



# TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

Newsletter No. 77

Sept 2013

Editor: John Wren

## Annual Dinner a great success

Our TAA 25 Year Club Annual Dinner at William Angliss on the 4<sup>th</sup> September was a great success. About 80 people, including two Foundation members, (Lance Erwin and Ken Ziesing) attended. Guest speaker was Ian Watkins, a recently retired Qantas pilot. Ian's father, John Watkins, was TAA's first engineer in 1946, and later became Engineering Director. Ian spoke of his childhood days when his father was helping TAA to grow into a great airline. One interesting topic Ian spoke about was when TAA approached the Federal Government in 1947 for funds to buy the Convair. The Federal Government had initially refused TAA permission for the funds, but Chairman Sir Arthur Coles refused to accept this decision. Sir Arthur requested John to write another submission to Treasury to obtain the funds, which this time was successful. Ian's version of his father's involvement with the Federal Treasury was most interesting.

An award presentation of a framed photograph was then made to Alan Searle by both Ian Watkins and President Jim Collins to recognise the 50 year milestone of Alan flying our DC3 aircraft VH-AES Joseph Hawdon. The Club congratulates Alan on this and is sincerely grateful for his commitment. Well done Alan, you are one of a kind !!



Also at the dinner, an inaugural presentation was made by President Jim Collins (far right), recognising volunteers who have served 10 years' service or more at the Museum. Those at the dinner to receive their awards (from left to right) were Frank Sullivan, Ron Adams, Keith Holland, Ross McDonald, Jim Meehan, Nance Hesketh and Murray Watson. Our congratulations and thanks are sincerely extended; other eligible members will receive their recognition at future functions.

## Around the Bay Bus Trip & Cruise

On the 14<sup>th</sup> August seventeen members took a coach tour around Port Phillip Bay with Western Coaches of Sunshine. Although the weather forecast was not good, with the possibility of winds and stormy weather, we were a hardy bunch and boarded the coach at the Skyways Restaurant car park in Airport West. We travelled to a small park just outside Geelong where the driver prepared tea, coffee and biscuits for us before continuing the journey to Queenscliff. We had some spare time before catching the ferry, so the driver took us around near the prison, which is totally unoccupied (a hint to our lawmakers in State Parliament) and then on to the ferry terminal which has a new control tower and a modern waiting area for passengers.

We did not have long to wait before the ferry arrived from Sorrento and the ramp came down disgorging vehicles. We drove onto the ferry and then went upstairs to the comfortable lounge area where one could sit, relax and enjoy the Bay views. After forty-five minutes, we docked at the Sorrento terminal where our coach drove off onto dry land.

Our next stop was at the Foodstar Restaurant on the outskirts of Frankston, where we had a smorgasbord lunch seemingly appealing to everyone's taste. On the way back to Melbourne we stopped off at the Heritage Chocolate outlet in Rowville where many different sorts of chocolates could be purchased. Back on the freeway, we diverted to Waverley Park (the old VFL football ground) at Frank Sullivan's suggestion. The area is now a housing estate, with only the main grand stand and oval remaining. It is now the headquarters of the present AFL premiership team Hawthorn who also use it as their training ground.

The rest of the journey was uneventful, and we arrived back at the Skyways car park after a very interesting and enjoyable trip. Our coach driver was very informative and gave us a running commentary during the journey. Incidentally, the weather stayed fine during the trip and there were no storms or high winds as originally forecast! A good time was had by all!

## DC3 Hawdon Trip to Wangaratta

Members enjoyed a pleasant flight on Hawdon to Wangaratta on the 25<sup>th</sup> August. At the controls were Captains Doug Haywood and Alan Searle; the landings were as smooth as one would expect on an A380 . . . it may have been helped with Doug currently an A380 Captain and Alan enjoying 50 years of flying Hawdon. Some passengers travelled from Brisbane and Sydney solely to be on the flight. In the crowd greeting and farewelling us at Wangaratta was Elaine Bailey (pictured) with a certificate that was presented to her on a Hawdon flight from Melbourne to Launceston on the 24<sup>th</sup> December, 1953.



## UPCOMING EVENTS – busy November!!

### STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch – 19<sup>th</sup> November

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.

If you haven't been to a STAARS lunch at Moonee Valley Race Course Bistro or want more information, give Kevin Anderson (0419511179) or Lance Erwin (9386 4056) a call for details. Everyone is welcome.

The dates for next year's 2014 lunches are **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> Aug & 18<sup>th</sup> Nov**

### Annual Christmas lunch – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013

The TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Annual Christmas lunch 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 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013 from 12:00 noon for a 12:30pm start

Cost: Financial Member / Spouse, Partner or Guest \$25.00      Non Financial Member / Guest \$30.00

[Three course meal provided – drinks (at bar prices)]      ➔ **RSVP: By Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

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

### DC3 VH-AES 'Hawdon' Trip to Warrnambool – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013

A day trip to Warrnambool on VH-AES Hawdon is planned for Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> November 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:** Will be advised upon booking to cover costs only. Sorry, Hawdon Inc requirement

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

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

**Lunch:** Warrnambool RSL at your expense

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

**Bookings:** Phone the museum on 9280 8113 and follow-up by mailing or email the museum the application

**Deadline:** Booking requests are to be submitted by **12<sup>th</sup> November, 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. A further trip is planned for February 2014.

