



TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Newsletter No. 78 Dec 2013

Editor: Kevin Anderson for John Wren

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all



RECENT ACTIVITIES

Christmas Lunch a great success

The TAA 25 Year Club Christmas Lunch, held at William Angliss on the 20th November 2013, was attended by approximately 80 people, and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Jim Collins gave a special welcome to Heather Dale, and welcomed our national treasures; TAA Foundation members Lance Erwin, John Grant and Ken Zeising and 25 Year Club Life members John Beaton & Lance.

Jim also made a presentation to Vicki Jamieson, Manager of the Chairman's Lounge, recognising her 40 years of service, 20yrs with TAA/Australian Airlines and 20yrs with Qantas still supporting the TAA principles.



Vicki Jamieson accepting her award from Jim Collins



Members at lunch



Foundation members, Ken Ziesing, John (half a thou) Grant, and Lance (steel wool) Erwin



Alan Nock and Jack Murphy after receiving their 10+ year museum service badges, presented by Jim Collins

DC3 Hawdon Trip to Warrnambool

Members enjoyed a pleasant flight aboard VH-AES Hawdon to Warrnambool on the 24th November. Our normal wrangle of getting through security was eased this time with a few urgent early morning phone calls – for the last trip it took one and a half hours! At the controls were Captains Jim Duff and Alan Searle. Alan, who spent a lot of his youth in Warrnambool, suggested lunch on the water's edge at Proudfoot's Boathouse. The suggestion was well appreciated; it was thoroughly enjoyable and has our recommendation.

We have been fortunate to have Hawdon operate three flights this year with another planned for early next year.

A big thank you is extended to the maintenance crew of Hawdon who work tirelessly to keep the aircraft in flying order. A valued complement was made by a pilot assisting in one of our flights recently (he normally flies a well known DC3 around Melbourne). He stated he was very impressed in the cabin and many other features of our aircraft being so well maintained. Accolades to the maintenance boys Ted Dewey, John Beaton, Noel Young, Craig Samson, Peter Cook, Ray Splatt, Graham Fraser, Dave Axon, Mark Dewey and Noel Doolan who, without fuss, manage to keep the aircraft airworthy.



Passengers about to board for a pleasant journey home



Captains Jim Duff and Alan Searle



Proudfoot's Boathouse, Warrnambool



Members at lunch

Volunteers' Christmas dinner

A volunteers' Christmas dinner was held at William Angliss recently. As part of the inaugural presentations recognising volunteers who have served 10 years' service or more at the Museum, President Jim Collins made 10 year service badge presentations to Alan Nock and Jack Murphy for their continual assistance with the museum. The Club's sincere congratulations and thanks are extended to both Alan and Jack for their continued help. (Photo is on page 1 with the Christmas Lunch photos)

90th Birthday of Nancy Duncan (nee Coles)

Nancy Duncan (nee Coles), daughter of TAA's inaugural Chairman GW Coles, and a passenger on TAA's first flight in 1946, celebrated her 90th birthday recently. The Club sent a birthday card and flowers and we have received a very appreciative thank you card from Nancy. The card is on display at the museum.

STAARS November lunch

The November Simply TAA Retired Staff (STAARS) November lunch was one of our most successful lunches yet, in terms of numbers who attended. The meal count was 215, which doesn't include those who wandered between tables and didn't eat. This is a significant achievement and gathering of staff with a link to an airline that operated and dissolved some 20 years ago. Detailed later in this newsletter is information on the origin of STAARS get-togethers.



Good old chin wag happening



TAA Foundation members Bill Harrison and Lance Erwin



Arthur West, Noel Young, Charlie Rosa, Dorothy Duan, Bill Harrison and Blue Kennedy



Kathy Monteiro, Vicki Ambesi, Bill Cotanidis and Robert Hilderbrandt

Staff farewell

A good send off was held at the Hotel Max to farewell four people who had a combined total of 75 years service from our airline's Base Administration and Flight Operations. Lyall Tann served 29 years, Sharon Hanrahan 25 years, Graham Read 15 years and Jane Rizzi 6 years. A majority of their service was in Flight Attendant Crewing; their familiar faces will be missed in the area and we wish them all every success.



Back: Graham, Sharon, Jane and Lyall

Front: Send off organisers, Steve Redding and Tom Benditz

UPCOMING EVENTS

STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch – 18th February 2014

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 where approximately 200 people attend. If you haven't been to a STAARS lunch or want more information, give Kevin Anderson (0419 511 179) or Lance Erwin (9386 4056) a call for details. The dates for **2014** lunches are **Tuesday 18th Feb, 20th May, 19th Aug & 18th Nov**. Everyone is welcome. Further details on its history and origin are later in this newsletter

Hawdon DC3 trip to Sale – 23rd February 2014

A day trip to Sale on VH-AES Hawdon is planned for Sunday the 23rd February, 2014. This is the first time Hawdon has flown to Sale; considerable excitement surrounds the trip.

