



# TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

## Newsletter No. 76

## June 2013

Editor: John Wren

### VH-AES Coles Family Commemorative Flight

A commemorative flight on VH-AES from Tullamarine to Warrnambool was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> May, for 20 members of the family of Sir Arthur Coles, the first Chairman of the Australian National Airlines Commission. Arthur was essentially TAA's, and the A.N.A.C's, first employee.

Arthur and his daughter, Nancie, were both passengers on VH-AES on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1946, TAA's first passenger flight. Although Nancie was unable to attend the commemorative flight, she enthusiastically followed the events of the day, and participated in a telephone interview with local newspaper reporters who greeted the aircraft upon arrival in Warrnambool. A pleasant lunch was enjoyed at the Warrnambool RSL before flying back.

Other passengers on the flight were two former Air Hostesses, members of Wings Away and two representatives of Vision Australia Radio who recorded interviews.

At the controls were Captains Alan Searle and Bob Small with Ted Dewey assisting as ground engineer. Many thanks are extended to their support.



Coles family members upon arrival at Warrnambool



In-flight



Shirley Coles and son Peter



Greg Coles, Ann Eastwood (Nancie's daughter), Alan Searle and Shirley Coles



Wings Away members  
Ann-Marie Withers and Libby Watkins



Vision Radio members  
Graeme Bennett and Peter Butler

## Your Committee

If you missed it, the 2013 Committee elected at the last Annual General Meeting is:

President	Jim Collins
Vice President	John Wren
Vice President	Ron Adams
Secretary	Arnold Rogers
Treasurer	Ian Wood
Committee member	Dorothy Duan
Committee member	Jim Meehan
Committee member	Kevin Anderson

The Committee has been busy in establishing a Procedures Manual that details the functioning and operation of the 25 Year Club and Museum. The procedures, established by the Committee of the day, will not override the requirements of our Constitution. All members are welcome to peruse the manual on a visit to the Museum.

This newsletter is compiled by Kevin Anderson and is late because of the unavailability of our Editor John Wren, due to the serious illness of his wife. Our sincere thoughts and best wishes are with John and Wendy at this difficult time.

## Apprentice records now held at the Museum

The original card system records for all apprentices from 1946 to 1989 are now held at the Museum following the closure of the Engineering Training School in Melbourne. Members who are ex-apprentices are welcome to contact or call in at the Museum to obtain a copy of their individual record. Many of the records have a passport photo of the apprentice that, in most cases, holds no resemblance to the person we have come to know ☺.

## STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch – 21<sup>st</sup> May

The STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) lunch is held on a quarterly basis from 11:15am–2:00pm at the Moonee Valley Trackside Bistro, corner of Thomas & Wilson Streets, Moonee Valley.

Another good lunch was held at the end of May where just under 200 attended. There were a number of new faces due to more people being forced into the retirement mode. It was great to catch up with old workmates to enjoy ‘the good old days’ at a fantastic (TAA / Australian) airline. Even the food was good. If you haven’t been to a STAARS lunch at Moonee Valley Race Course Bistro, give Kevin Anderson (0419511179) or Lance Erwin (9386 4056) a call for details. Everyone is welcome.

The remaining dates for the 2013 lunches are **Tuesday 20th August and Tuesday 19th November**

## Another mighty Bus Trip & Bay Cruise – Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> August

The tour will travel to Queenscliff via Geelong to board the ferry for a scenic trip across the bay to Sorrento. Morning tea will be provided on the way to Queenscliff. After a short tour of Sorrento, the group will travel to Frankston for a smorgasbord lunch at the Food Star Restaurant. After lunch, we will travel back to Melbourne via Mornington Peninsula.

<b>Times:</b>	Departure:	Therry St 8:00 am	Skyways	8:30 am
	Return:	Therry St 4:00 pm approx	Skyways	4:30 pm approx

**Cost:** Financial Member / Partner or Guest      \$35.00      Non Financial Member / Guest      \$44.00

**\*\*\* The application for the BUS TRIP & CRUISE is on the second last page of this newsletter \*\*\***

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# DC3 VH-AES 'Hawdon' Trip to Wangaratta – 25<sup>th</sup> August 2013

A day trip to Wangaratta on VH-AES Hawdon is planned for the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

**For:** Financial members of the TAA 25 Year Club and their spouse, partner or guest. There are only 26 seats available on the aircraft.


