



# TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

Newsletter No. 80

August 2014

Editor: John Wren & Kevin Anderson

## Blackbird Maribyrnong River cruise – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014

On the 30<sup>th</sup> April, we had a Melbourne autumn day to remember. Changeable weather did discourage some members who cancelled from the outing. The remaining 12 members and partners, having gathered for lunch at the Anglers Tavern in Maribyrnong, experienced a river cruise packed with interest and beauty. The chartered river cruiser "Blackbird" is owned and operated by Peter Summerville, an ex TAA "sheety", with his son, Warren, sharing the role of host. We boarded the boat at the Tavern. Stepping into the glass enclosed cabin we were soon seated in the warm sunshine. From here we could see every feature of the River, travelling both upstream and down, while listening to Peter's stories of early industrial Melbourne. Most of us, although living in Melbourne, were unaware this river was lined with beautiful parks and bike paths extending along the front of large exotic riverside homes. En route, Peter outlined the history of the meat works, sale yards, munitions factories, bridges, our famous Flemington race course and other fascinating sites.

Our thanks go to Jim Collins for organizing such a marvelous outing for our 25 year Club. By Ron Austin.



## STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch – May 2014

Another goody, a few more new faces and a new décor after an extensive refurbishment of the dining room. It was great to catch up with old workmates and enjoy 'the good old days' at a fantastic (TAA / Australian) airline. Just under 200 attended.

## JT8D Engine Simulator

One of the interesting exhibits now at the museum is the Pratt & Whitney JT8D engine trainer, which was used by the TAA engineering school to demonstrate jet engine operation to engineers and pilots. The JT8D was fitted to TAA's B727 and DC9 aircraft. The trainer was built by Elliott Bros. of London to a specification drawn up by Sandy Powell, a senior instructor at the school, in 1965. It was recently recovered from the Kangan TAFE, where it has spent the last 15 years, and was brought up to working order by a team of dedicated volunteers (Kevin Anderson, Ian Wood, Barry Theodore and Bob Aitkin)

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

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## DC3 VH-AES “Hawdon” Flight to Wangaratta - 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2014

The latest Hawdon flight to Wangaratta was attended by 26 members, including 12 members from the Queensland chapter of the 25 Year Club who travelled to Melbourne for the weekend. Although we were able to avoid the usual delay caused by security, we were still delayed due to the weather and having to wait for Tony Abbott’s plane to depart before us. We finally took off and, after a very smooth flight, landed at Wangaratta Airfield in front of a large audience. Apparently, the flight had been advertised on the local radio, with mention made that the plane would be open for viewing. After satisfying the locals, we boarded a bus to Glenrowan, where we had a very enjoyable lunch at the Glenrowan Hotel. We were then given a short but very informative tour of Glenrowan by our very knowledgeable bus driver, Bob Haywood. Unfortunately, the weather was against us, so we weren't able to leave the bus, but it was still very interesting.

On return to the airfield, we were again greeted by numerous locals keen to have a look at Hawdon. After satisfying their curiosity, we departed for Melbourne, enjoying another very smooth flight and landing. Thanks as usual go to the pilots and engineers who made this thoroughly enjoyable day possible.



## Newsletter

This newsletter will be emailed to members who request it in lieu of surface mail. Approximately 100 members have requested this 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch – 18<sup>th</sup> November

The STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) lunch is held on a quarterly basis from 11:15am–2:00pm at the Moonee Valley Legends 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 (03 9386 4056) a call for details. The date for the remaining **2014 STAARS function is 18<sup>th</sup> November**. Everyone is welcome.

### Annual Dinner / Get Together – 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2014

The TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Annual Dinner this year will be at the William Angliss facility (550 Lt Lonsdale St, Melbourne) which is serviced by tram and train if you don't want to drive into the city. Come join your friends for a great time.

Date/Time: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 from 6:30pm, when the bar opens.

Cost: Financial Member / Partner or Guest      \$30.00      Non-Financial Member / Guest      \$35.00

[Three course meal provided – drinks (at bar prices)]      ➔ **RSVP: By Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**\*\*\* The application for the ANNUAL CLUB DINNER is on the last page of this newsletter \*\*\***

### Tramboat Cruise – 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2014

A cruise has been arranged aboard the world's first floating tram for Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October. The Tramboat is fully enclosed and has an open upper deck. Departing Victoria Harbour Docklands, we will travel down the Yarra River to Williamstown and back. Seating is limited – so book early.

**Please early for a 1030 hour departure, returning approx. 1400 hours.**

If you are driving to the function, there is parking at the multi-story car park in Waterfront Way (refer Melways 2E / D4 - cost \$10). 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 which is the end of the line.

