

Newsletter 52

August 2007

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Editor – James Meehan

By now many have received the news that the museum has been successfully re-located to our new facilities in Airport West, and that your history is now on display. The area which is much larger than Franklin St, allows us to get out many of our hidden treasures, and we have filled this area after carefully designing the 'tour' pathways to accommodate up to 30 people at one time, which is the average size of the groups booked in between July and December. It is as promised, a kaleidoscope of colour that attracts the eye from every direction, and many historic pieces previously stored are now on display.

This has all been possible in such a short time with the dedicated labour of our volunteers -

Ron Adams, who attended as often as I did.

George Wren, head painter and general handyman.

Alan Nock, invaluable in storeroom arrangement and item location.

Dorothy Tuff, still our photographic positive sorter, who is accompanied by -

Lois Gale, a true trooper who sticks at the task.

Don Owen, light duties and office control.

Ross McDonald, manages to maintain his sanity in the office area and handle outings and membership.

Keith Holland - General handyman and display organiser

Bill Mc Guinness, our chief heavy maintenance engineer and general handyman.

Eden Joseph, a recent recruit who is endeavouring to convert VHS cassettes to DVD, a daunting task.

Kelvin Hawthorn, persisting with the 35MM slide recognition and slide displays

Allan Bunker, concentrating on ANSETT (since retiring) memorabilia and maintaining our inventories.

Alan Whatman, composing the slideshow displays of all Australian aircraft registrations

Helen Stanley, invaluable with uniforms and dressing of our mannequins, wig and makeup, aided by-

Deb Thomsom, manages to keep us all smiling whilst assisting with the variety of chores.

Barry Gawne, prepared to tackle awkward and difficult arrangement jobs, with is offsider -

Jim More, who loves his packet of chips for lunch.

Peter Brocchi, recently joined our group and is able to assist anywhere he is directed.

Robert Masters, discusses engineering problems before commencing work.

David Laurie, QANTAS liaison, QF memorabilia control, and Club secretary.

Frank Sullivan, Treasurer who has a had a few building tips and lessons from -

Max Bomford, handyman and shelving expert.

Ron Austin, still flying high and general good guy with a hammer and carpenters tools.

Roy McLean from both Point Cook and AirServices Museums, - a valuable asset.

Murray Watson, general 'gopher' and able to assist everyone.

Alan Swanson - Handyman and general helper with all chores.

Ian Johnson, another engineer and all round handyman.

Michael Kelly, construction and general handyman

James Meehan - a special thankyou to all, and a great team effort, you can be proud of your achievements.





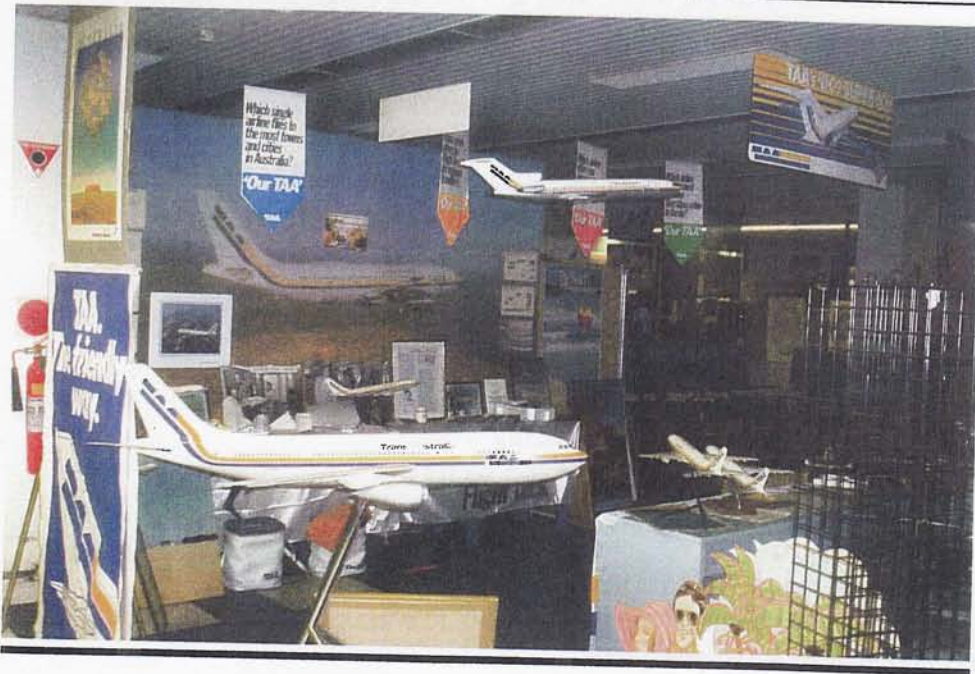
Our entrance – Once again the name of Trans-Australia Airlines appears in the public arena, but this time as the repository for the history of an era that had the greatest influence on aviation in Australia. This era provided some ‘Aussie know how’ in aircraft development and few people realise TAA’s input to the development of the FOKKER F27, and later, with the cockpit arrangement of the revised cockpit of the Boeing 737, which TAA ensured was modernised to include ‘today’s’ technology.



