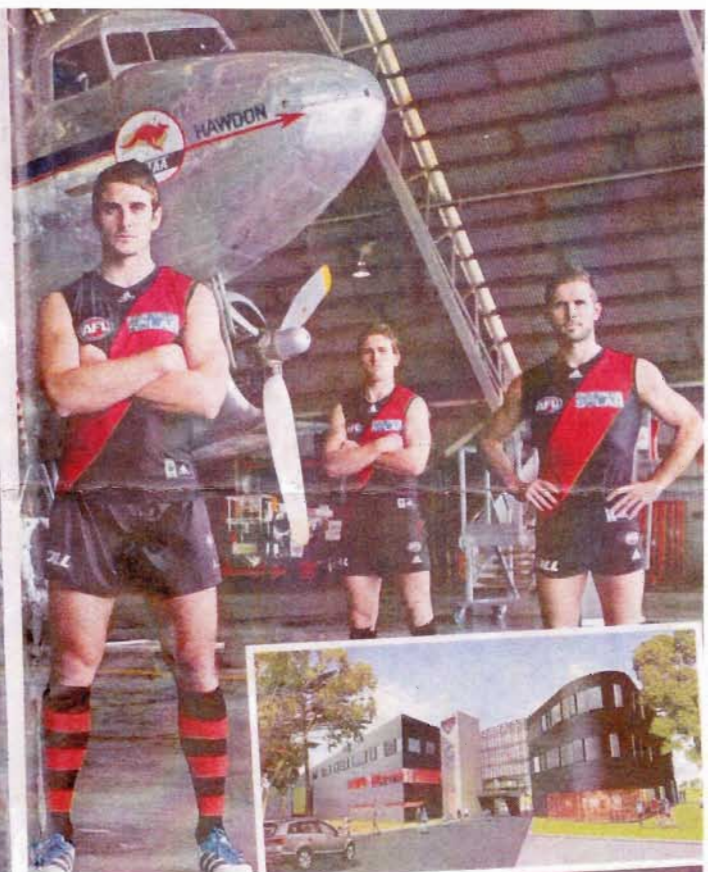
Well not really the headline, but right across the back page! In the Museum picture, Helen Stanley (Club Secretary) is shown with some of the ‘models’ in various F/A uniforms. And in a separate article on the same day – VH-AES ‘Hawdon’ in the sports section giving the mighty Dons a plug as they contemplate moving Bomber land from Essendon to Tullamarine. After the ‘double plug’ in the paper, we had ABC Radio call wanting an interview (done by Frank Sullivan) on-air about the article.



Helen Stanley posing with the Museum F/A mannequins during the Age visit.



Essendon Coach James Hird in the Captains seat of VH-AES 'Hawdon'



Some of the mighty Essendon Football Club team members in front of VH-AES

STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch – 23 August 2011

The next STAARS Lunch get-together at Moonee Valley Race Course is on **22 November**, which is the final Lunch for 2011. **Dates for next year are 21 February, 22 May, 21 August and 20 November 2012.**

The 23rd August STAARS get together was well attended (141), and as usual Lance and Kevin were in the background ensuring everything was going to plan. The photos below captured some of those attending:





TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

DC3 VH-AES 'Hawdon' Trip to Warrnambool

When : 19 October, 2011

For : Financial Members of the 25 Year Club and their partners. There are 26 seats available on the aircraft.

Donation : \$120.00

Departs : Melbourne at 0900 (assemble at Maintenance Base Main Gate 0830)

Includes : Flight to Warrnambool on 'Hawdon', bus trip around Warrnambool and Port Fairy sights; plus whale watching (if they are about)

Lunch at the local Bowling Club, which overlooks Bass Strait.

Return : at approx. 1630 at Melbourne.

Bookings : Phone Bill McGuinness on 9743 2941

Confirmation : When donation cheque / money order received

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After making phone booking, please send to:

Bill McGuinness, 'Hawdon' Trip Coordinator

TAA Museum, Qantas GT Building, 7 York Street, Airport West 3042

Financial Member's Name:

Partner:.....

Please find enclosed my cheque / money order for \$

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What might have been?

Have you ever had one of those moments, well after an event, where you ponder – what might have been?

Currently on display at the TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Museum is the original letter signed by a certain Mr. R.M. Ansett of Ansett Airways Ltd, dated 13 March 1946.

The letter was addressed to Mr. A.W. Coles (of the Coles Supermarket family) who was then Chairman of the ANAC (Australian National Airlines Commission) under whom Trans Australia Airlines operated.

The letter offered to sell all of Ansett Airways Ltd to the ANAC at current book value (£102,476) plus £20,000.

The price included three (3) DC3's for £25,818, which we saw in the attached Schedule of Assets listing the book value of everything.

Interesting donation to the Museum

We have just received **the TAA flag that was lowered for the last time** from the roof of Head Office at Franklin St. (the next day, the brand new Australian Airlines flag was raised). Bill Connor, the House Engineer at the time, thought he would look after this bit of history before donating it to the Museum. Has anyone else got something of TAA or Australian Airlines interest, no matter how small or big, they would like to donate?

Vale

Capt. Nials Sullivan – passed away suddenly in Brisbane 09/05/11 aged 89.

Jim Cudmore – passed away 13/05/11

Kath Kropp (nee O'Neill) – hostess during 50's - June 2011

Basil Kevin Gill – was Senior Supply Officer SA & NT based in Adelaide. Also in PNG during the 60's. Previously in RAAF 1940 – 1946, and TAA 1948 – 1977. Passed away peacefully in hospice Adelaide aged 91.

Trevor Charles Fenton – was Personnel Director HO. Passed away 09/07/11 in Sydney.

Jack Taig – Sheetmetal / Components Overhaul June 2011

Patrick Dominic Thornton – Flt. Engineer – passed away (cancer) at Buderim Hospital aged 75.

Cecil Wright – Foundation Member of TAA died in his sleep on 13th August age 101 years. Cec started with TAA on the 25th July 1946, retiring from the position of Superintendent Engineering Training on 3rd July 1972.

Loralie Plummer (nee Poulsen) – Flt. Attendant 22/05/74 to 1977

Don Owen – Supply (Customs) after a long illness, passed away at Royal Melbourne Hospital 23/08/11. Don was a long time volunteer at the Museum and will be sorely missed.