



The arrival of the Airbus in 1981 caused a sensation regarding wide-bodied images of the airline. This cartoon was extracted from a well known newspaper and given to the museum, and although I recognize the face of the second hostess, I must admit I have forgotten her name, but it did highlight to the travelling public the difference in the aircraft spaciousness between the TAA Airbus A300 and the Ansett Boeing 767. The copy is in excellent condition and now on display in the

‘They also served...’

The *other* planes that made an airline. When the topic of conversation turns to TAA, most people think of Viscounts, Electra’s, 727’s, Airbus and the like, but TAA also had a fleet of ‘light aeroplanes’ which were purchased to service Intra-state routes, for pilot training, and for general duties.

One such type used was the **Piper Aztec**. The Piper Aztec was a successor to the earlier PA-23 Apache, and the Aztec 250 had larger O-540 engines and a modified empennage.

Piper initially allocated the designation PA-27 to the Aztec, as can be seen from the constructors numbers below, but the official designation remained the PA-23.

When a decision was taken by TAA in the early 1960’s to instigate a cadet pilot training scheme, the Commission decided to purchase a second hand Piper PA-23-250 Aztec from the Avis Rent-A-Car organization in Sydney for ab-initio twin training.

The first aircraft was purchased in early 1963, and this was followed by a second aircraft in mid 1964. The aircraft concerned were VH-AVS (27-354), and VH-AVT (27-405), and both aircraft had been modified to ‘long-nose’ Aztec B standard, and AVS had a Piper factory registration of N4795P, while AVT carried N4836P.

The first aircraft was VH-AVT. It was initially issued with a TAA registration of **VH-TGB** on April 4th 1963, but with the imminent arrival of another of TAA’s Intra-State/Third Level aircraft, the Beech Queen Air, which, it had been decided, would carry **VH-TGB** (for TAA General aviation Beech), the Aztec **VH-TGB** was hastily allocated the new registration **VH-TGO**. Unfortunately, due to an administrative error within the then Department of Civil Aviation, the registration **VH-TGO** was already being carried by a

Piper PA-28-235 Cherokee , and so with typical public service efficiency, a stroke of the pen and a flick of a brush **VH-TGO** was converted to **VH-TGQ** in August 1964.

The second machine, VH-AVS, became **VH-TGP** (for **TAA General aviation Piper**) on June 24th 1964. It was later transferred to Lae, Papua New Guinea as part of TAA's fledgling developmental airline operation in that country. Both aircraft served with TAA until December 1966 when they were retired. They languished for some four years at TAA's main base at Melbourne (Essendon) Airport, before being sold to local Piper dealers Civil Flying Services at Moorabbin , Victoria, in February 1971.

At the time of their withdrawal from service 'TGP had flown some 1,944 hours with TAA, while 'TGQ had an impressive tally of 3,314 hours.

After being on-sold by Civils, both aircraft went their separate ways, with 'TGP initially being purchased by Insurance Loss Adjusters of Richmond, Victoria in July 1971, and moving to Queensland in late 1972 with Seedair of Rockhampton. In May 1977 ownership finally passed to Truckmasters of Rocklea, Queensland. The aircraft was exported to Papua New-Guinea in April 1979 as P2-TGP.

'TGQ had a string of Victorian owners including Essendon based Omni Aviation, who used 'TGQ and another Aztec VH-PYY to fulfil a NAVY target towing contract. The aircraft being modified by the addition of a Bristol Beaufighter winch system for drogue trailing. Its' ultimate owners, Staywood Pastoral Company from eastern Victoria retired the aircraft in December 1983.



VH-TGP (27-354) awaits her next sortie at Essendon Maintenance Hangars in the late 1960's.
Photo.G,Bennett.

It's wonderful how many of these old photographs are able to be recovered and added to our collection to provide a comprehensive pictorial record of the aircraft within the fleet.

TAA Wings -still in the sky



Every Friday at Caboolture in Qld, a set of TAA wings takes to the air. They used to belong to Capt. Jim Murtha, who requested, through his friendship with a retired TAA LAME (engineer) Andy Logan, that they return to the air. This came about due to the friendship formed with now that both lived locally. Andy spent 40 years with TAA and eight years before that with A.N.A. retiring in May 1992

Aircraft Photographs - The early aircraft



Thanks to Ed Coates and Alan Whatman we are now recovering photographic records and pictures of some of our least known early aircraft, and in this case VH-AEZ parked outside the Essendon hangars. It is believed that this photograph was taken in the early 50's, and as more pictures come to hand we will include these in future newsletters.



Rare and unique – Photograph of Viscount VH-TVA on the tarmac at Darwin taken during the delivery flight, and although the colour slide is losing its texture you can still make out the registration letters on the tail.

Our photographic collections is now expanding thanks to aviation enthusiasts like Ed Coates, Gil White (Jnr) and others who will get a mention when their photographs are printed.

Hostess Log Book –

Recently donated to the museum was a Hostess Log Book, the property of one Helen Read (Somerville) who was the first Hostess Superintendent appointed in 1946, but the interesting part is that this log book is dated from 1940 when Helen joined ANA as a new Air Hostess.

