



TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

Newsletter No. 100

March 2019

Editor: John Wren

President's Report

- This is the first Newsletter for 2019, and it's the **100th** informing the members of the operation of the 25 Year Club & Museum. The Club and Newsletter started in the early 70's when our Foundation Members all started achieving 25+ years of service.
- We have just concluded the TAA 25 Year Club **AGM** held at the Skyways Hotel with the main news the election of Club office bearers for the next 2 years. The new office holders are Terry Masocco, Paul Gluschenko, Dorothy Duan and Sam Favazza with no election required as Kevin Anderson withdrew at the last second. See the AGM article later in the Newsletter.
- You may have heard of aircraft '**boneyards**' where they park surplus aircraft – usually out in the desert where it is nice and dry [less corrosion]. Well there's a short video story of the 'parking' of Qantas' B767 aircraft. Have a look at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QuepnIMgri0>
- We have had a setback with the building of the **Convair 240 model**. The builder is unfortunately unable to continue with the project, so we are back to square one. However, we may have found another modeller – more in the next Newsletter.
- We had a few responses to our request for **flat screen TV's**. We could still use some more to increase the interactivity in the Museum. So, if you have an old flat screen laying around after Xmas, we would love to press it into service at the Museum.
- During the Xmas break we demolished part of the **Museum display** so we could improve the display area available and open up the space in the Museum. See article below.
- The **Avalon Air Show** was a success for the 25 Year Club. See the full article below.
- For all fans of the **B727** – bad news. The last scheduled airline flight by a B727 has occurred. See <https://www.facebook.com/1580734692199543/posts/2340713462868325/> There are still B727's operating 'out there' as private jets etc but no more scheduled airline passenger flights.
- For those of you who know Volunteer **Libby Watkins** – she's OK after her fall fracturing her foot. Libby will have 6 weeks convalescence leave from the Museum and hopefully back as good as new. Rough business this grand kid minding [told you it was safer working at the Museum!!]
- **VH-TJD** is now operated by Platinum Services as registration 2-MMTT. As you will recall TAA had five B727-100's [started arriving in 1964] but sold them quickly when the -200 version became available. In the link below it is seen taking-off at Stansted Airport. Love the highly polished thrust reversers. <https://youtu.be/YEGTH4iw3ew>

Historic donation

We recently received a huge box of framed and glass faced pictures from former Personnel Director Jeff Pierce. The pictures were commissioned by TAA for use during the farewell ceremonies at HO for GM L.L. Mac Kenzie, and are now at the TAA Museum for prominent display.



From top left: A300, B727/DC9 & F27, DC9, DHC6 Twin Otter, F27, DHC-3 Otter, Bristol Mk31, DC3 [Hawdon], PB5A Catalina, Bell 47, L188 Electra, DC6, Hiller 12, DHA3 Drover, Convair 240, Viscount and DC4. What a marvellous collection – thanks Jeff.

Apparently, they could not get pictures of the DH84 Dragon or Beechcraft A80 to complete the set. Pic by John Wren

TAA Viscount VH-TVL



We've run articles before about ex TAA Viscount VH-TVL that was acquired by David & Julie Hinds at Possum Creek [QLD] and his efforts to 'restore' the aircraft to a unique accommodation experience. Externally, from a distance, it certainly looks like a TAA Viscount with its nice paint job. But internally it's a big apartment complete with a tiny chandelier. There's a galley in the pic too. David sent out a Xmas card [left] this year with him sitting in the 'cockpit' complete with TAA cap. You can see more pictures etc at <http://possumpark.com.au/plane.html> Got to love it.

Pic from David Hinds

Newsletter

This is our 100th Newsletter issued by the 25 Year Club. We hope you have been enjoying the content over the years and, if you would like to write an article, just send it to the Newsletter Editor at the Museum.

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. Surface mail will always be available.

Fabulous donation to Museum

Last year I asked Alan Swann [former TAA Engine Shop Manager] if he could paint a DC-6 & DC-4 to add to our impressive picture gallery. [We already had a B737 painting of Alan's]. So, in February Alan arrived with the fabulous paintings you see below. Alan surprised us by 'throwing in' two additional paintings of a TAA Twin Otter and TAA Lockheed. Everyone that has visited the Museum has commented on them – what a great addition to our Gallery. Thank-you Alan. [See more at <http://www.taamuseum.org.au/gallery/Whatsnew.html>]

Pics by John Wren

Alan Swann with the donated paintings.



