



# TAA / Australian Airlines 25 Year Club

Newsletter No. 99

November 2018

Editor: John Wren



Win the  
"Airbus Kangaroo"  
for Christmas  
— see page 3

*These 30 Santas caused some confusion — and shrieks of laughter and disbelief — at Tullamarine airport recently. The Santas are from Myer Melbourne stores and were waiting at the airport where they had their 'refresher' course.*

## President's Report

- Christmas Greeting to our final Newsletter for the year, with our front page coming from the TAA Staff Magazine from December 1981 with a procession of Santas from Myer lining up at the ticketing counter. Those sacks just wouldn't make it through security today!
- The 24th October 2018 marked **20 years since TAA operated its last A300 passenger service** in Australia and also, **20 years since the last Short Hall Domestic Flight Engineer Officer** operated a passenger service in Australia. More about that milestone elsewhere in the Newsletter.
- After much searching through old staff newsletters we now have a definitive list of what the company classified as '**Foundation Members**'. The company criteria was: 1. You had to have joined before 1/1/47 and 2, you had to have 25 years continuous service from 1946. You can view the names on our Web site at <http://www.taamuseum.org.au/TAA25YearClub/25YCFoundationMbrs.html>
- We have had a setback with the building of the **Convair 240 model**. The builder is unfortunately unable to continue with the project, so we are back to square one looking for a model builder. Anyone interested?
- We have had some success with getting donations of **old flat screen TVs** however our ideas for these items are outstripping the donations. So if you are trading up this Xmas, we would love your old flat screen.
- The 25 Year Club will again be attending the **Avalon Airshow** held in late February, early March. We will be putting together a team once we get back from the Xmas break [29/1]. We may need some additional help manning the display. Any member who would be interested in assisting can contact the Museum at [taamuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:taamuseum@bigpond.com) to register their interest.
- In the QLD 25 Year Club report below is a picture of Capt. Stuart Arnold [now 94] who retired on B727's and who flew 18,000 hours on DC3's. Jim Murtha started on De Haviland Drovers [on secondment to the RFDS], flew all types in TAA retiring flying the A300. Well done captains.
- **The Museum will close on Thursday 6 December and reopen on Tuesday 29 January**. It's a little longer break this time so we can do some maintenance work without worrying about kids / visitors getting in the way. We think you will like the improvements.
- Well, another hectic year at the Museum is coming to a close. The festive season is upon us and I, the 25 Year Club Committee and all the Volunteers wish you and your family a very **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**. May you be safe and healthy in 2019.

## Membership

Our **membership database is in the process of being upgraded** and one of the things we have noticed is that the membership donations are being received all through the year rather than on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July in accordance with our Constitution. This probably came about because members joined at different times of the year and paid their next membership donation 12 months after joining. Makes sense – until the State Government insisted that all clubs in Victoria have to use the 1<sup>st</sup> of July for payments.

To 'fix' this issue, if you started 3 months before or after July 1 – July 1 is your payment date. Members outside those dates will be recorded as financial to the following year. We thought that would be fair and equitable however if this presents a problem to any members, please contact us as we really do not want to lose any members over this 'adjustment' that we must comply with.

The envelope that came with your Newsletter will have your next due date. For those getting the Newsletter by email – the details will be in the accompanying email.



## Last A300 flight – 24 October 1998 [twenty years ago]



The photo [left] of the last A300B4 flight [VH-TAD “William Light” Flt 459 SYD-MEL] was taken leaving the water arch provided by the Sydney Airport Fire Service to mark the last departure for the A300 from Sydney.

Operating Crew [with a total of 103 years continuous service with TAA] were {L to R} Capt. Doug Spiers, FO Mike Conway and FEO Kevin Swaffield. This flight was also the last operated by a domestic Flight Engineering Officer [FEO].

FEO’s started with TAA in 1959 and operated Lockheed L-188 Electra, Douglas DC-6B, Boeing B-727-76 and B727-276 and Airbus A-300B4 aircraft over this time.

[Thanks to Kevin Swaffield (member and former FEO) for the article and pics]



## Trials and tribulations of Public Transport for a Volunteer

Overheard during lunch break at the Museum:

“I drove my car to the railway station, as usual and caught a train to Flinders Street Station. I crossed the road and caught the #59 tram to Airport West, as usual, or so I thought.

At the Essendon Tram Depot, passengers were ordered off the tram and ordered on to a nearby bus. The bus dropped me off at Mathews Avenue and the Museum. My journey home was the reverse.

Car, train, tram, bus; bus, tram; train, car; I enjoyed my day travelling, my only annoyance was the constant interruption to reading my book! “

And that was a good day from what we have heard previously. Volunteer dedication eh.

## STAARS

The recent November STAARS get together was well attended as you can see from the pics below:



The dates for the Simply TAA Retired Staff [STAARS] meetings in 2019 are:

**12 February,**  
**14 May,**  
**13 August and**  
**12 November**

[And yes, the Moonee Valley Racecourse venue will remain for at least the next 3 years according to Lance Erwin.]