This is a rare gem with lots of information giving an insight into the years before TAA came into being, and although not our history it is an invaluable record of life before TAA, and the changes that came into effect after TAA was created.

Who said history was boring?

First Club Outing - RACE DAY Moonee Valley RACE DAY

Sure to be enjoyable, with a great view of the track supported by a sumptuous 3 course lunch and \$5.00 'gaming' voucher.

Saturday 27th May 2006

Venue **MOONEE VALLEY TABARET – 1200 Hours**

Cost to Members /Partner **\$ 20.00 per person**

Non-members/Guest **\$27.00 per person**

Closing date Tuesday 16th May 2006 – Please book early as seats are limited

-----Return this section to -----

Mr. Ross McDonald Events Co-ordinator
TAA 25 Year Club Inc
Level 11
50 Franklin Street
Melbourne 3000

MOONEE VALLEY RACE DAY



Member / Partner name/s

Non-member / Guest

Enclosed is my Cheque / Money order / other for \$..... Cheques / Money orders to be made payable to **TAA 25 Year Club inc. please.**

-----CUT HERE-----

SECOND CLUB OUTING

Trip to the Dandenongs – Smorgasbord Lunch at the Cuckoo Restaurant

Date Tuesday 11th July 2006

Cost Member / Partner \$30.00 per person

Non member /Guest \$ 38.00 per person

Pickup points Airport West 0900 – between Safeways and Skyways Hotel

Therry St 0930 – rear of Qantas House

Seats are limited – Please book early – Closing date 27th June 2006

-----Return this section to -----

Mr. Ross McDonald Events Co-ordinator
Level 11
50 Franklin Street
Melbourne 3000

Dandenong Tour

PICK UP POINT Airport West (circle one only please)
Therry st

Member / Partner name/s

Non-member / Guest

Enclosed is my Cheque / Money order / other for \$..... Cheques / Money orders to be made payable to **TAA 25 Year Club inc. please.**

Joke

Three Aussies and three Kiwis are travelling by train to a cricket match at The World Cup in England. At the station, the three Kiwis each buy a ticket and watch as the three Aussies buy just one ticket between them.

"How are the three of you going to travel on only one ticket?" Asks one of the Kiwis. "Watch and learn," answers one of the Aussies. They all board the train.

The Kiwis take their respective seats but all three Aussies cram into a toilet and close the door behind them. Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the toilet door and says, "Ticket please." The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on. The Kiwis see this and agree it was quite a clever idea.

So after the game, they decide to copy the Aussies on the return trip and save some money (being clever with money, and all that).

When they get to the station, they buy a single ticket for the return trip. To their astonishment, the Aussies don't buy a ticket at all!!

"How are you going to travel without a ticket?" says one perplexed Kiwi.

"Watch and learn," answers an Aussie. When they board the train the three Kiwis cram into a toilet and soon after the three Aussies cram into another one nearby.

The train departs. Shortly afterwards, one of the Aussies leaves the toilet and walks over to the toilet where the Kiwis are hiding. He knocks on the door and says, "Ticket please".

Membership renewal – Just a note to advise all that membership renewal is 1st of July 2006, and that all members should check their envelopes (not email recipients) for the code on the address sticker which indicates financial status (ie FM06 indicates that you are financial until June 2006, - anything earlier like FM04 indicates that you were financial only until June 2004). Widows and surviving partners will not have any numerals following the 'FM' coding and do not have to subscribe as this is a member service provided free of charge.

Membership renewal - Subscription remains at \$20.00 per annum

To Mr Ross McDonald Membership Co-Ordinator

TAA MUSEUM
11th Floor
50 Franklin Street
Melbourne 3000

Please make payment payable to
TAA 25 Year Club Inc.

Receipt # and year

Invalid until endorsed

Members name

Address

Suburb

State

Postcode

Phone #

Email address

Vale

Max Miller, Holiday Travel / International Travel in Sydney (Elizabeth Street) Feb 2006.

Bob Ford - Flight Engineer Officer - aged 61 February 2006

Bob was part of the 13th Graduation of apprentices for the Airline, and an airframe LAME, later to become a Flight Engineer on the B727.

Paul Macnamara, former Manager UK & Europe passed away in London on 4th February 2006 aged 64, Paul held various roles in the Holiday Marketing Department before moving to London as Tours Officer, succeeding Ken Newman as Manager. He is survived by wife Lisa and children Christian and Seana.

Keith Torr - electrician – Melbourne - March 2006

Capt John Ryde - Flight crew operations (aged 81) - march 2006

STAARS DATES (Strictly Retired TAA Staff)

From small beginnings this get together has grown just as the membership of our 25 Year Club has expanded and the last meeting of STAARS at Moonee Valley TAB was indeed a memorable one with over 180 ex TAA employees attending the luncheon, including a number of new members who had come at the invitation of permanent attendees.

Just as a reminder the luncheons will be held on the following dates for the remainder of this year. If you wish to attend please contact Lance Erwin on 9386-4056 or John Edwards on 9337-3810 or Ken Francis on 9338-3549

30th May 29th August 21 November

The Worlds Shortest Fairy Tale Once upon a time, a guy asked a girl "Will you marry me?"

The girl said "No." And the guy lived happily ever after and went golfing and fishing and to the footy a lot. THE END