

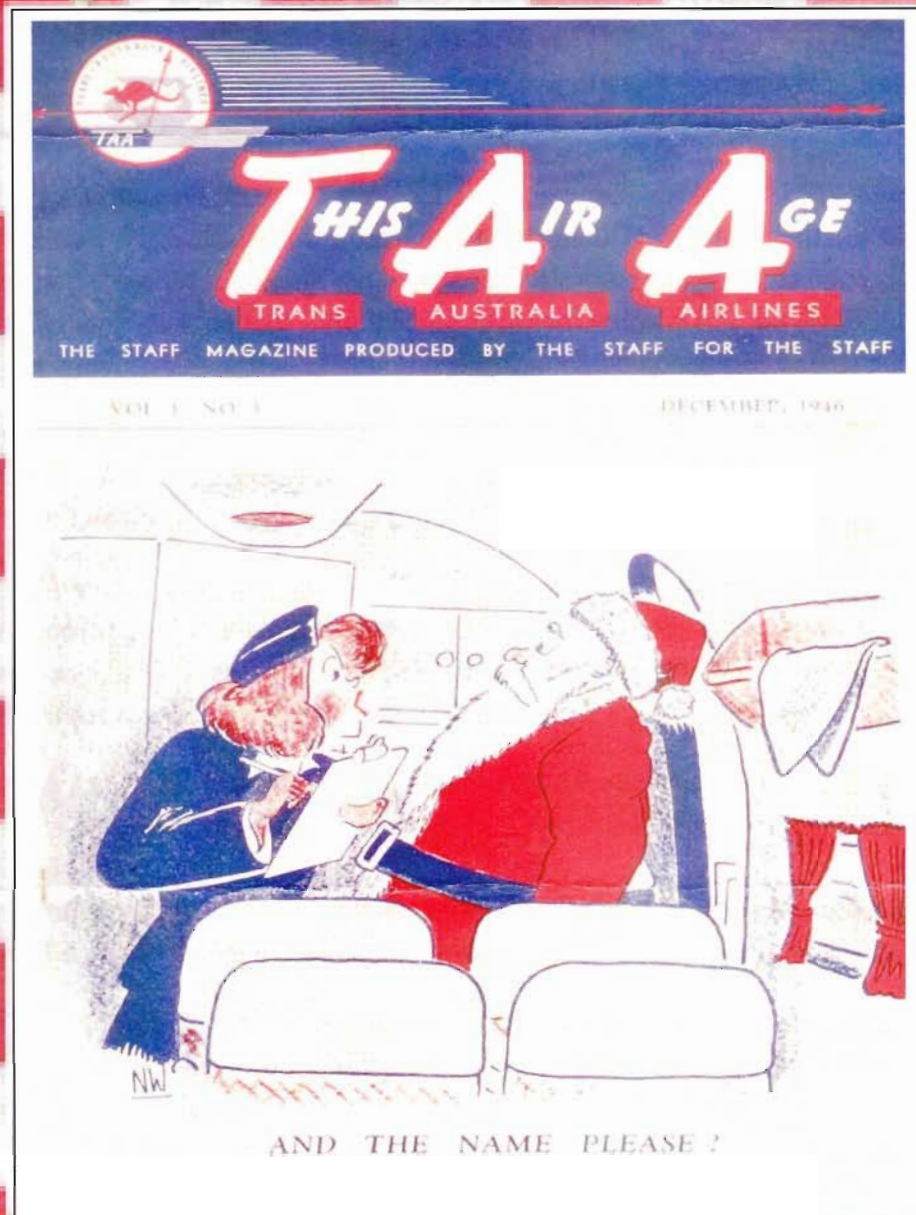


# TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

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# Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Well, another year almost over and time to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the members working at the TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Museum.

I thought I would look back 65 years to our first Xmas (Dec 1946) TAA Staff Magazine and see a little of how Xmas was celebrated by the 'staff' then – hence our current front page with a 1946 flavour.

**Note that the Museum will be closed on the 16th December 2011 until the 24th January 2012 to give our fabulous volunteers a break.**

Merry Xmas.

## DC3 VH-AES 'Hawdon' Flight to Warrnambool

Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> October arrived with a perfect day for flying to Warrnambool, a clear blue sky and no clouds.

There were 26 passengers (25 Year Club members) and three crew, we all lined up for the security check at the Maintenance Base and then proceeded on to the tarmac ready for boarding. We taxied to the "Run up bay" revved those two engines, all was good, and then joined the queue for take-off. As we travelled down the run way passing all those big jets waiting their turn to take off, I can only imagine what the crew and passengers were saying to one another as we took off.

We travelled west out over Melton and on towards Ballarat before turning south to Warrnambool, the countryside was so lush and green after the recent rains and the canola crops a vivid yellow, travelling at 4,000 feet gave everyone a fabulous view. The dams and reservoirs were still full and overflowing.

On arrival at Warrnambool we boarded the coach and travelled to Dennington, a lovely little town with lots of Antique shops, good thing we did not stop. The coach went past Tower Hill and through Killarney and Rosebrook and then into Port Fairy. Whaling started here in 1835. The first hotel, "The Stag Inn", was built in 1847 and is still there today. The ocean was so blue, and quite a few surfers out riding the waves.

