



TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

Newsletter No. 103

October 2019

Editor: John Wren

President's Report

- The **73rd Anniversary Foundation Luncheon** was held at the William Angliss facility on 9 September. As always, the food and service [from their training school] was terrific, which made up for the horrible Melbourne weather outside. As always it was a very friendly group who relaxed and chatted about old [TAA] times. See the report below.
- In November we should find out about the plans for **QF's 100th birthday** celebrations in 2020. We are hopeful that the TAA Museum will be able to participate with a special display of QF historical material and memorabilia. More later.
- For some Melbourne metro based TAA staff, we sent out a Special Invitation to a **Museum Open Day** where various events were staged along with guided tours to show off the latest changes to the Museum and new memorabilia additions. The two days went well for those who attended.
- Heard on the grapevine – six Silk Air 737 Max 8 planes have been sent to Alice Springs for storage.
- Spotted on the **QF Web Site** “Our next Points Plane is departing Sydney for Los Angeles on Sunday 13 October 2019. After 20 years of flying, this flight will be the final journey for our Boeing 747 - 'Lord Howe Island' (VH-OJU) and for a limited time, every single seat can be booked using Qantas Points.”
- Well, I hope everyone is happy now with the financial status marks on the envelope [**FM** xx = Financial Member to 30 June 'xx' year, and **UFM** = Unfinancial Member now]. **Note the change from Commonwealth Bank electronic transfer** details to Qudos Bank electronic transfer [BSB: 704 865 Account No.: 02190853] when paying your membership. For some, when using Qudos for the first time [only], they ask for an account name. Insert “Trans Australia Airlines Museum Acct”.
- We regret the passing of **Ron Adams** 10/06/37 – 04/09/19; a former Committee Member and Volunteer for a very long time and who was only recently awarded a Life Membership. Ron was the backbone of the Museum and knew where everything was plus, was a gem when any fact about TAA was needed. We will miss him greatly.

Newsletter

This is our 103rd 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 click on links to various movies, and establish their financial status from the covering email. Surface mail will always be available.

Museum Visitors – Vintage Drivers Club

We recently had a visit from 35 members of the VDC to the Museum in some very special vehicles:



Pics
by
John
Wren

Following the visit, we were sent a copy of their Newsletter which ran an article about the visit wherein they mentioned, in part, that:-

“we were welcomed then seated for morning tea and a brief explanation about the Museum’s establishment. We were then split into three groups for a fascinating tour by our knowledgeable guides. Whilst two groups started touring the Museum another group enjoyed a splendid Cinesound movie of the early years of TAA shown in a small theatre equipped with airline seats.

We saw a magnificent array of aircraft models, flight / cabin crew uniforms, advertising posters / banners and a vast assortment of lapel badges, pins, paper tickets, timetables etc. For the more technically minded there were excellent exhibits and explanations of aircraft engines, instrumentation / electronic systems, flight data recorders and other vital components needing expert maintenance to keep the aircraft flying safely.”

It is great for our Guides, Volunteers and you, as a Member, to hear some praise for a job well done at our ever expanding / improving Museum telling the life story of TAA and its staff.

73rd Anniversary Luncheon

Monday 9th September was the actual anniversary date of TAA’s first scheduled revenue flight [Laverton to Sydney] and we managed to get everyone together at the William Angliss facility in the city to celebrate.



Needless to say, with raffle prizes like our wonderful ‘red’ being shared around, the Luncheon proceeded smoothly.

The big prize [time in the QF Simulator] went to Alan Evans.

And would you believe our three guests Tricia Sabey, Mike Sabey and Maria Bell each won one of our bottles of red!

Photo by John Wren

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We invited, as our special guests, Tricia Sabey, Maria Bell and Mike Sabey [*at left*] to the Foundation Day Luncheon. The ‘Sabey’s’ are the siblings of Ian Sabey, TAA’s first Public Relations Mgr, and they each spoke about their memories of their father and his time at TAA. Some of it was rather scary – the family had to move house due to the extreme animosity generated by ‘anti TAA activists’.

Also, in the picture [*at left*] seated at the dining table is the winner of our major raffle prize for two, Alan Evans. Alan will be going to the QF Simulator Centre and getting some flying time in one of the Simulators.