**Donation:** \$150

**Departs:** Melbourne at 09:00 (assemble at the Tullamarine Maintenance Base Main Gate 08:30)

**Includes:** Flight to Wangaratta and back on DC3 'Hawdon'

**Lunch:** Wangaratta RSL at your expense

**Return:** Approximately 16:00 hours at Tullamarine

**Bookings:** Phone the museum on 9280 8113, then mail or email the museum  taamuseum@bigpond.com

**Deadline:** Booking requests are to be submitted by **6<sup>th</sup> August, 2013**

**Ballot:** Should the number of applicants exceed the seats available, a ballot will be held. Those unsuccessful in this ballot will be offered seating on a later trip. Further trips are being planned for November 2013 and February 2014.

**Confirmation:** When donation is received

**Note:** QF will require adherence to Maintenance Base access conditions and Hawdon Inc require an indemnity to be signed as no insurance applies to this 'private' flight.

**\*\* The Application for the HAWDON WANGARATTA TRIP is on the last page of this Newsletter \*\***

## Annual Dinner / Get Together

The TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Annual Dinner this year will be at the William Angliss facility (550 Lt Lonsdale St, Melbourne) which is serviced by tram and train if you don't want to drive into the city. Come join your mates for a great time.

Date/Time: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013 from 6:30 pm, when the bar opens.

Cost: Financial Member / Spouse, Partner or Guest \$30.00 Non Financial Member / Guest \$35.00

[Three course meal provided – drinks (at bar prices)] ➔ **RSVP: By Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2013**

**\*\*\* The application for the ANNUAL CLUB DINNER is on the last page of this newsletter \*\*\***

## Membership Renewal 2013–2014 - it's that time again.

Thank you for your continuing support. It helps protect the great memories of TAA / Australian Airlines through the continued enhancement of the Museum, member trips and dinners etc. Please mail the completed membership form to: Kevin Anderson, TAA Museum, Qantas GT Building, 7 York Street, Airport West 3042. **Membership is due on 1 July.**

## Membership Arrears

It seems that a few members are not financial for 2012-2013. 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 year's membership has been paid, or not, by looking at the address label on the envelope that this newsletter came in.


**If it has 'FM12', or a lower number, you are not currently financial.**

Again, thank you for your continuing support.

**\*\*\* The application for MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL is on the last page of this newsletter \*\*\***

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## A300 Training Aids now at the Museum

The Museum has been fortunate to obtain two major training aids due to the closure, in May this year, of the Engineering Training School at Tullamarine. The training aids, an A300 Electrical Trainer and an A300 Flight Controls and Hydraulics Trainer were both designed and built in-house in the early eighties to assist in Pilots and Engineers understanding the A300 systems. The Electrical Trainer also included the aircraft's smoke and fire systems.

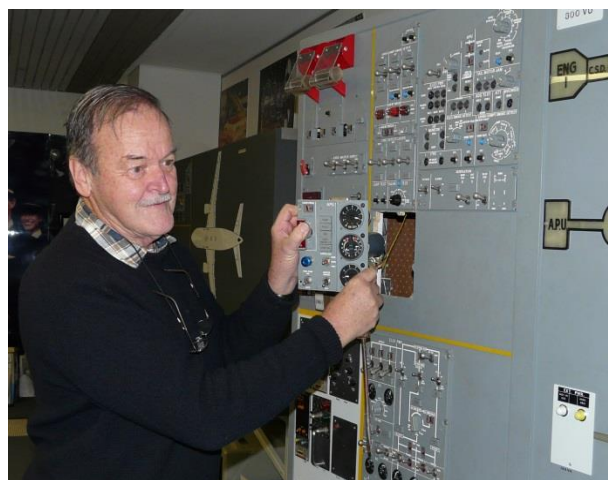
The aids were designed and built by Instructor Bob Aitken with the support of the Engineering School Superintendent Ron Cocks and Training Controller Alan Swann, at a 1981 cost of approximately \$10,000 for the Electrical Trainer alone. Bob stated labour was never included in the cost although a lot of apprentice hours went into their manufacture. Geoff Ford and Robert Wratten deserve mention for this.