On the way back to Warrnambool we turned into the Tower Hill National Park. It is a dormant volcano, and Victoria's first National Park. Lots of Emus walking around, beautiful wildflowers in bloom, and lots of birds, there are lovely walking tracks to use if you have a lot of time. We then headed for Warrnambool for lunch at the RSL, delightful. Unfortunately time did not allow us to see if there were any whales in the area, but we did a tour around the city area, the city has grown quite considerable in the last few years.

Back at the airport, and time for everyone to take photos of the aircraft before we resumed our seats for the trip home. Once again the scenery was fabulous. If you were on the Starboard side of the aircraft you could see Lake Corangamite in the distance. We came in over the Melton Weir at Exford and then over Laverton, with the city coming into view as we approached Tullamarine.

It was a fabulous day, everyone enjoyed themselves, and we are hoping there will be another trip next year. Thank you Bill McGuinness for organising a great day.

Some pictures from the trip are on the next page:



VH-AES 'Hawdon' – an original TAA DC3, all ready to go from Melbourne with our 25 Year Club members.



Everyone 's ready to go on the flight to Warnambool. A great time was had by all, and the aircraft operated perfectly.



VH-AES 'Hawdon' on the ramp at Warnambool awaiting it's passengers for the return trip to



The Captain, Alan Searle, at the controls on the way to Warnambool.



The view out the window towards the coast as the aircraft approaches

## 25 Year Club AGM (Annual General Meeting)

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the **20th March 2012**. All members are cordially invited:

Place: **Skyways Hotel** Matthews Av. Airport West (south end of dining room)

Time: **11.00 am**

Cost: a two course meal will be served at a cost of \$5.00 (payable on the day) This meal is subsidized by the 25 Year Club.

Drinks: at your own cost

Bookings: Please advise the Club of your attendance for catering purposes - Tel. 92808113 or 92808114

We look forward to seeing you there, and yes, we will keep the formal side of things as short as possible!

## 25 Year Club Pre Christmas daytime Luncheon

The Luncheon was a great success, and as usual the management & staff at the William Angliss facility looked after everyone really well. A few ales, and lots of catching up with old friends, made the day special.



*Top left: Susan & Bill McGuinness Top right: Ron Adams, Tim Acton & Frank Sullivan Bottom left: Lori & Peter Chapman (President of Adelaide Chapter) Bottom right: Bob Russell, Kay Stephens & Nancy Heskett*

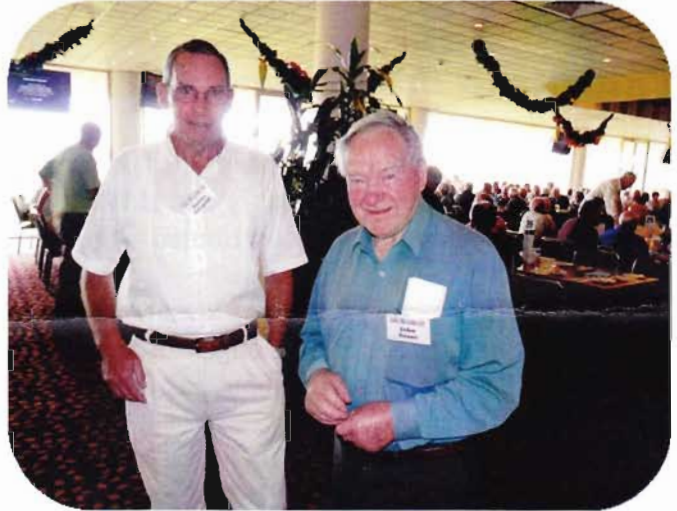
# STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch – 22 November 2011

Over 180 retired TAA / Australian Airlines staff enjoyed the get together at Moonee Valley Race Course on 22 November; and as usual Lance and Kevin were in the background ensuring everything was going to plan. **Dates for next year are 21 February, 22 May, 21 August and 20 November 2012.**

The photo's below (thanks Kevin) captured some of those attending:



Everyone enjoying the meal and a chat with old friends.



Danny Gosgriff and John Grant



Alan Evans, Brian Shields, Vince Putt, Kevin Anderson and Trevor Mellor



Lance Erwin and Ken Ziesing

## The Qantas grapevine news

**QANTAS FOUNDERS MUSEUM WELCOMES CATALINA.** The Qantas Founders Museum has welcomed the Catalina (VH-EAX) to Longreach. The Catalina was famous for flying the Qantas blockade buster services across the Indian Ocean during World War II. This service was also known as the Double

Sunrise Service which is still recognised as the longest endurance regular transport flight ever. To view photos from the event

**QANTAS CELEBRATES 91 YEARS.** On 16 November, Qantas will celebrate 91 years of operations.

**CHANGES TO STAFF TRAVEL CHECK-IN – LOS ANGELES.** The Tom Bradley International Terminal at LAX has introduced a dedicated check-in counter for Staff Travel passengers. The Stand-By desk is located at **Counter 22**. Employees and their beneficiaries are advised to proceed to counter 22 to check-in and collect their boarding passes.

