



TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

Newsletter No. 85

September 2015

Editor: John Wren

Christmas Lunch 2015



Don't forget our Xmas lunch will be held on 12 November starting at 11:30 for drinks at the William Angliss (Melways 1AB2) facility [entry from Lt. Lonsdale St. off Spencer St]. **Application below.** This is our final function for the year and we do hope you can join us for Christmas cheers. [The Museum closes on 10 December.]

Founders Day Dinner 2015 [the 69th]

This year's Founders Day dinner was held on 10 September at the William Angliss facility in the city where we were again looked after at our tables by the young student hospitality trainees [having just started their training it made for an interesting night].

We had **Foundation Members** Bob Russell, Robert Button, Ken Ziezing and Lance Erwin [also a Life Member] attending along with Life Member John Beaton. All of your 25 Year Club Committee attended.

Your President [John Wren] spoke about the early beginnings of **TAA** when it was just a gleam in the eye of Prime Ministers Curtin and Chifley and the sometimes rocky road getting **TAA** started. The opening up of Australia to air travel, and the various aircraft types that were used, got a mention along with the introduction of the Airlines Agreement Act as a prelude to the Two Airline Policy and their impact.]

You may recall in the last Newsletter we advised of the passing of Nancie Coles [daughter of our first Chairman who was on the first **TAA** revenue flight]. We invited Nancie's daughters Ann and Elizabeth (with husbands) to our 69th Anniversary Dinner who pleasantly surprised us all by presenting the **TAA** 25 Year Club with the **original document of appointment for Arthur William Coles to act as a Member and Chairman of the Australian National Airlines Commission** [which ran **TAA**] effective 12 February 1946. It was signed by the then Governor-General Henry Albert. We will have the document suitably framed and hung at the Museum with the other ANAC memorabilia.

A good night was had by all and everyone is now looking forward to THE BIG ONE – our 70th Anniversary in 2016. Please keep the 9 September 2016 free so you can attend this fabulous celebration of a great airline and the people who made it "**TAA** the friendly way".



Arthur Coles warrant of appointment being presented to **TAA** 25 Year Club President John Wren by Ann & Elizabeth

TAA Travaire Girls

In the mid-fifties, **TAA** Management agreed that something should be done to attract more women passengers. Figures from the Company Statistician at that time, Kurt Mangold, endorsed this view. They found that a lot of women certainly wanted to travel, but were reluctant to travel alone, so under the guidance of Brendan O'Halloran, Promotional Sales Manager it was proposed to appoint a Women's Travel Adviser, and "Anne Travaire" was created.

An attractive, well groomed, and articulate ex-air hostess with a great personality, by the name of Wilhemina (Billy) Gleeson was selected. To promote this new and specialised service, she organised radio and television interviews, and was soon on the guest speaker list for women's (and men's) groups, talking about where to go in Australia, the best time to go, what to pack, and of course flying the friendly way. The first of the Travaire Escorted Tours was in conjunction with the Australian Women's Weekly, and was "The Petticoat Safari" to Ayers Rock.

The all women's tours were to prove popular, but inevitably the men wanted to come too, and the first mixed tour went to Tasmania for two weeks with Dorothy Williams (Thomas) who had been appointed within the first year as Assistant W.T.A. Due to the heavy work load that had so quickly built up, regular escorted tours to the Centre, W.A., Flinders Rangers, North Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef, New Guinea, were booked as soon as they were released, sometimes up to two years ahead, and later on were to include other destinations both here and overseas.

Travelling with a Travaire meant that you were worry-free on your holiday. We looked after your tickets and baggage, arranged wake-up calls, made sure you were on the bus on time, sitting next to someone compatible, found things that went astray, changed the film in your camera, cared for you if you got sun burnt, seasick in the Whitsundays, had a headache, advised about the best places to shop and made lots of friends.

Over the years there were many “Travaires” mostly using their given names e.g. Muriel Travaire, Margaret Travaire and I don’t know when this Department ceased. It was an exciting and challenging job, travelling throughout the country spreading the word about the wonderful places to visit and explore, meeting such a variety of people, and of course extolling the virtue of air travel with **TAA**, the friendly way.

[The above article was written by **TAA** Hostess Dorothy Williams (Thomas), who led a number of Travaire tours around Australia – many thanks Dorothy.]

