



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

## **Newsletter No. 98**

## **September 2018**

**Editor: John Wren**

### **President's Report**

- ➔ Things are starting to ramp up for next year's **Avalon Airshow** in late Feb / early March. Planning for the exhibits we will take has already started and Paul Gluschenko is putting his team together. So, if you are planning to go, make sure you pop in and see us.
- ➔ **Just a reminder – if you were due to make your annual donation in 2018 – it's due now.** This is really important to allow us to continue our work at the Museum to make as many people as possible aware of the fabulous history of TAA / Australian Airlines and, to continue enhancing the Museum collection. Check the envelope [or your email] for details of your membership status.
- ➔ Our **Xmas function dinner** has been firm booked with William Angliss again for 26 November 2018. This is always a great event and we would recommend you come along for a lovely meal and a catch up with friends from TAA the friendly way. Full details are below along with the application form. Please add the date to your diary now to reserve the date.
- ➔ We have had a little bit of a set back with our **Convair model** build. We discovered the plans we had were altered to make them more suitable for a radio-controlled model. Those changes changed the 'look' of the aircraft which we didn't want. So, a drawing revision is underway before manufacturing can begin. I am positive you will all be much happier with the end result. See more details below.
- ➔ This month we welcome **Terry McNeil** to the Museum as a Volunteer to help out with the big task we have at the Museum. Ronny Reece has been away for a few weeks for a planned back operation – good luck Ronny. Jim Collins is back after a nasty fall.
- ➔ Just an observation – we had a Boeing guy [on a break whilst seeing Jetstar] walk past the Museum and he asked if he could come in to have a look around for a few minutes. He said how much he liked the Museum and commented that on his trips all around the US there were only a few airline museums and he rated ours as right up there with the best. He even compared us favourably to the British Airways museum in the UK which was nice [I have not seen it however I understand BA have thrown a ton of money into their museum and it looks fabulous]. The few minutes he wanted to spend turned into nearly an hour and lots of picture taking.

### **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.

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**TAA/Australian Airlines 25 Year Club Inc** ABN: 25 953 761 724 [www.taamuseum.org.au](http://www.taamuseum.org.au)

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

## Foundation Day Lunch – 7<sup>th</sup> September

This year, our **72nd year since the first scheduled revenue flight** by DC-3 VH-AES ‘Hawdon’, we discovered the Anglers Tavern [Riverside Room] in Maribyrnong. The Anglers Tavern overlooks the Maribyrnong River – very picturesque.

The tables of ten lined up along the floor to ceiling glass wall overlooking the river, the well-situated Buffet, extensive carvery choice with ‘garden’ selection and our own bar made the day perfect. Even the Melbourne weather was kind.



Ronnie Reece had prepared some TAA movies and advertisements to show on the day [from our film digitisation project] which was only marred by the news that the previous night Jim Collins, whilst taking a walk near his home, tripped breaking his shoulder and cutting his head. So, Jim spent our celebratory day in hospital.

And my phone malfunctioned after the room set-up was completed and I took the pic at left. Don't you just love modern technology! Unfortunately, there are no pics of everyone enjoying themselves. Apologies.

We also had lots of birthdays being celebrated. Volunteer Bert Lawes was preparing for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday the following week and his wife Judy celebrated her birthday with us on the day. Graeme Nesbitt had his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday with us that day. After those announcements I lost track.

Lance Erwin apologised for not being with us on the day – he was not well and decided to keep his germs at home. He told me it would be the first Foundation Day he had ever missed.

If you missed out on joining us at the Foundation Day Lunch, keep the Xmas Lunch date [26 November] free.

### Bert Lawes 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Volunteer Bert Lawes had a pre-celebration of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Museum, complete with really rich and fattening chocolate cake with big 90 candles. As you can see in the picture Bert is [as always] enjoying life, and the very poorly sung ‘**happy birthday**’ song.

Bert had just completed showing a tour group around the Museum. See below:



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## Cub Scout Tour of Museum



The Museum was recently ‘invaded’ by Cub Scouts from 5<sup>th</sup> Keilor Group and judging from all the smiles, they had a good time. Volunteers Bert Lawes [left] and Arnold Rogers [both in Museum blue shirts] did the honours on a Friday night. Television seems to have had an interesting impact on at least one Cub when he asked Arnold, whilst demonstrating the JT8D simulator, where the self-destruct button was!

