



TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

Newsletter No. 79

April 2014

Editor: Kevin Anderson

RECENT ACTIVITIES

DC3 VH-AES Hawdon Flight to Sale 23rd February, 2014.

The day started with clear skies at Tullamarine Maintenance Base. There was no delay in passing through security, and this made a great change from the last flight when we flew to Wangaratta!

Twenty-five people, including pilots, Alan Searle & Bob Small, and engineers, Ted Dewey & Mark Dewey, boarded the aircraft and again, there was no long queue of aircraft waiting for take-off clearance. Arnold Rogers was the committee member co-ordinator, assisted by Duncan Cameron.

It only took seconds for Hawdon to race down the runway at full power from the two Pratt and Whitney R1830 radials for take-off, and soon we were winging our way to Sale.

On the way we passed a great deal of smoke from the Morwell open cut mine fires on the starboard side, and since we were not held up in any way, we landed early at Sale. Unfortunately, a number of Sale locals who planned to see us arrive didn't have that opportunity, as they had been on the way to the airport when we landed. The landing time was stated in the local paper as being later in the morning.

The coach was waiting to drive us to the "Star Hotel" in Sale where we had lunch. One of the positive comments heard was "it was the best parma I have ever tasted!" The meals and the service were of top quality, so this has been noted for the future. During the luncheon an announcement was made, congratulating John Earney for his seventieth birthday - the trip was a birthday surprise!

It is interesting to note that Sale has a port, even though it is inland. The sea has receded so much in the past that the port now has only the river which accommodates cabin cruisers, yachts and small craft.

We returned to the airport for our return flight to Tullamarine and were all astonished to see the extent of the recent grass fires which recently burned in the vicinity of Mickleham Road. Hawdon touched down after a most enjoyable outing. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Annual General Meeting

The TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club's Annual General Meeting was on the 19th March at the Skyways Hotel. President, Jim Collins, detailed the Club's achievements for the year and thanked those who have assisted. The new committee was announced, welcoming Bert Laws onto the committee, replacing Ian Wood who chose not to stand for re-election. There was no requirement to hold an election for office bearers as, by the due date, eight nominations had been received for the eight committee positions. Overwhelming support was received in favour of the two ballot questions put to members regarding alteration of our financial year date and constitution amendment. Of votes received, 99.7% were in favour of the date change and 98.4% for the constitution amendment.

STAARS February luncheon

The Simply TAA Retired Staff (STAARS) February lunch was again well attended. New administrative staff at Moonee Valley have improved the standard of the meals but introduced a 'set' menu for which, 'the jury is still out' upon its acceptance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blackbird Maribyrnong river cruise – 30th April 2014

A cruise along the Maribyrnong river is planned for the 30th April, 2014, beginning at 2pm. Lunch at a Footscray Hotel will precede the cruise. The vessel, Blackbird, was originally a ferry that operated in Lakes Entrance and has been operated on the Maribyrnong for the past 30 years by member Peter Somerville, a former TAA Dock Maintenance LAME. Unfortunately it only carries a maximum of 30 passengers so we have to restrict it to a 'first in' basis. Sorry about that.

***** The application for the Blackbird river cruise is on the last page of this newsletter *****

STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch – 20th May 2014

The STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) lunch is held on a quarterly basis from 11:15am–2:00pm at the Moonee Valley Trackside Bistro, corner of Thomas & Wilson Streets, Moonee Valley, where approximately 200 people attend. If you haven't been to a STAARS lunch or want more information, give Kevin Anderson (0419 511 179) or Lance Erwin (9386 4056) a call for details. The dates for 2014 lunches are **Tuesday 20th May, 19th Aug & 18th Nov.** Everyone is welcome.

DC3 VH-AES Hawdon Flight to Wangaratta - 1st June, 2014

A flight to Wangaratta is planned for TAA's original DC3, VH-AES Hawdon, on the 1st June, 2014. Members are welcome to register their interest using the application slip on the last page of this newsletter. The donation per member will be set to recover costs only (approx. \$140), and will be finalised at the time of booking. A bus will be provided to transport passengers to Glenrowan for lunch at the member's expense. Closing date for applications is 30th April and again will have to be on a first in basis.