## “Patients to Passengers” – a book by Margaret Nugent

Margaret, an ex TAA Flight Attendant, has put her life story to paper in her book “Patients to Passengers” telling about her nursing (“Patients”) and Hostess (“Passengers”) life and some of the more interesting anecdotes. Your Museum even contributed – the archival B727 picture featured on the front cover.

If you would like to obtain a copy of Margaret’s book; drop her a line to: Margaret Nugent, 9 Yarrum Grove, Somerton Park SA 5044 along with a cheque for \$15 and you will receive the book in the mail. (Ex Captain’s will like the anecdote about passenger Sabrina)

## John Beaton awarded Life Membership

At the recent TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Annual Dinner, John Beaton (ex LAME Melbourne) was awarded a Life Membership – see pictures below:



John Beaton and his wife Pat holding the Life Membership Certificate. Well done John!



John at the ‘mike’ after receiving his award, with Bill McGuinness, our Club President watching proceedings (at right)

## Coming up for 2012

We are arranging, as the first trip for 2012, a Tramboat Cruise down the Yarra to Williamstown and back whilst tucking into some of those famous Williamstown fish & chips. Mark 10th April 2012 in your diary, and our next Newsletter will have the form to fill in and return. Hope to see you there.

## Busy, busy, busy at the Museum

If you would like to visit your Museum (7 York Street, Airport West), we are open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 1030 to 1430 (closed on Public Holidays). Free entry for 25 Year Club & Museum members.

**Note that over the Xmas period 16/12/11 to 24/01/12 the Museum will be closed.**

We have had a busy month at the Museum with all the groups and individual visitors from all over Australia, and, now and again, from overseas. We are able to cater (sandwiches and tea/coffee) for the groups which allows time for all the exhibits to soak in, and later allow a revisit to some of the items that were really interesting, or to have one more look at an old photo (the apprentice 'passing out' photo's are very popular).

After the long walk around the Museum, many of the oldies like to sit down in the aircraft seats (ex DC9) within our theatre where they can watch historical footage of TAA/Australian Airlines, or even some of the old TV ads ('up, up and away' theme seems to be the favourite)

If you would like to assist us at the Museum doing computer work, painting, rearranging exhibits, photographing / cataloguing the assets, dusting, carpentry – you name it, we could use your talents if you have a spare day now and then.

Groups that came to visit this period were: Niddrie Area Seniors Group (38), Midland Tours (40), Kyneton Senior Citizens (48), Senior Citizen's Group (25), Keilor East National Servicemen's Association (20), Frankston Senior Citizens (29), Chrysler Car Club (30), St Kilda Probus (31) and Pax Transport Group (24)

## Ex F/A's celebrate Cup Day



Lynn Whitby and Margaret Newnham assisted by husband, Christopher hosted the annual ex Flight Attendants Cup Day function. Unfortunately, due to illness, many of the usual guests could not attend. A fabulous lunch was served and a great fun day was had by all.

*Back row:* Sue Alexander, Kate Tonge, Denise Sherlock, Shirley Howard, Adrienne Manton, Lorraine Bartlett *2nd row:* Lis Rossi, Irene Kennedy, Lyn Collins, Sue McMullen *3rd row:* Margaret Newnham, Lorraine Heiler (Bookie!), Gwen Harvey *front row:* Jan

And more on F/A's - it was mealtime during a flight. "Would you like dinner?" the flight attendant asked the man seated in the front row. "What are my choices?" the man asked. "Yes or no," she replied.

## Vale

**Albert Hosking** (Engineering Training) 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011 aged 74 years. Alby started work with TAA as an apprentice on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 1953, retiring from the position of Apprentice Controller, Engineering Training on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1991, having the primary responsibility for all apprentices for more than 25 years.

**Peter Youlten** 1940 – 50 Traffic MEL, then Airport Mgr QF MEL & London (notified 27/08/11)

**Norm Milburn** (Personnel MEL HO) (notified 14/09/11)

**Daniel Sherry** (Despatch Mascot) (notified 15/09/11)

**Bernie Bristow** (started in 1967 at Essendon Traffic / Despatch, then VIC Branch Sales in 1990 until retirement in 1995) Aged 74 (notified 05/09/11)

**Nan Wilson** 24/10/11 – first TAA Hostess Superintendent

**Reginald Joseph Weller** 02/11/11 the younger of the Weller Brothers Travel Agency at Charters Towers circa 1950, Reg and his brother Sam became the original TAA Agents in the Towers when TAA took over the reins from Townsville and Country Airways on the air route out of Mt Isa and return to Townsville. It became TAA Flts 468 – 467 taking in the towns of Charters Towers, Hughenden, Richmond, Julia Creek, Cloncurry and the ISA. After many years Reg left the Towers Agency for Brisbane and operated the downtown TAA Travel Agencies in the Lennons Hotel foyer and later at the Brisbane Arcade. Reg, together with Col Funch and the late Adrian Conroy initiated the Coolangatta and Tweed Coast TAAMAC (TAA meet & Chat) Club 9, which still meets.

**Capt. Jim Goodall** 18/11/11