



TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

Newsletter No. 72

June 2012

Editor: John Wren

25 Year Club Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 20th March 2012 at the Skyways Hotel and those attending enjoyed a meal (subsidized by the 25 Year Club) and a chat with old friends over a drink or lemonade. As promised, the official part was all over (due to superior organisational skills by all) very quickly. There were over 40 people attending to witness the new Committee being elected (see picture below)



The new TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Committee

From back left Alan Nock, David Axon, Bill McGuinness (President), Ron Adams (Vice President)
From front left Jim Collins (Vice President), Helen Stanley (Secretary), Jack Murphy, Frank Sullivan (Treasurer) and Ian Wood. Note: Jim Meehan was also re-elected but was in hospital at the time of the AGM.

Xmas in July – come join us on 10 July

It's coming up to mid-year and another chance to get together with old work mates for a great outing, coach ride, food, Xmas theme and a good chat to catch up. Come on – you'll love it!

Where: The Dava Hotel – Mt Martha
When: Tuesday 10 July 2012
Cost: \$35 pp for financial member / partner (none financial member / guest \$42)
Itinerary: Coach to Dava Hotel, 3 course Xmas lunch complete with full 'jingle bells' atmosphere.
Details: Coach at 0900 from Airport West (between Safeway Petrol and Skyways Hotel) **OR**
0930 from Therry Street in the City (at the back of old TAA HQ)
Queries: To Ross McDonald (including any dietary requirements) on 0419115396.
RSVP: latest - 26 June (book early to avoid disappointment)

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To: Ross McDonald – Events Coordinator

Xmas in July 2012

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

Name(s)

I will join the Coach at: (*tick one*) Airport West **OR** Therry Street

Tick one Financial Member / Partner (\$35 each) None Financial Member / Guest (\$42 each)

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

..... ✂

Dates to remember (Application forms will be in later Newsletters)

Wed. 12th Sept 2012 Annual dinner at William Angliss

Wed. 21st Nov. 2012 Annual Luncheon at William Angliss

A bit of TAA history

We recently had a visit to the museum from Judy Kennett. Judy's father was Ken Kennett, who held various senior positions with TAA (S.A State Manager, Victorian State Manager and Marketing Director).

There were 3 children in the family Judy, her sister, and brother Jeff (previous Premier of Victoria). Judy has donated a bit of history to the museum, which goes back to 1966 when Prince Charles spent some time at 'Timbertop' school in Victoria. It would seem that TAA decided to assist in transporting Prince Charles to New Guinea (via a few of our other ports) for a short holiday. Judy's father, then Victorian Manager, was sent along to look after Prince Charles on the holiday. Judy donated the hard cover copies of the tickets made out to HRH Prince of Wales, and they will be displayed in our Museum. She also gave the museum photos of the Prince on the holiday, also of her father and other senior TAA staff. Thank you Judy for the donation.

STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch – 22 May 2011

Over 150 retired TAA / Australian Airlines staff enjoyed the get together at Moonee Valley Race Course on 22 May; and as usual Lance and Kevin were in the background ensuring everything was going to plan.

Dates for the rest of the year are 21 August and 20 November 2012.

Pics by John Wren



The meal (soup, choice of 5 mains, and sweets) was enjoyed by all – and at a very reasonable price. The sun even came out half way through the meals giving a fantastic view of the city (see below).



The free \$3 'chits' (one for each person) to get everyone started at the pokies after the get together provided a nice end to the day's festivities. Come join us at the next get together on 21 August from 11:30.



Tramboat Cruise – another great outing!

Pictures by Hume Presley

On the 10 April the TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club had an outing on the The Tramboat, which sailed down the Yarra River from Docklands to Williamstown and back, whilst tucking into some of those famous Williamstown fish & chips, and the odd drink or two. Good fun was had by all, and the walk around Williamstown was interesting with all the little shops. Some of the sights along the way are below.



Docklands / city sky scape from the back of the Tramboat as it heads down the Yarra to Williamstown.



Everybody's aboard and our intrepid travellers are enjoying the ride to Williamstown.



OK George Wren, you're not supposed to hug the blonde crewmember after life jacket drill.



The local tourist sightseeing aircraft landing in parallel with the Tramboat.



Bert Lawes working out if a Tramboat surplus would pay for the fish and chips! Just kidding.

Australian Aircraft Restoration Group

Photo's: Arnold Rogers

We have started discussions with Graham Malcolm of The Australian Aircraft Restoration Group, operating as the Australian National Aviation Museum, located at Moorabbin Airport. Graham advises his team are "dedicated to the preservation of Australia's aviation heritage. The museum's collection ranging through all forms of aviation, features an extensive display of military, civil, sport and GA aircraft. This includes aircraft such as the WWII DAP Beaufighter, an ex-TAA Vickers Viscount [Ed: VH-TVR], a 1910 Duigan bi-plane replica, a Douglas DC-2 and a CAC Ceres Crop-duster. Some thirty other aircraft are located at the museum and there are additional aircraft at other locations under restoration.

The Museum also houses a considerable collection of aviation memorabilia, an extensive photographic archive and a considerable technical and general aviation library of over 5000 volumes. With the assistance of the TAA museum a display featuring airline uniforms and TAA, Qantas, ANA and Ansett is being assembled. Along with an ex-TAA DC-9 flight simulator and existing airline display, the assembly of cabin crew uniforms will assist in depicting the role of our major airlines.

Members of the TAA/Australian Airlines 25-year Club would be welcome to visit the museum along with their spouses/partners as our guests and we look forward to establishing an on-going relationship with the TAA/Australian Airlines museum with a view to an extensive working partnership that would benefit both organisations." **So, take this Newsletter with you to enjoy free entrance to their Museum at Moorabbin.**



VH-TVR - still in TAA colours.



