

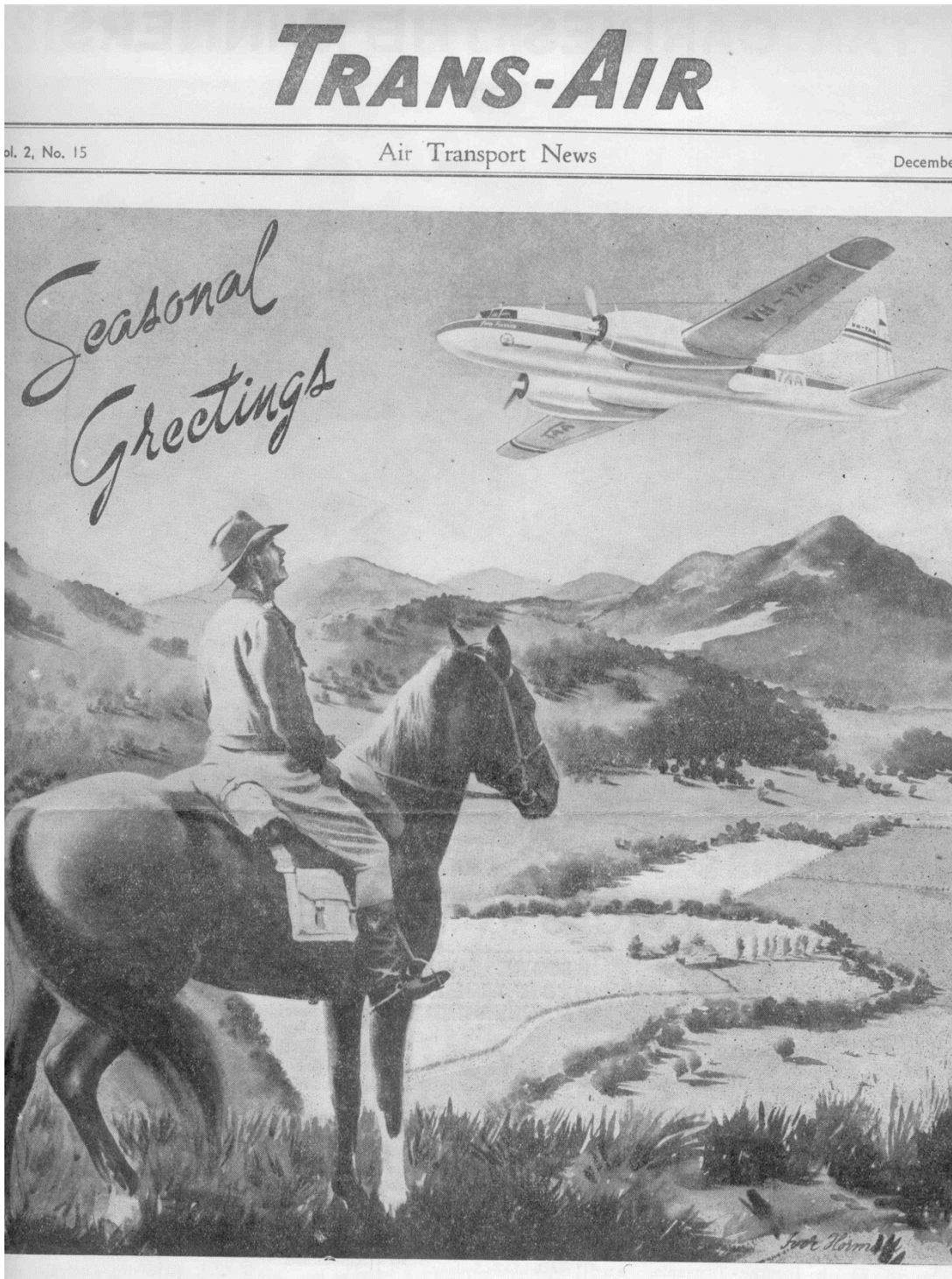


# TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

## Newsletter No. 81

## December 2014

Editor: John Wren



The picture at left appeared on the front cover of the TAA 'Trans-Air' passenger in-flight magazine issued on December 1949.

