



TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

Newsletter No. 94

October 2017

Editor: John Wren

Christmas Lunch 2015



Don't forget our **Xmas lunch** will be held on 23 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.
[Note: the Museum closes on 7th Dec, back on 16 Jan, 18]

President's Report

→ We have received a letter from the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame's [AAHF] Chairman, Steve Padgett who has advised:

“On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame, we are delighted to advise that, following an extensive selection process, **Trans-Australia Airlines has been selected to be inducted into the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame in 2017.**

The official Induction Ceremony will be held at a Gala Dinner on Saturday 25 November 2017 at the Historic Aircraft Restoration Society [HARS], Illawarra Regional Airport [Wollongong], Albion Park Rail, NSW commencing at 1730.

The Hall of Fame was founded to honour those individuals and organisations whose outstanding contributions have advanced aviation significantly, thereby inspiring our future generations. We are delighted that Trans-Australia Airlines will be included amongst this year's very worthy inductees.”

This is the AAHF's 6th annual Induction and the first with a dinner at HARS.

Tickets are available via the web site – www.aahof.com.au – at \$140 each if you would like to attend – dress is after five – lounge suit.

Other recipients on the night will be **Edward Connellan AO, CBE, John Corby, James Strong AO, Bob Tait, Nancy-Bird Walton AO, OBE** and us [Trans-Australia Airlines]. Note that our former GM [1985 – 1990] James Strong is also amongst those being honoured on the night.

Please let us know if you plan to attend.

→ The **70th Anniversary posters** are into a 3rd reprint – they have been very very popular with the membership. If you haven't got around to it yet, or want a great Xmas present, you could order one to be included in this next reprint. The unframed small poster was approx. 590 X 410 [\$20] and the larger version approx. 740 X 540 [\$25] when collected from the Museum. A truly great TAA memento.

→ Our Constitution includes, in part, a clause which states “the purpose of the 25 Year Club is to organise and promote **social activities for Members**, with the view of maintaining long standing communication and friendship”. Unfortunately the activities that have recently been proposed have not been favourably received; the latest activity to be cancelled being our September Foundation luncheon.

The Committee thought that we should again ask the membership for ‘social activities’ suggestions that would have broad appeal [to ensure reasonable numbers] so that we can achieve the Constitutional requirement. The Restaurant Tram, Black Bird river cruise and Tramboat to Williamstown have been supported in the past [numerous times] so something new [that still meets the broad appeal necessity] may be what is required. We would love to hear from you by mail, email, a visit to our office or a quick call [92808113].

→ We have received a **request for help** to obtain background information on Leslie John Muller. A relative is trying to uncover any historical information on his employment history with TAA. Unfortunately our records do not cover personnel data.

What we know:

- He started in 1946 in engineering.
- In mid 1946 he travelled to the USA [Douglas, we think as part of the DC4 program].
- He is acknowledged in the TAA staff magazine in 1951 as having completed five years service.
- In 1956 he is acknowledged with a ten year service citation.
- He is not mentioned in 1961, from that the assumption is he left sometime after 1956.

If anyone can help, kindly contact the Museum on 03 9280 8114 or email to taamuseum@bigpond.com

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We had a **special guest** at the Museum this month.

Rae Ball, widow of former TAA GM Frank Ball, recently visited the Museum accompanied by 25 Year Club member Frank Sullivan.

Rae was given a tour of the Museum and spent a very pleasant morning reminiscing about days gone by with Museum Volunteers.

Pictured, during the museum tour, are Frank Sullivan and Rae Ball holding a war-time photo of her husband.



[Ed: Thanks to Kevin Anderson for the article and pictures]

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 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.

25 Year Club Queensland Branch BBQ

The TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club (South Qld.) had another outing and BBQ at the Caboolture Airfield on Wednesday 27 September and once again it was very well patronised with approx. 40 people in attendance. We manage to hold 2 of these BBQ events per year and find the attendance extremely pleasing.

As you can see from our photos it was held in the new aero club premises with their large undercover annex.



Prior to our BBQ we ventured down to one of the nearby hangars where there is housed several WW 1 vintage aircraft with most in flying condition (a couple of these aircraft appeared in the just completed Avalon Air show) For the technically minded some of the aircraft are the Fokker E 111 Eindecker, Bristol F2B fighter, Fokker DR1, Fokker D V11 and Fokker D V111. I might add that these aircraft are the only collection of flying WW 1 aircraft in Australia. They are all part of "T.A.V.A.S" (the Australian Vintage Aviation Society) of which 2 of our members belong.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention that we do actually have 3 or 4 members from Melbourne who regularly come up and visit us for these events including our Annual Dinner, this year to be held on Saturday 25 November. [*Ed. Thanks to Bob Merson (Qld President) for the above report*]

Wings Away Queensland visit to Museum

The first week of September saw a group of Queensland Wings Away members [ex TAA hostesses] arrive for a week of touring the Mornington Peninsula, visiting wineries, galleries and all the delights of this area. The ladies were also joined by Wings Away friends from Perth, Adelaide and Victoria. On Friday they crossed the bay and lunched at Jack Rabbit Restaurant on the Bellarine Peninsular followed by an evening at The Mansion at Werribee.

