



TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

Newsletter No. 90 **September 2016**

Editor: John Wren

70th Anniversary Edition

What a fabulous day was had by the 300 people who attended the 70th Anniversary lunch at Moonee Valley Racecourse on the 9th September; the same day 70 years ago that TAA operated its first RPT flight from Laverton (Essendon was still being constructed) to Sydney return on DC-3 'Hawdon'. Not bad for an airline that signed-on its first employee only a few months before.

If the noise level in the room was anything to go on there was certainly a lot of 'catching up' going on, the three course meal was superb and the decorations put a real glow on what was a fabulous day.

Our guest speaker, Ian Watkins, son of John, our first Engineering Director, gave us some interesting insights into John Watkins himself and the issues he was involved in that shaped TAA then, and in the future. It was a most appropriate address on our 70th Anniversary. Thank you once again Ian.

A 25 Year Club Life Membership Award was presented to Jim Meehan by Kevin Anderson and Jim Collins for services rendered to the Club over an extended period. Jim served 14 years as Club President and was instrumental in establishing what the museum is today. Jim was very moved to receive the award giving a very touching acceptance speech.

Our Poet-in-Residence, Eddie Creaney, produced two poems especially for the day; one read by Tim Acton and the other by Eddie. Tim gave us a humorous 5 minutes of his start with TAA before reading the poem "TAA Beginnings". Then Eddie, not to be outdone by Tim, gave us his own version of starting with TAA followed by his reading of "Nola Rose". Both poems were received enthusiastically – what a great effort.

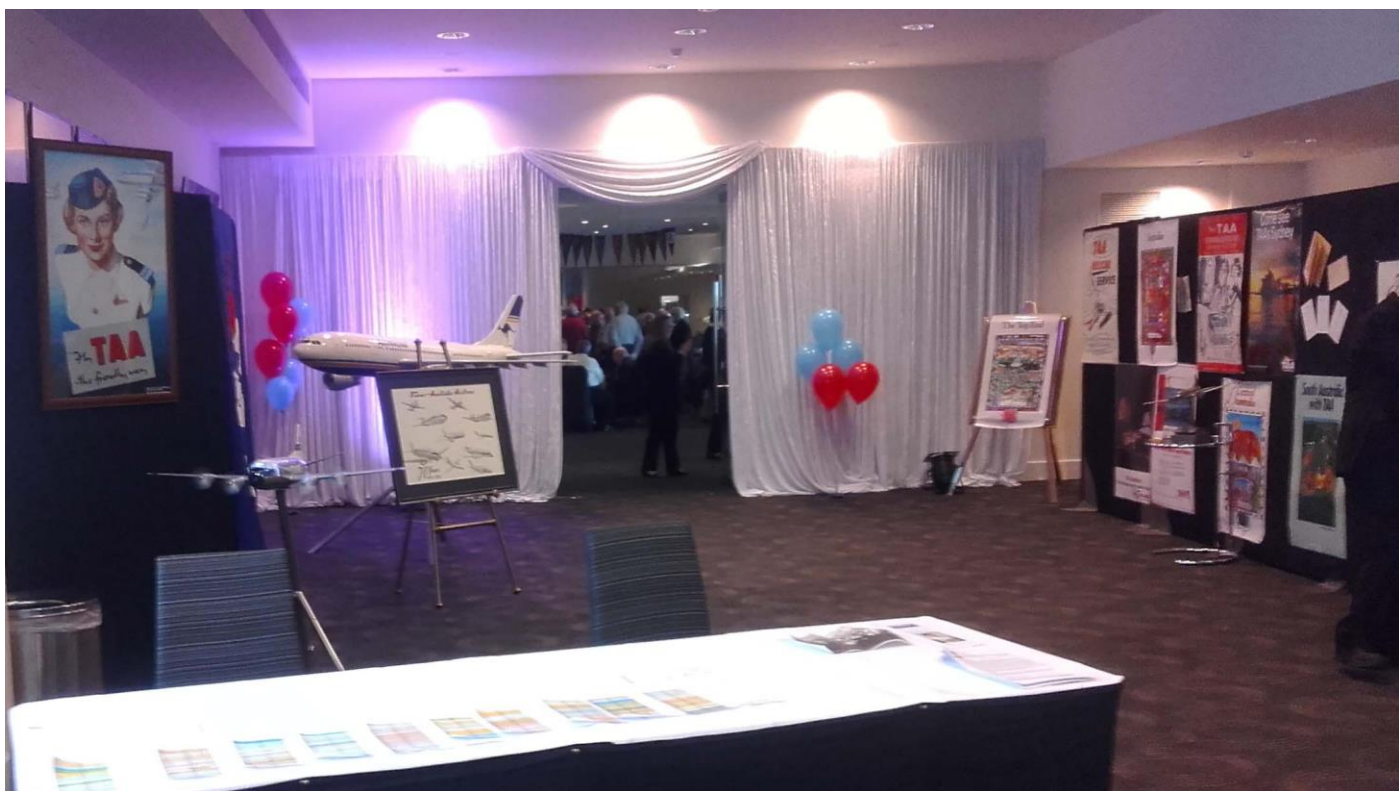
You will be able to read Eddie's poems on our web site www.taamuseum.org.au if you would like to go down memory lane again. Alternatively, if a paper copy is required please contact the museum.

