



TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Newsletter No. 93

July 2017

Editor: John Wren

President's Report

- Sorry it's been so long since the last Newsletter – I have been overseas on holidays [it was great, and long overdue], but now, back into it for another year.
- The annual lunch at William Angliss is on 20th September this year. See elsewhere in the Newsletter for all the details. Please consider coming – it's a great lunch, with great friends and easy to get to by train or tram.
- Another event you should consider is the Christmas break-up dinner, again at William Angliss on the 23 November 2017. More details to follow, but please put the date in your diary.
- A special thanks to member Alan Evans who built the massive wooden frames for the giant A300 and B737 pictures now taking up all of the back wall of the Museum. They look fabulous.
- Pat Broad is on the 'sick list' after rushing off the hospital for an operation. On the 30/6, Pat was in intensive care recovering. From all of us at the Museum and the 25 Year Club members, we wish you a speedy recovery.

70th Anniversary Poster

We have had to order more posters, so if you would like a fabulous memory of TAA's 70th Anniversary – with artwork by one of our own, now is the time to order. For the large version [below left] 890 X 650 with surround and glass \$220.00. For the smaller version [below right] 850 X 610 \$170.00. For just the poster [840 X 600] \$25.00 – all available from the Museum. We have a framed copy at the Museum if you would like to see it first. Postage is additional at cost.



Newsletter

The envelope your Newsletter arrived in has your 25 Year Club financial status printed on it, so you will know if you need to help us with another donation now, or when in the future. The Newsletter will be emailed to members who request it in lieu of surface mail [saves on postage]. The email group will also be able to establish their financial status from the covering email. Our thanks go to **Maria Vamvakinou MP** for her assistance with printing the Newsletter

Hostess Funnies

Whilst reviewing / recording all the Hostess Course Notes for the Museum files, Libby Watkins came across a little poem [author unknown] that had been added to the bottom of the page of the last course for 1974 [#263]:

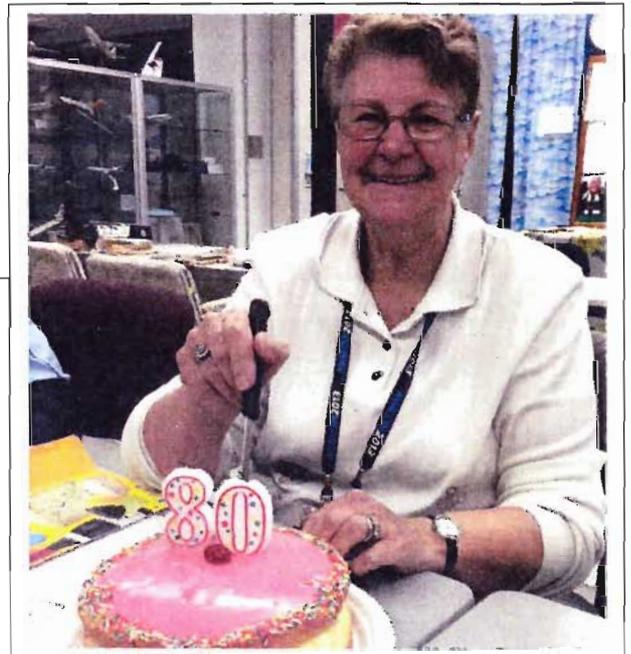
I don't suppose it's been too bad
When one reflects awhile
The little dears have been and gone
And now they're just a file.

Remember when we dried their eyes
And wiped away their tears!
And sometimes got a little cross
Even then, they smelt like roses

We shaped them up or shipped them out
We really are the best
I only hope the mental home
Will give us a well earned rest!!

The Big Birthday

Dorothy [Dot] Duan may have recently retired from Committee work but is still very active as a Volunteer at the Museum. It was the big 80 and Dot took it in her stride with all the other Volunteers encouraging the birthday girl to cut the cake, after which it suddenly disappeared! Nothing like a great sponge cake. I'm told we have to stop counting from now on. [Not likely]



Wings Away Friendship Group [ex TAA Hosties]

Museum Volunteer Libby Watkins reports: "The 10th May saw a gathering of Wings Away members at the TAA Museum. As well as lots of chat and laughter we were able to put names to many of the hundreds of faces in the Museum files. We were also able to gather lots of information re the early uniforms from the

40's and 50's from Joan Swinchatt and Claire Russell who both flew in the 50's. Thank you to all the ladies who came.

Wings Away have another day planned at the Museum on Saturday 9th September starting at 10am. The day coincides with the last day of the Wings Away Queensland Members visit to Victoria, and they will join us at the Museum. For Catering purposes could you please advise Libby by Friday 1st September if you're able to attend [Ph. 0407 476 805] TAA Museum, 7 York Street, Airport West. (Parking available at Qantas Carpark in Earl Street, second driveway and press the button.)”