On Saturday morning John Wren welcomed everyone to the TAA Museum for a day of reminiscing and meeting up with friends from their TAA Air Hostess Flying days, and Wings Away times, and what a wonderful day it was!!!

We had ladies who flew from the early 1950's to the early 1980's; as you can imagine there was lots of chat and laughter as well as delight at all the wonderful things to see at the TAA Museum. We were also able to use our knowledge to add names to many photos, and to check uniform details etc. For many of the visitors this was their first visit to the Museum and they loved seeing the history of OUR TAA, and there was much praise for the efforts of the Volunteers both past and present and amazement at the many different displays from all areas of the airline. They did love seeing the uniforms that they wore during their time with TAA.

Whilst at the Museum we had a visit from Tim & Penny Swain, the step children of Elaine Swain (Smith) [Elaine was the Hostess Supt. from 1963 to Oct.'77] Their family has donated many items of Elaine's that they have discovered while finalising the sale of Elaine and Allan's home following Allan's death last year.

The Brisbane Wings Away Members listening to John Wren giving details of the history of the 25 Year Club and the Museum.



Lorrie Chapman (Shearer), Pat Gundish (Scanlon) and Joan Swinchatt (Murphy) chatting with John, all these ladies flew in the early 1950's.



A box of items were donated to the Museum by Elaine Swain's (Smith) family. A real treasure trove of TAA history and Hostess info.



Amazing - Lori Freeman, Robyn Nichols and Loretta Paterson catch up – they went to high school together in Melbourne and all unknowing became TAA Air Hostesses.



At left: Kay Ripp engrossed in a Museum photo album.

Below: The Western Australian Ladies travelled in extended limousine style!



Club Xmas Function

Come join your ex workmates / 25 Year Club members for a lovely lunch, and maybe a lemonade [diet] on 23 November at the William Angliss facility in the City. See application form attached.

Xmas close down of Museum

The Museum will close on Thursday afternoon 07 December 2017 and reopens on Tuesday 16 January 2018.

Annual General Meeting

Just a reminder to put the 25 Year Club's AGM in your new 2018 diary – it is being held at the Skyways Motel on 21 March 2018. And yes, we will subsidise the meal after the AGM for financial members.

New Volunteer

We welcome **Peter Uren** to the Volunteer's ranks at the Museum. Peter worked in the Catering area and will be helping us sort out all the catering items that have been donated for display.

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

There have been three STAARS lunches at Moonee Valley Legends Bistro so far this year, with the most recent on the 15th August which had approximately 170 attendees. With a display of TAA Museum artefacts, an historical TAA film playing on TV monitors and a table quiz competition on TAA history, the day was most enjoyable.



1946 Foundation Members, Dick Button, Ken Ziesing and Lance Erwin



Bert Lawes with his son Roy & daughter-in-law Cecilia D'abreo

Organised by Kevin Anderson and Lance Erwin, all ex TAA / Australian Airlines / QF staff are welcome to come along and have a chat and meal with your old work colleagues. It's really appreciated that many of the STAARS attendees have chosen to become members of the 25 Year Club (if they weren't already). The next lunch will be the last for the year so don't forget to put it in your diary – Tuesday the **14th November, 2017**.

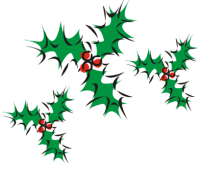
For further details, please contact Lance Erwin on 9386 4056 or Kevin Anderson on 0419 511 179 [*Ed: Thanks to Kevin Anderson for the article and pictures*]

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 Hayes	Leading Hand - Tulla	aged 90	12/06/17
Beverly Bate [Adams]	Hostess	aged 83	12/06/17
Barrie O'Callaghan	L/H Tradesman		12/03/17
Pat Broad*	Foreman Dock Maint	aged 78	28/07/17
Ken Nathan	NDT Supervisor	aged 69	06/08/17
Don Fletcher	LAME	aged 64	11/08/17
Alan Bashford	Tradesman – Signwriters	aged 78	22/08/17
Ian Smallwood	Plant & Equip Manager	aged 79	27/08/17
Hugh Charles Gulliver	AMD LM	aged 97	17/06/17
Teo Leake	Captain	aged 89	29/09/17
Tom Bennett	Captain		

* Museum Volunteer



Christmas



Luncheon

When: Wednesday 23rd November 2017

Where: **William Angliss**

550 Little Lonsdale Street Melbourne

Time: 11.30

Cost: Member & Partner **\$38**
per person

Non-Members **\$42** per person
(Canapes starter & 3 course
meal included)

Drinks at Bar Prices



Bookings close: Monday 13th November 2017

Booking Form for group bookings or individuals

Individual Booking Name/s: Mobile Number:.....