The raffle draw [prizes kindly donated by QF] was probably the only thing during the afternoon that had everyone's solid attention, and silence. The two winners of the double business class tickets from Australia to Asia return were Prue Bottos and Terry Barrett. Bon voyage and we wish you both great trips. We also raffled off half a dozen bottles of port [aged in the 80's] to some lucky winners.

Our newly acquired DC-3 model [5-foot wing span] made it just in time fresh, from having its decals applied that morning after some very clever restoration work by Alfie Favazza. Of course, it had the VH-AES markings of 'Hawdon'.

The menus were created for us by Greg Thom, as well as the 70th Anniversary framed picture [see pic page 5].

Pictures of the day follow:



Entry foyer after everyone had arrived where registration, raffle tickets and an aircraft model display was set out. Many people had their photo taken in front of the various aircraft models we brought down from the Museum for the day. Very festive.



Club member Chard Iverson checks out the DC-3.



Club President John Wren announcing the raffle winners.



Jim and Gina Meehan following presentation of Jim's TAA 25 Year Club Life Membership Award



*Members at the lunch who began their career with TAA in 1946.
From left to right are- 5 Foundation Members who served 20 years post 1946 –
Dick Button, Bluey Kennedy, Colin O'Brien, Lance Erwin and Ken Ziesing.
Robert Russell on the right, who was an employee at the time, witnessed our first flight.*



Margaret Rush (former legal eagle) presenting the original 1946 official seal of the Australian National Airlines Commission to the Museum, accepted by Jim Collins. Thanks Marg.





If you wanted a nice reminder of the 70th Anniversary, what could be better than a framed print done by our very own Greg Thom [with none reflective glass] in size 950 X 740?

Contact the Museum by email or phone if you would like to purchase the framed version or just the print on its own.

Collection would be from the Museum.

70th Anniversary Celebrations on the 9th September - interstate

We are aware of two other 70th Anniversary celebrations, first – **Darwin**.

David Gibb in Darwin advised “Well we had a pretty good night for the reunion. Weather was excellent and everyone had a great time catching up with old mates and reminiscing about the antics we used to get up to. We started at 1700, the majority had gone by 0200 but the stalwarts persisted until 0400. We had about 35 – 40

L to R - Ken Yee, Ian Spiers, Graeme Clarke, Graeme Lee, Phil Holliday





L to R - Brett Morrow, Rae-Anne Nice, Megan de Wit



Back row L to R Laurie Smith, Brett Morrow, Trevor Fong, Lance Gibb, Doug Chan
 Front row L to R Darcy DeMarco, Esther Gall, Phil Holliday, Bob Bird

And the Brisbane get together:

The South Queensland Chapter of the TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club celebrated the 70th anniversary of the first TAA passenger flight with a luncheon. The venue at the Geebung RSL Club was arranged by the Vice President, Aidan Smith, and assisted by our committee and other members. About 80 guests talked about old times and viewed the items of memorabilia. Speeches were heard from Flight Crew and Ground Staff from the early TAA times.



Some of our early DC3 Captains are seen here in the foreground while our Treasurer recited a poem of the Dinosaur Flight



The room was decked out with posters and photos from that yesteryear with the tables set up in red and blue. A video screen showed some films and photos.



A memorable past employee, Pat Merlehan, (Nee Farmer), seen here seated on the left, started flying as an Air Hostess in 1947. The South Queensland Chapter had wine glasses engraved as a memento of the occasion. (See insert on photo).

Newsletter

The envelope your Newsletter arrived in has your 25 Year Club financial status printed on it, so you will know if you need to help us with another donation now, or when in the future.

The Newsletter will be **emailed** to members who request it in lieu of surface mail [saves on postage]. The email group will also be able to click on links to short movies. All email recipients should have received notification recently of their financial status. Surface mail will always be available for those without email access.

AGM 15th March 2017

Our AGM will be held at the Skyways Motel on Matthews Ave, Airport West [the Airport West tram stops diagonally opposite the Skyways Motel, with Westfield Shopping Centre behind]

The term in office for half the Committee [Kevin Anderson, Dorothy Duan, Sam Favazza and Paul Gluschenko] expires at this AGM. Kevin, Sam and Paul will seek re-election, therefore we will need a new Committee Member. Terry Masocco has indicated he will stand for the vacant position.