You might remember another Christmas, we ran the pic from the front page of the 1946 Staff Magazine, so we wanted to keep that theme going. No luck – they didn't even mention Christmas on the 1947 Staff Magazine front page!

Because the page size was VERY long, the words that were underneath our pic at left are on the next page – just so you know.

Still no colour back in 1949!



The words under the picture on the front page were:

*TAA Serves the Nation*

*“It’s the TAA ‘plane!” Ivor Horman, well-known Australian artist with his facile brush and canvas, has cleverly captured a sight, typically Australian, and familiar throughout the outback in the illustration. It is a monotone replica of the artistically coloured landscape on TAA’s calendar from 1950. It shows how distance has been spanned in this most air-minded of all countries, and conveys the appreciation of the boon that a well-planned aerial network has meant to dwellers in remote areas. The aircraft depicted is the 300 m.p.h. pressurised Convair-Liner”*

Well, that’s how TAA staff celebrated Xmas in 1949! From your 25 Year Club President, Committee and all the Museum Volunteers, we wish you and your family the merriest Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## **STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch – 19<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

Not a bad turn up, a few more new faces and lots of old friends. It was great to catch up and hear what everyone had been up to. Just under 150 attended. Some pics taken on the day are below.



## President's Report

- ➔ The **movie film identification project** (identify and digitise our old film stock) is roaring ahead with over 2000 films identified. Similarly, the **slide digitisation project** has passed the 11,500 slides mark.
- ➔ You may remember I mentioned we got the JT8D Engine Simulator going – for those of you with computers, have a look at <http://www.taamuseum.org.au/Documents/Films/enginetrainer.avi> . This is our first try at bringing you short movies of our activities at the Museum.
- ➔ We will be revising the ‘time line’ of our Museum display shortly – still a few matters to resolve first.
- ➔ We are working on a new project that may see some of the early history of TAA appearing regularly on a “Heritage Channel” on QF’s aircraft. It fits right in with our film digitisation project.
- ➔ We will also have a small TAA & BCPA display at the San Francisco Airport Museum in mid-November 2014.
- ➔ We had some showcases with smoked glass, making it difficult to see the items inside. So we have manufactured / installed some acrylic doors to solve the problem. Thanks Arnold Rogers & Ian Wood.
- ➔ Our 16mm projector, tape recorder, micro film reader and 32mm tape recorder have also been repaired. Thanks Barry Theodore.
- ➔ We received a large package of private papers from John Hewitt, our former Legal Officer, to add to our growing collection. Great stories within all the documents. Thanks John.
- ➔ Bought a new combination printer/scanner to scan documents, and arrived at the Museum to install it just as our old printer decided to die. Have to go back for another one now.
- ➔ If you can help every so often with scanning document/slides (we’ll show you how if needed) or interviewing Foundation Members to include their story in our oral history, I would love to hear from you. We are receiving help from a Sydney member (Helen Ritchie) with scanning BCPA documents held at Qantas, and soon with the oral history of a BCPA flight attendant.; looking forward to hearing that.
- ➔ My personal thanks to all the Volunteers who turn up regularly, rain hail or shine, to help preserve the history of our great airline. I wish them and theirs a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

## DC3 VH-AES “Hawdon”

No more news I’m afraid – the old girl’s still grounded until lots of dollars are found to pay for insurance etc.

A new painting has been made of Hawdon flying over Sydney Harbour in its original (TAA day one) livery and equipment fit. Our researchers have been helping the artist Duncan Bowe with the early external configuration, and we will be issuing a certificate of authenticity to that effect. Have a look at the artist's website [www.planeart.com.au](http://www.planeart.com.au)

## Newsletter

The newsletter will be emailed to members who request it in lieu of surface mail. Approximately 100 members have requested delivery by email, and if this is your preference please let us know. Surface mail will always be available. Our newsletter is being printed with the assistance of the Office of Bill Shorten, MP. Many thanks are extended.