Museum Visitor

Last month we had a visit by Capt. Geoff Litchfield and his son to check-out the Museum and in particular all the aircraft models; many of them flown by Geoff during his career with TAA – the last of which was the A300 [model in the background]. We also have Geoff's book "Fly Boy" in our Museum library which tells the reader all about his aviation adventures – including the interesting war time carrier landing [book cover]



Pics by John Wren



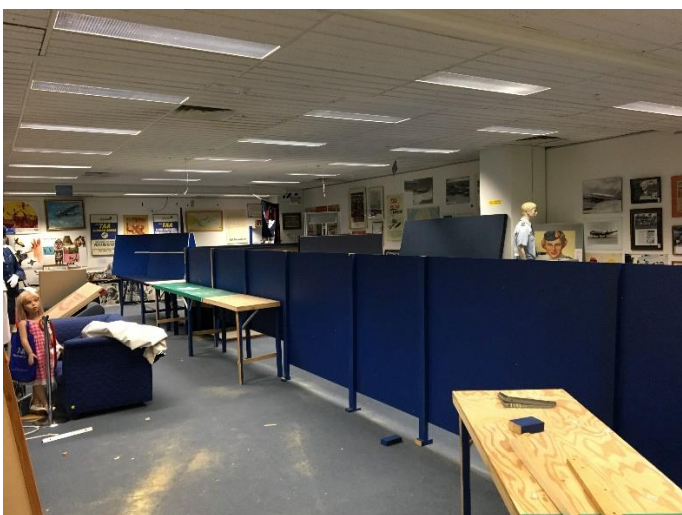
Partial face lift for Museum

During the Xmas & New Years break a dedicated team of Volunteers led by Terry Masocco pulled down the floor to ceiling dividers that made the Museum dark and restrictive. We are still putting the finishing touches on the remodelling however you can see in the pics below the difference the changes have made. Job well done by Terry Masocco, Ian Wood, Brian Cain, Terry McNeil and Libby Watkins. *Pics by John Wren*

Before:



After, with a 'bit' of work to go:



STAARS [Simply TAA Retired Staff]

The recent February STAARS get together was well attended. Remaining dates for 2019 are 14 May, 13 August and 12 November. *Pics by Arnold Roger below:*



Avalon Air Show



Another successful outing for the 25 Year Club with our display at the Avalon Air Show in Feb / Mar. This year was definitely the toughest weather wise with scorching high sahara 30C's low 40C temperatures which tested our Volunteers to the limit. We heard that on one day 147 people collapsed from heat exhaustion!

Paul Gluschenko and his team assembled a great display and in recognition of our effort the plaque at left was presented to the 25 Year Club & Museum.

The 'sahara' team were Paul Gluschenko, Frank Greco, Alan Whatman, Libby Watkins, Ann Masters, Terry Masocco, Alain Ribas, Jim Collins, Barry Gawne, Jim More, Arnold Rogers and John Wren. Bert Lawes didn't make it this year – in hospital with pneumonia! And yes, he's OK and back home again.

Pics by John Wren

AGM

On the surface, the AGM went without a hitch except for the last second withdrawal by Kevin Anderson of his nomination. Luckily, we had four other nominations [Terry Masocco, Paul Gluschenko, Dorothy Duan and Sam Favazza] all of whom were elected unopposed. As Kevin decided not to face the membership but rather send out [by unauthorised access to the 25 Year Club membership list] the mail-out / emails giving his version of events. Unfortunately, this did not give the 25 Year Club the right of reply correcting all the matters raised.

Winding things back a bit first, we have been having problems with Kevin for over two years now [in the minutes of the two previous AGM's] however he has stubbornly held on knowing that our Constitution requirements force a long process to be actioned before he could be asked to leave. We were just approaching the final phase involving outside independent adjudicators as the AGM approached. With the serious issues against Kevin unresolved the Committee felt it must make the membership aware that the process was in-train [but not give details or opinions of the man, to make the election unbiased but informed]. Then members could make their own enquiries and vote accordingly.

One person at the AGM had numerous questions about Kevin's mail-out / emails which were accurately answered by Committee members and supported by others. But the damage has been done to the 25 Year Club, and Kevin has not cleared himself by giving his version through the mail-out / emails without peer review at the AGM or an outcome from the independent Disciplinary Hearing. For the 25 Year Club to pursue the matter, it would only result in more damage and silliness, and no outcome.

