



HARS AVIATION MUSEUM

September 2016 Newsletter

Convair 440 arrives at HARS

Sunday 21 August was a very important day for HARS Aviation Museum and Australian aviation heritage with the arrival at Illawarra Regional Airport of the latest HARS acquisition, ex-Rovos Rail, Convair CV-440, ZS-ARV.

The aircraft's ferry flight commenced at Wonderboom, South Africa on 9 August 2016. As well as three of the four HARS pilots who spent time in South Africa converting to the type, the crew were accompanied by two Rovos engineers who were instrumental in ensuring the aircraft's reliability for the journey. The delivery route was via Beira, Mozambique - Victoria, Seychelles - Mattala, Sri Lanka - Johor Bahru, Malaysia then on to Denpasar, Indonesia. The first Australian landfall was at Darwin and from there, stops were made at Mt Isa and Dubbo before proceeding to Wollongong where it arrived at 1251 local time.

This Convair was built over 60 years ago in 1954 and its long history includes service with the US Air Force and Bolivian airline, Lineas Aereas Canedo. In recent years it was operated by South Africa's luxury travel company, Rovos Rail to ferry passengers to Victoria Falls where they would join a train for the return journey. It was with Rovos that the aircraft was fitted out with its luxurious leather and walnut interior.

The Convair is beautifully presented in the traditional Trans Australia Airlines livery consistent with its age. HARS now has two aircraft in TAA colours, the other being TAA's first aircraft, DC-3, VH-AES, Hawdon.



Convair CV-440 at Wollongong Photo: Mark Keech



Happy Convair crew Photo: Mark Keech

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan

HARS aircraft participated in a number of commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in the Vietnam War, performing flyovers at three separate services.

Sunday 14 August saw a C-47B Dakota and a DHC-4 Caribou fly over the morning service at Wollongong. The main event was on Thursday 18 August when both HARS Caribous and a HARS Dakota participated in flyovers at the anniversary day commemorations in Canberra. The HARS aircraft were joined by another Dakota, owned by Geoff Trappett. Other aircraft which took part in the flyovers were two USAF Boeing B-52 Stratofortresses (which had flown from Guam) and Bell Iroquois and Bell 47G helicopters, which were the two aircraft most commonly associated with the Vietnam War.

After returning to Wollongong, one of our Caribous then departed for an additional flyover of the afternoon service at Moss Vale.



Dakotas approaching Canberra Photo: Bob St John



B-52's over Canberra

Photo: Bob Ferrari

August Tarmac Days

The August tarmac days were enhanced by some unusual activity at Illawarra Regional Airport. The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) were conducting training on the Friday and Saturday of the weekend meaning HARS had less tarmac area available. The big upside was that there were numerous RFS aircraft, both fixed and rotary wing, flying throughout the day. One unique aircraft was an Air Tractor AT-802 Fire Boss fitted with floats to provide amphibious capability.



RFS aircraft at HARS

Photo: Ian Poulter

The following HARS aircraft were also on display:

- Both Douglas C-47B Dakotas, A65-94 and A65-95,
- de Havilland DHC-4 Caribou,
- Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune,
- Lockheed C-121C Super Constellation,
- de Havilland T.35 Vampire.

During the August Tarmac Days HARS was also treated to a special visit from a very tidy Bell 47G Sioux helicopter. The aircraft is in perfect showroom condition, exceptional for its age, and we understand the owner is keen to participate in future HARS Tarmac Days.



Caribou to Parkes

After many months of planning, Caribou A4-275 was safely transported by road from its base in Oakey, QLD to the HARS satellite museum in Parkes, NSW on the weekend of 6 and 7 August.

Surplus to RAAF requirements and languishing in the harsh, open conditions at Oakey, the remaining Caribous were threatened with disposal to scrap merchants when a last-minute decision by Defence saw them offered to aviation museums around the country for preservation. HARS Aviation Museum was very fortunate to be offered A4-275 but the condition was that none of the aircraft were to be flown from the base. This meant that the aircraft had to be painstakingly disassembled and the components loaded onto a truck for transport by road.

One of the biggest hurdles to overcome was obtaining a permit to transport the 8.7 m wide fuselage 600 km down the Newell Highway, the wing centre section being left intact.

The aircraft and all its parts are now safely at Parkes where they are being reassembled so that it can be displayed as part of the growing collection there.



Caribou stars in filming of TV series

On Sunday 31 July, Caribou A4-234 departed Wollongong bound for Avalon, Victoria to participate in filming various scenes for the HBO / Warner Bros television series "The Leftovers".

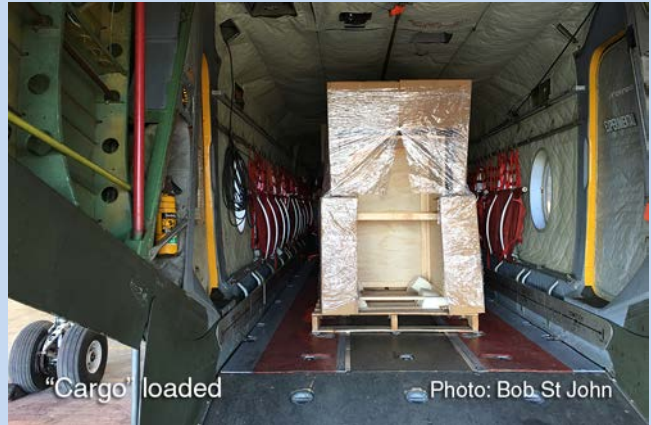
The synopsis is: 140million souls inexplicably disappear from the face of the Earth but only one small town in Texas is left unaffected. To produce the scene where the protagonist hires a cargo plane to fly to Tasmania, the Caribou had to be repainted in water-soluble paint to transform it into a non-descript American "trash hauler". Filming mostly took place inside the cabin which was filled with fake cargo – boxes with people inside to rock them and simulate turbulence for the flight.

Following two days of filming, the Caribou departed Avalon on Tuesday morning and stopped at Essendon for fuel before proceeding to Wollongong for an afternoon arrival.



Caribou during filming

Photo: Bob St John



"Cargo" loaded

Photo: Bob St John

Did You Know...

...the Boeing 787, nick-named the "plastic" aeroplane, is constructed of 50% composite materials by weight?

...the Bell 47 was the first helicopter certified for civilian use, achieving that milestone in March 1946? Over 5,600 of the type were built. The military version which flew in the Korean War was designated the H-13 Sioux.

...current US military planning is for the Boeing B-52 Stratofortress, which first entered service in 1955, to retire in 2045? This will mean the type will have been in service for 90 years!

Super Constellation Ball

Tickets are still available for the Super Constellation Gala Ball. This event is open to the general public so why not get some friends together and book a table for what will be a fun filled night.

The ticket price includes drinks, canapés, a three course meal and entertainment.

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| When: | Saturday 29 October 2016 |
| Time: | 6.00pm (drinks and canapés served in reception before proceeding to Hangar One for the ball) |
| Where: | HARS Aviation Museum, Illawarra Regional Airport, Albion Park Rail |
| Dress: | Formal Black Tie |
| Cost: | \$200 per person (\$50 will be donated to the Connie Painting Fund and is tax deductible). |

To book, phone HARS reception on 02 4247 4333.

Boeing 747-438 Premium Tours

This tour enables participants to learn all about the workings of this iconic aircraft. Your tour includes 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.

Why not give Dad a real treat this Father's Day by booking him on a Premium Tour?

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



Next Tarmac Days

Upcoming Tarmac Days will be held on 9, 10, 11 September and 14, 15, 16 October 2016.

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 10:00 am on Sunday 25 September. 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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