## Jetstar

For those of you who fly with Jetstar, be aware of the following changes:

“Jetstar has updated its carry-on baggage policy for all domestic and international flights booked from Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October, and departing from 25<sup>th</sup> November. The new piece and weight limit of a total 14kg (from 20kg) in Business Class, and 7kg (from 10kg) in Economy, brings us in line with many carriers across the Asia Pacific Region.”



## Founders' Day Dinner

Our Founders' Day Dinner was held on 18<sup>th</sup> September at the William Angliss facility in the city, after some hurried phone calls to amend the date (we advertised it as being on the night before!).

We decorated the tables this year with laminated placemats (featuring a Boeing B727), coasters, signage and a very expensive TAA flag that we recently came across which was hung prominently in the restaurant.

The placemats were to celebrate the arrival of the first domestic jet, B727-100, at Essendon Airport in October, 50 years ago. It was a big deal at the time, and instead of the usual pre-service lay-up, the aircraft left the next morning on an around Australia capital city publicity jaunt.

As you may know, the 25 Year Club supports William Angliss by agreeing to have apprentices-in-training serve the drinks/meals. The 'kids' were trying really hard to put into practice what they learned in the classroom, however Kevin Anderson nearly choked when the young barmaid, (with one day's experience), asked if he would like ice with the beer he ordered! Attending the dinner were 25 Year Club Life Members, Lance Erwin and John Beaton. Foundation Members Ken Zeising, Bluey Kennedy and, of course Lance, also enjoyed the dinner. A good night was had by all, and the top door prize was won by Robin Wood.

## Viscount VH-TVL

Bob Merson, President of S.E. QLD 25 Year Club, sent us the following from Dave Walsh:-

“A dedicated pair of outback souls have ‘restored’ what was left of VH-TVL out on their property just north of Miles on the Leichardt Highway, at a place called Possum Park. Miles is about 80 kms to the east of Roma, along the Brisbane to Charleville Warrego Highway. VH-TVL was destined for the scrap merchants at Brisbane Sims Metal, when she went up for sale ‘as is’ but got butchered along the way by several other acquirers. The photo below shows a ‘restored’ VH- TVL at Possum Park looking absolutely fab and now part of an accommodation venture established by Julie and David Hinds. This alone is ‘another story’ of how it all occurred and how the Hinds endured.

Possum Park is the former WW2 RAAF 3CR ‘Kowguran’ Sub Depot #3 Central Reserve Explosive Store. It was, and still is, located 33 kms north of Miles on the Leichardt Highway, 350 kms west of Brisbane. It is comprised of 20 concrete underground bunkers and some admin buildings. It held, at times, up to 2500 tons of bombs and ammo. Conversion to Tourist Motel type accommodation has subsequently occurred.”



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

The STAARS lunch is held on a quarterly basis from 11:15am–2:00pm at the Moonee Valley Legends Bistro, corner of Thomas & Wilson Streets, Moonee Valley, where approximately 200 people attend. If you haven't been to a STAARS lunch yet, or want more information, give Kevin Anderson (0419 511 179) or Lance Erwin (03 9386 4056) a call for details. **Next year's dates are: 17/02/15, 19/05/15, 18/8/15 and 17/11/15** – so pop these dates in your diary now.