President’s Report

- ➔ We had the first meeting of the electrical team early September to undertake a preliminary design study into building a 16mm film-to-digital recorder. So far so good. We look forward to hearing more as all the details are discovered and hopefully resolved allowing the project to go ahead. We have tons of 16mm **TAA** films to convert before they disintegrate.
- ➔ Our very large Viscount aircraft model is being refurbished and during the work we found that there were wires running to the inside of the wings. Placing electrical probes onto the wires resulted in one of the engine spinners revolving [the other three don’t work – yet]. So now we have to work out how to gain entry to the engine nacelles to repair the engines. Lights have already been fitted to the fuselage interior to show it off through the cut away side. We’ll have to make some props, and do a few other repairs, then it will look spectacular in the Museum and for use next year – or 70th Anniversary.
- ➔ We are hiring a very large scanner at the end of the month to scan all our posters and other A3+ documents and drawings. If you would like to assist with this one month project, please give the Museum a call.
- ➔ If any of our members [or their friends] have an electrical business selling large screen SMART TV’s we need a few, at the right price. Give us a call at the Museum.
- ➔ Don’t forget our Christmas break up lunch get together at William Angliss in the city – see application form below.
- ➔ Many of our Volunteers have headed north for winter – so if you would like to assist at the Museum [in warm air-conditioned comfort] now and again, please come by the Museum and we’ll find something you will love doing..
- ➔ John Booth is well on the way to assembling a 1/72 DC6B model [in **TAA** livery of course]. It will have registration VH-TAD, which was the only DC6 **TAA** owned. The decals for it came from a company in Canberra. Well done John.
- ➔ **If you can help** with scanning documents / slides (we’ll show you how if needed), we would love to hear from you.

Newsletter

The Newsletter will be emailed to members who request it in lieu of surface mail. The email group will also be able to avail themselves of our movies that we have started making. Approximately 230 members have now requested delivery by email, and if this is your preference please let us know. Surface mail will always be available.

Happy 20th Birthday **STAARS** [Simply TAA Retired Staff]

STAARS members celebrated their 20 Year Anniversary with a lunch at the Moonee Valley Tabaret, overlooking the Racecourse with a stunning view of the city of Melbourne in the background.

The 200 Members and Friends present were entertained by internationally renowned “Trio Vardos” playing violin, accordion and double-bass. Their vibrant Hungarian music was a delight to all.

The lunch was subsidised by the **STAARS** group, the meal was more than adequate, service was excellent and decorations compliments of the **TAA** Museum.

A short oration was delivered by Lance Erwin on the origin of the **STAARS** Lunches and credit was afforded to Doctor Colin Brown who Lance attributes to being the catalyst of our highly successful lunches.

In accepting the award, Lance paid tribute to the many delegates who regularly use their organisational skills, time and patience in making each of the **STAARS** luncheons the success they have been.

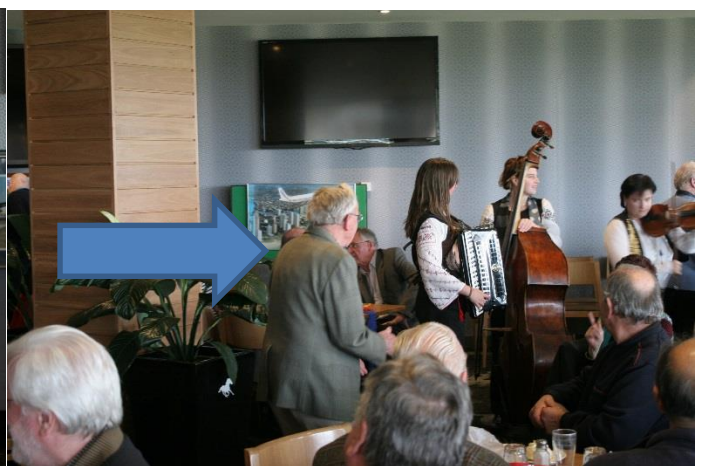
In conclusion, Lance continues to enjoy the tireless efforts of fellow coordinator Kevin Anderson, enabling Lance ‘More Time to Smell the Roses’.



Lance Erwin being presented with a Certificate of Recognition by Kevin Anderson. With 4 meetings a year, Lance has been to every one - rain, hail or shine. Well done Lance.



STAARS even had a roving band playing whilst Members were having their lunches. Great!



TAA 25 Year Club Committeeman Bert Lawes was up dancing a jig to the fast paced music.



Three generations of the Harder family were at **STAARS**, Alf Harder [LAME], his son Wayne [also a LAME with an aviation company] and grandson Steven, a pilot.

STAARS Delegates Kevin Anderson, Sid Brookes, Terry Barbor, Max Forbes [back row], Lance Erwin, Margaret Pereira and Peter Robinson [possibly a Footscray supporter?]