The corner of Matthews Ave and York Street further directs your attention to our location, and recently our sign was upgraded with a RED arrow to point you to the location.

As a passing note –

I am pleased to report that since opening to the employees passing through this facility, we have had a very positive reaction although many were not born when TAA changed its name to AUSTRALIAN Airlines



Looking across from the 1946 era you can preview the 1980’s BUT the pathway is blocked and you have to progressively reach and then enter each appropriate area – vis The 50’s, 60’s, 70’s, 80’s, and the 90’s, leading into the QANTAS display.

We have about 34,000 items on display, and all pertinent to the era displayed. Visitors are astounded at the extent of our display

Yes it is colourful, but then again TAA was a colourful and exciting airline of change and challenge



The beginning of the ANA and ANSETT-ANA display commences with an early ANA Hostess uniform, another valuable contribution to the visual history of early Australian Aviation. I would point out that the TAA hostesses in the background are not turning their backs on this other mannequin, it was just that the display happened to create this situation, but you must admit it does add 'colour' to the display. These were great days which created many good friendships.



The last segment of the walk before you enter the 'café' area is of course the QANTAS display, and thanks to Lynley, Des, Belinda, and Lynette, we have acquired a copy of the 1964 Hostess uniform, now strategically placed beneath the Boeing 707 model VH-EAB, and aircraft that TAA chartered on a number of occasions over Christmas back in the 60's and 70's. Although incomplete when this photograph was taken, this display contains visual records of QANTAS' 50, 70 and 85th birthdays, the last, in the form of a video display.

This larger area has allowed us to display our 3.3 metre schematic of the wiring diagram (dated 26<sup>th</sup> August 1944) for the conversion of the C47 to DC3 configuration, and the 3 metre painting schematic for the repaint of VH-AES when it was extricated from the 'coat hanger' outside Tullamarine terminal, and the complete maintenance manual for the entire Douglas C47, DC3 aircraft which today looks like a handbook compared to the manuals on aircraft like the Airbus A300B4 and all subsequent aircraft.

## Joke

The secret to the longevity of the Italian Marriage – or so I am told.

At the husband's marriage seminar at the local church, the Priest asked Luigi on his upcoming 50th wedding anniversary, to take a few minutes and share some insight into how he managed to stay married to the same woman all these years.

Luigi replied to the audience "Well, I've-a tried to treat-a her well, spend-a the money on her, but-a, da best-a is-a dat I took her to Italy for the 20th anniversary!

The Priest immediately commented, "Luigi, you are an amazing inspiration to all the husbands here! Please tell the audience what you are planning for your wife for your 50th anniversary..."

Luigi proudly replied, "I'm-a gonna go and-a get her."

**Video** — a TAA \ Australian airlines production of the museum.

Our next task will be to produce a video, with commentary, for those members who are unable to visit the facility due to distance, ill health or live interstate and seldom visit Melbourne.

We propose to supply this 'free of charge' for financial members (on request), and at a cost for all other requests. It will also be on sale at the museum to groups and visitors in an endeavour to recover some of the cost of the re-establishment of the museum.

Needless to say this will be a promotional video, sent to our 'pollies' (selective) to encourage their support for our efforts to retain this 'recent' history, and to Tourism Victoria, in an endeavour to further promote our facility and encourage the donation of material that we may not as yet have recovered.

