

Newsletter 60

May 2009

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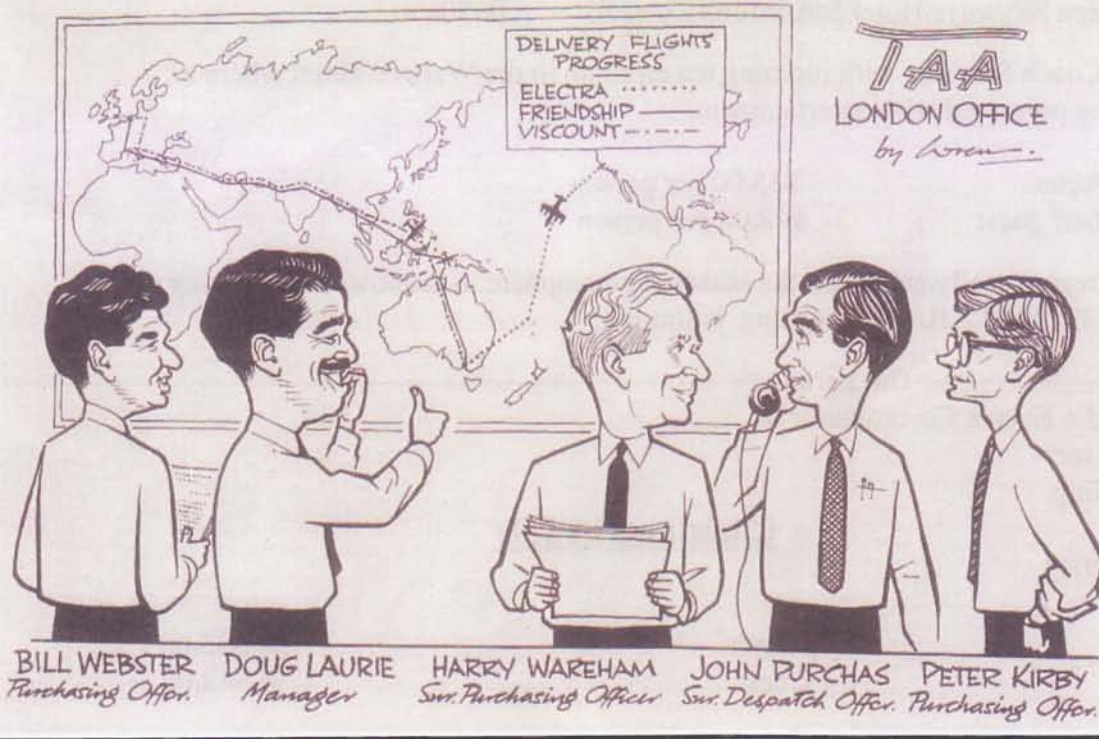
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Chris Wren needs no introduction to our readers. His work is known in aviation circles all over the world and of course his occasional contributions to AIRCRAFT began many years ago. With this issue he begins a new series for AIRCRAFT — Australians In London. The TAA team below may not have the worries evident at the time Wren looked in on them — but the pure jet deliveries are yet to come! Quite recently Chris made one of his periodic visits to Australia. Interspersed with the London series will be a Wrecond of his wanderings here. A change in TAA's London managership takes place shortly. Ross Meehan replaces Doug Laurie who returns to Australia after 5 years in London.



Above — Found in a Aircraft magazine dated February 1960, the article referred to TAA's London Office where TAA was busy accepting Vickers Viscount and FOKKER F27 aircraft for delivery to Australia as well as the Lockheed Electra aircraft from America. Familiar faces and names bought back some fond memories of the people depicted, some characters in their own right, but reflecting the team work required to ensure a smooth operation. Doug Laurie had previously been the Traffic Manager before his posting, and was to be replaced by Ross Meehan (no relation), and the other returned to Australia when the difficult parts had been successfully completed.

Looking for —

Cliff Sedgman is looking for a TAA 15 year badge and as some people were given 2 of these in a mix up of paperwork, we would be grateful if you have a spare badge and are willing to contact the museum (03 92808113) to complete Cliff's collection, he would be most grateful.

Another Museum to Tour –

For members who live in the west and want somewhere to spend some time then I would recommend the Broadmeadows Historical Society located opposite the Broadmeadows Shopping centre on Pearcedale Pde, Broadmeadows. A real time capsule of the history of the Broadmeadows area with lots of helpful volunteers to answer your questions and lots to see.

