



# **TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club**

## **Newsletter No. 92**

## **March 2017**

**Editor: John Wren**

### **AGM 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

Our AGM was held at the Skyways Motel on Matthews Ave, Airport West upstairs in the Conference Room with just a few more people than was needed to ensure a quorum and allow the meeting to proceed. It was all over in half an hour whereupon everyone went down stairs for a 25 Year Club subsidised lunch. The food is always good at Skyways and the friendship great.

We confirmed that sitting Committee Members Kevin Anderson, Sam Favazza and Paul Gluschenko were re-elected for a further 2 years and the only nomination for the vacant position [Terry Masocco] was also elected for 2 years. Dorothy Duan has retired from Committee after two excellent years service. Thank you Dorothy. Below is the Presidents AGM Report:

#### **Presidents AGM Report – March 2016 to March 2017**

Hello, and welcome to the 2016 /17 AGM of the TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club.

Your Committee have continued to involve new members in the Club, broaden the Volunteer numbers at our Museum, introduce new items into the Museum and enhance the displays to further the public's knowledge of our great airline – TAA and Australian Airlines.

The big event in this reporting period is certainly our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the first revenue flight made by TAA following what must be a record short time to set up 'everything' ready for the Laverton to Sydney historic flight. The 9<sup>th</sup> September lunch was sold out [about 300 people attended] which was very pleasing and the meals / service provided by the Moonee Valley Racing Club was excellent. With all the decorations, exhibits on show from the Museum and the great prizes [overseas & local double air tickets provided by Qantas] everyone got into celebration mode judging from the noise.

This reporting period we welcome new Volunteers Terry Masocco, Rick Schembri, Ronny Reiss, Paul Gluschenko, Eddie Creaney, Libby Watkins, Alma Barron, Ann Masters and Chris Dowling. Allan Crockford has had to retire due to medical reasons – our thanks go to Allan for his efforts. Committeeperson Dorothy Duan is now retiring from Committee duties after providing excellent service to the Club. Dorothy will still remain as a Volunteer. Thank you for your service to the Club Dorothy.

Our efforts to digitise all the old film stock of TAA's history have resulted in all the equipment being obtained and integrated with testing progressing. We have had a few equipment failures – the projector was in for repairs 2 weeks ago. Testing has also started on the VHS tapes.

The Xmas Lunch for Members and Volunteers was held on 10 November at the William Angliss facility. It was not overly well attended by the membership – maybe the big 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary function just 2 months before reduced numbers, as it did for the Queensland 25 Year Club. For those that did attend they enjoyed excellent meals and had an interesting movie show prepared from our Museum films.

Fortunately, the printing of our Newsletter has been achieved this year, in colour. We have had to split the printing into 2 separate batches at different 'printers' so we can continue to roll out a reasonably professional Newsletter.

Ian Wood and Brian Cain [with other assistance now and again] have produced a mobile transit case for the A300 large model, and the Viscount model. It was a big job, but worth it for us as we can now take the model safely anywhere to show it off.

When we heard that the Victorian Chapter of Wings Away [ex TAA Hostee's] was closing down I contacted them resulting in three ex Hostee's becoming members of the 25 Year Club and Volunteers, to look after all the uniforms. They are doing a great job.

In mid-October we exhibited some of our aircraft models at the Royal Melbourne Show Grounds for a few very windy, wet and miserable days [it is Melbourne]. Not many people attended but it was a good learning experience preparing us for the Air Show. Initially the organiser wanted a fee, but when we told him about the size of the models we wanted to bring – it took all of 2 seconds for them to change their minds.

HARS [Historical Aircraft Restoration Society] at Illawarra Regional Airport just south of Wollongong now have the Convair [from South Africa] in TAA colours and our DC-3 [Hawdon]. And they are working on getting a DC-6. HARS were hopeful of getting both aircraft to the Avalon Air Show however the Convair blew an engine 10 minutes after take-off and returned. Hawdon was all polished up but the new AOC has still not been cleared by CASA – so it's grounded. They have completed taxi tests after some engine issues.

The Tramcar lunch tour around Melbourne went down well and all those on board enjoyed the day as you would have seen from the photos in the Newsletter.

We have been lucky with aircraft models again this year with the 'acquisition' of the very large DC-3 model that you may have seen at the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The DC6A/B in TAA colours made by John Booth I reported last year subsequently won an award in an Australia 'open' model competition. John has since produced a nice F27 model for us, again featured in the Newsletter in glorious colour. They look amazing and are a great addition to the Museum.