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: Cost 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)

Lunch: Bus transport and small tour provided, and lunch at your expense (location to be established).

Return: Approximately 16:00 hours at Tullamarine

Bookings: Phone President Jim Collins on 0400 080 164, – Sorry about the mobile, as the museum is closed

Deadline: Booking requests are to be submitted by **10th February, 2014**

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.

Confirmation: Will be given after any necessary ballot and when donation is received

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

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 19th March 2014

The TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Skyways Hotel, 113 Mathews Ave, Airport West beginning at 11:00am. A separate notice will be distributed in February giving further information on the AGM and details of the constitution proposals. Following the meeting, attendees are welcome to stay on for a Club subsidised lunch at a cost of \$5 per member and spouse/partner.

STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Origin

Lance Erwin, TAA Foundation Member and Life Member of the TAA 25 Year Club, was requested to pen the origins of our STAARS luncheons. Lance wrote:

On the 27th April 1995, I had lunch at the 'Moonee Valley Tabaret' with Dr Colin Brown (TAA/Australian Medical Chief) and several other airline staff.

In the course of that lunch, Colin Brown drew myself and John Edwards (Safety & Accident Officer) into a discussion in respect to the need of 'retired staff' (TAA/Australian Airlines) to have some sort of regular get together or club, to enable retired staff to keep in touch with other retirees.

As many of the personnel had an almost life long close friendship with their workmates ranging from 10-40 years of their working life, this was considered to be very good karma.

I had no argument with Colin's viewpoint on this matter, as I had personal exposure to a number of similar situations where employees had retired, but were coming back to the Maintenance Base to look up their workmates, as they had explained to me. They were bored and had great difficulty in adjusting to retirement.

At that meeting, Dr Colin Brown challenged me to set up some sort of regular meeting arrangement to assuage the problem. I agreed to do what Colin proposed. To me it was like setting up the TAA Apprentice Social Club (in reverse).

Over the next few weeks/months I contacted other retirees, guys like Ken Francis, John Grant, John Edwards, Tom Taylor, Malcolm Evans, George Hughes, Peter Robinson and many others and we set up the STAARS Lunch Club. Naturally we thought that the Tabaret at Moonee Valley, where 'the idea was hatched', would be a first class venue.

So the first STAARS lunch was conducted at the Moonee Valley Tabaret on 17 August 1995. We had 20 retirees turn up and it was a success. Our 2nd STAARS lunch was held at the same venue on 12 December 1995 and 37 people turned up and enjoyed the experience. So the 'show was on the road' so to speak. It has taken a number of years to reach the popularity and membership we enjoy today, where on the 20th November, 2013 we had over 210 attendees.

Looking back, we have enjoyed the regular attendance of so many wonderful characters and personalities. We had experienced a decrease in our membership because of illness, ageing and inevitable mortality (such is life). Recently, there has been a surge in membership, as a result of the forced retirement and redundancy experienced in the aircraft industry. We currently have over 600 active members.

Thanks to the support and computer skills of my 'co-hort', Kevin Anderson, I have been able to relax at the STAARS luncheons, spending more time talking to old mates of over 50 years and more, whilst Kevin does the office work. There have been, over the years, so many delegates and those I call STAARS Operatives, who have done, and are still doing, a great job in encouraging our members to turn up to our Quarterly Luncheons. I will refrain from documenting a long list of names - they know who they are and they know I have always appreciated their commitment to STAARS.

Finally, I look forward to 2015. In August of that year, we will celebrate 20 years of STAARS, and we will remember that if it had not been for Dr Colin Brown raising the need for retirement reunions, we would not be enjoying our STAARS reunions as we do today.

And we all owe a big thank you to Lance for his tireless efforts to get it where it is today. Great work!!

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 |

Season's greetings

The committee extends our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year. We have found the year to be busy, challenging and enjoyable and have a lot of enthusiasm to continue on in the New Year.

Foundation Members

The committee has granted approval for members of the TAA 25 Year Club, who are Foundation Members of the TAA, to be exempt from paying the annual membership fee. This consideration is well over-due, we apologise for not having thought of it earlier. For information, a Foundation Member is one who commenced employment with TAA in 1946.

Club's Constitution

The committee is currently reviewing its rules to ensure they are in line with the recent amendment to the Associations Incorporation Reform Act and Regulations of 2012. The amended rules will be mailed to all members early next year to vote on at the next Annual General Meeting scheduled for the 19th March 2014. Be assured that no 'controversial changes' are being made. Your vote is important, as the proposed changes are only to benefit the club and its purposes and aims. Specific details of the amendments will be précised with the proposed constitution when distributed in February next year.