VH-TVR cockpit -with a few instruments missing.

IN THE BEGINNING



Photo: Judy past & present

A very welcome recent visitor to the Museum was the woman who started it all, - Judy Flower.

The TAA / Australian Airlines Museum is indebted to John Schaap, General Manager of Australian Airlines (1989 - 93). In June 1993, shortly before the Australian Airlines brand name was to be replaced by the title "Qantas", he had the foresight and sentiment to request Judy, a member of staff and a committee member of our 25 Year Club, to be the initiator of a memorabilia display in order "to preserve the rich history of TAA / Australian Airlines".

After initial unsuccessful attempts to have the collection housed on the HO ground floor, accessible from the street and able to be secured, Judy was instrumental in locating the Museum on the 11th floor of the Qantas building in Franklin Street, aware that it was likely to be a temporary venue. During these months of negotiation Judy was already building up a collection.

Mr. Schaap had wished to ensure that items of historical significance would not be lost, and in a Memo called on all staff from every department, and if possible, former employees, to gather together such memorabilia. He gave many examples of material sought, and it is most pleasing that all of these and more are now represented at the Museum. Additions, of course, continue to be welcome. Documents show that by June 1997, while not yet open to the public, the TAA/Australian Airlines Memorabilia Museum with Judy as Museum Co-Ordinator, had been collecting, collating and compiling articles from TAA / Australian Airlines times for just over three years. Judy left Qantas at this point in time, expressing the hope that the 25-Year Club would try to run the Museum with volunteers and TAA / Australian Airlines retirees.

At the time of her recent visit to the Museum, by now at York Street, Judy was most favourably impressed that the good work had continued. It was a pleasure to host her visit, and we trust that she will continue her renewed contact.

VH-AES DC3 ‘Hawdon’ trip to Wangaratta

Another trip, this time on 23 May 2012

pic's by Hume Presley & Duncan Cameron



Above: TAA's first DC3 VH-AES ready for boarding at Wangaratta for the return journey home to Melbourne. The Captain for the Wangaratta flight was our own Alan Searle, who is on the extreme right.

“The Wangaratta Chronicle” printed an article about the trip before the aircraft arrived and over 200 people were on hand to greet the aircraft, including 50 school children. Most had a tour of the aircraft. The President of the Wangaratta RSL was also there and, after some sightseeing, all adjourned to the RSL for lunch. The local TV station got the message a bit late and phoned the Museum the day after we returned asking if they could see the aircraft. Next time. Another great trip.



Whilst at Wangaratta the 'passengers' visited the dredge "Eldorado" which last worked in 1954. In total it produced 70,664 ounces of gold and 1.383 tons of tin concentrate.



Above: TAA / Australian Airlines Committee member Frank Sullivan talking with Qantas Project Manager Nicky Hionis in flight.



Another shot of some of our happy passengers on board VH-AES 'Hawdon', and right down the back (standing) our flying spanner for the flight Ray Splatt

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.**

This quarter we have hosted the following groups through the Museum (and provided tea/coffee and sandwiches) : Melton Shire Council, Heartbeat Epworth Hospital, Bayside Health, Manningham Council, Ex Hostess Group, Surrey Hills Women Red Hatters, Ladies Probus Frankston, Wolmley Retirement Village, Aberfeldie Baptist Church Men's Group, Swinburne Aviation Society Students, North Rinewood.

Vale

Lucius (Gogs) Manning (Flt Ops, Pilot) 30/12/11 ex RAAF Wing Commander 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)

Ed: Apologies for the typo in last month's Newsletter where the surname was in error.

Bill Sedgman (Supply) 18/03/12 aged 77years. Bill was a long time servant of TAA/ Australian Airlines and Qantas in Supply. Brother of Stan and Cliff and Uncle of current Qantas employee Rod Sedgman.

Alexander Ramshaw (Traffic – Perth) 06/02/11 34 years with TAA / Australian Airlines

Bill Young 03/02/12 with TAA 1964 – 1986

Elaine J Swain, nee Smith (Flt Attendant) 08/03/12 former TAA Hostess (Course 22) from 1949 – 1957. TAA Hostess Supt. 1963 – 1977. Founder of “Wings Away”.

Frank Downey (AMD) 13/04/12

Capt. Graeme Mackelmann (Flt Ops) 11/04/12

Membership Arrears

It seems that a few of our members are not financial in 2011/ 2012. If you are currently in arrears, it would make a real difference to the 25 Year Club if we could also receive your current year’s membership fee with the below renewal for next financial year. You can tell if your current years membership has been paid, or not, by looking at the envelope that this Newsletter came in. **If it has “FM12”, or a lower number, you are not currently financial.** Again, thank you for your continuing support.

Membership Renewal 2012/13, and still only \$20.00.

A BIG **thank you** for your continuing support which helps all of us protect the great memories of TAA / Australian Airlines through the continued enhancement of the Museum, member newsletter, trips and dinners etc. Please mail your membership form below to: Ross McDonald, TAA Museum, Qantas GT Building, 7 York Street, Airport West 3042. **Membership is due on 1 July.**

Please find enclosed a cheque / money order (\$20.00) for my 2012/2013 membership of the TAA 25 Year Club (make payable to “25 Year Club”).

NameSpouse Name.....

Address.....

Suburb.....StateP/Code.....

Phone.....Mobile.....

E-mail.....

Joined TAA / / Left TAA / /

Date Joined TAA..... Date left.....

This official receipt will be endorsed once your Subscription is received.

New receipt number

Valid until 1/07/20