## Newsletter

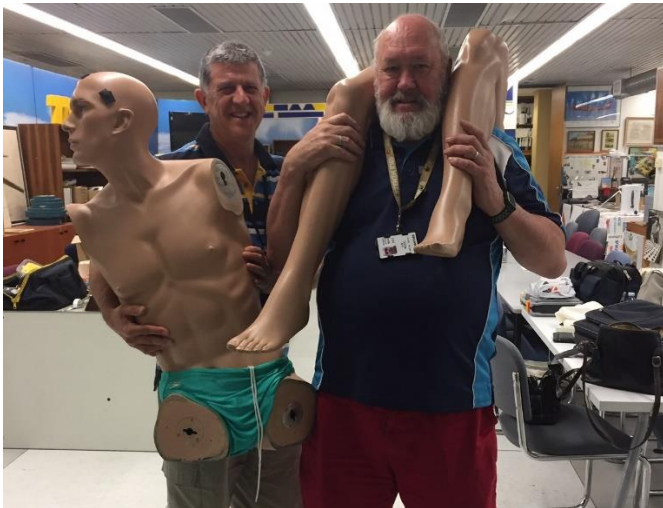
Not sure if you noticed but this is the 99<sup>th</sup> Newsletter issued by the 25 Year Club. Next year will mark the big 100<sup>th</sup>!

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.



## Mannequins

Out with the old and in with the new so that we can display even more TAA uniforms at the Museum. Seen below with 'the body' for the dumpster is Terry Masocco [left] and Ian Wood. The new models awaiting dressing were all assembled in a few hours.



## Xmas Dinner

Our Xmas dinner at William Angliss on 26 November was a great success. The meals were the best yet and the service from all the trainees was amazing. Sam Favazza led the team organising the evening.

We were very lucky to show a movie provided by Vince & Lorraine Hinschen of VH-TBK's epic 'final' trip from Southend UK [where it was lying in pretty bad condition] to Denmark by road, sea ferry and road again. [You will have seen how it finished up as a board room for a marketing company called '727' in a previous Newsletter]. Very entertaining – thanks Vince & Lorraine.



We took the opportunity, with most of the Museum Volunteers attending the Xmas dinner, to present a **Life Membership** to 25 Year Club member **Frank Sullivan** recognising his 28 years' service to the Club as Treasurer [37 years' service to TAA]. That is a really big continuous commitment in anyone's language.

Frank also played a significant role in organising 'Hawdon' flights and he even had a short stint as editor of the Newsletter.

Everybody knows Frank and appreciates his dedication and efforts. The baton has been passed and Frank can now safely slip into a well-earned retirement from Club duties.

Well done Frank.

## Museum donations box

In the past we had a little box near the entry to the Museum to receive donations from visitors. It wasn't secure [lockable] or very appropriate to the task. So, Brian Cain was asked to manufacture a new donations box that would be fit for purpose. Many weeks passed, and still no box arrived. Little did we know Brian was going all out on a fantastic donation box – see below. Those that worked at Essendon will understand the significance of Hangar 86. Note the slot in the top of the roof. Thanks Brian.



## 'Perks' at the Museum

On 28 November Qantas provided some time on the B737-486 Simulator to Museum Volunteers attending on the day. An instructor was available and one person in each group of 4 got to 'land' the 'aircraft' at Hamilton Island. Everyone really enjoyed their sim time but unfortunately photography is banned so we don't have a picture in the simulator for you however all the Volunteers who participated are in the picture below taken at the Museum afterwards.



*From L to R standing  
Arnold Rogers, Ronny  
Reiss, Barry Gawne,  
Jim More, Tim  
Kenzhebayev, Alan  
Whatman, Brian Cain,  
Murray Watson, Frank  
Greco, Barbara Kerr,  
Alma Barron, Roy  
McLean, Bert Lawes,  
Duncan Cameron,  
Libby Watkins,  
Elizabeth Michel and  
Eddie Creaney.  
Kneeling L to R Peter  
Uren and Chris  
Dowling.*



## Queensland 25 Year Club Xmas Breakup

Numbers were down this year due to the heat and bush fires. Our raffle raised further funds for the RFDS.



*Left, L to R Capt.'s Stuart Arnold and Jim Martha.*

*Below, L to R Andy Mac, Andy McClintock and Maida Fairbairn*



*Left, L to R Jeff Hufer and Dave Walsh [25 Year Club Secretary]*

*Below, L to R Pat Harrington, Paul Clough and John Coutts*



*Below, L to R Peter Caldwell, Jeff Hufer and Pat Harrington*

*Left The Christmas Lunch raffle prize [TAA B727-276 model of VH-TBO] was won by one of the newest members Dave Madden*



**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>Charlie Tabone</b>	AMD		9/18
<b>Norm Morley</b>	F/E & LAME	Aged 75	8/18
<b>Bert Kelly</b>	AME	Aged 90	9/18
<b>Frank Carmody</b>	AMD Supt.	Aged 93	27/09/18
<b>Hank Fargher</b>	Mgr. SE Asia	Aged 93	04/09/18
<b>Kevin Broadbent</b>	AME Airframe	Aged 96	26/10/18
<b>Judy Johnson [nee Warton]</b>	Hostess Port Super – SYD		11/18
<b>Eddie Farrell</b>	AMD	Aged 78	04/11/18
<b>Paul Leske</b>	Plant Maint.	Aged 83	14/10/18
<b>John Weeks</b>	Capt.		11/18
<b>Ted Hayward</b>	AMD Welding	Aged 84	08/11/18
<b>Una Edwards [nee Coles]</b>	Hostess	Aged 88	22/11/18



**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)      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.