Both trainers became an integral tool to assist in understanding the aircraft's complexities. Their value was truly realised by students, as many manuals were said to be written, in Bob's terms, 'Fronglaise' – a mixture of French and English.

Pictured below are the trainers in situ at the Museum and Bob on a recent visit to the Museum who couldn't help himself instructing and rectifying a fault he found on the APU panel – much appreciated Bob.



Bob Aitken demonstrating the operation of the trainer



Couldn't help himself repairing it for us. Ta Bob

## Museum improvements

Pat Broad has been busy rearranging the Engineering area of the Museum, labelling the exhibits for the benefit of visitors. He has taken great delight re-visiting his days learning the electrical schematics of the A300 Visual Aids Trainers mentioned previously. He tells us that he, like many others, visited the school in the early hours preceding an exam to have a last minute run-through with the trainer. Pat is pictured below with some of his handy work. Again much appreciated Pat.



## Lend a hand at the Museum?

We are always looking for some additional help at the Museum even if it's only one day a month. Come along one day and 'suss' out the Museum, and talk to the guys – you will most likely run into someone you know from TAA. We are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Please don't throw out any TAA or Australian Airlines items – we are always happy to accept donations of ANYTHING that was a part of the airline.

## Newsletter

The committee is making arrangements to email the newsletter, but only to those members who would prefer it. This will not be forced on anyone, as we will continue to provide it by 'Royal Mail' oh alright - Australia Post to those that wish. If email is preferred please indicate on the membership renewal form or email us at the museum. Please make sure you include your name on your email.

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

## Pre-Christmas Get Together – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013

The TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club pre-Christmas daytime luncheon this year will be at the William Angliss facility (550 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne) which is serviced by tram and train if you do not want to drive in to the city. Mark it in your calendar – the form will be in next newsletter.

### What do you actually do at the Museum? - One person's experience

*An interesting question when asked of a Museum Volunteer.*

*Recently Ron Adams, as a special request, arranged for the Western & Northern Suburbs Radio Club to visit the Museum after normal visiting hours. Jim Collins, Bert Lawes and Roy McLean acted as hosts. Approximately 40 members attended. They were impressed with both the exhibits and the archival film shown in the theatrette. They were very appreciative of the fact that we had gone to so much trouble to assist. One of the group asked me the above question.*

*Fortunately I was able to provide an answer as a follow up to a recent enquiry. We had been approached by a woman regarding information about her father, Captain Lloyd Clark. In particular the question related to the development of the live crab, prawn and Barramundi industry established at Karumba, on the Gulf of Carpentaria. As a Gulf fisherman he envisaged the potential of this industry. Could we provide a copy of the contract between the Queensland Government and the Gulf Fishing Enterprise. This we could not provide. However we established the connection between Captain Clark and TAA. At the height of this operation TAA were shipping 100,000 lbs of fish & crabs per year in specially chartered aircraft. In turn these were transported to restaurants around Australia.*

*Further investigation by Ron Adams found several items about this increasingly successful business. Ron asked Peter Farrell and I to investigate further where, as well as general information, we found a photograph of a young girl handing a basket of live crabs up to a worker on the back of a truck. It may have been her father and yes that young girl was in fact our enquirer at the age of 13. The information we have obtained has now been forwarded to the family. It has also been included in a Museum at Normanton.*

*These fish and crabs were transported from Karumba to the waiting TAA aircraft at Normanton, and then on to other destinations.*

*We have enquiries from all sources and from a wide section of the community.*

*I think it reasonable to say I answered the original question satisfactorily.*

*Roy McLean July 2013*

# The Purple Stripe – A history of Flight Engineers in Australia

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Brian Hill has written a book on the history of Flight Engineers in Australia. With almost 900 pages, this hard-cover book, with dust jacket, features more than 150 photos and drawings. The book also provides an extensive glossary and index that will make the publication a valuable research tool. While the book is essentially a history of Flight Engineers in Australia, its brief history of the airlines that used FEOs, along with the history of the types of aircraft operated, provides fascinating reading for all aviation-minded people. We are selling *The Purple Stripe* at the TAA Museum for \$55 pick-up or \$70 with postage (\$77 RRP without postage).