A wonderful coincident happened as Joan [right] was leaving the Museum, a Qantas Crew were entering the Flight Training Centre and held the door for Joan. We mentioned that Joan was a Hostess in the 50's, at which point one of the Crew wondered if she knew her mother who had also flown then. The answer was “yes”, and **Joan also had with her a photo of Julie Ann's mother** Aileen Harrington (SA Wings Away Member) on the steps of a DC3 in Normanton in 1953!! Julie Ann [seen holding the 50's picture of her Mum] is a CSM and has been flying for 29 years.

New Book featuring TAA

A new book “**Barefoot to Boeings, memoirs of a jet jockey**” by Karen Guest [self published] was received by the Museum, and will be added to the increasing numbers of TAA books already on display. Museum Volunteer Barry Gawne [ex TAA pilot] was asked to review this latest addition:

“This book recounts the life of Brian Crane, a boy from country NSW who eventually became a pilot with TAA. Money was tight on the farm during the Depression, and Brian and his brothers supplemented their meagre pocket money by trapping rabbits and selling the skins and carcasses. Brian was interested in aircraft from an early age, and in 1948, aged 18, he joined the post-war RAAF as a trainee fitter. After basic training he was posted to an aircraft maintenance depot at RAAF Wagga, repairing and maintaining many different service aircraft. He also took lessons at the Wagga Flying School in his spare time when he could afford them. A couple of years later he took the opportunity to leave the Air Force early, as he did not enjoy service life and it seemed unlikely that he would be able to transfer to pilot training in the future. He continued with his training on Tiger Moths at Wagga Flying School, and was issued with his private pilot's licence in 1949, followed by a commercial licence and instructor rating in 1952. During the next few years he worked as an instructor at the school, where he flew a variety of single and twin engine aeroplanes, until he was accepted by TAA as a trainee first officer in 1954 and moved with his new wife to Melbourne. After transferring to Brisbane, he flew DC3s and Viscounts before promotion to captain on DC3s in 1962, followed by a 3-year posting to New Guinea. Back in Brisbane, he flew Fokker Friendships and Boeing 727s before retiring in 1983. Brian's career in TAA was punctuated by occasional confrontations with the airline's pilot managers, which were exacerbated by his involvement with the Australian Federation of Air

Pilots. Karen Guest has written an enjoyable book, but some minor errors could have been avoided with editing. An index would have been helpful. Incidentally, the term 'jet jockey', which probably originated with the military, was rarely used in TAA." [Ed. Thanks Barry]

New Door Mat

During regular maintenance at the Museum, our old front door mat was given a good clean and to our surprise we found it had a TAA logo [barely visible] which nobody had seen before.

Museum Volunteer Brain Cain [on Right] thought a new mat was in order and spoke with Milton Rothwell [on Left] at Road Gear Australasia who gave us the new mat at mates rates [free] since Milton's dad Bert [now a spritely 93] was a TAA Coach Driver. Sometimes it's not what you know but who



Another Book Review

"SMILE (Particularly in Bad Weather)" by Prudence Black

This recently released book covers the amazing history of the Air Hostess and their place in Australia's Aviation History.

From the very early days with ANA and Holyman's in 1936 until the mid-1980's when, with male's joining the domestic airlines, cabin crew were renamed Flight Attendants. Qantas flights had all male crew until 1947 with the arrival of Constellations when Air Hostess' were introduced on board.

The book covers the change from the days when being an Air Hostess was the job every girl hoped for to the days when the Air Hostess became the face of the Airlines to the setup of the Air Hostess Association.

She mentions the many different airlines that have come and gone in Australia, it covers the aircraft accidents, especially during the early years, and the gradual amalgamation to what we see today.

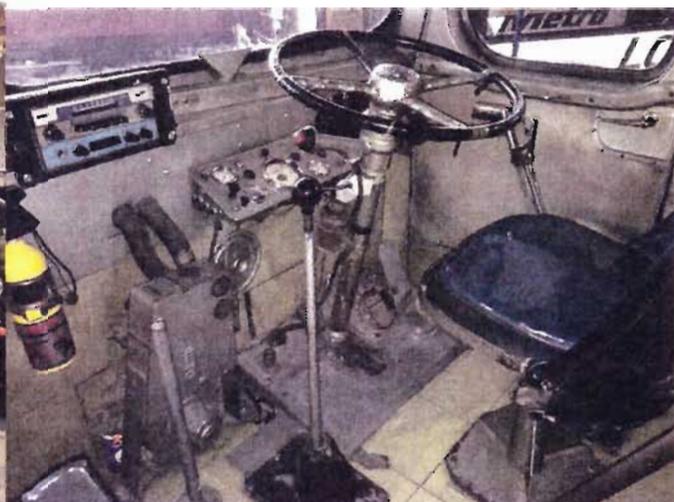
The story of the TAA Hostess is well covered as well as our arch rival Ansett!! With many stories from the past helping to explain why we always thought we had the best job in the world even though until the 70's we knew we would have to leave when we married or were overweight!!!