Committee nominations

In preparation for next year's AGM, nominations are being accepted for committee positions. Should a member wish to nominate, their nomination must be signed by two members and be received by the Secretary on or before the 22nd January, 2014, in order to allow for postal votes to be mailed out. All current committee members, excepting Ian Wood, will be standing for re-election.

***** A NOMINATION form is on the last page of this newsletter *****

Membership Renewal 2013–2014

The club thanks all members for your continuing support and extends a warm welcome to the continuing number of new members. Your support helps protect the great memories of TAA/Australian Airlines through the continued enhancement of the Museum, member trips and dinners etc. Annual membership renewal is from 1st July each year.

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

Membership Arrears

If you are in arrears, an effort to bring your membership up-to-date would be appreciated. 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 financial. If you've happened to throw out the envelope before getting to read this, and you are un-financial, we have taken to placing a sticker on the top of the newsletter. Again, thank you for your continuing support.

Should any member have financial issues that possibly threaten membership, please contact a committee member, as alternative arrangements can be made. Also, should a member be aware of circumstances where we may be able to help a former member, please let us know.

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

MUSEUM NEWS

Our appreciation and thanks is extended to all members and friends of the museum who have assisted as volunteers at the museum throughout the year. Amongst these, we are not forgetting those who have assisted with the many tour groups that have toured the museum. This year, we have had 26 groups totalling approximately 232 visitors at the museum.

Volunteers mainly attend one day a week (some, two days) assisting in many and varied ways.

Significant improvements in the museum this year has been:

- Order of the British Empire (OBE) medal of Captain John Chapman donated to the museum.
- Addition of an A300 Electrical Trainer and an A300 Flight Controls and Hydraulics Trainer from the Engineering Training School.
- Papua New Guinea display refurbished and a display relevant to the Viscount aircraft established.
- Engineering memorabilia and sectionalised RR Dart engine from Kangan TAFE College.
- Original card system records for all apprentices from 1946 to 1989.
- Boxes of priceless historical records of John Watkins, Engineering Director 1953-1971.

These are just a few that can be recalled with a fading memory, apologies for those not mentioned.

The museum is normally open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. We will consider opening at another time should an interstate or overseas member be unable to visit during these times.

The Museum will close for the Christmas break from Friday 13th December, 2013 to Monday 13th January, 2014 with the first day of business in the new year being **Tuesday 14th January, 2014.**

Flight Attendant Uniform request

Hoping that some flight attendants may have these items and be willing to donate them to the museum:

- the 'Australian Airlines' Covers navy blue uniform with the olive green lapel. We started wearing this uniform in 1986 when the name changed.
- the TAA yellow and blue and the olive green and blue 'Australian' bands that were worn on the Akubra hats.
- A couple of sets of the current (soon to be superseded) Qantas Flight Attendant uniforms and associated badges.

These items would be greatly received and appreciated.

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 per month. Come along one day and check out the Museum, yarn to the volunteers – 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

This newsletter will be the first to be emailed to members who have recently requested email distribution in lieu of surface mail. Approximately 100 members have requested it so far, and if this is your preference please let us know. Surface mail will always be available.

This newsletter is compiled by Kevin Anderson in the absence 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.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Ian Morgan | Safety | 10/10/13 | Ian was the Safety department |
| Ken (Rivets) Walker | Engineer | 17/04/13 | ex apprentice 1950 intake |
| Margaret Beaver | Personnel Head Office | 19/09/12 | Personal Secretary to Trevor Fenton |
| Rupert (Tommy) Taylor | Line Maintenance | 07/11/13 | 41 years service |
| Ainsley Woolmer | Flight Operations | 09/13 | Check Hostess |

HAWDON TRIP to SALE – 23rd February, 2014

Please make phone booking to:
- Jim Collins on 0400 080 164
- and send mail or email :-

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, once confirmed, is by a cheque or bank transfer payable to 'TAA 25 Year Club'; BSB: 063 007, ACC: 0090 1577 ***Please ensure you include your name on the bank transfer entry, and either return mail this form or send a confirmation email to taamuseum@bigpond.com to verify your bank transfer.**



COMMITTEE POSITION NOMINATION

To: Arnold Rogers, Secretary
TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club
Qantas GT Building
7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042

Nominated: Financial Member's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Seconded: Financial Member's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Seconded: Financial Member's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Note: Two 'seconded' signatures are required by the Club's constitution.

Deadline: To reach the Secretary on or before **22nd January, 2014.**



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 confirmation email to taamuseum@bigpond.com to notify us of your bank transfer**

NameSpouse Name *

Address

Suburb.....StateP/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