



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

January 2018 Newsletter

Happy New Year!

The Committee and members of HARS Aviation Museum wish all our subscribers a healthy, safe and prosperous 2018! The new year promises to be even more exciting for HARS than 2017.

With each passing year HARS goes from strength to strength. Our aircraft collection continues to expand, as does our support base and HARS membership now numbers more than 650 volunteers.

There are several much-anticipated additions to our aircraft collection slated to arrive this year, plus recent additions joining our flight line.

John Travolta's Boeing 707-138

The most high-profile aircraft arrival anticipated for 2018 is John Travolta's ex-Qantas, Boeing 707-138. John donated this aircraft to HARS in 2017 but it is currently still positioned in the United States. There is an enormous amount of work to be completed before the 707 can fly to Australia, but we are optimistic the hurdles can be overcome during 2018, which will enable the aircraft to take up residence at our facility at Illawarra Regional Airport.

John Travolta has indicated his intention to be on the aircraft when it arrives at Illawarra Regional Airport. The arrival promises to be a massive event for HARS, the Illawarra and Australian aviation heritage and is sure to rival a major Hollywood event!



The Travolta 707

Photo: N. MacKay



HARS Convair C-131 in Tucson

Photo: M. Keech

Convair 340

Also in the wings (so to speak) is our Convair 340 (C-131) which currently resides at the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson, Arizona. HARS engineers travelled to Pima Museum several times during 2017, to work on the aircraft's systems and perform engine runs. As with the Boeing 707-138, we are aiming to bring this aircraft to Australia during 2018.

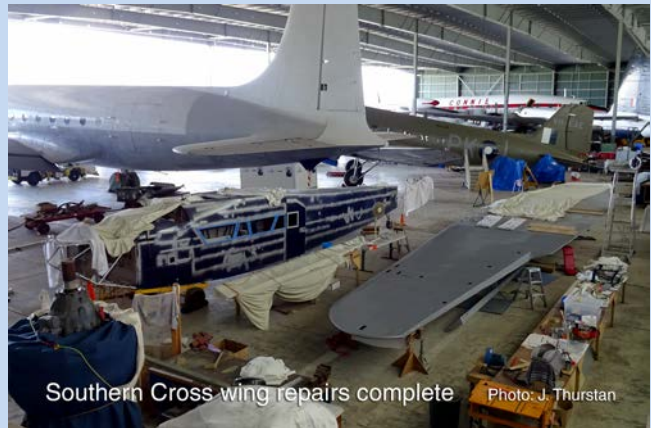
Lockheed Orion AP-3C

Following the official hand over of this aircraft by Chief of Air Force on 3 November 2017, work to bring our Orion into the HARS maintenance systems is continuing. Once all requirements have been met the aircraft will take to the sky as another of our fully airworthy exhibits.



Lockheed AP-3C Orion at HARS

Photo: M. Keech



Southern Cross wing repairs complete

Photo: J. Thurstan

Fokker F.VIIb/3m Trimotor “Southern Cross”

Work to restore the Southern Cross replica continues. 2017 saw successful wing loading tests and the restoration of the wing largely complete. Refurbishment of the fuselage is now underway, together with the necessary engineering associated with engines and other flight systems. Dick Smith’s very generous donation of \$125,000 in December 2016 has enabled work to ramp up during 2017. This is another aircraft that we are optimistic will take to the skies in 2018.

In General

There are several more aircraft which may potentially join the HARS collection during 2018. As details are confirmed, these will be reported during 2018.

The year in review - 2017

While our focus is now on 2018 and the exciting challenges that lay ahead, it is worth looking back at some of the highlights of 2017:

- **Avalon 2017.** Our Lockheed C-121C Super Constellation ‘Connie’ was one of the stars at Avalon 2017.
- **Connie Repaint.** In March, after attending the Australian International Airshow at Avalon Victoria, Connie flew to Wagga Wagga to be completely repainted. This was a much needed task as the original paint was over 20 years old. We are extremely grateful to Douglas Aerospace of Wagga Wagga for their very generous support to make this repaint possible.
- **Southern Cross – Fokker Trimotor Replica.** Significant achievements in the programme to return this aircraft to flight have been achieved, including successful wing loading tests.
- **Boeing 747 Wing walks introduced.**
- **Café Connie opened.**
- **Boeing 707-138.** John Travolta confirmed his donation of this aircraft to HARS, with the official signing over occurring in the later part of 2017.
- **AAHOF move to HARS.** The Australian Aviation Hall of Fame (AAHOF) relocated to HARS.
- **Lockheed AP-3C Orion, A9-753 officially became a HARS aircraft.**
- **Corby CJ-1 Starlet prototype donated to the HARS collection.**