The book is available on general release and via your local Library. [Ed. Thanks to Libby Watkins for undertaking the review]

TAA Bus

The Editor was lucky enough to visit the Tasmanian Transport Museum in Hobart recently and was warmly [it was 4C outside and the Volunteers were keen] shown around the whole facility [lots of trains – steam & electric, trams, fire engines and buses]. One of the buses was in TAA livery and had the following details on a sign nearby:

“This motor bus was one of a fleet built in 1956 for Trans Australia Airlines to transport passengers from the city depots to the airport. It was built by MBA [Motor Body Assemblers P/L] in Sydney. The bus was #19 in the fleet and allocated to Launceston. In 1964 it had an off-side door added to accommodate the conversion of George St to a one way street. Around 1970 it was sold to Cooks Coaches, Hobart and then used on the Hobart to Bothwell passenger service. The Tasmanian Transport Museum acquired the bus in 1985 and in 2002 it was decided to return it to its original livery [completed in 2005]. It is believed to be the only ex airline bus in Australia in its original livery.” Here’s the pictures:



Note the radiator grill – customised to TAA

The drivers definitely had just the basics



At left is the open left hand door, and straight across the other side of the bus, you can see the special modification [installation of another door to match the one-way street situation of the city office]

Below is the rear seating [leather] with padded back rests. Note there is only one overhead bin on the right hand side [left on the picture] – so not much room for hand luggage. It would fit right in now with Jetstar and the like limiting carry on to just 7 Kg!



Vale

Our sincere condolences are extended to the families and friends of passed TAA/Australian Airlines work colleagues. Fond memories will remain. [FM = Foundation Member]

Ivan Neal	Captain	Aged 91	04/04/17
Ron Hume	Captain	Aged	
Keith [Darkie] Duffield	Captain	Aged 92	13/04/17
Ian Berman	Costing HO	Aged 76	28/04/17
Robert Lane	Storeman MEL	Aged 73	23/04/17
Paul Botha	Captain	Aged	
Leo Caton	Motor Transport	Aged 73	02/05/17



TAA/AUSTRALIAN AIRLINES 25 YEAR CLUB INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Name: Spouse's name:
Address:
City: State: Postcode:
Phone: Mobile: Email:
TAA/Australian Airlines/QANTAS service:
Start date: Finish date:
Primary area of work & where:
Preferences (Please circle) Newsletter: Mail / Email Other correspondence: Mail / Email
Additional comments:

Donation: 1 year - \$20... 3 years - \$60..... 5 years - \$100..... Other amount \$..... Gift: \$.....

Cheque – payable to 'TAA 25 Year Club' mailed to:

Membership Co-ordinator, TAA 25 Year Club, Qantas FTC, 7 York St, Airport West, Vic. 3042

Bank transfer – to 'TAA 25 Year Club': C'wealth Bank BSB: 063 007 Account No.: 0090 1577

Please include your name on bank transfers and, return this form by mail **OR** send by email to:

taamuseum@bigpond.com . **For enquiries:** Phone: 03 9280 8113 / 03 9280 8114.

TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club & Museum Luncheon

Wednesday 20th September 2017

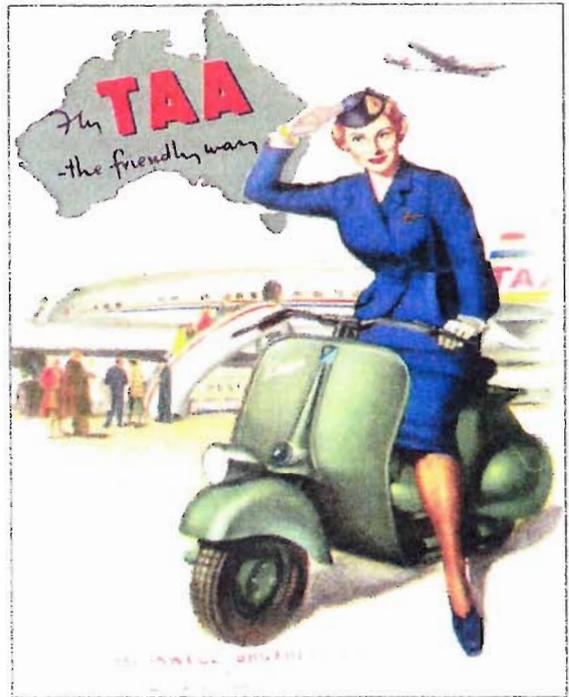
At William Angliss, 550 Little Lonsdale St. Melbourne

Time: 11:30 to 3:00

Cost: Member & Partner \$38pp.
Non Members \$42pp.

3 Course meal – drinks at Bar prices

Bookings close: 11th Sept



Booking Form for group bookings or individuals

Individual Booking Name/s: Mobile Number:

Number of guests attending: For group bookings, please insert attendees' names below:

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Bookings: Contact Sam Favazza on 0411 081 040 or Phone TAA Museum on 9280 8113

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

Bank Transfers: TAA 25 Year Club; BSB: 063 007 Account: 0090 1577

Please ensure you include your name on the transfer and return this Form by post, or email taamuseum@bigpond.com



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