



TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

Newsletter No. 104 December 2019

Editor: John Wren

President's Report

- We should find out about the plans for **QF's 100th birthday** celebrations in early 2020 [the actual birthday is in November 2020 but they are using the whole year to maximise the exposure]. We are hopeful that the TAA Museum will be able to participate with a special display of QF historical material and memorabilia. More later.
- The Tour Groups to the Museum have just started to slow down ahead of our **closure for the festive season. Thursday pm the 5th December is our last day for 2019 – open again on Tuesday 4th February.**
- **We welcome Geoff and Vicki Kerton to the Museum as Volunteers.**
- Just a friendly reminder if you are having a clean up at home, or downsizing, we will look after your donations of TAA and Australian Airlines memorabilia at the Museum. It would be a shame to have the family throw it out.
- The Museum has **upgraded all its computers** to Windows 10 as Windows 7 will no longer be supported by Microsoft from early January. You might look at your own situation at home.
- An Age [24/10/19] review of **Hawaiian Airlines** concluded with “native birdsong plays on entry and exit, and traditional Hawaiian music as your coming in to land. This airline is also lucky – in 1941 one of the airlines old eight seater Sikorsky's was hit by Japanese fire at Pearl Harbour, which set an engine alight. Another stray bullet, however, hit a fire extinguisher, which put out the blaze!
- Well, it's another year gone with 2020 just around the corner. I would like to wish everyone a very **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year** on behalf of myself and the 25 Year Club Committee and Volunteers. It has been a great year at the Museum, the displays are continuing to get better, tours have increased as well as visitors / members just popping in for an hour or two. We've noticed an increase in young people that were not even born [makes you feel old doesn't it] when TAA was rolled into Qantas.

Newsletter

This is our 104th 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.

Next – a Convair 240 model



Another beautiful, and very accurate, model has been added to the Museum collection courtesy of Member & Volunteer **John Booth**.

VH-TAQ was the aircraft that flew the Queen around Australia in the early fifties; therefore it had the Queens 'ER' markings and flag [inserted outside pilot's window when taxiing].

A great effort John – thankyou.

News from HARS

“DC-3 ‘Hawdon’ clean and polish

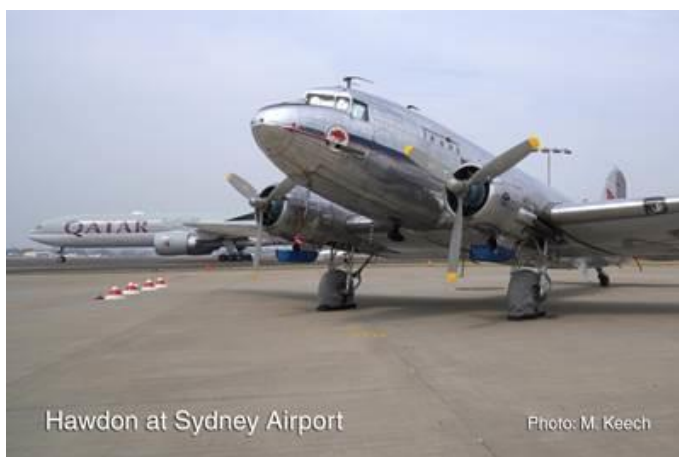
Work commenced at the beginning of October to polish the exposed metal surfaces of our DC-3 ‘Hawdon’ in preparation for some upcoming events. A large part of the work was completed by a team provided by Corrective Services as part of a reintegration program for inmates.

Hawdon was being prepared for a trip to Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport on 30 October where it was used as a backdrop to a black-tie dinner commencing celebrations to mark the centenary of Sydney Airport. Nigel Love conducted the first flight in November 1919 taking one passenger in an Avro 504 from a 200 acre paddock at Mascot that was leased from the Kensington Race Club. Today Sydney Airport handles over 44 million passengers each year. The airport is named for Australian aviator Sir Charles Kingsford Smith who pioneered the trans-Pacific route flying the Southern Cross from America to Australia in 1928.”



Hawdon at Sydney Airport

Photo: M. Keech



Hawdon at Sydney Airport

Photo: M. Keech

Film Night

The Civil Aviation Historical Society at Essendon Airport [cnr. Wirraway Rd and Shaw Crt] have arranged a film night on Friday 17 January 2020 at 7:30pm [their Museum will be open from 6:30 pm if you want to have a look]. The films themes will be Aviation Safety.

TAA's aircraft

Ever wonder what's happened to all of TAA's aircraft. Well, a lot of them have been cut-up, crashed or caught fire. However, Volunteer Alan Whatman has been able to track down all our aircraft that are still intact or flying. It's taken months of work, and my favourite has got to be the tiny Hiller 12C Helicopter that is still flying down at Leongatha, VIC, and 'Hawdon' of course. If you see any of these planes in your travels or know anything more about their status, please let me know.