Number of guests attending: For group bookings, please supply attendees' names below:

Phone Bookings: TAA Museum on 9280 8113 or 9280 8114

Method of Payment:

Cheques payable to 'TAA 25 Year Club' mailed to Qantas FTC Building, 7 York St, Airport West VIC 3042

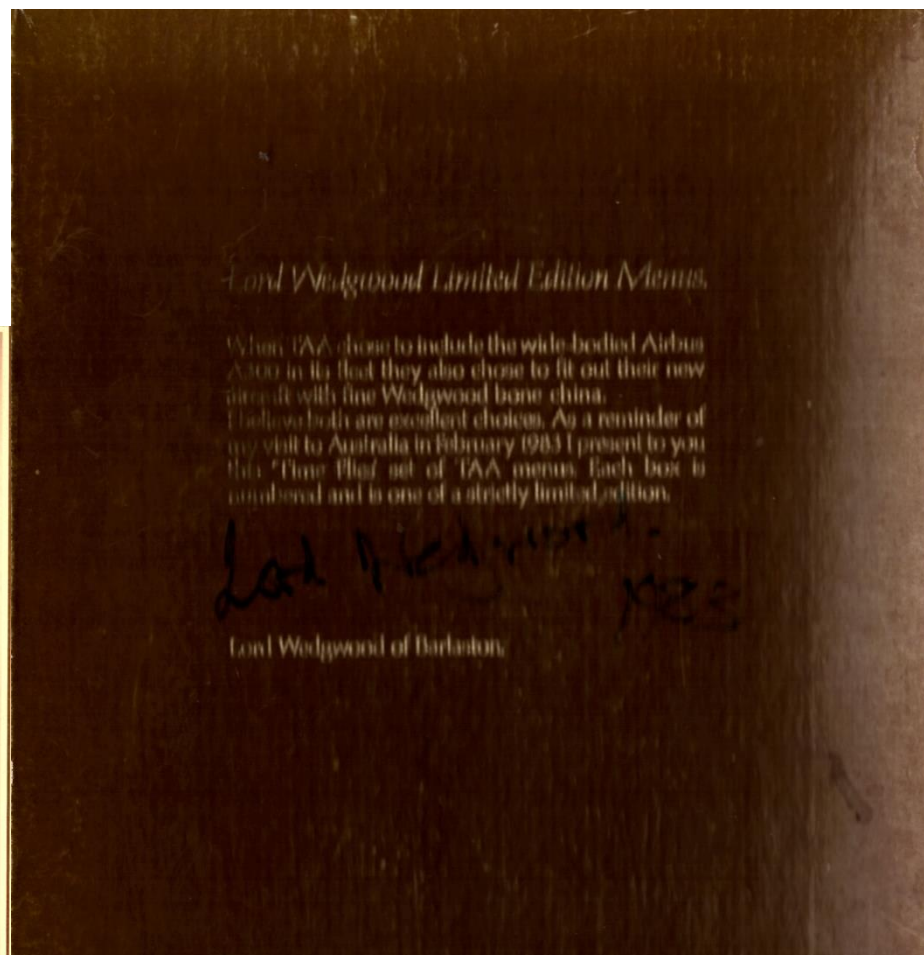
Bank Transfers: TAA 25 Year Club; BSB: 063 007 Account: 0090 1577

Please ensure you include your name on the transfer and return this form by post or email

TAAMuseum@bigpond.com



We received this fabulous picture from 25 Year Club member Julie Walker in QLD whose husband's father, John Walker [pictured at left] worked for TAA from the late 40's and is seen loading a boy's pedal car. The car was a present from TAA to Jimmy Falkner, son of Mr.E.Falkner – TAA's 2 millionth passenger. Now you might get a free flight to somewhere, not a cool shiny pedal car resplendent in TAA colours to ride up and down the street!



Michael Olive, a current QF Flight Attendant, has kindly donated a set of the A300 Menus (*left above*) that were introduced when TAA received the A300's into service. At the same time, Wedgwood catering items were also introduced. The lid of the Menu set (*right above*) donated to the Museum has Lord Wedgwood's signature and date (1983). A real prize for the Museum's collection. Thank you, Michael.