



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au



December 2017 Newsletter

Orion Handover

On Friday 3 November HARS Aviation Museum was privileged to host Chief of Air Force, Air Marshall Leo Davies AO, CSC and other dignitaries, including Shellharbour Mayor, Marianne Saliba, for the official handover of Royal Australian Air Force, Lockheed AP-3C Orion aircraft, A9-753. This was a very special moment for HARS but also significant because approval had to be sought from the US State Department to release the Orion for historic flying operations. The Orion enhances our collection of maritime patrol aircraft which includes the Consolidated PBY-6A Catalina, Grumman S-2G Tracker and Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune. The handover ceremony was well attended by members of the public and received great coverage in the press.



Handing over the keys



Handing over the keys



The final paperwork

Photo: Tim May



In the office, Leo Davies, Mariane Saliba and Bob Delahunty

In RAAF service, our Orion was operated by aircrew from 10 and 11 Squadrons, maintained by technicians from 492 Squadron who were trained by members of 292 Squadron, all located at RAAF Base Edinburgh near Adelaide. The squadron crests are all displayed under the left cockpit window.



HARS Orion, A9-753, has accumulated about 16,400 hours and has participated in most RAAF Orion operations including the search for the missing Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370 airliner, Operation Gateway and numerous deployments to the Middle East. The aircraft was delivered by to the RAAF on 4 August 1978 (Built 20 May 1978) and will be placed on the civil register as VH-ORI.

Australian Aviation Hall of Fame

The Australian Aviation Hall of Fame has recently entered into an agreement with HARS Aviation Museum to work together to provide a physical display at our facility at Illawarra Regional Airport which will be greatly beneficial to both organisations. On Saturday 25 November the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame celebrated its Sixth Annual Gala Induction Dinner in the HARS hangars. This year's inductees were:

- Edward Connellan, founder of Connellan Airways in 1943,
- John Corby, aviation engineer and designer of the Corby Starlet,
- James Strong, former Qantas chief executive and non-executive director,
- Bob Tait, renowned aviation educator and pilot,
- Nancy-Bird Walton, the youngest woman to obtain a commercial licence in the British Empire and founder of the Australian Women Pilots' Association,
- Trans Australian Airlines.

The well attended evening was an outstanding success with our museum once again graced by the presence of some serious Australian aviation icons.





AAHOE Induction Dinner



Connie makes a dramatic appearance



Nick Strong and partner with Bob and Mauren



Hawdon looking resplendent for TAA's induction

November Tarmac Days

Aircraft on display during the November Tarmac Days included:

- Douglas DC-3 Dakota "Hawdon",
- Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune,
- Lockheed AP-3C Orion,
- both de Havilland T.35 Vampires,
- English Electric Canberra T.Mk-4,
- de Havilland (Australia) DHA-3 Drover.

Visitors were able to see first-hand how much effort goes into polishing a DC-3! Guided tours of hangar three were also available throughout the weekend as well as joy flights in a Bell 47G helicopter and the first of our special 747 Wing Walks took place during the November Tarmac Days.



Bell 47G and JETGO Embraer



747 Wing Walks commence

Corby Starlet for HARS

One of the inductees into the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame at this year's Induction Dinner was brilliant aeronautical engineer and aircraft designer John Corby and his most successful design, the Corby Starlet has now become part of the HARS collection. This aircraft is a copy of the prototype and was actually built by John and his colleague Barrie Bishton.

The Corby Starlet is a single seat amateur-built design made of wood and fabric that was first flown in 1966. The design was one of the first in Australia to be approved under new regulations which allowed enthusiasts to build their own aircraft. The Starlet will be maintained by HARS in flying condition and is now the smallest aircraft in our collection.



John Corby discusses his design with the Chief of Defence Force

Did You Know...

...that the Boeing 737 first flew on 9 April 1967 and that 9,716 examples of the type have been delivered so far, and a further 4,431 are still on order?