## Next STAARS date for 2018

**13<sup>th</sup> November**

At the last STAARS function [see picture below] held at the Moonee Valley Racecourse good times were remembered and friendships renewed whilst having a nice meal. [Thanks Arnold Rogers for the pic]



## National Vietnam Veterans Museum donation



This month we received a donation from the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, and in the pic above are Volunteer's Barry Gawne and Jim More positioning the new arrival in the Museum. Phil Dressing, the NVVM General Manager delivered the DC9 Electrical Training Board from their Museum at Phillip Island. You may recall from a previous Newsletter article that we were tipped off about the Training Board by Member John Booth who happened to see it at the NVVM. This board is significant as it was used for many years by TAA training Pilots & LAMEs.

We have just been given two very large B727 training aids by Ausjet at Essendon Airport. One is for training on Hydraulic systems [at right] and the other an Electrical trainer [see top of next page]. These will make great additions to the Museum – if we can get them to work!



## Tour Group at our Museum



Stonnington Council recently arranged a tour of our Museum for Seniors in their area. Shown above is our Secretary Arnold Rogers explaining the operation of the PT6 engine. This picture featured on the front page of the Stonnington Council magazine *AlfreSCo* [September 2018 edition].

## TAA B727-76 VH-TJD

We got such a big response to the article about our old A300B4 VH-TAB in the last Newsletter that we found another [VH-TJD] to stimulate the brain cells!



[Pic from *Airliners.net* – photographer *Berthon Guillaume* – *AeroSpot*]

Now privately owned and registered as M-FAHD it has been heavily modified to a B727-76 {RE} Super 27. The “RE” means re-engined and the “Super 27” refers to the modification owner ROHR’s changes.

The old JT8D engines are removed from the outboard nacelles and replaced by -217C’s or -219s engines whilst the original centre engine is retained, equipped with new acoustic exhaust mixer, and used at low power setting for take-off and landing. In total, you get around 56,000lb of take-off power or nearly that of a B757. There is also a 6-7% reduction in fuel consumption. ‘Bull horns’ have been added to the wing tips, amongst other changes.

When VH-TJD left us on 18/08/79 [ after 13 years service] it had 40402 hours and 30735 landings accumulated. And as with [usually] all the older aircraft they go through many hands before their end of life – but not yet for VH-TJD – she’s still going.

## Found it

Eddie Creaney, whilst researching an article, discovered a little gem. It seems TAA’s first revenue flight may have been DC-3 VH-AEV in July 46 [a few months before our first scheduled flight by DC-3 VH-AES from Laverton to Sydney] when it flew SYD – CNS – DWN and back with the Commonwealth Disposals Commission on board [selling ex war materials]. The price was 1360 Pounds.