Club Outing - Christmas in July - Wallace Hotel (near Ballarat)

Date 14th July 2009.

Depart Therry Street (rear of old TAA building) at 0820am or
Airport West (between Skyways Hotel and Safeway petrol) 0850am

Travel by Western Coach Services with morning tea en route to the Wallace Hotel where a 3 course meal will be presented with entertainment.

COST Member/Partner \$35.00 per person
Non member/ guest \$42.00 per person

Our last trip to this region really enhanced the seasonal atmosphere as it snowed on the way up.
RSVP NO LATER THAN 2nd JULY as seating is limited.

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

Mr. Ross McDonald – Events Co-ordinator
TAA 25 Year Club inc.
QANTAS EP Building
1-7 York Street
Airport West 3042

Christmas in July

Members name	/partner	@ \$35.00
Non Member	/ Guest	@ \$42.00

Please find enclosed my Cheque (Number) or other to the value of \$ and please ensure that it is marked payable to TAA 25 Year Club inc.

Preferred Pickup up point circle one only

Therry St

Airport West

It will be a great day

Changes to staff travel –

QANTAS have advised that the fuel surcharges that were imposed on domestic staff travel tickets has been removed (as of 1st of January 2009).

On 2nd February QANTAS introduced the following –

100% e-Ticketing for all QANTAS Operated Services

The introduction of a service fee for international bookings not made using Staff Travel Online.

Changes to Sydney Staff Travel Counter Services – this is now limited to ticket pickup only.

Membership – Just a reminder for those people who may not have renewed their membership – Check the coding on the label on your envelope and the last digit indicates the year that subscriptions are paid up to. **Subscriptions are renewed at the end of June, so if the code is 09 or less then its time.**

Membership renewal - Subscription remains at \$20.00 per annum

To Mr Ross McDonald Membership Co-Ordinator
TAA 25 Year Club
7 York Street
Airport West
Melbourne 3042

MEMBER FRIEND of Museum ASSOCIATE

Please make payment payable to
TAA 25 Year Club Inc.

Receipt # and year

Invalid until endorsed

Renewable as from 1st
July each year

Member name	
Address	
Suburb	Postcode
Phone	Mobile
Email	Other TAA details
Join date	Leave date

Looking for –

Our collection of paintings of the aircraft TAA introduced over the years is apparently missing the Convair. We would dearly love to include this in the collection but to date have not had any success in locating it. So if you are aware of its location or anyone who knows of its whereabouts please contact the museum. Monday to Thursday 10am to 2.30 pm

New Museum Committee –

The first meeting of interested parties willing to join and establish a working committee will be held on 28th May 2009. Again this will be run in conjunction with the TAA 25 Year Club and 25 Year committee, but be independent in its operation and hopefully in time be self sufficient. You will be advised of the elected members in the next newsletter.

Museum assistance -

With the growth in Museum visits by groups, we are looking for volunteers to help on the days when groups are booked and who are willing to come in on an ad hoc basis when and where necessary. Currently we need people on Mondays and Tuesdays.

If you are willing to give it a try then please contact Jim Meehan at the Museum on 9289 8114 or on the mobile 0438 540 842.

Jokes

Mick & Paddy are visiting the UK and enter church grounds to read the head stones at the cemetery. Mick say 'Crikey! There's a bloke here who was 152!' . Paddy says 'What's his name?' Mick replies 'Miles from London !

And

An elderly man in Queensland had owned a large property for several years. He had a dam in the next paddock fixed up nice - picnic tables, horseshoe courts and some mango and avocado trees. The dam was properly shaped and fixed up for swimming when it was built.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the dam as he hadn't been there for a while to look it over. He grabbed a five gallon bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the dam he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee.

As he came closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny- dipping in his dam. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end. One of the women shouted to him " We're not coming out until you leave!" The old man frowned. "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked, or make you get out of the dam naked." Holding the bucket up he said "I'm here to feed the crocodile."

MORAL: OLD MEN MIGHT WALK SLOW BUT THEY CAN STILL THINK FAST.

Growing collection -



Helen Stanley and Elizabeth King have an enviable task of dressing and setting up the mannequins in the museum, of which there are 23, and just in case you have problems recognising them, the one in the middle is the mannequin being dressed in Ansett's Beehive uniform, Liz is on the left and Helen on the right.