President's Report

- ➔ Our **70th Anniversary Lunch** was a roaring success with about 300 attending – see report above.
- ➔ I hope you will be able to make it to our **Christmas function** on 10 November [see form below]
- ➔ We would like to reach out to all ex TAA and Australian Airlines staff and let them know about the 25 Year Club & Museum. If you know any ex staff who are not members, please help us connect with them.
- ➔ We welcome new volunteers Alma Barron and Ann Masters to the Museum. They come to us from Wings Away [the ex TAA air hostess group] and will be helping with our uniforms collection. Also new are Paul Ditty and Terry Masocco.

Dates - 2016

1. See us at the Flying Show Expo at the Showgrounds on 22nd & 23rd October
2. Christmas Lunch 10 Nov [see application below]
3. STAARS Lunch - 15 November. [Moonee Valley Racecourse]
4. Avalon Airshow – 3-5 March 2017 [25 Year Club will have an exhibition tent]
5. AGM – 15 March 2017 [Skyways Hotel, next to Westfield Shopping Centre]

Another Acquisition

We have another aircraft model to add to our already impressive collection, thanks again to member John Booth. This time it's an F27 QC [VH-TQT] - and what a fantastic job John has done assembling it.



HARS Convair

Finally, the HARS Convair painted in TAA colours has arrived in Australia [see picture below – landing at HARS for the first time]. Doesn't she look a beauty? We will no doubt hear more about the aircraft in the future – first up may be the Avalon Airshow in March 2017. Oh, and I have it on good authority that HARS have secured the aircraft registration VH-TAA for the Convair.



Special Museum Visitor – Andrew David – CEO Qantas Domestic



Andrew David dropped into the Museum to have a look at the TAA memorabilia. Seen here with Club President, John Wren, admiring a PT6 engine from one of our Twin Otters. Andrew said he was impressed with the Museum and wished us well.

STAARS - (Simply TAA (+TN/QF) Retired Staff)

The recent STAARS meeting on 16th August at the Moonee Valley Race Course was well attended and judging from the table, the meals went down well. All ex TAA / Australian Airlines staff are welcome to come along and have a chat and meal with your old mates.

The next STAARS meeting is on 15th November 2016 – the last for this year. For further details, if required, please contact Lance Erwin on 9386 4056 or Kevin Anderson on 0419 511 179



Former Power Plant guys: Moses Paredes, Lou Dionysopou, Charlie Agresta, Gordon Armstead, Trifun (Trevor) Cica, Phil Mumford and Eddy Kernaghan enjoying the get together.

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]

Ron Weston	Ground Serv	Aged 92	27/07/16
Capt. David Ryder	Flt Ops	Aged 69	09/08/16
John Van Geelen	Sales	Aged 93	23/08/16
David Laing	Intl. Cargo	Aged 70	31/08/16
Reg Wydeman	Finance HO	Aged 76	03/09/16



Pre-Christmas Get Together – 10 November 2016

The TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club pre-Christmas daytime Luncheon this year will be at the William Angliss facility (550 Lt Lonsdale St, Melb.) 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:

Date/Time: Thursday 10th November 2016 at 11:30.

Cost: Financial Member / Partner \$30.00 None Financial Member / Guest \$33.00

[Three course meal provided. Drinks (at bar prices)]

➔ **RSVP: By Thursday 3rd November 2016 to:**



TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club
7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042

XMAS LUNCHEON

Financial Member Name: _____ Partner: _____

None Financial Member Name: _____ Guest: _____

Cheque: - payable to 'TAA 25 Year Club' mailed to above address

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

* Please ensure you include your name on bank transfers and return mail this form to verify your payment / attendance or email your information.



TAA/AUSTRALIAN AIRLINES 25 YEAR CLUB INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Name: _____ Spouse's name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

TAA/Australian Airlines/QANTAS service:

Start date: _____ Finish date: _____ Primary area of work & where: _____

Preferences (Please circle one for each) Newsletter: Mail / Email Other correspondence: Mail / Email

Additional comments: _____

Donation: 1 year - \$20..... 3 years - \$60..... 5 years - \$100..... Other amount \$..... Gift \$.....

Cheque – payable to 'TAA 25 Year Club' mailed to:

Membership Co-ordinator, TAA 25 Year Club, Qantas Building, 7 York St, Airport West, Vic. 3042

Bank transfer – to 'TAA 25 Year Club': BSB: 063 007 Account No.: 0090 1577

*Please ensure you include your name on bank transfers **AND** to confirm your bank transfer:

Return this form by mail **OR** Send an email to: taamuseum@bigpond.com

For enquiries: Phone: 03 9280 8113 / 03 9280 8114 Email: taamuseum@bigpond.com

TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Inc ABN: 25 953 761 724 www.taamuseum.org.au

☰ 7 York Street, Airport West 3042 VIC ☎ 9280 8113 or 9280 8114 taamuseum@bigpond.com