



# TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

## Newsletter No. 71

## March 2012

Editor: John Wren

### 25 Year Club AGM (Annual General Meeting)

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the **20th March 2012**. All members are cordially invited:

Place: **Skyways Hotel** Matthews Av. Airport West (south end of dining room)

Time: **11.00 am**

Cost: a two course meal will be served at a cost of \$5.00 (payable on the day) This meal is subsidized by the 25 Year Club.

Drinks: at your own cost

Bookings: Please advise the Club of your attendance for catering purposes - ☎ 92808113 or 92808114

We look forward to seeing you there, and yes, we will keep the formal side of things as short as possible!

### TAA 25 Year Club Museum to the rescue

**RAAF 34 SQN recently held their 70th anniversary** dinner at the Great Hall in Parliament House Canberra (February 2012).

Air Marshall Barry Gratton hosted the dinner.

In the lead up to the anniversary, Barry had great difficulty in obtaining models of the aircraft that were flown by the RAAF 34 SQD in the early days for display at the anniversary celebrations, those being the DC3, Convair and Viscount. He even went to America to see if he could get a model of the Convair. Barry eventually approached Qantas to see if they could help but was told Qantas didn't have those models, but they knew who did have them – the TAA 25 Year Club Museum. So Barry was referred to our Museum.

Arrangements were made to get the models to Canberra for the dinner. The Convair that was taken to Canberra came out of the Frank Ball showcase, a gift presented by the Air Pilots Association many years ago. The DC3 and Viscount were from our main Museum display. TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Vice President Ron Adams and Treasurer Frank Sullivan decided that they would drive up to Canberra and deliver the models safe- hand to ensure no damage was sustained.

A cocktail party was held on the Friday evening with over 500 hundred attending, and on the Saturday evening over 570 attended. There were many M.P.'s and dignitaries attending. Ron and Frank were invited to both functions.

---

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](mailto:taamuseum@bigpond.com)

Page 1

The TAA 25 Year Club Museum was widely thanked during the evening for their support of the RAAF 34 SQD anniversary celebrations.

Ron and Frank arrived back in Melbourne on the Sunday evening, very weary after a wonderful trip, and all the models are back safe and sound at the Museum. Pictured below are *[from left]* Frank Sullivan, Air Marshall Barry Gration and Ron Adams, and the Convair model on the table.



## **STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch – 22 November 2011**

Over 140 retired TAA / Australian Airlines staff enjoyed the get together at Moonee Valley Race Course on 21 February; and as usual Lance and Kevin were in the background ensuring everything was going to plan. **Dates for the rest of the year are 22 May, 21 August and 20 November 2012.**

# Tramboat Cruise – Tuesday 10 April 2012

We have arranged, as the first trip for 2012, a Tramboat Cruise down the Yarra to Williamstown and back, whilst tucking into some of those famous Williamstown fish & chips. But seating is limited – so book early.

**Please arrive at 1015 hours for 1030 hour departure.**

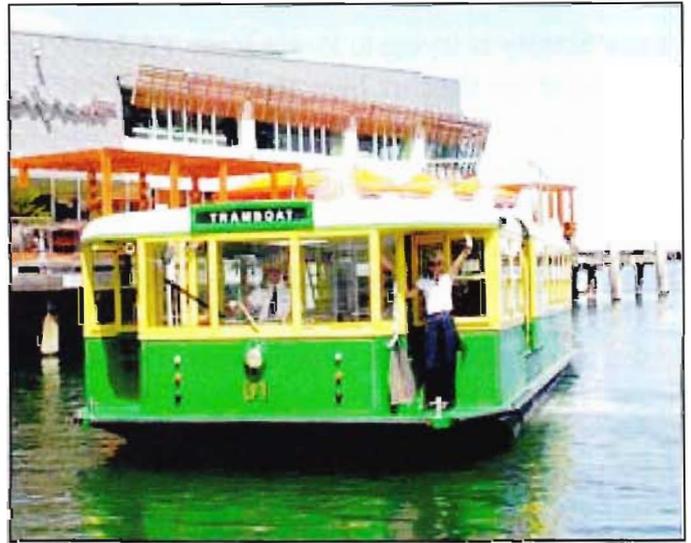
If you are driving to the function, there is parking at the multi-story car park in Waterfront Way (refer Melways 2E / D4 - cost \$5). The Tramboat is in front of the large circus tent at 'Waterfront City'. If your travel is by tram, take No.70 from Flinders St Station or No.86 from Burke St and get off at stop D11.

We will be cruising to Williamstown, with morning tea being served whilst you enjoy the views of the city, Docklands, the wharfs and Williamstown foreshore. We will have a one hour stop over then a fabulous lunch of fish & chips; served to you on the return journey. Drinks are available at a reasonable cost.

Cost for Financial Member/Partner **\$33 each**

Non Financial Member/Guest **\$38 each**

**Closing Date: 27 March** (any queries – ☎ Ross on 0419115396)



Ross McDonald – Events Coordinator

**Tramboat Cruise**

**10 April 2012**

TAA 25 Year Club, Qantas EP Building, 7 York St, Airport West 3042

Name(s) .....

Tick one  Financial Member / Partner (\$33 each)  Non Financial Member / Guest (\$38 each)

**Please find enclosed** my cheque / money order made payable to the TAA 25 Year Club.

**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**

Page 3

..... ✂ .....

## The Qantas grapevine news

Current Qantas staff were recently advised:

“**IMPROVEMENTS TO JETSTAR STAFF TRAVEL** Qantas Group employees and their beneficiaries now have priority on Jetstar over interline Staff Travellers [*retired staff*]. The listing process at the Jetstar Service Desk now onloads Qantas Group employees ahead of interline travellers [*retired staff*]. Qantas Group employees will still be on-boarded in order of arrival, so you should still get to the airport early.