December Tarmac Days

HARS Tarmac Days have taken on a slightly different format. As access to the tarmac areas is now restricted due to the introduction of commercial flights, aircraft on display are now determined to some extent by what we can fit into Hangar One. For December aircraft on display included:

- Boeing 747-438, “City of Canberra”,
- de Havilland (Australia) DHA-3 Drover,
- both de Havilland T.35 Vampires,
- Corby CJ-1 Starlet,
- Douglas DC-3 Dakota “Hawdon”,
- English Electric T.Mk-4 Canberra,

- General Dynamics F-111C,
- Grumman S-2G Tracker,
- Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune,
- Lockheed AP-3C Orion.

Guided tours of hangar three were also available throughout the weekend. Wing Walks were also available on the Boeing 747 “City of Canberra”.

Wings over Illawarra 2018

Yes, it’s time to start thinking about our local airshow again! Wings over Illawarra will be held on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 May 2018.

This is a significant airshow on the Australian calendar and rates as “Australia’s best annual airshow”. It is an aviation event not to be missed. As in previous years, there will be a multitude of classic warbirds and vintage aircraft on display. Flying events include amazing solo and formation aerobatics. The RAAF is again scheduled to participate with both fighter and cargo aircraft.

HARS will participate in the air show with various aircraft on display and some of our airworthy aircraft performing flying displays. More details will be provided over the coming months.



Details of the airshow and tickets can be obtained on the Wings over Illawarra web site:

www.wingsoverillawarra.com.au

Did You Know...

...the Pratt & Whitney R-4360 Wasp Major engine was a 28 cylinder, four-row radial engine featuring a gear driven supercharger and two exhaust driven turbo-superchargers? Also known as the “corn cob”, the engine displaced 71.5 litres and was the most complex and powerful production piston engine ever produced by the United States.

...the Fairchild C-119C “Flying Box Car” was the primary medium lift cargo aircraft for the US Air Force during the Korean War? It was powered by two Pratt & Whitney R-4360 radials, with some later versions of the aircraft also including a single Westinghouse J34 turbo jet mounted on the top of the fuselage.

...the Corby CJ-1 Starlet is an Australian designed, home-built, light aerobatic aircraft? In the 50 years since its first flight, over 900 plan sets have been sent to aviation enthusiasts and home builders in 31 countries.



Corby CJ-1 Starlet at HARS

Photo: M. Keech



Corby CJ-1 Starlet at HARS

Photo: M. Keech

City of Canberra - Boeing 747-438 tours

Our Boeing 747-438, City of Canberra, holds the record as the first and only aircraft to fly from London to Sydney non-stop. We are pleased to offer three different exclusive tours of our 747-438:

The Wing Walk Experience

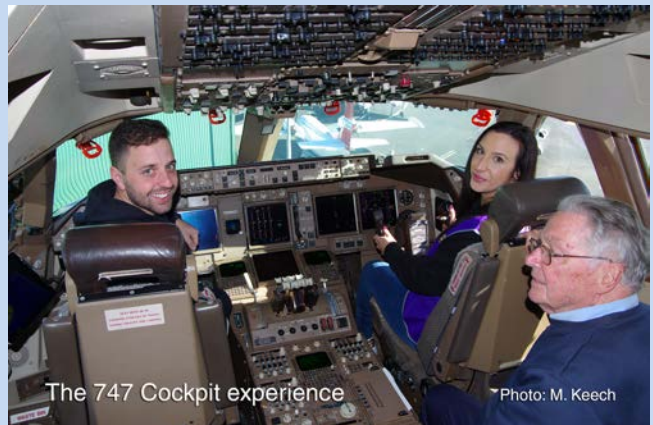
You will have the opportunity to view our 747 from a completely different angle. The walk will take you to about 16 meters (52 feet) along the right wing. With the beautiful Illawarra escarpment in the background, a totally unique picture and experience awaits you. Wing walk times are between 10am and 3pm at a special introductory price of \$65 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.



The 747 Wing Walk experience

Photo: M. Keech



The 747 Cockpit experience

Photo: M. 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.

This tour commences with a brief audio-visual presentation followed by a tour of the entire aircraft, including the cabin and galleys, crew rest areas, the forward cargo hold and a detailed inspection of the cockpit in the company of an actual 747 captain.

The 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, therefore 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 12, 13, 14 January and 9, 10, 11 February 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 20 January. 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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