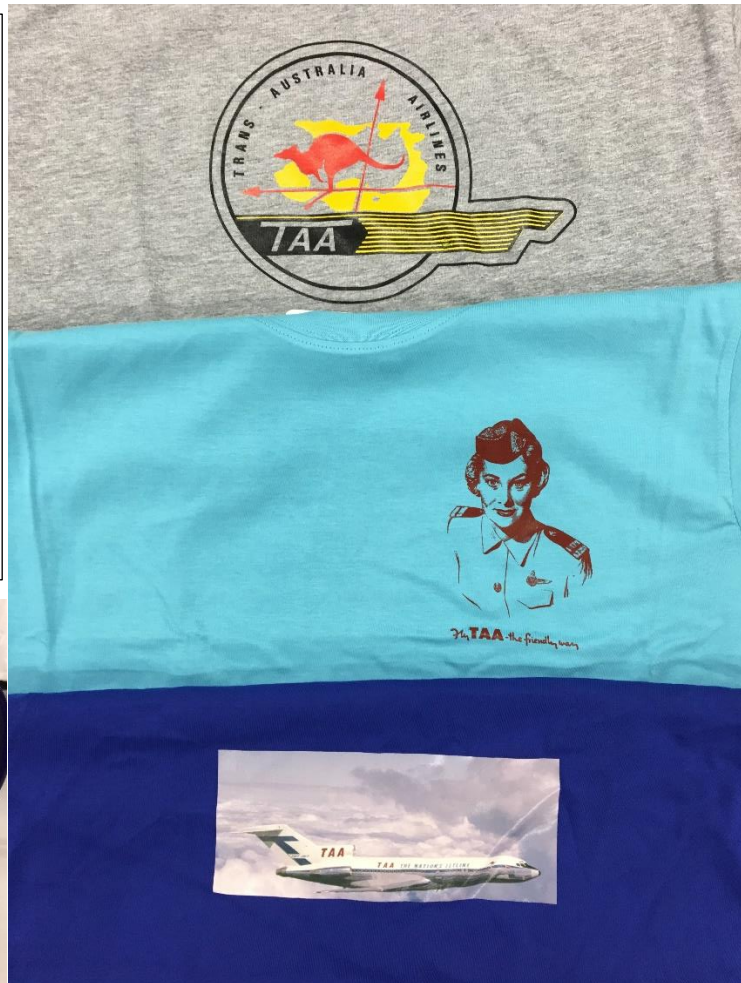
If there are 25 Year Club members who would like to discuss Kevin's mail-out / emails please come to the Museum any Tuesday where your questions can be satisfied and any evidence / witnesses you require can be brought to hand.

Sale items available at the Museum

We now have a number of sale items available at the Museum due to members and visitor demand.

Mugs [below] are always popular and in demand so our version has the TAA and Australian Airlines logo on one side and a picture of VH-TJA, the first of our 100 series B727's, on final approach to Essendon Airport on 16 October 1964 at 2:45 pm. We are selling the mugs for \$10.

We also have good quality T shirts [folded at right] – grey [Men's sizes] aqua [Ladies] and blue [Kids sizes]. We are selling the T shirts for \$20 [Kids \$15] *Pics by John Wren*



Another visitor to the Museum



Capt Keith Radke and his wife Shirley visited the Museum recently to see our Airbus A300 model [in the background] – the last aircraft he flew with TAA. Many stories and laughs were had during his visit. He'll definitely be back!

Pic by John Wren

Xmas function

Our Xmas function at the William Angliss facility was a great success topped of by the presentation to Frank Sullivan of a Life Membership to the 25 Year Club after 27 years-service as treasurer [see previous Newsletter]. A mighty effort. Some pictures [below] taken on the night by Hume Presley:



Above left to right: Libby Watkins, Alma Barron, Barbara Kerr and Sam Favazza. Below left to right Max Forbes, Lance Erwin and Peter Robinson



Life Membership awarded to Ron Adams



Ron Adam's, seen at left receiving his 25 Year Club Life Membership certificate from Club President John Wren at our recent AGM. Ron has been one of our greatest Volunteers [and Committeeman] going back to the start of the club when the Museum was tiny [but big on stored memorabilia]. After we moved to our current location Ron was at the forefront of sorting and cataloguing all our items and doing research for journalists, researchers, book writers etc. A truly tremendous effort Ron!
Pic by Annie Adams

Vale

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

Robert Knight	Hangar MEL	Aged 76	27.11.18
Capt John Blomberg	Pilot	Aged 93	22.01.19
Roy Russell	Catering BNE	Aged 100	14.06.18
Ron Clark	Inspector AMD MEL	Aged 82	18/03/19
Janet Hyslop	Finance BNE city office	Aged 85	04/04/19

[Janet was also the well-respected Secretary of the Queensland 25 Year Club]



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.