## Museum display

Helen Stanley is trying to locate some **TAA ties** for our display mannequins in the Museum. The particular ties needed are the dark blue ones with very thin green and gold stripes, and the kangaroo at the bottom. If you have one (or more) you would like to donate to your Museum, please contact us at 📞 9280 8113.

## 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.

## Projects at the Museum

One of the long term projects we have running at the Museum is transferring all the TAA / Australian Airlines movie reel film to digital format. The old movie reel film is slowly but surely colour-fading and becoming brittle, causing a lot of breaks to the footage as we try to digitise it. It's a long haul job as the marketing department was a prodigious film creator for all the various advertising themes they dreamed up to entice the public to fly TAA The Friendly Way. If you would like to assist, phone or call in to the Museum.

Another related long term project is digitising all the Kodak slides that came into our possession (many saved from destruction by Judy Flower at Franklin St HO) from all departments within the airline. They were used during training, featuring airline staff on the job, or in the case of flight operations, airport data taken from the cockpit for localised knowledge purposes. And of course there are tons of marketing slides that were taken backing up the movie film, for posters (and we have tons of the old posters sorted and stored).

You might remember the A300 cockpit (night) picture that featured in all the gate lounges throughout Australia. That picture started off as a flight operations photo used in a brochure promoting flight training, arranged by this editor with Ian Russell (company photographer). It was a great shot, and was picked up by the Flight Deck lounge people who made it very well known. However the brochure (developed totally internally) got us some very lucrative A300 pilot training contracts with TOA Domestic Airlines (from Japan – they are now called TDA) just at a time when flying nationwide was in a real slump. We also signed up DC9 training with TOA.

## In the press again

You might recall in the August 2011 issue of the Newsletter we had some 'Hawdon' (TAA's first DC3) pictures featured with an Essendon Football Club article that featured in The Age newspaper.

Apparently the Bombers were scheduled to play St Kilda at Wangaratta on 3/3 and thought they would fly up with a Melbourne commercial air operator (no, not 'Hawdon') however – the weather/flooding was so bad they had to turn around and come back (some very air sick we hear) to Melbourne. The match was declared a draw.

The Age dug into their archives and pulled out one of the 'Hawdon' pictures (with James Hird in the Captains seat) from last August and featured it, almost full page, on the cover of their sports insert for the recent article. (see below). They used another 'Hawdon' picture on the 6/3/12 as well.



## Memory lane

Jim Collins was researching some data when he came across a copy of the TAA staff magazine "This Air Age" dated March 1965. Within was a picture of the former Franklin St HO being constructed with Mac's hotel in the foreground (see picture on next page). Fast forward to today, and the building, after extensive renovation, is an apartment building.

In the same issue of the staff magazine was the announcement by then acting Chairman K. Vial that "TAA would order six of the 82 – 97 passenger Douglas DC9-20 aircraft (with spares for Pounds 13.7M". *(and yes, it did report DC9-20 – obviously things changed later, as we received DC9-30's)*



## TAA Centre nearly ready

TAA Centre, the new TAA Head Office building, is now the undisputed giant of Franklin Street, as the steel and concrete structure rises higher towards completion.

The 16 storey headquarters has now assumed a definite shape as building activity on some stages nears completion. The actual building of the office is due to be completed by October 31, but some sections will be ready well in advance of this date.

Construction on the first floor Reservations and Communications area is scheduled for completion at the end of April. TAA will then take over this area from the builders, for the installation of specialised PMG equipment and the fitting of offices. This will be one of the first areas to be taken over.

At present the mammoth task of cataloguing and assessing all Head Office and Victorian Branch furniture is in progress.

Furniture is being marked and catalogued for either disposal, repair, store, or else to be moved to TAA Centre. When this task is completed, Services department will proceed to tenders on furniture required for the new building.

The task of assessing and cataloguing is being carried out by David Hoy of Finance, Frank Shillabeer of Property and Doug Harvey of Finance. It will take them about three weeks.

The ground floor of TAA Centre will house the Victorian Branch terminal, passenger lounge, bus depot, baggage area and kiosk. Reservations, Communications and Statistics sections will be on the first floor. The second floor will consist of the cafeteria and kitchen. Victorian Branch Administration will occupy the third floor.

Training and interview rooms will occupy an area on the mezzanine floor.

## Vale

**Kingsley Love** (Pilot, Flt Ops) 27/11/2011

**Tony Lucas** (Pilot, Flt Ops) 13/12/11 Flew DC3, DC4, Viscount, Electra, DC9, B727 & A300 from 54-88

**Lucius Windsor** (Flt Ops, Pilot) 30/12/11 ex Wing Commander RAAF and 31 years as a TAA pilot with 20,561 flying hours. (There was a half page obituary in The Age on 20/02/12)

**Peter James Edward Pennycuick** (Flt Ops, Pilot) (notified 31/12/11)

**John Fitzgerald** (Cashier Finance HO) 24/11/11

**Don Osborne** (ex Perth) late 2011

**Keith Barkway** (Cashier Tulla) TAA service 23/07/62 – 28/05/93

**John (Jack) Taylor (Maint Super BNE)** advised 31/1/12. Aged 92, Jack was the inaugural President of the Queensland Branch of the 25 Year Club.

**Ronald Anthony George** (Computer Centre, Melbourne) advised 21/1/12. With the merge, transferred to Qantas IT SYD.