Rathmines Park – Former RAAF Flying boat base – 27-28th Sept, 2014

The Friends of Rathmines are organising the 75th Anniversary celebration of the formation of the RAAF Rathmines base in NSW, a World War 2 flying boat base. During the war, 168 Catalina aircraft were operational from Australia with many of our members being either maintenance or crew on the aircraft. Further information on the celebrations is available from Mr Alec Howard on 02 4975 1973 or by contacting a committee member for a copy of the advertising brochure.

Visit to Adelaide

Club President, Jim Collins visited his old stomping ground (Branch Accountant SA & NT 1979-1981) in February last and renewed his contact with two TAA Finance stalwarts....Stuart Scotland and Barry Smith. Stuart originally worked for Airlines of SA at Adelaide Airport, transferring to Ansett HO in 1970, then returning to SA in 1971 to TAA in the city and later with TAA back at the airport. Stuart now volunteers in the office of the National Railway museum at Port Adelaide each Monday & Friday, and would be pleased to see airline people to show visitors an engine or two.

Barry Smith had many happy years with TAA in Adelaide and now volunteers each Friday at the SA Aviation Museum (just behind the Railway Museum), a recent attraction at this large & well supported State Museum is an F-111, well worth a look.....there are several items on display with relevance to domestic aviation.

Committee News:

In accordance with our constitution, at the committee meeting following the AGM, the committee will elect its Office Bearers and the 4 persons who will serve the first of a 2 year term. In future, committee positions will be for a two year period with half of the committee (4 persons) standing each year. This is aimed at providing continuity from year to year.

As a result of our committee meeting of the 8th April, the following people have been elected as your club's office bearers.

Your Committee:

President	John Wren	9378 3065	0402071539	johnwren@optusnet.com.au
Vice President	Kevin Anderson	9438 1894	0419511179	kevinja@tpg.com.au
Secretary	Arnold Rogers	9336 7773	0421455537	rogersah@optusnet.com.au
Treasurer	Jim Collins	9810 4190	0400080164	mijcollins44@gmail.com
Committee member	Ron Adams	9744 2493		annieadams@hotmail.com
Committee member	Dorothy Duan	9379 8169	0432647801	d.duan@optusnet.com.au
Committee member	Bert Laws	9309 2046		
Committee member	James Meehan	8361 0348	0438540842	slimjim41@optusnet.com.au

Ian Wood chose not to re-stand wishing to focus more time within the museum. His tenure whilst on the committee has been very much appreciated; we look forward to his focus and assistance in the museum.

Jim Collins chose to stand down as President in favour of adopting a role more in line with his background in finance. The committee extends its thanks to Jim for his time as Club President; much has been achieved during this time and we look forward to his contribution in his new role.

Under our new constitution, there is only one Vice President position. Ron Adams, who has been a stalwart of our club and museum chose not to re-stand as Vice President. His invaluable assistance given, as well as his time as Vice President, is very much appreciated and we look forward to his continued and valued support on the committee and in the museum. For those who don't know Ron, if he didn't move, one would think he is part of the museum – but truly, he is a valued part of 'who we are' (sorry Ron ☺ Ed).

Bert Laws is welcomed onto the committee. Bert has been a volunteer at the museum for many years, also assisting as a guide in many of the tours we have. He has an accounting background, having been Engineering's Budget Officer for many years. He'll have to be watched closely as the phrase 'skimmer' has been heard used when referring to him ☺ (sorry Bert, Ed)

All committee members are welcomed to their positions; the club thanks you for taking up your position.

Club's Constitution

As detailed previously, the club's revised constitution has been overwhelmingly accepted by members. Your support for it is appreciated and we apologise if it saturated you in paperwork. As it now aligns with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act and Regulations of 2012, any further amendment should require less paperwork.