Airbus A300-B4

VH-TAB - Currently with FLY-AIR, Turkey

VH-TAC - Currently with AMS Airlines Georgia [Republic of Georgia]

Boeing 727-76 /77

VH-TJD - Stored intact at Kemble Airport [UK] 11 May 2019

VH-TBS – Currently with Aviation Australia /Australian Training College, Queensland

Boeing 727-276

VH-TBK - 727 Communications, Stilling, Denmark used as a Board Room.

Douglas DC-3

VH-AER - On Display at West Lakes, Adelaide [on pole]

VH-AES – 'Hawdon' – At HARS, NSW and still flying strong.

VH-AEV - VH-SBI is on display at Goroka, Papua New Guinea.

VH-AFA - To be restored and placed on display at Saskatchewan Aviation and Learning Centre, Canada

VH-SBB – The remains are at Port Moresby.

VH-SBG - Donated to the Qantas Founders Museum [static display]

VH-SBW - Mounted on a pole outside Air New Guinea offices Port Moresby.

VH-TAE - Flying with Air Dakota National, Australia.

Convair 240-5

VH-TAS - Aircraft to be displayed at Proud Bird Restaurant near Los Angeles Airport 2011.
Currently status unknown.

Vickers Viscount 756/816

VH-TVL - Restored as accommodation at Possum Park, Queensland.

VH-TVR - On display at Moorabbin Airport VIC

VH-TVJ – Nose section only at Queensland Air Museum

Fokker F-27-200

VH-TFD - Last seen intact in derelict condition Banjul Airport, Gambia

VH-TFI - Donated to Pakistan Airforce for preservation and display

VH-TFK - Currently with Bolivian Army

De Havilland Canada DHC-3 Otter

VH-SBT - Currently with Osprey Wings, Canada

Consolidated Catalina

VH-SBV - To be restored in New Zealand Airforce colours in NZ.

De Havilland Canada DHC-6 Twin Otter

VH-TGC - Currently with Maldavian Air Taxis – [Maldives]

VH-TGE - Currently with Air Tindi, Canada

VH-TGF - Currently with Trans Maldavian Airways – [Maldives]

VH-TGG - Currently with Air Lovaute, New Caledonia

VH-TGH - Currently with Skydive Dubai, UAE

VH-TGI - Currently with Trans Maldavian Airways – [Maldives]

VH-TGU - Currently with Skydive Delmarva, U.S.

VH-TGV - Currently with Blue Wings Airlines, Suriname

VH-TGW - Based at Roatan, Honduras

Douglas DC-9-31

VH-TJK - Currently with Logistic Air but stored at Marana, US

VH-TJQ - Observed stored at Marana Intact March 2014

VH-TJT - Awaiting to be restored for Static Display at Grissom AFB Museum, Peru, Indiana, US

Fokker F-27-600QC

VH-TQN - Operated by Empire Airlines Inc as a Freighter as at 2005

VH-TQP - Registered to Fedex Corporation U.S.A but leased to Empire Airlines Inc

VH-TQS - Sold to Asia Avia, Indonesia in January 18, 2004

Boeing 737-376

VH-TAB - Currently with Cayman Islands

VH-TAG - Currently with Qantas Freight

VH-TAH - Currently with Comair, South Africa

VH-TAK - Currently with Comair, South Africa

VH-TAU - Currently with Qantas Freight / Express Freighters, Australia

VH-TAV - Currently with Comair, South Africa

VH-TAW - Currently with Qantas Freight

VH-TAY - Currently with Qantas Freight

Boeing 737-476

VH-TJE - Observed in a Hangar in Bogata - February 2019

VH-TJG - In Service with Toll Air Express, NZ
VH-TJI - Currently with Airwork / Toll Air Express, NZ
VH-TJJ - Currently with ASL Airlines, Hungary
VH-TJK - Stored at Victorville, US and offered for Immediate Sale
VH-TJM - Stored at Budapest, Hungary
VH-TJN - Currently with Samair, Slovakia
VH-TJO - Currently with TNT Airways - Austria
VH-TJQ - Currently with Toll Air, NZ
VH-TJR - Currently with Airwork / Parcelair, Australia
VH-TJS - Currently with Qantas Airways

Hiller 12C

VH-THA - Currently with Woorayl Air Services, Leongatha, Victoria

End of an era

From the QF Staff News “Friday Flyer” - This week we said goodbye to VH-OJU, the last 747 in our fleet powered by Rolls-Royce RB211 engines. Since 1999, the aircraft – also known as *Lord Howe Island* – has transported more than 2.5 million passengers and flown more than 70 million kilometres (that’s 95 return trips to the moon). OJU’s first commercial Qantas flight was QF11 (Sydney to Los Angeles) and its last was QF99 (our Sydney to Los Angeles). The aircraft will spend the next two years in Washington State being transformed into a flying testbed for Rolls Royce and go on to conduct testing for current and future jet engine technology. Over the next two years, technicians from engineering firm AeroTec will remove the 364 business, premium economy and economy seats to make room for the instruments and testing equipment for Rolls-Royce’s engine testing program.