## Vale

**Our sincere condolences are extended to the families and friends of passed TAA/Australian Airlines work colleagues. Fond memories will remain.**


<b>Denis Alford</b>	Engineer Melb	29/6/13 Aged 63	30 years service approx
<b>Peter Davenport</b>	Engineer AMD	June 2013 Aged 94	
<b>Wally Ostapczuk</b>	Fitter & Turner	17//5/13 Aged 66	17 years service
<b>John Anderson</b>	Ass Mngr Qld	9/5/13 Aged 70+	40 years service
<b>Cecil Rycen</b>	Traffic Qld	4/4/13 Aged 90	26 years service
<b>Jo McGinty</b>	Flight Attendant Syd	28/3/13	35 years service



## BUS TRIP & CRUISE – 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013

After making phone booking, please send to:

**To:** Bus trip & Cruise Co-ordinator  
TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club  
Qantas GT Building  
7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042

**Or email** : [taamuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:taamuseum@bigpond.com)

Financial Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_


Non Financial Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse /Partner/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred pick-up: Therry St. Melb \_\_\_\_\_ Skyways Airport West \_\_\_\_\_

Payment - cheque payable to 'TAA 25 Year Club' or by Bank Transfer to TAA 25 Year Club;  
BSB: 063 007, ACC: 0090 1577 \*Ensure you include your name on the entry and either return mail this form or send email to [taamuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:taamuseum@bigpond.com) to verify your bank transfer



**HAWDON WANGARATTA TRIP - 25<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

After making phone booking, please send to: **To:** Hawdon Trip Co-ordinator  
TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club  
Qantas GT Building  
7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042  
**Or email** : taamuseum@bigpond.com

Financial Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment - cheque payable to 'TAA 25 Year Club' or by Bank Transfer to TAA 25 Year Club;  
BSB: 063 007, ACC: 0090 1577 **\*Ensure you include your name on the entry and either return mail this form or send email to [taamuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:taamuseum@bigpond.com) to verify your bank transfer**



**SEPTEMBER ANNUAL DINNER - 4<sup>th</sup> Sep 13**

**To:** Arnold Rogers Events Co-ordinator  
TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club  
Qantas GT Building  
7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042  
**Or email** : taamuseum@bigpond.com

Financial Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Non Financial Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse /Partner/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment - cheque payable to 'TAA 25 Year Club' or by Bank Transfer to TAA 25 Year Club;  
BSB: 063 007, ACC: 3007 0090 1577 **\*Ensure you include your name on the entry and either return mail this form or send email to [taamuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:taamuseum@bigpond.com) to verify your bank transfer**



**2013-2014 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

**To:** Kevin Anderson Membership Co-ordinator  
TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club  
Qantas GT Building  
7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042  
**Or email** : taamuseum@bigpond.com

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$20.00 **or** I have made a Bank Transfer on ..... (date)  
Payment - cheque payable to 'TAA 25 Year Club' or by Bank Transfer to TAA 25 Year Club;  
BSB: 063 007, ACC: 0090 1577 **\*Ensure you include your name on the entry and either return mail this form or send email to [taamuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:taamuseum@bigpond.com) to verify your bank transfer**

Name .....Spouse Name \*.....

Address .....

Suburb.....State .....P/Code.....

Phone \*.....Mobile \*.....

E-mail \*.....

Newsletter preference - E-mail YES / NO

\* Only complete if details have changed

New receipt number  
  
Membership  
2013-2014  
  
.....  
Signed: K.Anderson / D.Duan