Photo by Arnold Rogers

We also had Col O’Brien [Foundation Member] attending, but an apology from Lance Erwin [Foundation Member] who had some medical appointments. Doc Brown indicated he would attend but unfortunately, he was not well on the day. Frank Sullivan [Life Member] also made it to the Luncheon enlivening the conversation. From interstate we had Geoff Litchfield and Geoff Tozer.

From the recent QF Staff Magazine

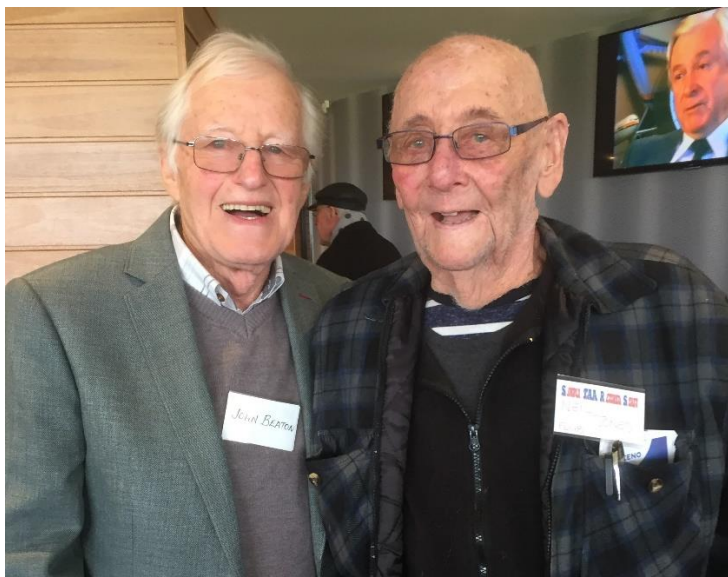
“At 5.45am on 9 September 1946, a new government-owned domestic airline, Trans-Australia Airlines (TAA) was launched when a war-surplus DC-3 coined *Hawdon* left Laverton near Melbourne for Sydney. Ticket number one was issued to its chairman, Arthur Coles. TAA eventually took over Qantas’ internal services in Australia and New Guinea to operate the largest domestic route network in the world. After a name change to Australian Airlines in 1986, it was bought by Qantas in 1992.” Also:-

“Staff travellers and duty travellers can now check in online for their upcoming trips on all international flights. Use [<https://www.qantas.com/au/en.html>] within two hours of flight departure for trans-Tasman flights, and four hours for all other international flights for your best chance of a seat. If you add your trip into the Qantas app, you’ll receive a digital boarding pass (and see if you got your upgrade). Staff and duty travel rules apply.”

The **QF Museum** in Sydney T3 will be closing on 31 October. It will reappear later in November at the Jet Base.

“QF have secured agreements with another four airlines to offer reciprocal Business Class to staff travellers. From today, those eligible can book (space available) Business Class on Air Canada, Alaska Airlines, Hong Kong Airlines and Airalin through myIDTravel. Since March this year we’ve partnered with a total of 10 airlines across the globe to offer this benefit (Cathay Pacific, Cathay Dragon, Etihad, Lufthansa, Swiss, Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, Eurowings, Air Canada, Alaska Airlines, Hong Kong Airlines and Airalin). There are terms and conditions unique to each agreement so make sure you familiarise yourself with each airline’s Q&A document [available on the Terminal](#) and in the Document Library on [Staff Travel Online](#) before booking.”

Recent Museum Visitor



At left, John Beaton [25 Year Club Life Member] and Neil Jones enjoying a catch-up. They were both in the apprentice class of 52 [airframe] working in Servicing Area [now Line Maintenance] until 1963 when Neil transferred to Darwin, where he spent the rest of his TAA days.

They were both at Footscray Tech before TAA, so their friendship goes back a long way.

Neil Jones visited the Museum with his daughter & husband after a long drive from Darwin. Neil wasn't confident in flying with his oxygen mask on all the time, hence the long drive. After spending some time at the Museum, we had a chat and I found out they were returning home the next day. I mentioned that the STAARS meeting was the next day, so plans were quickly changed resulting in Neil meeting up with John Beaton. Neil can now strike off visiting the TAA Museum from his bucket list. We heard later that Neil was in hospital after his return to Darwin. All the best Neil.