**Confirmation:** Post ballot and 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 WARRNAMBOOL TRIP is on the last page of this Newsletter \***

## Joseph Hawdon (1813–1871)

A little history on the person our DC3 VH-AES is named after. Joseph Hawdon was a pioneer settler and overlander in Australia and New Zealand, and a politician in the latter.



He was born at Wackerfield, Durham, England. At the suggestion of his elder brother John, who had arrived in Sydney in 1828, he decided to travel to Australia, arriving in Sydney in November 1834.

In 1836, Hawdon, together with John Gardiner and John Hepburn, made an overland journey to Melbourne with cattle, the first to come from New South Wales. Hawdon returned to Sydney, but came to Melbourne again in 1837, and in August took up land near the present site of Dandenong. About the end of that year, the newly-established South Australian settlement was threatened with famine. Hawdon, who had returned to New South Wales with Charles Bonney, drove 300 head of cattle from the Goulburn district to Adelaide, where they arrived on 3 April 1838. Along the route they discovered a fine lake, which Hawdon named after Bonney - Lake Bonney. Charles Sturt, in an official report made in August 1838, said

of this journey: "*Messrs Hawdon and Bonney could not have taken a more direct line or shortened the journey more wisely*".

Hawdon became the official mail contractor between Melbourne and Yass at the beginning of 1838. He made his headquarters at or near Melbourne for many years, and was one of the directors of the Pastoral and Agricultural Society when it was formed in 1840, and a member of the Committee of the Victorian Horticultural Society which was inaugurated in November 1848. He had a property at Heidelberg, and in August 1851 discovered a few grains of gold near the Yarra River. He remained in Australia until 1858 and then returned to England.

In 1863, Hawdon took up land between near Christchurch, New Zealand, and afterwards spent some years in England. He returned to New Zealand and was nominated to the New Zealand Legislative Council in 1866, where he served for the rest of his life. He died at Christchurch on 12 April 1871.

Hawdon River and Lake Hawdon in New Zealand are named after him. Hawdon was adventurous and alert to opportunity, and by his own success gave valuable service in developing new territory.

## How times have changed – TAA Air Age September 1972



### **TAA's first Mrs. Air Hostess**

**TAA air hostess, Wendy Harth, 23, became the first married air hostess to work with an Australian domestic airline this month.**

Wendy, a Melbourne based air hostess, who has been with TAA since August, 1971 married Bill Murray, a Melbourne car salesman on the Gold Coast on September 23. The couple were married at the Coolangatta Methodist Church.

They met on the Gold Coast two years ago when they were

both attending a first aid course — Bill as part of his training for the Surfers' Paradise coastguard and Wendy as a qualification needed prior to becoming an air hostess.

Bill, whose parents live in Homebush, Sydney, works for Preston Motors at South Melbourne. Wendy's parents live at Palm Beach on the Gold Coast.

## Committee News:

Your Committee:

President	Jim Collins	9810 4190	0400080164	mijcollins44@gmail.com
Vice President	John Wren	9378 3065	0402071539	johnwren@optusnet.com.au
Vice President	Ron Adams	9744 2493		annieadams@hotmail.com
Secretary	Arnold Rogers	9336 7773	0421455537	rogersah@optusnet.com.au
Treasurer	Ian Wood	9395 8593		bigwoody50@gmail.com
Committee member	Dorothy Duan	9379 8169	0432647801	d.duan@optusnet.com.au
Committee member	James Meehan	8361 0348	0438540842	slimjim41@optusnet.com.au
Committee member	Kevin Anderson	9438 1894	0419511179	kevinja@tpg.com.au

## Club's Constitution

The club is currently reviewing its rules to ensure that they are in line with the recent amendment of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act and Regulations of 2012. The amended rules will be submitted to all members for approval at our next Annual General Meeting scheduled for March next year.

## Membership Renewal 2013–2014

The club extends a warm welcome to a number of new members who have recently joined and we thank all members 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. Annual membership is due on 1<sup>st</sup> July each year.

## Membership Arrears

If you are 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 'FM13' or a lower number, you are not currently financial.**

Again, thank you for your continuing support.