Foundation Members

In case you missed it in our last newsletter –

The committee has granted approval for members of the TAA 25 Year Club, who are Foundation Members of TAA, to be exempt from paying the annual membership fee. This consideration is well overdue, we apologise for not having thought of it earlier. For information, **a Foundation Member is one who commenced employment with TAA in or before 1946 and has served 20 years continuous service from that date.**

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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TAA AUSTRALIAN AIRLINES 25 YEAR CLUB & MUSEUM

2014 CALENDAR

NEWSLETTER

22-Jan	WED	COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS CLOSE
18-Feb	TUES	STAARS Luncheon
23-Feb	SUN	HAWDON TRIP..... WEST SALE
12-Mar	WED	VOTING BALLOT RETURNS CLOSE / DUE
19-Mar	WED	AGM

30-Apr	WED-2pm	BLACKBIRD MARIBYRNONG CRUISES Preceded by lunch at a Footscray hotel
20-May	TUES	STAARS Luncheon

1-Jun	SUN	HAWDON TRIPWANGARATTA Lunch at Glenrowan
16-Jul	WED	BUS TRIP AROUND THE BAY Lunch with Peninsular members
19-Aug	TUES	STAARS Luncheon

9-Sep	TUES	HAWDON TRIP... MT GAMBIER 68th ANNIVERSARY of TAA's FIRST FLIGHT
17-Sep	WED	ANNUAL DINNER
15-Oct	WED	TRAM BOAT CRUISE
18-Nov	TUES	STAARS Luncheon

30-Nov	SUN	HAWDON TRIP..... WARRNAMBOOL Lunch at Port Fairy
3-Dec	WED	MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2ND TUESDAY

14-Jan
11-Feb
11-Mar
8-Apr
13-May
10-Jun
8-Jul
12-Aug
9-Sep
14-Oct
11-Nov
9-Dec

Membership Renewal 2013–2014

The club thanks all members for your support and extends a warm welcome to the increasing number of new members. Your support helps protect the great memories of TAA/Australian Airlines through the continued enhancement of the Museum, member trips and dinners etc. Annual membership renewal remains due from 1st July each year.

***** The application for MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL is on the last page of this newsletter *****

Membership Arrears

If you are in arrears, an effort to bring your membership up-to-date would be appreciated. You can tell if your current year's membership has been paid, or not, by looking at the address label on the envelope this newsletter came in. If it has 'FM13' or a lower number, you are not financial. If you've happened to throw out the envelope before getting to read this, and you are un-financial, we have taken to placing a sticker on the top of the newsletter. Again, thank you for your continuing support.

Should any member have financial issues that possibly threaten membership, please contact a committee member, as alternative arrangements can be made. Also, should a member be aware of circumstances where we may be able to help a former member, please let us know.

***** The application for MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL is on the last page of this newsletter *****

MUSEUM NEWS

The museum is normally open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. We will consider opening at another time should an interstate or overseas member be unable to visit during these times.

Recent report from a recent Museum visit of a Probus group - Thursday 21 November 2013

We had 27 members and 2 guests join this outing. The usual train ride to the city was completed promptly and we were soon on our way via tram to the interim stop at Queen Victoria Market where morning tea was consumed with enthusiasm at the various food vendor stalls. A number of members tested out the product from the Bratwurst Shop – including mild and spicy! Some cash also exchanged hands at the fashion part of the market before we all reboarded the tram for the trip to Airport West.

We were met at the TAA Museum by Helen, a senior hostess at the former TAA which was renamed Australian Airlines before joining with Qantas in the 1993. A tasty sandwich lunch was provided before we were joined by other volunteer members of the Museum who then toured us around the site. There was a small theatrette which had a continuous film running with scenes of Essendon and Tullamarine and a particularly hilarious set of scenes as an advertisement was made of a passenger arriving via taxi on a wet day at the departure section of Tullamarine – clearly well before the chaotic scenes we see today. There would be absolutely no room for such a filming venture to take place today. There was a loud call from the audience – “That is my son!” Lyn's son Jeff was a Flight Engineer on the Boeing 727 in the late 1980's and he was in an Australian Airlines TV advertisement along with other staff in their flash uniforms. The museum had a wide range of memorabilia covering wide aspects of life in the airline from its foundation in 1946. The Museum also acknowledged parts of the history of Ansett Airlines and the uniforms of both TAA and Ansett were displayed and it was quite a memory jogger to recall the colourful past styles. There was a wide range of memorabilia on display and the Museum is a credit to the volunteers who work to keep it open to the public. Our 2 hour visit was soon over and we strolled back to the tram stop, sandwiched between Mathews Avenue and the Tullamarine Freeway, and commenced our track back to Eltham and our respective homes via tram and train.