We will be cruising to Williamstown, with morning tea being served whilst we 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: **\$45 per person**

**Closing Date: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

(any queries – ☎ Kevin on 0419 511 179)



**\*\*\* The application for the TRAMBOAT CRUISE is on the last page of this newsletter \*\*\***

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## President's Report

Since being elected President at our AGM in March, I've been racing around trying to get some of the things I felt needed to be done. With help from Ray Splatt, we have got our huge **movie film identification project** going with the intention of getting it digitised before it deteriorates. Similarly we are stepping up the **slide digitisation project**, led by Kelvin Hawthorne, with the purchase of additional scanners. Let me know if you would like to help with the scanning. We will be **revising the 'time line'** of our Museum display shortly after some drafting help from Gary Stanford, who drew up our layout.

There will be an **Australia Post stamp** released in August featuring TAA's distinctive 'Nola Rose' poster as part of the Australia Post's Nostalgic Advertisements stamp issue.



We just missed out getting a stamp issued for the arrival of VH-TJA (B727-100) at Essendon, which occurred 50 years ago this coming October (introduction of the first domestic jet aircraft)

We are still getting new members to the 25 Year Club, and new volunteers to help at the Museum. **A big push to increase numbers has just started.** And we have a **project to reach out to our interstate members** to see what can be done to support their numbers. **Tour groups and families** continue to visit the Museum, keeping us busy guiding them through the displays. We got our **JT8D engine simulator** back, and after some great repair work by Kevin Anderson, Ian Wood, Barry Theodore and Bob Aitkin – it's up and running in full colour, with sound. Fantastic!

We had a group of **25 Year Club members down from Queensland** to fly on the last 'Hawdon' flight to Wangaratta. They had a great time and a nice meal in the evening with some of your Committee to talk shop on what the Brisbane membership is up to.

Unfortunately, we have received some bad news about our first DC3. Apparently, the cost cutting at Qantas makes it difficult for them to support **'Hawdon' – so she's grounded.** Rest assured, the Committee are doing everything they can to assist; however 'Hawdon' is owned / operated by Hawdon Operations Limited who are in discussion with Qantas.

Shortly, we will have a small **TAA / Australian Airlines display in the Qantas Museum** above gate 10 at the Sydney Domestic Terminal – pop in if you have some time to kill, and you will get a great vista of the active runways. Our membership records have finally been transferred from the ancient computer program we have been using forever onto Excel, with lots of help from Chris and Kevin Anderson. Ron Adams has been wading through boxes of letters / pictures belonging to John Watkins, our first Technical Director. The family donated it all to provide further insight into the first days of TAA and BCPA. The BCPA involvement is a very interesting, and largely unknown fact – we (through the ANAC) operated an overseas airline for many years. John Wren

## Membership Renewal 2014–2015

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> July each year, club membership renewal of \$20 per annum is due. If you haven't already, it would be appreciated if your subscription can be paid by either cheque, cash or bank transfer. The club thanks all members for your continued 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.

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

## Your Committee

In accordance with our new constitution, at the Committee meeting following the AGM, the Committee elected its office bearers and the 4 persons who will serve the first of a 2 year term. The following people have been elected as your club's office bearers with John Wren, Arnold Rogers, Jim Collins and Bert Laws holding their positions for a two year period.

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. Your Committee is:

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	James Meehan	8361 0348	0438540842	slimjim41@optusnet.com.au
Committee member	Bert Laws	9309 2046		

## Taking to the Skies

"Taking to the Skies" is a book written by Jim Eames, one of Australia's first aviation writers, and former press secretary to the Minister of Aviation and former Director of Public Affairs for Qantas.

It is a surprising, fascinating and sometimes very funny, collection of tales which include the "double sunrise" Catalina service from Perth to Colombo during World War Two, RAAF 200 flights - secret missions behind enemy lines, the first hijack, aerial suicide and murder at Alice Springs, and Cyclone Tracy in 1974 and the first uplift among many others are described vividly.

Flying in Papua New Guinea was where you learned to fly an aeroplane as against the mainland where you learned to operate an aeroplane.

The TAA B727 VH-TJA striking the tail of Canadian Pacific DC8-63 CF-CPQ at Sydney Mascot (Kingsford Smith) Airport On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 1971 is one of those intriguing lucky escapes Australian aviation would ever experience. He mentions pioneers of aviation such as Captain Bill Crowther, Hudson Fysh, PJ.McGuinness, Captain Lester Brain, Flight Lieutenants Frank Ball and Tom Bridges to name but a few.

This is one of those books that once you have started reading - you can't put it down! I can thoroughly recommend this book to all aviation buffs, however young or old you may be. By Arnold Rogers

## From TAA/Australian Airlines 25yr Club South Queensland Chapter

Firstly, on behalf of the members of the TAA/Australian Airlines 25year Club South Queensland Chapter, we would like to congratulate the newly elected office bearers and committee of the Melbourne TAA/Australian Airlines 25year Club. As past employees, we appreciate the value of the Museum and the effort required to keep the organization functioning.

On Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, the Brisbane chapter held its Annual General Meeting at the Kedron Wavell Services Club. The meeting was attended by 24 members and 10 guests. The meeting carried out the usual activities such as the election of office bearers and committee, and the unanimous results were: President - Robert (Bob) Merson, Vice President - Aidan Smith, Secretary - David Walsh, Treasurer - John Coutts, and Committee persons - Sadie Boyce, Peter Caldwell, Ron Creber, Don Evans, and Janet Hyslop. The meeting announced the anticipated outings planned for the year to be:

**History Alive.** This is an event held at Fort Lytton detailing early life in our country. A group day outing was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> June.

**BBQ and visit to Caboolture Airfield.** Held on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, approximately 45 people attended the Caboolture Aero Club for a BBQ lunch and a visit to a nearby hangar housing WW1 replica aircraft and many other aircraft from a by-gone era. Attendees included visitors from Cairns and Melbourne.

**Country race meeting** is planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> October at Gatton Racecourse. Providing suitable travel arrangements can be made, either car pool or transport if required. Last year, by using car pool, the cost including a light lunch was \$25. Should any member outside of Brisbane wish to travel to Brisbane and enjoy our hospitality and attend any event please contact the Brisbane Chapter President by email at [robert.merson@harboursat.com.au](mailto:robert.merson@harboursat.com.au) or Secretary at [dmjlwalsh@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dmjlwalsh@optusnet.com.au) or phone Secretary (07) 3849 4114 and we can discuss arrangements to assist you to join us.

Given the original Charter of the Club was to keep the old workforce in touch with each other, we will make every effort to accomplish this. The Brisbane Committee meets each month at the Theodore Club, and apart from general discussion as to what is happening in the airline system, we try to keep an eye on how our 99 listed members are traveling along the ageing airway. Some have experienced and are still having a turbulent time and our thoughts are with them.

We greatly appreciate our members being included in the recent Hawdon DC3 flight and those of us who made the journey to Melbourne had a wonderful outing that included a tour of the TAA/Australian Airlines Museum and evening meal with committee members and others. Thanks to the people who supplied our transport. I would also like to thank the newsletter team and committee for extending the opportunity of informing all who receive this newsletter of the activities of the Brisbane Chapter.

Regards

David Walsh, Secretary South Queensland Chapter TAA / Australian Airlines 25yr Club.

## Vale

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

<b>Larry Jackman</b>		ex App 1959 A/F	1/08/14	Aged 71
<b>Wally Pollock</b>	Reservations	Duty Res Manager	18/06/14	Aged 75
<b>Annette Kelly</b>	Cabin Crew		12/05/14	
<b>Alan Hoyle</b>	Schedules Planning	Manager	12/07/14	
<b>Graeme John Hutchinson</b>	Catering	Superintendent	3/05/14	Aged 75
<b>Ian Kroemer</b>	Load Control		28/05/14	Aged 64
<b>Wally Drinkwater</b>	Traffic		4/06/14	Aged 76
<b>Jim Skinner</b>	Reservations SYD		9/05/14	
<b>Barry Evans</b>			24/04/14	Aged 86
<b>Bill Bryan</b>	TSD	Chief Draftsman	18/04/14	Aged 92

# ANNUAL DINNER - 17<sup>th</sup> Sep 2014

**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: \_\_\_\_\_ Partner/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: Financial Member / Partner or Guest \$30.00 Non-Financial Member / Guest \$35.00

**Payment required by 9<sup>th</sup> September** by cheque payable to 'TAA 25 Year Club' or  
Bank Transfer to TAA 25 Year Club; BSB: 063 007, ACC: 0090 1577 **\*Ensure to include your name on the bank transfer entry, and either return mail this form or send us an email to confirm your transfer.**



## Tramboat Cruise – 31st October, 2014

Please make phone booking 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$ 45.00 per head, required by 16/10/14 by a cheque or bank transfer payable to  
'TAA 25 Year Club'; BSB: 063 007, ACC: 0090 1577 **\*Ensure to include your name on the bank transfer entry, and either return mail this form or send us an email to confirm your transfer.**



### TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name .....	Spouse Name .....	<b>Payment options</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Address .....		\$20 per year	<input type="checkbox"/>
City ..... State ..... Postcode .....		\$60 for 3 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phone ..... Mobile ..... E-mail .....		\$100 for 5 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
TAA, Australian Airlines, Qantas service: Start Date .....		Finish Date .....	
Department at finish: .....		Newsletter preference: Mail / Email (tick one)	

**Cheque** - payable to 'TAA 25 Year Club' mailed to Qantas GT Building 7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042

**Bank Transfer** - to TAA 25 Year Club; BSB: 063 007, ACC: 0090 1577

\* Please ensure you include your name on bank transfers and either return mail this form or send an email to taamuseum@bigpond.com.au to verify your bank transfer