Expansion at the Museum



We recently purchase some new mannequins to allow display of yet more TAA uniforms that have been kindly donated. A production line was set up to assemble all the mannequins [knee bone connected to the thigh bone ...] ready for the dressing stage and placement within the Museum.

We are always looking for more uniforms to display, or as replacements for uniforms that were already damaged when we received them. It is also nice to be able to loan out uniforms for display at other Museums, Shows and functions. But we cannot do that if it is the only uniform we have [in many cases]. So, as you are going through your clothes cupboard and you notice that old TAA or Australian Airlines uniform item, or anything else similarly marked, please consider donating it to the Museum.

Photo by John Wren

Service Badges



Most of us hang on to our Service Badges - safely stored in the back of your bed-side draw. And so, it was with great surprise that we received a QF 45 year Service Badge from Steve Kinson [ex LAME MEL] to add to our incomplete collection. Thanks Steve.

Steve mentioned that there were also 50 year Service Badges [with 5 diamonds] 'out there' – Ray Splatt, John Beaton, Barry Twigg come to mind [In the QF system, Service Badges start at 10 years service through to 50 years service]

TAA started issuing their badges at 5 years service through to a max of 40. There were then 40 & 45 year badges from Australian Airlines along with the earlier years.

Photo by John Wren

Queensland News



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On Wednesday the 7th August the **South Queensland Chapter of the TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club** took part in a tour of the Port of Brisbane. The escorted tour begins with a view from the 7th floor observation deck and takes you through the Port precinct viewing the many aspects from automated container handling, automotive import, Grain and coal bulk handling, to the cruise line wharf for the larger ships that do not fit under the Gateway Bridge. Due to the severe drought the grain facility is importing feed for cattle instead of exporting. The Port boasts being the third largest in Australia and is expanding. In the photo from the left is Carol Barnes, Rob Arndt, Avon and Peter Evans, Peter Caldwell, Patty Coutts, Geoff Hill, Julie and David Walsh, John Coutts, Shirley and Brian Gallagher, Else Huffer, Lurl and Bob Merson, Meg Carrol, Helen Cridge, Gavin Harper, Jeff Huffer, Kerry Huston, Patrick Harrington. Our next outing is a BBQ in the countryside at Mt Mee approximately 90minutes from Brisbane.

The Birthday Plane



QF's 10th Dreamliner [VH-ZNL named Longreach] fresh out of Boeings paint shop sporting the 'Centenary livery' highlighting the evolution of QF logos since 1920 [above rear pax windows].

News from HARS

The latest Newsletter from HARS had the following article about 'our' DC-3 Hawdon:-

“**Airventure Australia**” general aviation spectacular was held at Parkes Airport from Friday 20 to Sunday 22 September. There were aviation seminars, aircraft on display and various flying demonstrations over the three days, capped off by a stunning display by a Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18 Hornet. Although the programme was interrupted on Saturday by a large dust storm, by all accounts the weekend was a success.

HARS Aviation Museum's Douglas DC-3 'Hawdon' flew to Parkes on the Sunday and was on static display for the day. Our Parkes museum also generated a great deal of interest, with numbers of visitors swelling considerably on the Saturday afternoon as people sought refuge from the dust storm.



New Book – “In Tropical Sky’s”

A history of Aviation to Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands has been captured by Tony McGrath’s new book; out now. TAA is of course featured [and the Museum provided input and a picture] – you can get a copy directly from the author at tony.mcgrath@hotmail.com for \$29.95 [includes postage]. We asked Volunteer Barry Gawne to review the book for you:-