## **September outing – TAA's birthday**

Come and enjoy our annual dinner to celebrate the birth of your airline at William Angliss, 550 Lt Lonsdale Street, Melbourne on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2007.

Pre-dinner drinks at 6.30pm, followed by a three course meal at 7.15pm with liquid refreshments of beer, wine and soft drinks included in the price.

Cost per member/partner is	\$38.00 per person
Non member/partner /guest	\$44.00 per person

Seating is limited so please be early in booking.

RSVP by 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2007-07-14

-----Cut here -----

To Mr. Ross McDonald Events Coordinator  
TAA 25 Year Club inc  
1-7 York Street  
Airport West

### **ANNUAL DINNER**

Enclosed is my cheque/money order/other to the value of \$..... for member/partner .....

Non member/partner /guest .....

Please make all cheques/money orders payable to TAA 25 Year Club inc  
Cheque number ..... M/Order number -----

## Donations.

Since moving to this larger facility we have received numerous phone calls offering more memorabilia, much of which is family oriented and relevant to our history, some for sale by collectors (much of which we already have) and we have accepted and acknowledged personal effects from wartime pilots, and other employees who left during the 50's and 60's, and numerous small items - a veritable treasure trove of early TAA.

We have also received calls from the entrepreneurs, wishing to retail their wares (on commission) through the museum. All will be considered by our current committee, and we propose to establish a separate Museum committee to operate and administer these activities to ensure the separation of the 25 Year Club activities and finances from those of the museum.

And speaking of donations, we propose that entry to the museum will be free for financial (and specifically identified members) and we will apply a 'donation' policy to all other visitors with discounts for seniors, common interest groups and schools.

## Travel on PUFFING BILLY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2007

Our October outing should prove to be exciting as we travel by coach to Belgrave to join PUFFING BILLY for the journey to LAKESIDE where we will have a picnic lunch on arrival.

SEATING IS LIMITED SO PLEASE BOOK EARLY                      PICK UP POINTS  
AIRPORT WEST      0745 (Park between SAFEWAY petrol & SKYWAYS HOTEL)  
THERY STREET      0815

RSVP by 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2007 PLEASE                      It should be a great day.

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

To Mr. Ross McDonald Events Coordinator

TAA 25 Year Club inc

1-7 York Street

Airport West

TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

PUFFING BILLY

Enclosed is my cheque/money order/other to the value of \$..... for

Member /partner                      \$ 32.00 per person

Non member/partner /guest      \$ 39.00 per person

Please make all cheques/money orders payable to TAA 25 Year Club inc

Cheque number ..... M/Order number -----

**Member / Partner .....**

**Non member/partner/Guest-----**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2007**

PICKUP POINT PREFERED

AIRPORT WEST 0745

(circle one only please)

THERY STREET 0815

# Vale

Ken Kennett - Marketing Director – June 2007.

Allan Sibald - Engineering June 2007.

Kevin Musgrove - Flight Engineer – June 2007.

Alec Algie - Communications Engineering Melbourne -May 2007.

Bob Bamford Engineering Tech = Melbourne May 2007.

Gary Missen – Vic sales – May 2007

Quenton Maloney –Chief Despatch Officer – Mascot April 2007.

Barry Shute – Despatch Operations Mascot – June 2007.

Cpt. Laurie Mackay – Flight Ops Sydney - August 2006.

## **Membership Renewal - 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007.**

For those people who have misplaced the form, we ask you to refer to the code on the Address sticker on your envelope to identify your financial status (members whose stickers indicate FM08 and above are subscribed through until the last 2 digits indicating the year, ie ((FM) 08 = 2008)- FM07 and less indicates your membership needs renewing.

### **Membership renewal - Subscription remains at \$20.00 per annum**

To Mr Ross McDonald

Membership Co-Coordinator

TAA 25 Year Club Inc

C/o QANTAS EP BUILDING

**Please make payment payable to**

1-7 York Street

**TAA 25 Year Club Inc.**

Airport West 3042

Victoria

Name ..... Partner name .....

Address

(No.)..... (Street).....(Suburb).....P/Code

Contact/s Phone Mobile

Email (for newsletter- please mark clearly) .....@.....

Work history From to

Worked (area).....

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This area will be endorsed and returned with the next newsletter once subscription is received.

Membership Number

Receipt Number

Valid until 1<sup>st</sup> July

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Thank you

Signed