

TAA 25 Year Club Newsletter 64 (May, 2010)

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Passing the baton.

At our recent 25 Year Club AGM, our long serving President, Jim Meehan announced that after 14 years in the position he will step aside. Jim will continue to serve on the committee

With Jim's appointment as President in April 1997 significant changes were made to the club. Previously the club raised funds through raffles each year. This was indeed hard work for small reward. Instead, it was decided to introduce a yearly membership. This change to constant revenue flow allowed us the funds to buy computers, and other equipment, to develop and improve the 25 Year Club..

Jim started a regular newsletter which was a means of keeping in touch with our members and advising them of changes to staff travel and other items of interest. Feedback regarding the newsletter has always been excellent, including "I am too old to attend functions, but I like to keep informed through the newsletter."

In this era the 25 Year Club started to have more functions for members. We have some 7 or 8 functions a year, which is great for us to all get together and reminisce about the good old days. We were all very fortunate to work for the great airlines TAA and Australian. These functions have been organised by our long serving Events Coordinator Ross McDonald.

During Jim's era, the biggest thing to happen to the 25 Year Club was the formation of the TAA Museum. Back on the 9th June 1993 the then CEO of Australian Airlines, John Schaap sent a letter out to all staff advising that the airline was starting to collect the history of both TAA and Australian and that memorabilia was to be sent to 50 Franklin Street c/o Judy Flower. Judy was appointed controller of the in-coming memorabilia.

Little did John Schaap realise what he had started and how the museum was to grow with Australian Airlines giving the museum space on the 11th floor. This is when things started to happen. The 25 Year Club blossomed under Jim's 'umbrella' developing the museum even further.

It was around this time that we heard that Qantas were going to sell Franklin Street and there was concern about the future of the museum. An approach was made to a very senior person resulting shortly thereafter an offer for our relocation to the Qantas Centre at Airport West. The space we were offered was the old TAA computer centre – it felt like home!

Jim, joint curator Ron Adams and their band of volunteers then started the huge task of moving the vast amount of memorabilia into our current home. The task was made easier with the great support Qantas gave us. Soon the museum started to grow and the word spread of the fantastic history on display, and more memorabilia was donated to us. The volunteers have done a brilliant job.

Groups (bus loads) and individuals from not only airline backgrounds are now accommodated on our tours over the museum to see the great aviation history that is now on display (now including a broad cross section of Australian aviation).

One of the great pieces of history we have on display are letters written by Reg Ansett to the Federal Government back in 1945, on Ansett letterhead, offering the government his airline rather than proceed with setting up their own airline. Fortunately the government decided to go ahead and form TAA.

The club was very honoured last year when the former chairperson of Qantas, Margaret Jackson, agreed to become patron of the museum committee.

With the museum now well established, Jim and his wife Gina are proposing to travel to the outback of Australia. Jim, **a great job well done!**

Membership Renewal 2010 - 2011. It's that time again.

Please mail the membership form below to: Ross McDonald, TAA Museum, Qantas GT Building, 7 York Street, Airport West 3042.

<p>Please find enclosed my cheque / money order for \$20.00 for my membership of the TAA 25 Year Club (make payable to "25 Year Club").</p> <p>NameSpouse Name.....</p> <p>Address.....</p> <p>Suburb.....StateP/Code.....</p> <p>Phone.....Mobile.....</p> <p>E-mail:.....</p> <p>Date Joined TAA..... Date left.....</p>	<p>This official receipt will be endorsed once your Subscription is received.</p> <table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="1107 1111 1423 1317">New receipt number</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="1107 1267 1423 1317">Valid to July 2011</td></tr></table> <p>Signed</p> <p>Date.....</p>	New receipt number	Valid to July 2011
New receipt number			
Valid to July 2011			

Membership Arrears

It seems that we have about 300 of our members that are not financial this year. If you are currently in arrears, it would make a real difference to the 25 Year Club if we could also receive your current year's membership fee with the above renewal for next financial year.

You can tell if your current years membership has been paid or not by looking at the envelope that this Newsletter came in. If it has "FM10" or a lower number, you are not currently financial. Again, thank you for your continuing support.



Tribute to a Legend – DC3 ‘Joseph Hawdon’. Reg: VH-AES

Originally, the aircraft was built in the US by the Douglas Aircraft Co. in 1942 at a cost of \$96,497.00.

Beginning its career as a US military transport, the aircraft started flying under the glamorous name of ‘Shanghai Lil’ and flew to Australia on courier services; arriving at Archerfield on 12th June 1943. It did a number of return flights to the United States before being handed over to the Australian National Airways, acting on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia.

It was registered as VH-AES on the 4th of September 1944. On 9th July 1946, with 7237 hours in its log book, it was delivered to the Australian National Airlines Commission, trading as Trans Australia Airlines.

On the 9th September 1946 Hawdon operated TAA’s first service from Melbourne to Sydney. It continued in service for TAA until 26th June, 1959 after which it was sent north to New Guinea to become part of the TAA Sunbird Fleet. The aircraft was retired from airline service on 19th July 1973.

