

## RECENT MUSEUM VISITORS CONTINUED



BRAD FISHER PICTURED HERE WITH COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS VISITING QFM IN 2022.

### BRAD FISHER

A recent visitor and donor to the collection is former Qantas Captain Bradley Fisher. Brad was visiting Qantas Founders Museum with friends flying in their two seater Legend Cub planes into Longreach for a visit to the Museum in early October 2022.

Brad was a Boeing 747/767 Pilot from 1987 to December 2020, and a Captain on both types for the last 20 years. His final flight was the successful Qantas charter (QF6032) to bring back Australians trapped in Wuhan at the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Brad recalls, 'We visited the QFM as close as we could to commemorate in our own way 100 years since Qantas carried its first fare paying passenger. We followed the same flight path from Charleville to Longreach. We were flying in aircraft with similar performance to the early planes and at low levels over remote country. This experience really left us in awe of the achievement of those early pioneers.'

I was a part of the Qantas family for a third of that history and was fortunate to fly the 747-100/200/300/SP/Combi/400/400ER versions as well as the 767- 200/300 series all over the world on Qantas mainline international routes.

I started as a Second Officer/restricted Flight Engineer on the 747 parked at QFM. Career progression was fast for my generation and after only 18 months most of us were First Officers and

then command came 10 years later. I enjoyed additional roles in Qantas, from human factors facilitating to running the mentoring program for new Pilot recruits, as well as just flying the line.

Operationally there have been a few highlights such as being the only Captain to fly around the world twice on a 747 chartered to Constellation Journeys in 2018/19. The destinations were off Qantas main routes and required experience to negotiate. The longest trip over my career was when crews were stranded in Frankfurt under the Icelandic Volcanic Ash for weeks.

Despite many hours of flying with very few major incidents, some standouts come to mind. I have been involved with 3 engine shutdowns and the last one was quite a serious, involving a destructive failure of the No.2 engine some miles north of New Guinea whilst heading south to Sydney from Tokyo.

I now enjoy the title of flying "Qantas' last 3 engine 747" in to Cairns in 2019. These incidents and a few other inflight dramas were well handled thanks to the experience and training and strong safety culture that was founded as principles of operation back in the early days and their legacy is still strong today.

When the call went out for volunteers to return Australian citizens to Australia there was a lot of fear about Covid. I was privileged to be a part of that crew, little did I know that the ramifications of Covid would make that the last flight of my 33 year career. The camaraderie of the crew and experience of the staff behind the scenes was a privilege as I witnessed the best of human nature



CUB PLANES PARKED AT LONGREACH AIRPORT.



THE QANTAS TEAM FROM WUHAN FLIGHT 2020

coming together for a good cause. It was done without realising we would later be recognised for our efforts.'

Brad kindly donated his letters from Qantas Managing Director, Chief Executive Officer Allan Joyce, and former Prime Minister Scott Morrison to Qantas Founders Museum as a record of this significant event played out on the world stage. Also donated was a photograph of all the Qantas staff, including check-in staff, baggage handlers, cabin crew and flight crew who were part of this historic mission.

**Article written by Brad Fisher and Senior Curator, Sarah Johnson**