UPCOMING EVENT

STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) Lunch – 17 November

The STAARS (Simply TAA Retired Staff) 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 or want more information, give Kevin Anderson (0419 511 179) or Lance Erwin (03 9386 4056) a call for details.

Staff Travel – the latest from Qantas [their words]

We know Staff Travel is an important benefit to our employees. We also know there is more we can do to improve your Staff Travel experience. That's why we're making positive changes as part of a long-term project to improve Staff Travel without adding additional cost to our business.

Aligning fares

We're aligning our employee fares with the lowest industry standard ZED (Zonal Employee Discount) fare zones. This means that Qantas Economy Staff Travel prices for employees (i.e. QEA fares) will be more closely aligned with the lowest available Interline Staff Travel prices (i.e. 'ZED Low' prices). This makes the program fairer for our people and will generally result in employee Economy fares being reduced. Fares in Qantas international premium cabins will in most cases increase. For example:

Route	Economy Current (QEA, \$AUD)	Economy New (QEA, \$AUD)	Business Current (QEA, \$AUD)	Business New (QEA, \$AUD)
MEL-HBA	\$35.04	\$37.64	\$39.44	\$37.64
SYD-MEL	\$48.83	\$47.73	\$57.63	\$47.73
SYD-PER	\$65.45	\$72.35	\$78.65	\$100.05
PER-SIN	\$145.96	\$135.96	\$192.96	\$224.96
BNE-HKG	\$191.00	\$168.00	\$285.00	\$296.00
MEL-DXB	\$224.97	\$207.97	\$364.97	\$401.97
DXB-LHR	\$99.60	\$102.60	\$143.60	\$207.60
SYD-DFW	\$274.02	\$257.02	\$414.02	\$451.02

In line with changes to commercial fares, fuel surcharges have been absorbed into base fares. There is no standalone fuel surcharge attached to these new fares.

Detailed fares will be available on the Staff Travel website.

Changing international downgrade refunds

We are changing the way we refund international downgrades to Premium Economy. Currently, if you purchase a First or Business ticket and travel in Premium Economy, we refund the difference between the First or Business fare paid and the Economy fare. Instead, we are introducing a Premium Economy fare that will be used to calculate your refund. Given the Premium Economy product, this fare is priced at 1.5 times the Economy fare. Premium Economy will not be available as a saleable Staff Travel fare – it will only be used for refund purposes.

No cost upgrades on most Qantas domestic flights

For domestic Qantas flights (in zones 1 to 3) upgrades will be available on a space available basis at no additional cost to the Economy fare. As most employees are allocated an F18 upgrade order on domestic flights, this will mean domestic upgrades will be allocated first to our longer serving employees.

Downgrade refunds for longer domestic flights

You will now be able to receive a refund if you purchase a Business ticket on our longer domestic flights (in zone 4 – e.g. Sydney-Perth) and you travel in Economy. Previously downgrade refunds were not available for any domestic flights.

FAQs

Why are you making these changes?

We know our employees value Staff Travel, so we're trying to make it better for our employees.

Can you explain the changes to the fare zones?

Currently Qantas has six international (mileage based) fare zones. To align with ZED fare zones, Qantas will move to nine international (mileage based) fare zones. Also, Qantas has benchmarked its international Economy Staff Travel fares to the lowest industry standard ZED fare levels. This means international Economy fares will generally decrease in price and it should no longer be possible to fly cheaper on the same sector on other Interline airlines.

Currently Qantas has three domestic (mileage based) fare zones, this will increase to four. This means that longer domestic flights (zone 4) will become slightly more expensive. However, on shorter haul domestic flights (zones 1 to 3) domestic upgrades will now be free of charge.

Does this mean I should always purchase a Business ticket on domestic flights?

It depends. Although domestic upgrades (zones 1 to 3) will be free of charge, stricter dress standards apply to employees travelling in Business. So you should only purchase an upgradeable ticket when you are prepared to comply with the relevant dress standards.

Does this mean I will pay more for an employee ticket?

It depends on your destination and cabin of travel. Economy fares will reduce on most international sectors. However there will be a small price increase in premium cabins. Domestically, zones 1 to 3 will be comparably priced, however zone 4 will become slightly more expensive in recognition of the longer sector length and the superior product and service on these sectors.

What is happening to QEB fares?

QEB fares apply to eligible parents and/or siblings of an employee. QEB international fares will be more closely aligned to the Interline Staff Travel prices that apply to extended eligible beneficiaries (i.e. 'ZED High' prices). QEB domestic fares will remain at a multiple of 2.5 times the QEA domestic fare as is currently the case. Detailed fares will be available on the Staff Travel website.

