



**HARS**  
**AVIATION**  
**MUSEUM**  
[www.hars.org.au](http://www.hars.org.au)

## January 2017 Newsletter

### Happy New Year!

The committee and members of HARS Aviation Museum wish all our readers and their families a happy, healthy and safe 2017.

### 2016 in review

The past year was one of the biggest yet for HARS Aviation Museum with many exciting flying displays and several interesting new aircraft added to the collection. The highlights for 2016 included:

- Wings Over Illawarra Air Show. The RAAF Roulettes flying in formation with our Super Constellation was a spectacular opening to the show,
- The arrival of ex-TAA Douglas DC-3, VH-AES "Hawdon",
- RAAF Lockheed AP-3C Orion, A9-751, visit to HARS,
- Arrival from South Africa of our Convair CV-440, painted in TAA livery,
- Our Vietnam veteran Dakota and Caribou aircraft participating in a fly-over of Canberra to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan,
- Participation of our Caribou, Catalina and Neptune in the T150 Defence Force Air Show in Townsville,
- Super Constellation Ball to mark the 20th anniversary of the arrival in Australia of our Super Constellation "Connie",
- The addition of another de Havilland DHC-4 Caribou for static display at our Parkes NSW facility,
- Participation of our Catalina and Neptune in celebrations at RAAF Edinburgh to mark the arrival of the first RAAF P-8A Poseidon.



Wings Over Illawarra 2016

Photo: RAAF



DC-3 Hawdon

Photo: Mark Keech



Convair CV-440

Photo: Mark Keech



Maritime patrol formation

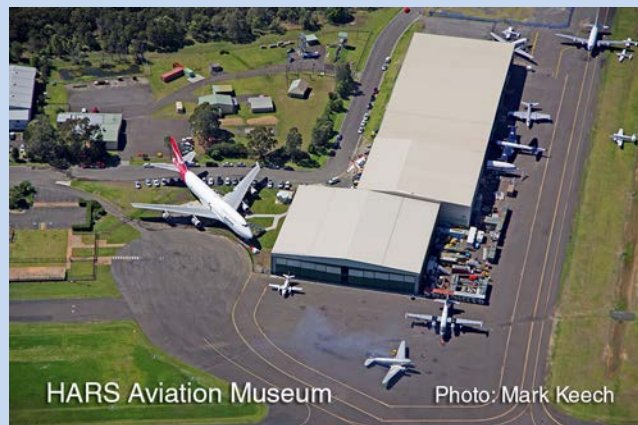
Photo: RAAF

## The year ahead

2017 promises to be another exciting year for HARS Aviation Museum. Significant events which we will be involved in include:

- Avalon 2017. This major aviation and defence conference and exhibition will to be held from 28 February to 5 March. The event is open to the public from 2pm Friday 3 March plus Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 March, with various flying displays on each day,
- Australian International Air Show at Avalon, 3, 4 and 5 March 2017,
- ANZAC Day commemorations in the Illawarra and Sydney, 25 April,
- Wings Over Illawarra Air Show, 6 and 7 May.

More events will unfold as the year progresses and details will be provided here. We are also expecting the arrival of several exciting new additions to the HARS collection. Watch this space!



HARS Aviation Museum

Photo: Mark Keech

## December Tarmac Days

HARS aircraft on display during the December tarmac days were:

- Convair CV-440,
- Both Douglas C-47B Dakota's A65-94 and A65-95,
- Douglas DC-3, VH-AES "Hawdon",
- de Havilland DHC-4 Caribou,
- Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune,
- Hawker FGA Mk.74A Hunter,
- Piaggio P.166 Portofino.

Visitors on the Saturday and Sunday were treated to the sights and sounds of the Dakota and the Caribou conducting circuit training as the pilots worked to maintain currency.

## Southern Cross II Donation

Australian entrepreneur, aviator and philanthropist, Dick Smith has been a long-time supporter and benefactor of HARS Aviation Museum. We are extremely grateful for Dick's latest donation of \$125,000 towards the continued restoration of our replica Fokker F.VIIb/3m "Southern Cross II".

With these funds making essential work possible it is hoped, in the not too distant future, we will see the Southern Cross once again take to the sky.

## Did You Know...

...in 1928 the Southern Cross took 83 hours and 50 minutes flying time to complete the first crossing of the Pacific from America to Australia? Today the flight from Los Angeles to Sydney in an Airbus A380 takes about 13½ hours.

...total production of the Douglas DC-3/C-47/C-53 was 16,079 units? Of these 4,937 were built under licence in the Soviet Union. Ironically 487 were built in Japan between 1939 and 1945 after Japan purchased the manufacturing rights from Douglas in 1938. These aircraft were powered by Mitsubishi Kinsei engines.

...the Lockheed P-3 Orion, which is based on the Lockheed L-188 Electra passenger aircraft, has been in service for over 50 years having been first introduced in the early 1960's? The P-3 replacement in Australian service, the P-8 Poseidon, is also based on a passenger aircraft – the Boeing 737.

## HARS aircraft used in film production

During December a film production company used our 747 plus our Merlin as back drops in production scenes for an upcoming TV series entitled 'Rip Tide'. Watch out for the series in 2017.

## Tucson expedition

During December a team of HARS members travelled to the United States and spent two weeks in Tucson, Arizona recovering parts and working on aircraft that we have stored in the dry conditions there. Long before the South African Convair arrived on our shores HARS had acquired a Convair CV-340 in the US. This aircraft is stored at Pima Air and Space Museum and after a long break is slowly being brought back to airworthy condition. This expedition saw the re-attachment of the horizontal stabiliser and elevators and some engine work.

We also have four Neptunes in another yard in Tucson that are destined for the scrappers but not before yielding some valuable components to support our fleet of airworthy and static display aircraft in Australia. Most of the team's time was spent removing the best parts of two of the Neptunes while the remaining two were in such good condition that it was considered best to offer them to Pima Air and Space Museum for preservation rather than allow them to be scrapped.

The HARS team are extremely grateful for the warm welcome and generous support of the staff at Pima Air and Space Museum. If you're ever in Arizona it is definitely worth a visit: [www.pimaair.org](http://www.pimaair.org)



Neptunes in Tucson

Photo: Mark Keech



Tucson team with Convair

Photo: Mark Keech



# Boeing 747-438 – Premium Tours

Premium tours remain in very high demand so bookings well in advance are advised.

A feature article on HARS Premium Tours appears in the January-February 2017 edition of Australian Aviation.

This tour enables participants to learn all about the workings of this iconic aircraft, including inspection of areas of the aircraft which are normally inaccessible to the public, such as the crew rest areas, cargo holds, electronics bay and the cockpit.

The HARS volunteers who conduct this tour are either current or retired pilots, engineers and cabin crew who have worked on the 747. Therefore you can be assured your tour will not only be informative, but also include some amusing stories about the aircraft and its operations.

Bookings can be made by phoning HARS on (02) 4257 4333.



## Next Tarmac Days

Upcoming Tarmac Days will be held on 13, 14, 15 January and 10, 11, 12 February 2017.

## Membership

Are you or a friend interested in joining our tour guide or reception/shop staff ranks? We are actively looking for volunteers to join these areas; lots of laughs and mateship are guaranteed. Maybe you or your partner have a few spare days a month that you would like to contribute to the smooth running of our Museum. An information session for potential new members will be held at 11:00 am on Sunday 26 February 2017. All are welcome.

For further information about membership please visit <http://hars.org.au/contact-us/>. Select 'New Member Enquiries' in the 'Who would you like to contact?' field.



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