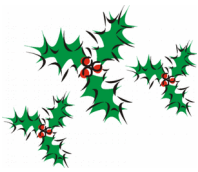
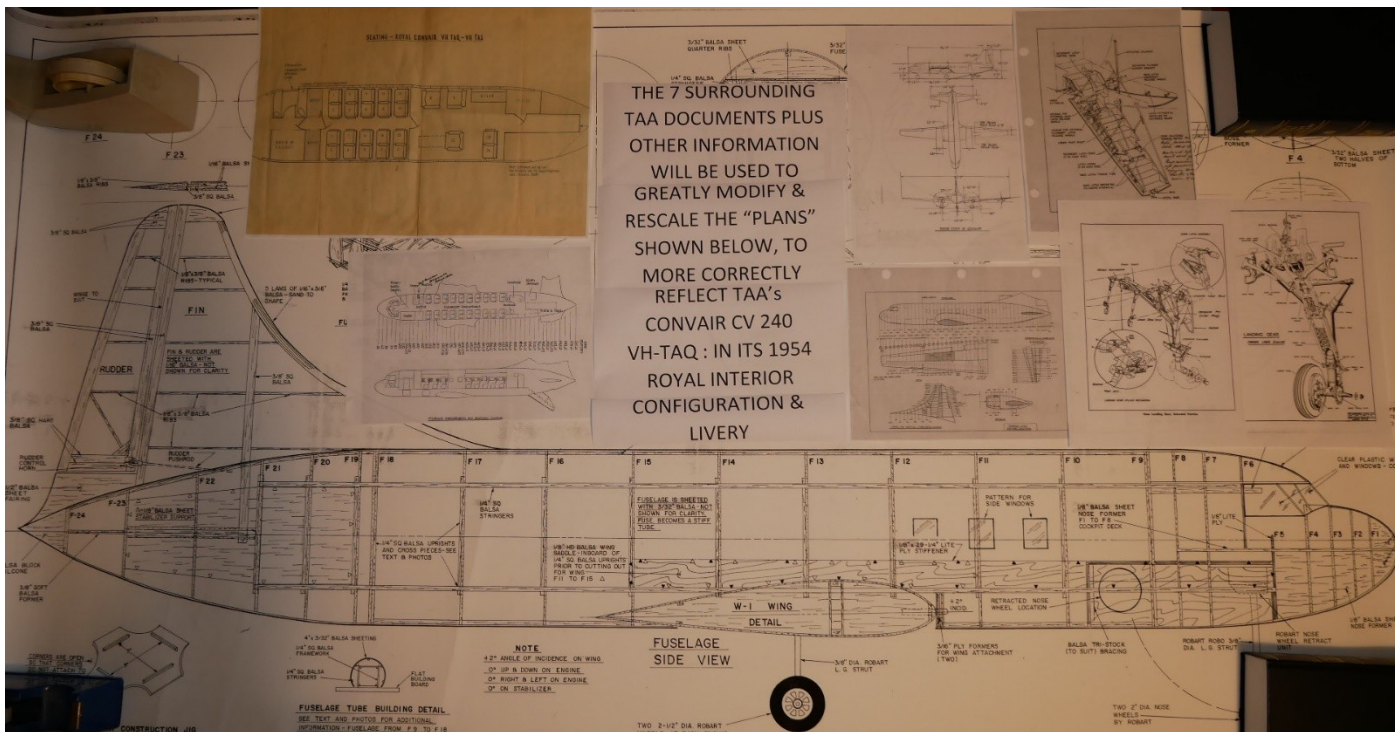
## Vale

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

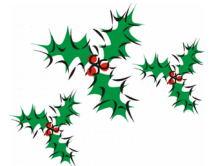
<b>Ken Zeising [FM]</b>	Foreman Fabric Shop	aged 97	11/08/18
<b>Hugh Charles Gulliver</b>	Spares Planning	aged 97	17/06/18
<b>Stanley John Wise</b>	LAME	aged 88	17/08/18
<b>Graham Hawkins</b>	Capt.	aged 82	10/09/18

## Our Convair 240 model

As you can see below, planning for the Convair 240 model build has already started after a slight setback – we found that the drawings were altered by the supplier to make the eventual model more flightworthy from a radio control perspective. With help from the Museum library we will be able to alter the drawings to reflect the actual aircraft. We found a cabin layout drawing that detailed the revised seating [20 seats forward and a few plush seats and a couch aft for the Queen]. Our modeller Greg Coombs took the pic below showing one of the 1:1 drawings and a lot of data sheets we provided. More to come.



# Christmas



## Dinner

When: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Where: **William Angliss**  
550 Little Lonsdale Street Melbourne

Time: 6.30 pm – 9.30 pm

Cost: Member & Partner **\$40** pp

Non-Members **\$43** pp

(3 course meal included)

Drinks at Bar Prices

(maximum 10 per table)



Christmas Dinner

Bookings close: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Booking Form for group bookings or individuals

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



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

.....  
.....

Please advise any dietary requirements at time of booking.

**Phone Bookings: TAA Museum on 9280 8113 or 9280 8114**

**Payment Method:**

**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](mailto:TAAmuseum@bigpond.com)



**TAA/AUSTRALIAN AIRLINES 25 YEAR CLUB INC.**

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)      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 FTC, 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 include your name on bank transfers and, return this form by mail **OR** send by email to:

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