Are you making any changes to Interline prices?

Interline fares are reviewed periodically by ZED carriers collectively. Most Interline fares for employees and their eligible QEA beneficiaries will continue to be priced at 'ZED Medium' fare levels – there is no change. Interline fares for parents and extended eligible beneficiaries on **oneworld** carriers will drop slightly to 'ZED High' fare levels. Previously, Qantas applied a higher fare level for parents and extended eligible beneficiaries on **oneworld** carriers. This is being abolished as part of these changes.

How are Business and First fares calculated?

Previously Business was calculated as 2.2 times the base Economy fare (i.e. excluding taxes) and First was 3.3 times the base Economy fare. Following these changes, Business will change to 2.5 times the base Economy fare and First 3.5 times the base Economy fare. This will generally be off a lower Economy fare base.

Why have you changed the way refunds are processed if I travel in Premium Economy?

It's important we improve Staff Travel while not adding additional cost to our business. Since you're travelling in a premium cabin, it's only fair to pay more than you would for an Economy fare.

How is the Premium Economy fare calculated?

In the case where you have bought a First or Business ticket and have flown in Premium Economy, the Premium Economy fare will be calculated by multiplying the base Economy fare (i.e. excluding taxes) by 1.5. You will be refunded the difference between that and the fare you have paid.

Are you automating the downgrade refund process?

Not at the moment. But this is something that is being looked at as part of the long-term project.

Are you going to continue to change the fares?

Staff Travel fares will be reviewed annually and may change as needed.

Are you changing the check-in time for employees?

As part of Target Zero we're changing the check-in close time for domestic Qantas flights from 15 minutes to 30 minutes prior to departure for customers without bags – including employees. Our commercial Qantas Club, Gold and Platinum Qantas Frequent Flyer members, as well as customers travelling in Business without bags will be able to check-in 20 minutes before their departure at the check-in counters and in the Qantas Lounges. We also provide our customers a number of ways to check-in before they're even at the airport. This includes Auto Check-in, the Qantas app and Online Check-in. Only about 2 per cent of customers currently check-in between 15 and 30 minutes before departure and many of these are employees. This change will help us continue to deliver premium on-time performance – something we know our customers really value. The changes will come into effect from 5 August but we're about to start communicating this change to our customers.

Are there any changes to the upgrade process at the airport?

No, the process remains the same as it is today for both Qantas and Jetstar flights.

I currently don't receive Staff Travel in my position, what does this mean for me? There is currently no change to your eligibility for benefits.

Are you changing the rules for beneficiaries?

These changes do not change the rules for beneficiaries.

Are you going to update the Staff Travel website to give a more accurate indication of available seats?

We know this is important and something that can improve your Staff Travel experience. This is being looked at as part of the long-term project.

Will dress standards be reviewed as part of the longer term project? Yes. Any changes will be communicated at a later stage.

Are there any other changes including travel on Jetstar?

Improving Staff Travel is a long-term project and we will continue to keep you updated as work progresses. Jetstar is also reviewing their Staff Travel offering however at this stage no changes to Jetstar Staff Travel fares are proposed.

Xmas close down of Museum

The Museum will close on Thursday afternoon 10 December 2015 and reopens on Tuesday 12 January 2016.

Vale

Our sincere condolences are extended to the families and friends of passed TAA/Australian Airlines work colleagues. Fond memories will remain. [FM - Foundation Member]

Bryan Palmer	Marketing HO	aged 90	13/07/15
Reg Pryse	TSD Tech officer	aged 74	26/07/15
John Ryan	Flt. Engineer	aged 76	01/08/15
Emmanual (Laurie) Spiteri	LAME MEL	aged 91	08/08/15
Frank Austin	Engineering Director		07/07/15
Bruce Cornwall	Traffic & Airport PTH	in 60's	23/08/15
Eddie Weidman	Resv. Manager	aged 93	01/09/15
Tony Wilson	Inventory Analyst	aged 72	01/09/15
Peter Korsman	Capt.		08/09/15
Verdun Jones	FM HO	aged 99	12/09/15



Pre-Christmas Get Together – Thursday 12 November 11:30

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:

Cost: Financial Member / Partner \$28.00 None Financial Member / Guest \$31.00

[Three course meal provided. Drinks at bar prices] ➔ **RSVP: By Monday 2nd November 2015 to:**



TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

DECEMBER XMAS LUNCHEON

Qantas FTC, 7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042

Financial Member Name: _____ Partner: _____

None Financial Member Name: _____ Guest: _____

Cheque: payable to 'TAA 25 Year Club' mail to Qantas FTC Building, 7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042

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