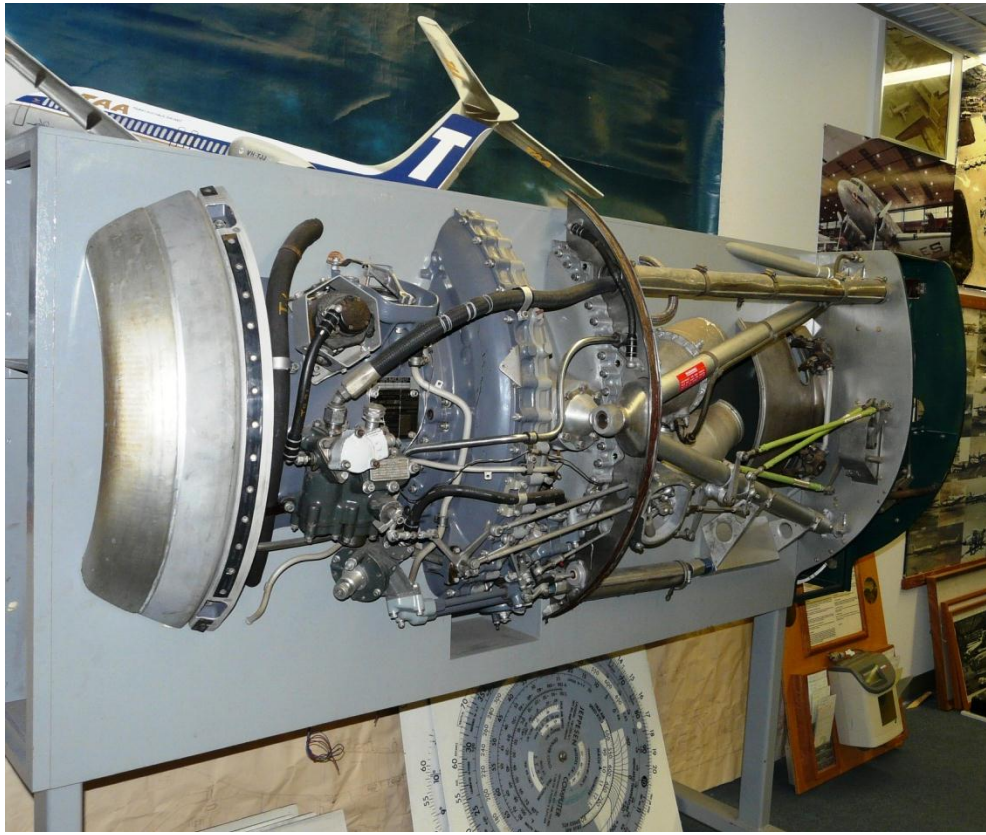
**\*\*\* The application for MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL is on the last page of this newsletter \*\*\***

## MUSEUM NEWS

In recent months, Alan Nock and Emil Kappel have overhauled our Papua New Guinea display and established a display relevant to the Viscount aircraft. Enhancements to the displays are on-going with work carried out to date much appreciated.



The Museum has been fortunate in obtaining two large trailer loads of TAA/Australian Airlines memorabilia from Kangan TAFE college. The items, originally from the airline, has been used as training aids for engineers and pilots. Pictured below is a sectionalised Rolls Royce Dart 532 engine, one of four engines fitted to the Viscount aircraft.



Kelvin Hawthorn has been industriously working away in scanning the TAA/Australian Airlines slides at the museum and he tells us he has finally reached the 9,000 mile stone and hopes to have 10,000 done before the Christmas breakup – he didn't say which Christmas but we're hoping for this one. Wow, what an effort!

## **Apprentice records now held at the Museum**

Just a reminder - 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 your individual record. Many of the records have a passport photo of the apprentice which, in most cases, holds no resemblance to the person we have come to know 😊.

## **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 or gals – 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 part of the airline.

## Newsletter

The committee has made 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 mail it to you if that's your preference. If email is preferred please indicate on the membership renewal form or email us at the museum.

Apologies to those that experienced problems in transferring money for events or membership renewal as a result of our bank account number error in our last newsletter. Fortunately there were too many numbers which invalidated any incorrect transfer occurring. We have the number right this time . . . argh. This newsletter is again compiled by Kevin Anderson in lieu of John Wren.

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

## Vale

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

<b>Peter Carlisle</b>	Engineering Mel	24/9/13 Aged 53	35 years service
<b>Jim Shirra</b>	Finance Admin Adel	22/9/13 Aged 83	40 years service
<b>Cyril Laidlaw</b>	LMaint Mel, Iran & Hobart	28/8/13	
<b>Bill Rogers</b>	AMD	29/8/13 Aged 92	
<b>Bill Connor</b>	Franklin St		
<b>Ray T. Stone</b>	Traffic Officer Tasmania	11/09/13 Aged 80	30 years service
<b>Peter Fraser</b>	Supply Essendon	15/9/13 Aged 87	
<b>Bill Yates</b>	Line & Dock Maint	22/7/13 Aged 84	
<b>George Downie</b>	Line Maint	24/12/12 Aged 81	


Apologies, our last newsletter incorrectly stated some of John's service details – corrected information is

**John Anderson** State & General Manager NSW 9/5/13 Aged 70+ 30 years service

### Wendy Wren

It is with sadness we advise that Wendy Wren, our Vice President's wife, passed away on the 28<sup>th</sup> July. Wendy has been a keep supporter of the club and our financial auditor for some time. Our sincere condolences are extended to John and his family.

**HAWDON WARRNAMBOOL TRIP – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013**


After making phone booking, please send to: **To:** 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**



**CHRISTMAS LUNCH - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

**To:** 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: 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 an 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 \*.....

\* Only need to complete if details have changed

Newsletter preference

E-mail YES / NO

A receipt will not be issued unless requested

Receipt YES / NO