



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

## September 2017 Newsletter

### Connie Returns!

After an absence of over five months that left some people wondering if she had been retired to make way for a Boeing 707, Connie made a spectacular return to her home at Illawarra Regional Airport on Saturday 26 August. Her return generated almost as much excitement as her original February 1996 arrival in Sydney from the USA!

During her absence Connie was professionally repainted and we are extremely grateful to Douglas Aerospace of Wagga Wagga for what has been a huge contribution to the preservation of this icon of the airline industry. The new coat of paint has Connie looking almost like she had just rolled off the production line and corrects some details of the colour scheme to better represent the significance of this aircraft type to Australian aviation.

The return flight from Wagga Wagga took less than fifty minutes. Perhaps the shiny new paint scheme contributed by reducing the aircraft's drag!



Connie's return to HARS

Photo: Tony Crampton



Connie's return to HARS

Photo: Ian Poulter

### Caribou Flight to Broome and Back

In July, our Douglas C-47B Dakota, VH-EAF, embarked on a 'round Australia tour. Unfortunately, a mechanical issue over the Nullarbor necessitated a landing at Forrest, Western Australia, an isolated airstrip in a town with a population of only 18.

A recovery mission for the Dakota was mounted with one of our de Havilland DHC-4 Caribous. Having dropped off spares and engineers to enable the Dakota's engineering issues to be addressed; the Caribou continued the originally planned 'round Australia tour. Unfortunately the Caribou also experienced mechanical issues and was forced to return to Broome, Western Australia.

A second recovery mission was mounted with spares and engineers despatched to Broome to repair the Caribou.

Both aircraft have now returned to Illawarra Regional Airport, a credit to the team work and depth of skills that exist within the HARS organisation.



Loading the Caribou

Photo: Mark Keech



Caribou departs Wollongong

Photo: Mark Keech

## August Tarmac Days

Aircraft on display during the August Tarmac Days were:

- Boeing 747-438, City of Canberra,
- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-27 Sabre,
- English Electric Canberra T.Mk-4,
- GAF Dassault Mirage IIIIO,
- Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune,

The August Tarmac Days were made more interesting by the presence of a Bell 47G helicopter that was being offered for joy flights. Many of our visitors spontaneously took the opportunity to go for a ride in the beautifully restored helicopter and the crew were certainly busy throughout the weekend.



Bell 47G joy flights

Photo: Ian Poulter

## New Additions to HARS Fleet

HARS Aviation Museum has added to its collection once more with the acquisition of a matching pair of ex-Australian Army Kiowa helicopters. Based on the Bell 206B-1 Jet Ranger these helicopters were built by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation and designated CA-32 Kiowa. Both of these aircraft have seen active service in overseas deployments and HARS is very proud to have the opportunity to preserve them. Their military careers ended when they were retired from the School of Army Aviation at Oakey, Queensland.



CA-32 Kiowa arrival

Photo: Matt De La Hunty



CA-32 Kiowa arrival

Photo: Matt De La Hunty

The Kiowa helicopters will be featured at the September Tarmac Days on 8, 9, 10 September so come along and check them out!

## Did You Know...

...Trans Australian Airlines (TAA) was the first Australian domestic airline to introduce pressurised aircraft into service, in September 1948? The aircraft was the Convair 240 and TAA was the first airline outside of the USA to order the aircraft type.

...TAA were also the first to introduce turbine powered aircraft to Australian service with the Vickers Viscount in December 1954?

...The Boeing 377 Stratocruiser was a two deck passenger aircraft that owed a significant amount of its design to the Boeing B-29 Superfortress? The Stratocruiser first flew in July 1947 and was powered by four 28 cylinder Pratt and Whitney R-4360 engines.

## City of Canberra - Boeing 747-438 tours ready for boarding

VH-OJA, City Of Canberra, holds the record as the first and only aircraft to fly from London to Sydney non-stop. There are now two different exclusive tours of our 747-438 available:

### The Total Boeing 747 Experience

The 747 Premium Tours are very popular with our visitors from all over the World. For just \$195 you can enjoy the complete 747 experience.



Boeing 747-438, "City of Canberra"

Photo: Mark Keech

Your tour is led by experienced 747 personnel many of whom actually flew and worked on VH-OJA. You will be briefed on every aspect of this historic airliner from its record breaking London to Sydney non-stop flight to the shortest flight from Sydney to Wollongong. Your personal tour guides will explain and answer all of your questions. After a pre-flight video and briefing in our conference room, your tour starts from the ground as you

walk around and prepare your Boeing 747 for flight.

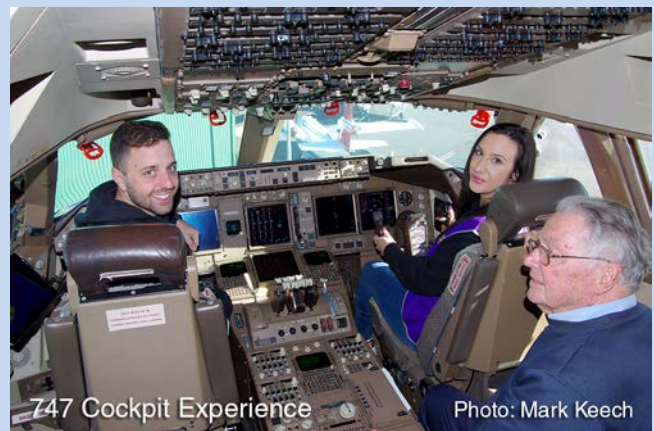
Once your pre-flight inspection is complete, climb on board and see what tasks a flight attendant has to undertake before each flight. Having armed and cross-checked the doors and prepared the cabin for take-off, it's up the stairs and onto the flight deck. The pilot will greet you, show you to the captain's seat and run through the pre-start check list and engine start procedure then the rest is up to you. Make your address to the cabin and you are cleared for take-off.

If this appeals to you and you would like to live the dream then you shouldn't miss out on this rare opportunity!

### **747 Cockpit Experience**

This Cockpit Tour is conducted by an experienced 747 pilot who will explain the cockpit in detail and will take you through the many procedures required to mount a typical operation. You will experience sitting in the pilots' seats and actually be able to handle the controls. This is an incredible opportunity to experience first-hand what really goes on at the pointy end of these magnificent aircraft.

Bookings are limited to two guests per tour. The cost is \$100.00 per person and is payable at time of booking.



### **Bookings**

Reservations for both tours are strictly limited, so book early so as not to be disappointed. For more information and bookings call 02 4257 4333.

## **Functions at HARS**

Are looking for a venue with a difference for your next function? HARS Aviation Museum is pleased to be able to offer facilities for your event large or small. With over 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space we have the area to suit any type of function from balls and concerts to conferences and training courses with any of our aircraft fleet also available as a backdrop. How about a cocktail party onboard our 747? Catering can be provided to suit your requirements.

For details contact reception on 02 4257 4333.

## **Next Tarmac Days**

Upcoming Tarmac Days will be held on 8, 9, 10 September and 13, 14, 15 October 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 Saturday 16 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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