And Ray Splatt is adding to our ever growing DVD conversions with a total of 51 old films now being available on DVD. Great job Ray



Dorothy Tuff and Lois Gale hard at work sorting, identifying and cataloguing some of the myriad of photographs from around Australia and from many sources, some unidentifiable.

Needless to say their efforts are paying dividends when it comes to request for photographs of people or planes employed by TAA and Australia, as we are now able to respond to email or mail requests for copies. Thanks Girls for your dedication and patience.

What can't we do –

Thanks to Roy McLean, our man of many talents, the large Airbus model that arrived without any wings (which somebody has and the body of our Boeing 737 – we have the 737 wings) is now again complete. Roy's workshop, his friends and associates have produced a new set of wings as good as the original but with some distinguishing improvements to add to the realism – delicate hand made fan blades. This was indeed a daunting task which has taken quite some time to complete. Thanks Roy and please pass on our thanks to your 'apprentices'.

Group visits – Thanks to our bus contacts, Probus Groups and association with QANTAS and Jetstar, we are experiencing quite large groups, up to 70 at a time, visiting the museum, and even attracting smaller specialised groups seeking a day out for their patients. To this end we have ensured that wheelchairs will fit through every aisle, and we are also grateful that our new facilities have facilities for the disabled.

STAARS LUNCHEONS - There are 2 remaining luncheons for 2009 –
18th of August and **24th of November**
Venue Moonee Vallet Tabaret Thomas Street Moonee Valley

A regular crowd of approximately 170 ex TAA staff attend and enjoy the company of ex work mates from many departments. If you have not been before and need further information - Contact Lance Erwin on 93864056

Thought this may be of interest.



Rare photograph of a Vickers Viscount, and yes it is fitted with jet engines. I do not have a lot of information concerning this aircraft but if someone can help then I would be most grateful and be able to complete the section on unusual aircraft types and development.

I do know that it was referred to as the Tay Viscount, that it was the last of many prototypes of experimental jet liners, and that its engines were based on the Dart design as used in the engines of the turbo prop airliners.

Promotion of the Museum – We continue to receive great support from Tim Acton and his talks to Probus and retiree groups about the travel industry and his experiences and Tim always manages to 'slip in' a 'plug' for the TAA museum. This has proven very beneficial as we have an ever increasing number of bus tours as a result of these talks. Thanks Tim.

We also have an arrangement now with 3 bus companies, Westrans, CoachWest and Jim's Tours who are recommending the museum as 'an interesting destination' and are booking a couple of months in advance.

Our website is receiving increasing 'hits' and generating requests for information, pictures and people profiles. Although not as yet completed, the website is becoming the recorded history reference point for many aviation enthusiasts, foreign travel and hospitality promoters who are seeking to unite their identity with our site.

Joke

Mitral Steel, feeling it was time for a shake-up, hired a new CEO and the new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers.

On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning on a wall.

The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business.

He walked up to the guy leaning against the wall and asked, 'How much money do you make a week?'

A little surprised, the young man looked at him and replied, 'I make \$400 a week. Why?'

The CEO then handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and screamed, 'Here's four weeks' pay, now GET OUT and don't come back.'

Feeling pretty good about himself the CEO looked around the room and asked, 'Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here?'

From across the room came a voice - - - 'He's the Domino's Pizza delivery guy!!!'

Thought for the day It's nice to be important, but it's important to be nice

Vale

Paul Portelli – Engineering Maintenance Planning - Melbourne – May 2009.

Paul supported the 25 Year Club, attending many outings with wife Jenny, whilst being a keen collector of military medals and memorabilia which he would proudly display every ANZAC day at the retirement village. Paul's energetic activities as a retiree and a passion to travel to new and interesting places extended these ambitions. His recent trip through Egypt unfortunately exposed health problems that were the cause of Paul's passing. Our sincere sympathy to Jenny and the family.

Captain Ted Munro – Flight Operations – November 2008

Captain Tom Linney – Flight Operations – September 2008.

Barry McKay - Engineering Melbourne - February 2009.

Charlie Major – Sheet Metal & Inspection – Essendon – August 2007. (belatedly)

William 'Bill' Major – Sheet Metal Section – Essendon – February 2009.

F/E Bob Marshall – Flight Operations – Melbourne – April 2009.

Ron Moffatt - Engineering Melbourne – April 2009.

Bill Davey – Supply Purchasing Melbourne – April 2009.