...that the Russian Tupolev Tu-144 supersonic airliner was the first commercial transport to exceed Mach 2 on 26 May 1970? After two crashes the aircraft were withdrawn from passenger operations in May 1978, having completed only 55 scheduled flights. The aircraft was later used by the Soviet space program to train pilots of the Buran spacecraft, and by NASA for supersonic research.

...that the approximate speed of a Boeing 747-400 at take-off is 290 km/h, at landing is 260 km/h and normal cruise speed is 910 km/h?

Transport Heritage honours HARS members



Joy Eyre and Gary Woodward at Transport Heritage NSW

Photo: THNSW

A number of our members are also involved with Transport Heritage NSW who operate the rail museums at Thirlmere and Valley Heights. During this month two of our members, Gary Woodward and Joy Eyre were honoured with life membership for their contributions to Transport Heritage.

PM visits HARS

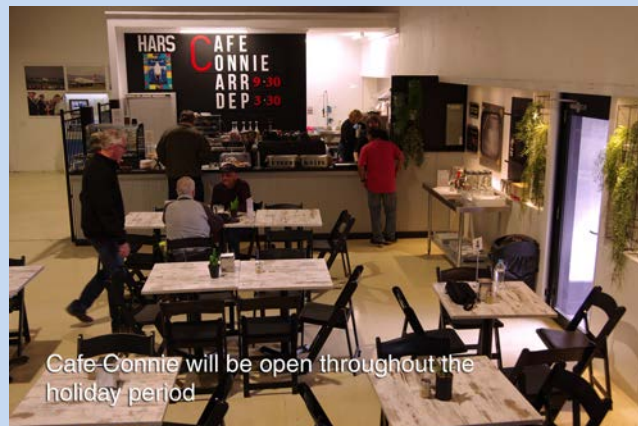
The Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull visited HARS on Monday 27 November. Flying in Australia's Air Force One he had meetings in the Illawarra and had to pass through HARS to get to his car. After a subtle invitation to check the place out on his way back, he and his minders had an enjoyable few moments being shown around by our president (hmm, does president outrank prime minister?!)



The PM, airport manager and president Photo: M. Turnbull

HARS wishes you a Happy Christmas

From all of us here at HARS Aviation Museum we would like to wish our readers a very happy Christmas and a bountiful New Year! Our museum at Illawarra Regional Airport will be open throughout the festive season with the exception of Christmas Day and we look forward to welcoming many more visitors during this time. Don't forget we have a fully functioning cafe now and are able to provide quality meals and barista coffee (no hipsters though!).



Cafe-Connie will be open throughout the holiday period

City of Canberra - Boeing 747-438 tours

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 three different exclusive tours of our 747-438 available:

Introducing the Wing Walk Experience

You will have the opportunity to view our 747 from a completely different angle. The walk will take you to about 16 meters (52 feet) along the right wing. With the beautiful Illawarra escarpment in the background, a totally unique picture and experience await you. This experience will be available on our Tarmac Days only initially (second full weekend of each month including Friday, Saturday and Sunday). Wing walk times are between 10am and 3pm at a special introductory price of \$65.00 which includes museum entry on these days.

Please note that fully enclosed, flat (no heels) footwear must be worn. Ladies must wear shorts or pants, please no skirts. This is to facilitate the fitting of a snug safety harness.



Wing Walk tours commence Photo: Claire Rogerson



Wing Walk tours commence Photo: Mark Keech

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.

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.



Total Boeing 747 Experience Photo: Mark Keech



747 Cockpit Experience Photo: Mark Keech

Bookings

Reservations for both tours are strictly limited, so book early so as not to be disappointed. Combinations of the various 747 tours are also available at discounted prices. For more information and bookings call 02 4257 4333.

Next Tarmac Days

Upcoming Tarmac Days will be held on 8, 9, 10 December 2017 and 12, 13, 14 January 2018.

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 December. 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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