For some 6 years the aircraft did very little flying. Around 1980, Hawdon was put on static display at the front of Melbourne Airport. In mid 1987 Hawdon Operations Ltd was formed for the purpose of restoring Hawdon to flying condition. The work was carried out by engineers and volunteers and an investment of approximately one million dollars from Australia Airlines. The work was completed in time for Hawdon to return to the air on 9th September 1988, the 42nd anniversary of the TAA’s first flight. Hawdon flew in the great air race round Australia, and we are told, it finished a credible 13th.

The aircraft was then used by Australia Airlines for promotional purposes and charity work. On Good Friday the aircraft was used for joy flights for the Children’s Hospital. Many thousands of dollars were raised by these flights for this worthy cause.

The TAA 25 Year Club has had the pleasure of using this wonderful aircraft many times on trips within Australia. For those who participated, it was truly a pleasure to be on board this great icon.

Well done Hawdon

New 25 Year Club Committee - AGM March 2010.

Our recent Annual General Meeting of the 25 Year Club was enjoyed by all with some enthusiastic input to the fairly quick proceedings. Then it was into the refreshments, tea and coffee. A new committee was elected for 2010/11 – the photo below capturing those appointed:

Left to right back – Keith Holland, David Axon (President), Jack Murphy, George Dalidakis, Frank Sullivan (Treasurer), Jim Meehan.

Left to right front - George Wren, Lois Gale, Helen Stanley (Secretary), Ross McDonald (Events Coordinator)

*Ron Adams (Vice-President), and Bill McGinness who were also elected were not available for our photo below:



STARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch

The next STARS Lunch get-together at Moonee Valley Race Course is on 18 May – its a great day, sometimes getting close to 300 ex staff enjoying talking over old times and catching up. While you have the diary out, insert the 2010 remaining dates too – 17 August and 23 November.

Come join us and celebrate "Christmas in July"

Where: "The Brook" on Sneydes, Point Cook.
When: Tuesday 13th July 2010
Cost: Member/Partner \$28.00 (Non Member/Guest \$33.00)
The trip will include: travel by coach, a three course meal, morning tea and entertainment.

Coach pick-up: 8.45 Therry Street (old TAA Building)
9.15 Westfield Shopping Centre, Airport West (between the Safeway petrol station and the Skyways Hotel)

Any queries - call Ross McDonald (0419 115396).

RSVP 29th June 2010

Please make your cheque payable to the "TAA 25 Year Club" and mail to:-

Ross McDonald, TAA Museum, Qantas GT Building, 7 York Street, Airport West 3042

Member Name _____ Partner _____

Non Member _____ Guest _____

Please find enclosed my cheque / money order for \$.....

My pick-up point is: (circle) Therry Street OR Airport West

25 Year Club Annual Dinner.

Please come along and join your friends to celebrate another TAA birthday (66th)

Where: William Angliss.550 Lt. Lonsdale Street Melbourne.
When: Thursday 9th September
Cost: Member/Partner \$25.00 p.p. (Non Member / Guest \$33.00 p.p.)

Pre dinner drinks and savouries will be served in the foyer at 6.30pm. A three course meal will be served in the restaurant at approx 7.00pm. Please note that there is a substantial reduction in the price of the function this year following a committee decision to allow individual drink choices (just pay your account before leaving). Waiter service as usual will be provided at each table. The bar closes at 2200.

RSVP by 27th of August 2010, mailing to:

Ross McDonald - Events Co-ordinator, TAA Museum, Qantas GT Building, 7 York Street, Airport West 3042

Member Name _____ Partner _____

Non Member _____ Guest _____

Please make your cheque payable to the "TAA 25 Year Club"

TAA anecdotes, experiences or your funniest recollection – tell us all about it!

The 25 Year Club would like you to share with us your working experiences at TAA and/or Australian Airlines and, we hope to print most of them in this newsletter as space permits.

Send your experiences in to the Editor, TAA 25 Year Club, 7 York Street, Airport West 3034 or email www.taamuseum.org.au

Busy, busy, busy at the Museum – by the bus load!

Surprised at the popularity of the Museum – come have a look for yourself (escorted or at your own pace). We regularly get visitors by the bus load; up to three per day, all professionally looked after by our ever present band of volunteers and, at the end of the bus tours we have an area where they can have some refreshments, tea or coffee to relax within the museum itself, whilst noticing even more items that were missed during the initial tour. The last few weeks we have seen Probus Clubs from Templestowe / Bulleen, Waverley Ladies, Pascoe Vale, Essendon, Strathmore and Heathmont as well as Dandenong RSL, Westrans Group and an Elderly Citizens Group.

The sale items always prove popular; a little memento here or an aircraft model there to recall the visit or service with the airline industry. Sometimes bus visitors do the 'Essendon double' and visit the DCA museum on the same day to round out their aviation themed tour.

If you would like to assist us with the museum (doing computer work, painting, rearranging exhibits, photographing / cataloging the assets, dusting, carpentry – you name it we could use your talents when you are available.

Vale

John Gallagher – Airport Traffic Tullamarine – February 2010

Oliver Nemez – AME Sydney – February 2010

(Oliver is remembered as a character who made models of TAA's aircraft for staff and he was pedantic about detail, and crews would remember him as his real job was ensuring that all windscreens transiting through Sydney were 'spotless'. Oliver immigrated to Australia in the early 1950's from Northern Italy).

John McDonald, - Airport Handling - 15th April 2010.