



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

November 2017 Newsletter

Orion for HARS

Recent visitors to HARS Aviation Museum will no doubt have noticed the presence of a RAAF Lockheed AP-3C Orion. It has now been confirmed the aircraft will become another important exhibit of Australia's aviation heritage at HARS! On Friday 3 November Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Leo Davies AO CSC, will be holding a special handover function at HARS to formally transfer ownership of the aircraft to HARS.

This very historic event recognises the role HARS has played in saving our aviation heritage, in particular the RAAF aircraft that have served Australia since WWII. In fact HARS has over 20 former RAAF aircraft in its collection, with many of those having been restored to flying condition. It is intended now that the transfer of ownership of the Orion has been approved, to also fly that aircraft in support of RAAF history.

The Orion replaced the Lockheed Neptune aircraft that had served with the RAAF from the late 1940's up to 1977. The new P-8A Poseidon aircraft is now progressively replacing the Orion aircraft in RAAF service over the next few years. HARS not only operates a RAAF Neptune aircraft (serial number A89-273) but also has on display A89-281 and A89-272 (located at our Parkes museum). HARS also operates a Catalina flying boat which the Neptune replaced following WWII operations.

Media and the public are cordially invited to be with the Chief of Air Force at the handover at 11 am on Friday 3 November. No RSVP is required and there will be opportunity for the media and the members of the public to talk to the Chief of Air Force on the significance of this event and the very important role that the Air Force plays in Australian security.

The HARS AP-3C Orion, A9-753, has itself participated in overseas operations as well as searching for the lost MH370 airliner and many other very important security and historical events. The full history of this aircraft will eventually be disclosed and showcased at our HARS facility.



Orion A9-753 at HARS

Photo: Mark Keech



Orion and Neptune

Photo: Mark Keech

Australian Aviation Hall of Fame Induction Dinner

In the July newsletter we announced that the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame (AAHOF) would be relocating from its current temporary home in Wagga Wagga to the HARS Aviation Museum facility at Illawarra Regional Airport. Plans are currently being implemented to prepare the space for a very historic exhibit of artefacts held by AAHOF.

In the meantime, a dinner will be held at HARS on Saturday 25 November to formally induct the 2017 nominees into the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame.

AAHOF annually recognises people and organisations, past and present, who have made a significant contribution to Australian Aviation. The 2017 inductees are:

- 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 event promises to be a very special evening. Further details and ticket purchases can be found on AAHOF's website: www.aahof.com.au.



Photo: Mark Keech



October Tarmac Days

HARS aircraft on display for the October Tarmac Days included:

- Boeing 747-438, City of Canberra,
- Douglas C-47B Dakota A65-95,
- Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune,
- Lockheed C-121C Super Constellation,
- English Electric Canberra T.Mk-4,
- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-32 Kiowa.

Dick Smith visited HARS on Saturday 14 October in his Agusta helicopter, see article below. Guided tours of hangar three were also available during the weekend.



Dick Smith's arrival

Photo: Mark Keech



Agusta and 747

Photo: Mark Keech

747 Wing Walk Experience now open!

On Wednesday 25 October HARS was graced by the presence of our dear friend, long-time supporter and Aboriginal Elder, Aunty Lindy Lawler, for the inauguration of our new Wing Walk Experience. Visitors will now be able to view the 747 from a completely different angle, 16 metres along the right wing! In a mark of respect for the traditional owners of the land Aunty Lindy was invited to be the first to step out onto the wing of our record-breaking Boeing 747-438.

Bookings for the Wing Walk Experience are now open. Details of how to book appear in the City of Canberra - Boeing 747-438 tours section of this newsletter.



Visit from Dick Smith

HARS was visited on 14 October by another of our long-time supporters, Australian aviator and entrepreneur, Dick Smith, who was delighted to show his friends visiting from overseas around the museum.

While here, Dick was able to also inspect the work of the HARS paint team who restored a trailer for the local State Emergency Service (SES). The trailer had been in poor condition and was destined for scrapping but was rescued by HARS member and SES volunteer, Russell Field. The HARS paint team then lovingly restored and repurposed the trailer for SES. It was formally handed over to SES on 14 October.



Did You Know...

...a Boeing 747-400 has 275 kilometres of wiring and 8 kilometres of tubing?

...after the Second World War, the US Navy improvised an aircraft carrier launched nuclear strike capability using the P-2 Neptune? The Neptune could be launched from a carrier, assisted by rocket boosters, and could carry a compact "Little Boy" nuclear bomb.

...the jet airliner era commenced with the first flight of the Mk.1 de Havilland Comet on 2 May 1952?

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 launched on our tarmac weekend in November (Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10, 11 and 12). 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.

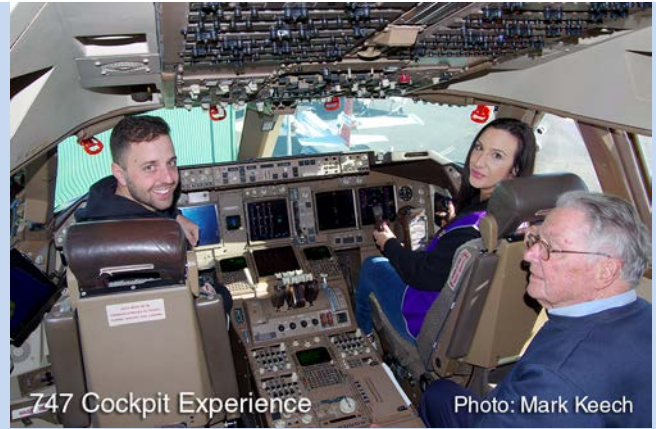
Once your pre-flight inspection is complete, climb on board and see what tasks a flight attendant has to undertake before each flight. Having armed and cross-checked the doors and prepared the cabin for take-off, it's up the stairs and onto the flight deck. The pilot will greet you, show you to the captain's 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.



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

The next Tarmac Days will be held on 10, 11, 12 November and 8, 9, 10 December 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 November. 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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