Visitors to our Museum this year on tours was 490, and we had 153 sign the visitor's book [these are usually country & interstate people. We don't have a way of counting the 'walk in of the street' visitors, which happens all the time. We annually have a big set of tours, starting next week, from Essendon Grammar [who run an aviation semester] when they visit the QF facility and our Museum.

At many AGM's some insight into future programs, shows and exhibits is give however it very much depends on who is elected to what position at the next Committee Meeting. Indications are usually in subsequent Newsletters once the Committee settles down to day-to-day running.

I would like to thank you, the Members of the 25 Year Club for your continued financial support and for being here today. Without that support we would gradually cease to exist. The new Committee has to be formed after this AGM and I would like, as a permanent agenda item, to see a review of the Constitution and succession planning for the [not too far away] day when there are no 25 Year ex staff available to hold office. We will have to consider it very carefully, but the alternative probably means the folding of the Club and Museum.

I cannot thank the Committee and Volunteers enough for all the work they have put into the Museum for the benefit of the 25 Year Club. So much has been done that is not in the big list above – just amazing. Thank you all.

Lastly we must thank Qantas for the facility housing our Museum. Their continued support is most appreciated and we will be able to return the favour in just a few years when they celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Have you noticed the preparations already being made; last Air Show saw the old QF ochre colour scheme on a newly delivered B737 [named James Strong] and this year at the Air Show was another new B737 in old QF livery [called Retro 11] on show.

I would personally like to thank the Club for allowing me the privilege of leading the Club as President this last year. Seeing all the things that have been achieved has been very satisfying. It hasn't all been smooth flying this year unfortunately.

Since being elected President a few years ago I have, on average, been at the Museum 3 days a week plus home time working on the Newsletter – published every two months. In that time the military items and most of the non TAA / Australian Airlines items have been removed. Volunteer numbers are up and still climbing and our finances are in a good position. Our home at the Qantas FTC seems secure.

However in the last 7 months 2 committeemen have felt the need to change the way we have been operating and causing what seems like half our time watching our backs whilst they block progress. With so much work already done it is time to go all out with displaying our TAA Australian Airlines items at the Museum AND preparing for a future without 25 year + members either involved or available. Doing it now will ensure that all of you shape the memory [through the Museum] you had of TAA because you lived it and made it.

With nearly everyone putting in so much time and effort it is not acceptable to have just 2 people block progress and waste so much time. For myself, I am going on leave shortly, and on return will resign from Committee if no solution is found.

## 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Poster

We still have a few left, so if you would like a fabulous memory of TAA's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – with artwork by one of our own, now is the time to order. For the large version [below left] 890 X 650 with surround and glass \$220.00. For the smaller version [below right] 850 X 610 \$170.00. For just the poster [840 X 600] \$25.00 – all available from the Museum. We have a framed copy at the Museum if you would like to see it first.



## 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 establish their financial status from the covering email. Surface mail will always be available for those without email access.

## President's Report

- ➔ Not much to report after all the holidays and Museum closure period that is not already detailed elsewhere in the Newsletter.
- ➔ You may want to add a visit to the TAA Museum to your new year's resolutions – I'm absolutely positive you will be impressed with the Museum display, and you may see a way of helping to keep the name and history of TAA / Australian Airlines alive by donation of your 'treasures' [probably stuck in a draw gathering dust] or helping out with a particular project, or even volunteering as often as you can.

## Eastern Hill Fire Station Museum



A recent visit to the Eastern Hill Fire Station Museum hosted by Museum's Australia [of which we are a member] by the Editor to see what they had and how they displayed it, turned up an oldie, but a goody, poster above the Managers desk.

It's definitely worth a visit if you haven't been before. Their Volunteers are just like us, ex MFB.

They obviously take complaints seriously as they have never had any follow-up complaints!

## Avalon 2017

This year Paul Gluschenko headed up the team from the Museum that put up a great display over the full period of the AirShow. Even the 'trade days' were busy with ex TAA staff either working at the AirShow for company's or as marshals etc on the organising committee came in to visit. The last three days were mayhem with all the mum, dad & the kids gaining entry. Below are some pics taken at the AirShow:



One of the big A300 models, which everyone loved to stand in front of for a picture. Just behind the screens was our mini theatre showing some films from the digital conversion project.



Ann Masters being interviewed by the press at our Display Tent at the Airshow in front of the large A300 model. Well done Ann.



Qantas' recently delivered B737 in an early QF colour scheme was also on show at the AirShow. Named "Retro Roo II" [last AirShow QF had an ochre colour scheme B737 named "James Strong". Must be getting ready for the 100<sup>th</sup> year!