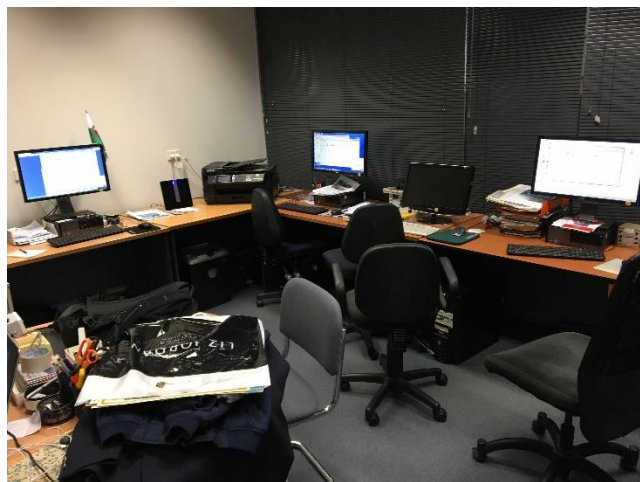
“Tony McGrath has written a very comprehensive and readable account of the development of air services to the Cocos (Keeling) and Christmas Islands, which together make up the Australian Indian Ocean Territories. The first aircraft to visit the Cocos Islands was a Catalina flying boat operated by the famous aviator P.G Taylor (later Sir Gordon), which left Rose Bay on June 3rd, 1939 on a government – sponsored survey to Africa. With the approach of WW2, the Australian Government needed to find an alternative route to England in the event of trouble with Japan. After some difficulty, Taylor landed on the lagoon and spent some days looking at possible sites for an airfield, however it was not until 1944 that the RAAF constructed a military airstrip on West Island. During the war the Japanese occasionally bombed the radio station on Direction Island, but failed to disable it. After the war, Qantas and other airlines began to use Cocos as a fuelling stop on the route to South Africa, and in 1952 the airfield was upgraded to civilian standard. In 1967 the Australian Government, which had taken over the administration of the islands from the Clunies-Ross family, contracted TAA and Ansett to operate regular services using Electra’s and later 727s, and in 1974 these were extended to Christmas Island, a short distance south of Java. TAA also flew occasional DC4 freighters to Cocos, often using this route for navigation training.

On one interesting trip, the islands failed to appear on schedule due to errors in astro-navigation causing some consternation. Eventually the Cocos non-directional beacon (radio navigation aid) was tuned and the aircraft was found to be several hundred miles off track. All in all, an interesting book although more detailed maps of the Islands would have been helpful.

Member Open Days

This month we had two Open Days for Metro Melbourne 25 Year Club Members – one during the week and one on Saturday. Those that attended enjoyed the talk about the Club and Museum whilst having a cuppa / biscuit and then had an escorted tour around the Museum. As everyone was ex Staff, we were able to go into greater detail about the memorabilia than with our normal tours. Everyone attending spoke highly of the Museum and the memorabilia on display which brought back many good memories.

Museum Office Upgrade



On Sunday 13 Oct we upgraded all the computers in the Museum office from Microsoft 7 to Microsoft 10. This was necessary as the version 7 is soon to be ‘unsupported’ [Jan 20] by Microsoft. The upgrade was fortunately free.

Upgrading is not for the feint hearted and is a massive job for just one computer – we have five!

This also meant upgrading our NAS Drive [not designed to function with MS 10] to allow it to continue backing up all our data. Great fun.

Photo by John Wren

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]

Dennis Ciprion	Perth	Aged 73	08/19
John Corby	Reg. Mgr Alice Springs	Aged 72	06/07/19
Capt. Dennis Godfrey	Flt Ops	Aged 95	02/09/19
Neill McDonnell	Marketing ATC		01/09/19
Ron Adams *	Supply MEL	Aged 82	04/09/19
John Mathews			11/08/19
Brad Roach	Ticketing	Aged 68	02/12/18
Ian McConachy	FEO		09/19
Bert Rothwell	Coach Driver	Aged 95	17/09/19
Anna Orfini	Librarian – TSD		27/08/19
Capt. Ted Rudge	Flt Ops	Aged 83	27/09/19
Peter Ryan	GM Eastern Australian - SYD	Aged 85	10/10/19
Ted Cassar	Maintenance – MEL	Aged 84	04/10/19
Peter Duffy	Maint. Foreman BNE		
Madonna Haughty	Flt. Att.	Aged 61	07/10/19

* Museum Volunteer and Life Member

*** Note the change from Commonwealth Bank electronic transfer details to Qudos Bank details. ***



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 or Money Order – 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': Qudos Bank BSB: 704 865 Account No.: 02190853
 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.

* Must have your name in the comment box or we don't know who has paid us. Thank you.