Flight Attendant Uniform request

Hoping that some flight attendants may have these items and be willing to donate them to the museum:

- the 'Australian Airlines' Covers navy blue uniform with the olive green lapel. We started wearing this uniform in 1986 when the name changed.
- the TAA yellow and blue and the olive green and blue 'Australian' bands that were worn on the Akubra hats.

These items would be greatly received and appreciated.

Apprentice records now held at the Museum

Just a reminder - The original card system records for all apprentices from 1946 to 1989 are now held at the Museum following the closure of the Engineering Training School in Melbourne. Members who are ex-apprentices are welcome to contact or call in at the Museum to obtain a copy of your individual record. Many of the records have a passport photo of the apprentice which, in most cases, holds no resemblance to the person we have come to know ☺.

Lend a hand at the Museum?

We are always looking for some additional help at the Museum, even if it's only one day per month. Come along one day and check out the Museum, yarn to the volunteers – you will most likely run into someone you know from TAA. We are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Please don't throw out any TAA or Australian Airlines items – we are always happy to accept donations of ANYTHING that was part of the airline.

Newsletter

This newsletter will be emailed to members who request it in lieu of surface mail. Approximately 100 members have requested it so far, and if this is your preference please let us know. Surface mail will always be available.

Our newsletter is being printed with the assistance of the Office of Bill Shorten MP. Many thanks are extended.

Vale

Our sincere condolences are extended to the families and friends of passed TAA/Australian Airlines work colleagues. Fond memories will remain.

Noel Windsor	Cargo Manager	Launceston	12/11/13	
Helga Stolz	Managers' Secretary	Supply & Maint	18/12/13	Aged 70
Robert Stolk	LAME /Maintenance Supervisor	Mel & Bne	8/01/14	Aged 44
Lawrence McGuire	International Travel Adviser	Devonport Tas	7/02/14	
* Tom Sawers	Instrument Shop	Overhaul	12/02/14	Aged 96
Jack Portlock	Production Inspector	Component Maint	24/02/14	
Mark Lynas	Facilities Manager	Computer Centre	28/02/14	Aged 74
* George Rowe	Maintenance	Essendon	15/03/14	Aged 91

* Foundation members

Blackbird Maribyrnong river cruise – 30th April 2014

Please make phone booking to:

- Jim Collins on 0400 080 164
- and send mail or email :-

To: Events Co-ordinator

TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club
Qantas GT Building
7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042

Or email : taamuseum@bigpond.com

Financial Member Name: _____ Spouse/Partner/Guest: _____

Cost: \$ 15.00 per head, required by 23/04/14 by a cheque or bank transfer payable to

‘TAA 25 Year Club’; BSB: 063 007, ACC: 0090 1577

***Please ensure you include your name on the bank transfer entry, and either return mail this form or send a confirmation email to taamuseum@bigpond.com to verify your bank transfer.**



HAWDON WANGARATTA TRIP – 1st June 2014

After making phone booking, please send to:

To: Events Co-ordinator

TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club
Qantas GT Building
7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042

Or email : taamuseum@bigpond.com

Financial Member Name: _____ Spouse/Partner/Guest: _____

Payment - cheque payable to ‘TAA 25 Year Club’ or by Bank Transfer to TAA 25 Year Club;

BSB: 063 007, ACC: 0090 1577 ***Ensure you include your name on the entry and either return mail this form or send email to taamuseum@bigpond.com to verify your bank transfer**



2013-2014 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

To: Kevin Anderson, Membership Co-ordinator

TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club
Qantas GT Building
7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042

Or email : taamuseum@bigpond.com

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$20.00 **or** I have made a bank transfer on (date)
Payment - cheque payable to ‘TAA 25 Year Club’ or by bank transfer to TAA 25 Year Club;
BSB: 063 007, ACC: 0090 1577 ***Ensure you include your name on the entry and, either return mail this form or send confirmation email to taamuseum@bigpond.com to notify us of your bank transfer**

NameSpouse Name *.....

Address

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

Phone *.....Mobile *.....

E-mail *.....

* Only need to complete if details have changed

Newsletter preference

E-mail YES / NO

A receipt will not be
issued unless requested

Receipt YES / NO

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