Our own Libby Watkins talking with the First Officer, Jade Granger of the B737 - no not about aircraft details – arrangements for dinner in a few weeks. They are old friends! Note the new QF uniform.

*Right:* Frank Grecco, with a firm grip on our mannequin whilst John Wren reattaches an arm

*Below:* The 'pack the truck team' at the Museum front door: *Front L to R* Terry Masocco, Jim More, Frank Grecco, Duncan Cameron & Barry Gawne. *Back L to R* John Wren & Paul Gluschenko – team leader for this event.



## Museum Tours



As you would be aware, the Museum runs tours for groups, complete with one of our Volunteer Tour Guides to show them around.

The Airlines Training Group recently had a team of young ladies, looking very smart in their uniforms, undertake a tour with Pat Broad taking the lead as Tour Guide. It's a hard job, but as Pat said, somebodys got to do it!

## Brisbane 25 Year Club AGM – 26 March



Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March at the Kedron Wavell Services Club [northern suburb of Brisbane] was the venue for the **TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club, South Queensland Chapter** AGM. Lunch after the meeting went down well in good company. Some of the attendees are shown below.

At left is the new Committee elected for 2017:  
*From bottom right to left:* Robert Merson – President, David Walsh – Secretary, John Coutts – Treasurer. Committee members *top left to right:* Peter Caldwell, Geoff Hill, Jeff Hufer and Don Evans.



## Golden Anniversary [50 Years] – Arrival of first DC9

TAA's first DC9-31 VH-TJJ [named Edmund Kennedy] went into service at 0800 on 17 April, 1967. With only 2 crew and 2 engines, as opposed to the B727's 3 crew and 3 engines, there were some serious economic advantages. TAA went on to purchase 12 DC9's in all [Registrations VH-TJJ to U] with acceptance between March 67 and October 71. They were all sold between April 82 [VH-TJM] and November 89 [VH-TJU, last in and last out]. Below is the big announcement in the Staff Magazine:

TAA STAFF  
MAGAZINE

Vol. 18, No. 3  
April, 1967

# THIS AIR AGE



### INSIDE:

- A pictorial coverage of the arrival in Australia of our first DC9 appears on pages 5-7. The distribution of this issue has been held up to include these pictures.
- Hostesses on the DC9 have completed courses in a versatile mock-up at Essendon. Page 3.
- A report of the recent Marketing Conference held in Melbourne appears on page 8.
- A luxury hotel in Fiji has announced concessions for TAA staff members. Page.11

## NEWEST T-JET ARRIVES

TAA's first DC9 Whispering T-Jet is now operating on east coast services, following its arrival in Australia.

The DC9, which had been accepted for TAA by Commissioner Sir Reginald Groom in the U.S., was greeted on touchdown in Melbourne by a large crowd of staff members, press reporters and photographers, a battery of TV and movie cameras and members of the public.

Its introduction into service a few days ago increased jet schedules on east coast routes. The "jet spread" will be further improved with the entry into service next month of TAA's second DC9.

Passenger reaction to the new jet has been excellent. Among comments expressed

on the first passenger flights were "... a lovely aircraft; compares very favourably with the 727" and "... a very smooth flight. The jet's interior decor is most attractive."

A full coverage of the arrival of the DC9 in Australia appears inside this issue.

## 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]

Brian Price	Sales Manager	Aged 73	21/12/16
Neville Walker	LAME	Aged 84	01/01/17
Brian O'Toole	Captain	Aged 87	05/01/17
Laurie Gugliotti	Tech Records	Aged 57	04/01/17
Ron Jones	Dock Maint	Aged 84	27/12/16
Tony Henty	Intl Travel		24/01/17
Alan Zammit	Components Foreman	Aged 66	04/02/17
Brian Shields	Stores Inspection	Aged 80	04/02/17
Shane Beasley	Components	Aged 64	25/12/16
Robert Collins	Rig Room Mech Access	Aged 62	09/02/17
George Sarris	Flight Chef	Aged 93	23/07/16
Aneta Williams	Mel Res		13/02/17
Eddie Clark	Captain	Aged 94	14/03/17
Gerry Fallscheer	TSD & Maint	Aged 83	15/03/17
James Meehan*	Catering MEL	Aged 76	28/03/17

\* 25 Year Club President 1997 – 2010, and Life Member.



### 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:  
TAA Start date: ..... TAA Finish date: .....  
Primary area of work & where: .....  
Preferences (Please circle)    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': C'wealth Bank 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](mailto:taamuseum@bigpond.com)

**For enquiries:** Phone: 03 9280 8113 / 03 9280 8114    Email: [taamuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:taamuseum@bigpond.com)