



# TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

## Newsletter No. 74      December 2012

Editor: John Wren

### Happy 66<sup>th</sup> Birthday TAA

It's hard to believe our history started 66 years ago on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1946 with an ex USAF military DC3 (VH-AES 'Hawdon' – which is still going strong thanks to a dedicated team) on the first flight commencing at Laverton at 0630 destined for Sydney.

So we thought we would have a small party at the Museum (small because of the space available) with some very special guests to help us celebrate this amazing birthday.

There were TAA Foundation Members (ex RAAF'ies who joined TAA after being discharged) at the very start of the airline attending (Lance Irwin, Len Edgar, Ray 'Bluey' Kennedy, John Grant, Col O'Brien and George Wren); and even a passenger from the first flight – none other than Nancy Duncan (daughter of Sir Arthur Coles – who was Chairman of the Australian National Airlines Commission). Nancy told us "our family and I feel very privileged to be invited to your 66th Birthday celebration. As our troops were coming home after the War it was a unique time in our history for the Federal Government to start a national airline. The talented group of men who were able to make this happen would be very proud of your achievement in making this Museum a reality.

It is only because of the TAA 25 Year Club sticking together and collecting all the memorabilia that keeps TAA alive in the Australian History of aviation." Thanks Nancy.

Below are some of TAA's 66<sup>th</sup> Birthday pictures taken at the Museum.



Just about everyone attending, sitting around the Museum visitors area, just before the food came out for all the enjoy.



Don Withers and wife Ann-Maree with Jim Collins (*right*)



Lance Irwin (Foundation Member) talking with Judy and Bert Lawes, whilst enjoying some of the great nibbles and a cuppa.



Nancy Duncan (passenger on our first ever flight) talking with George Wren (Foundation Member; and present at the despatch of the first flight from Laverton)



Nancy Duncan holding a Museum photo of the TAA first flight arriving at Mascot (Sydney). Thank you Nancy for helping us celebrate our 66<sup>th</sup> Birthday with your shared memories.



A few weeks after the Birthday celebrations, Jim Collins presented Nancy Duncan with a framed picture of the picture at left.

## 25 Year Club AGM (Annual General Meeting)

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

Place: **11:00 am** at the **Skyways Hotel** Matthews Av. Airport West. [ The Airport West tram stops diagonally opposite the Skyways Hotel, with Westfield Shopping Centre behind ]

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 from the bar.

Bookings: Please advise the Club of your attendance for catering purposes - Tel. 9280 8113

We look forward to seeing you there, and yes, we will keep the formal side of things as short as possible; and no – you won't be 'dobbed' for a job, unless you want to help out now and then.

A new Committee is to be elected by financial members at the AGM; and official notice of the AGM and the various forms will be mailed separately to you next year.

## STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch – 20 November

Well, another great day was had by all – and the weather didn't keep anyone away – it was 28C. It was great to catch up with old workmates and enjoy 'the good old days' at a fantastic (TAA / Australian) airline. Even the food was good. Just over 200 attended. If you haven't been to a STAARS lunch at Moonee Valley Race Course before, give Kevin Anderson a call on 0419511179 for details.

The dates for the **2013 STAARS functions** are **19 February, 21 May, 20 August and 19 November**. The last STAARS meeting was on **20 November 2012**. Below is a pic of just some of those who attended:



**Annual Dinner** On the 12 September the Annual Dinner of the TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club was held at the William Angliss facility in the city. As always, a good time was had by all celebrating the 66<sup>th</sup> Birthday of TAA. Below are a few pic's



Vice President Ron Adams and wife Anne



Life Member John Beaton and wife Pat



Norm Dixon, Kevin Anderson and wife Chris



Dorothy Duan (right) with daughter Robyn



Tim Acton (*left*)

Jim Collins with Gary James (*below*)





As this is the last Newsletter for the year, the President, Committee and Museum staff of the **TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club** wish you and yours a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a healthy, prosperous **HAPPY NEW YEAR** for 2013.

## Newsletter Printing

Our Newsletter is being printed with assistance from the Office of Bill Shorten MP. Many thanks.

## Pre-Christmas Get Together

The **TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club pre-Christmas daytime Luncheon** was at the William Angliss facility on 21 November 2012. As you can see from the pic's below, everyone had an enjoyable time catching up whilst enjoying a meal and a drink. In the pic at bottom right is Shirley Baker who came down from Brisbane to join us. Shirley was secretary to all the TAA GM's 1952 – 1986.





Ross McDonald (with moustache for Movember) our Events Coordinator and membership 'guru' announced his retirement. Great job done Ross!

## Uniform items for the Museum

We are trying to complete our uniform collection and would appreciate donations of:  
TAA Male Flight Attendant suits & ties that were issued in 1981 - 1986, navy & grey.  
TAA Male Flight Attendant suits & ties that were issued in (Covers) 1986 - 1993, green & navy.  
Give us a call on 03 9280 8113, or drop it in to the Museum at the address in the page footer. Thanks.

## Vale

**Ron Cocks (Maintenance / Training School) 10/12/19 - 12/08/12.** Foundation Member. Served with 460 Bomber Command and 455 Squadron – RAAF. Passed away peacefully at Epworth, Box Hill, surrounded by his family.

**Ernie Thompson (Overhaul) 13 August 2012.** Foundation Member.

**Thomas John Fraser (Machine Shop) 10/11/12**

**Tony McGuigan (Maintenance Planning) 16/11/12 aged 60.**

**Alfred Henry George Wren (Engine Shop) 11/10/12 aged 94.** Foundation Member. Passed away peacefully at Melbourne Hospital with his family.

**Ron Black (Pilot) 07/08/12 aged 90.**

**Bruce Read (Pilot) 09/08/12 aged 75.**

**Geoff Cheeseman (Flt. Ops.) 03/12 aged 86**

**Francis Patrick Tolley 08/08/12** at Somerset Dam QLD.

**William Wood 05/10/12**

**Bob Furness (Flt. Eng.) 11/08/12** at Port Macquarie.

**Denis Adams (Management) 23/07/12 aged 67.** (See full obituary in The Age 31/10/12) or on our web site.