### QLD Annual Dinner – Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2014

The S.E. Qld 25 Year Club are having their Annual Dinner at Kedron-Wavell RSL Club commencing at 1100 hours. If you're in Brisbane (or want an excuse to go), I'm sure you will be made welcome. Contact either the President or Secretary for further details:

President (Bob Merson) [robert.merson@harboursat.com.au](mailto:robert.merson@harboursat.com.au) or 07 54966282 or 0418261000

Secretary (Dave Walsh) [dmjlwalsh@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dmjlwalsh@optusnet.com.au) or 07 38494114 or 0412104727

### 25 Year Club Annual General Meeting (AGM)-Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2015

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, **18th March 2015**. All members are cordially invited:

**Place:** **11:00 am** at the **Skyways Hotel**, Matthews Ave, 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 after the AGM, at a cost of \$5.00, payable on the day. The meal will be subsidised by the 25 Year Club, drinks are at your own expense from the bar.

**RSVP:** Please advise us if you are coming so we can arrange catering - 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 'dobb'd in' for a job, unless you say you want to help out now and then.

Half of the current Committee (Ron Adams, Kevin Anderson, Jim Meehan and Dorothy Duan) will retire at this AGM. Kevin Anderson and Dorothy Duan will both seek re-election, therefore we will need at least two new Committee members. The four new Committee members will be elected by **financial** members and associate members, and announced at the AGM. Official notice of the AGM, and the various forms required, will be mailed separately to you next year in accordance with the Constitution.

### Founders' Lunch - 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2016

Yes, that's right, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 will be our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch (exactly 70 years to the day), and it's already booked at William Angliss. Planning for the big day is moving ahead nicely. We'll open bookings towards the end of 2015 – 'first in best dressed'.

### Pre-Christmas Get Together - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2014

The TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club pre-Christmas daytime Luncheon this year will be at the William Angliss facility (550 Lt. Lonsdale St in the city) which is well serviced by tram and train if you do not want to drive in to the city. Come join your mates for some pre-Christmas cheer. The details are:

Date/Time: Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 12:00.

Cost: Financial Member/Guest \$30.00

None Financial Member/Guest \$33.00

Three course meal provided. Drinks at bar prices → **RSVP: By Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014**

---

TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Inc ABN: 25 953 761 724

7 York Street, Airport West 3042 ☎ 9280 8113 or 9280 8114 ✉ [taamuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:taamuseum@bigpond.com)

Page 5

# Vale

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

<b>Eddie Bunny van Twest</b>	Finance	03/04/14	Aged 76 years
<b>Ron Perkins</b>	GM Mt.Isa	26/08/14	Aged 91 years
<b>Molly Smith</b>	Fabric	20/09/14	Aged 78 years
<b>Peter Chapman</b>	Captain	01/10/14	Aged 91 years
<b>John (Jack) Kew</b>	Mngr SA/NT	07/10/14	Aged 89 years
<b>Kerry Lane</b>	Supply Tulla	31/10/14	Aged 76 years
<b>Ralph Conley</b>	Finance/Qld Mngr	05/11/14	Aged 95 years



TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

**DECEMBER 2014 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

Qantas FTC, 7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042

Financial Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Non Financial Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cheque** - payable to 'TAA 25 Year Club', mailed to Qantas FTC, 7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042 or

**Bank Transfer** - to TAA 25 Year Club; BSB: 063-007, ACC: 0090 1577

\* Please ensure you include your name on bank transfers and either return mail this form or send an email to taamuseum@bigpond.com.au to verify your bank transfer/attendance.



## TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name .....	Spouse Name .....	<b>Payment options</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Address .....		\$20 per year	<input type="checkbox"/>
City ..... State ..... Postcode .....		\$60 for 3 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
		\$100 for 5 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phone ..... Mobile ..... E-mail .....			
TAA, Australian Airlines, Qantas service: Start ..... Finish .....			
Newsletter preference: Mail / Email (please indicate preference)			

**Cheque** - payable to 'TAA 25 Year Club' mailed to Qantas FTC, 7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042

**Bank Transfer** - to TAA 25 Year Club; BSB: 063 007, ACC: 0090 1577

\* Please ensure you include your name on bank transfers and either return mail this form or send an email to taamuseum@bigpond.com.au to verify your bank transfer