Our QF 100th involvement

The exhibition[s] at State Museums [with TAA input] will begin in August 2020 in Brisbane at QLD Museum then the State Library of NSW and MV Scienceworks, then WA Museum with 3 months at each venue. A book is also in the pipeline.

STAARS



Our roving reporter and pic taker Sam Favazza found this group enjoying the November STAARS get together, from left, Moria Burgess, Mark Lazzarotti, Andrew McCullum, Gary Hall, Phil Klein and Craig Mitchell.

Dates for next year **11 February, 12 May, 11 August and 10 November**

Interesting Story – True?

We came across an interesting story about a 1970 Ford Falcon XY six door station wagon that recently came up for auction in QLD. According to the story it started life as a special order by BS Stilwell Ford in Melbourne for TAA in Hobart for use as a VIP limousine [this part of the story was also on ABC Radio]. Then in the late 70's went to Nauru as the President's limo. In the late 80's it returned to Australia. Lloyd's Actions in Brisbane was asking \$350K!!!!



The 6 door XY Falcon as it is now looking pretty good. The venetian blinds are a nice nostalgic touch.

We will try to find out how much it actually sold for.

Anyone from Tassie or HO know the true story?

And from the Archives

Alan Whatman discovered this interesting picture [below] taken at Essendon Airport in the 60's by Keith Hurwood showing a USAF Boeing RB-50F Superfortress having some engine work done by TAA staff. The RB-50F was one of 14 Superfortresses that were converted for aerial reconnaissance. Dwarfed by the Superfortress is our tiny [by comparison] Bell helicopter VH-THG.



HARS

Just in case you are planning a visit to HARS to see 'Hawdon' or any of the other aircraft hangered there, be aware of some changes. The airport has had a name change. What was previously known as Illawarra Regional Airport or Wollongong Airport (YWOL) is now to be known as Shellharbour / Wollongong Gateway Airport or Shellharbour Airport for short.

Rest assured though that HARS Aviation Museum is still located at Albion Park Rail regardless of the name of the airport.

Keen Eye

Murray and Ruth Koster were driving through Gladstone SA when they spotted a home built model aircraft on a pole in a backyard – resplendent in TAA colours.

They had visited the TAA Museum earlier this year and thought we might be interested in their find.

Can any of our SA Members shine any more light on how this model came to be mounted on a pole?



Forthcoming Club Outing [April / May 2020]

You will recall that we only had the 9th September ‘Foundation Day’ function this year – no Xmas function as many attendees drew our attention to the two get-togethers being very close together and they would only attend one. So, next year we are going to try a bold ‘experiment’ to see if we can get Members to try something a bit different. And to ensure we had a trip with something for everyone, your Editor visited the area to check it out. We’ll give you the date in the next Newsletter. So, here’s the deal:

Bus from the Museum [plenty of parking for your car] to Maldon where we will have a look around this tiny town with its interesting gold mining history [and lots of shops], have lunch at the Maldon Hotel [nice menu and food], and then catch the steam train to Castlemaine where we will have a good look around before heading home. Subject to availability we will have a local guide on the bus at either Maldon or Castlemaine. There won’t be a lot of walking, so everyone is able to enjoy the day. Convinced?

Below are some pics your Editor took while checking things out:



Above this is the beautiful steam engine that will take us from Maldon to Castlemaine – maybe in pullman coaches. It’s an oil burning engine and during refuelling I noticed they were using aircraft fuel hoses to top up the tanks from an oil carriage.



Above the Maldon service station straight out of the 1950’s – it doesn’t look like anything has changed right down to the cars that are being serviced. A real time capsule – you must have a look; unbelievable.



Far left an old time grocery store with a big ‘Bushells Tea’ sign at the front.

Left The main street at Maldon – typical country town with lots of people around the day we visited. Shops doing a good trade.

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]

Tom Smith	Traffic Officer	Aged 83	22/09/19
Rose Brennan	Hostess		11/10/19
June Nichol [Hunt]	Hostess	Aged 84	08/07/19
Neil Jones	Station Mgr DRW	Aged 83	28/10/19
Florence Cameron	Hostess	Aged 102	29/09/19
Ian Carter	Flight Ops		xx/09/19

*** 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 – 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.