



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

March 2018 Newsletter

Australia's Aviation Heritage

"I have the Fokker in sight!"

After some delays caused by tropical cyclone "Gita" the first of our two Fokker F27 Friendship aircraft arrived from New Zealand on Monday 27 February. Now registered VH-EWH, the Friendship departed Auckland on Sunday 26 February, stopping to refuel at Norfolk Island before proceeding to Coolangatta to clear customs. The intention was to proceed to Wollongong that same day, but bad weather in the Illawarra dictated an overnight stay at Coolangatta. The second aircraft will be ferried sometime in the next few months.

In Australian service the Fokker F27 Friendship was operated from the late 1950's by many of the domestic and regional airlines. Some of the Australian airlines which operated the type include Trans Australia Airlines, Ansett ANA, East West, Queensland Airlines, Bill Peach's Aircruising Australia and Airlines of NSW. The type was also operated by the Department of Civil Aviation and CSIRO.

The Fokker F27 was developed during the early 1950's and was intended to compete with or replace piston engine aircraft such as the DC-3. It uses Rolls Royce Dart turboprop engines, is pressurised and, in typical configuration seats around 50 passengers.

Our F27s were most recently in service with a company that provided services to New Zealand Post and our Kiwi readers would be well familiar with the sight and unique sounds of the F27s as they made their way around the mail runs.



Fokker F27 Friendship arrival

Photo: T. Crampton



Fokker F27 Friendship arrival

Photo: M. Keech



Fokker F27 Friendship office

Photo: M. Keech



Fokker F27 Friendship

Photo: M. Keech

Convair CV-440 progress

The return to flight project for our Convair CV-440 made significant progress this month with completion of the new engine installation. A testing regime has begun with numerous engine runs throughout February that should see the aircraft in the air in time for the upcoming airshow season.



Convair No 2 engine running

Photo: M. Keech

Stephen Jones MP visit

Following on from the Prime Minister's visit in December, on 9 February HARS Aviation Museum was visited by the Federal Member for Whitlam and Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government and Regional Communications, Stephen Jones. Mr Jones took the opportunity to walk on our 747's wing while he was with us.



Stephen Jones MP wing walk

Photo: M. St John



Stephen Jones MP wing walk

Photo: M. St John

Felix the Cat returns

As many of our readers would be aware, our Consolidated PBY-6A Catalina has been a resident at Russell Field, Maitland since October 2017. The aircraft was to fly over the October Rathmines Catalina Festival, but an engine issue necessitated a diversion to Maitland.

HARS engineers determined that an engine change was required and that work was completed along with the necessary testing in early February, enabling Felix to return to a warm welcome at Illawarra Regional Airport on 10 February.



Catalina departing Maitland



Catalina arriving home in Wollongong

Photo: M. Keech

Maitland departure photo used with permission from Aviation Spotters Online. Check out the amazing photos of our Catalina and others on their website: <http://aviationspottersonline.com/felix-flies-home/>

Vampire VH-FJW gets a heart

The second of our two de Havilland T.35 Vampires, A79-637, has had its de Havilland Goblin engine installed. Anybody who has ever worked on a British car will know the pain of skinned knuckles and the best of British engineering applied to the aviation industry as well. The engine was a very tight fit just as the de Havilland designers intended.

The team's ambition for this aircraft is to return it to airworthy condition, so the fitting of the fully reconditioned power plant is an important milestone in the restoration of this aircraft.



Vampire engine installation

Photo: T. Ball



It's going to be a tight fit!

Photo: T. Ball

Upcoming Airshows

Tyabb Victoria

Tyabb airport, on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria, will host an airshow on 11 March 2018. The show is titled War and Peace and promises to showcase many warbirds as well as civil aircraft.

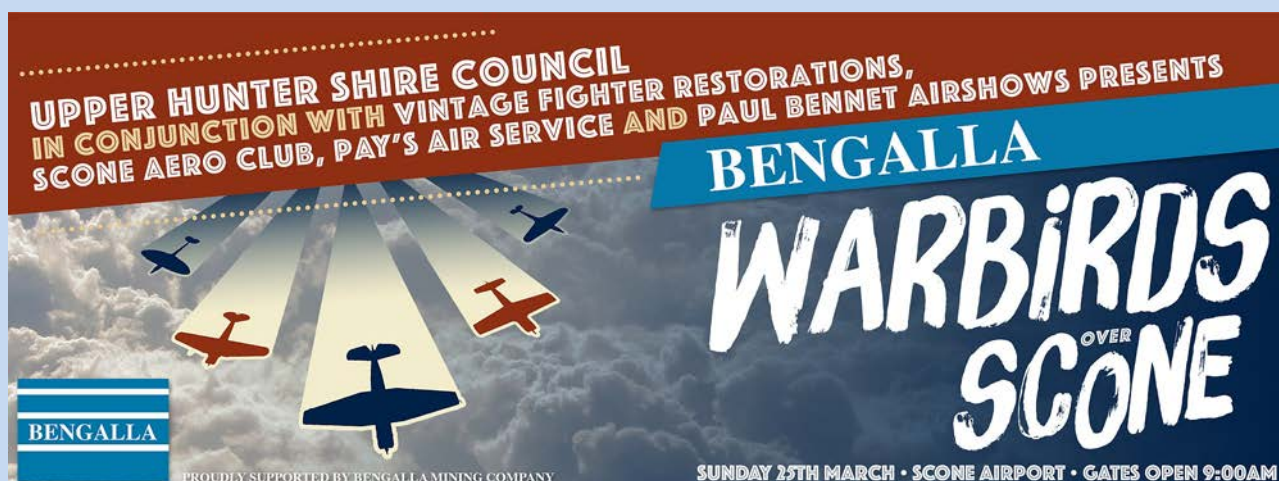
Details of the show can be found at: <http://www.tyabbairshow.com/>



Warbirds over Scone

This event will be held on Sunday 25 March 2017. It is the first “Warbirds over Scone” event since 2003.

Further details are available at: www.warbirdsoverscone.com.au



Parkes Aero Spectacular

The Parkes Aero Club celebrates 70 years in 2018 with an Aero Spectacular! Air displays, Antique military, civil and aerobatic, on-ground displays including large HARS multi-engined aircraft, some will include internal tours.

Saturday 14 April, 2018, 10am - 4pm, Parkes Regional Airport

For more information visit the Parkes Aero Club facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ParkesAeroClub/>

Wings Over Illawarra

A reminder, Wings Over Illawarra will be held on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 May 2018.

Details of the airshow and tickets can be obtained on the Wings Over Illawarra website:

www.wingsoverillawarra.com.au



February Tarmac Days

The February Tarmac Days were very exciting with a number of our aircraft having their engines run. Of particular note was the work done by the AP-3C Orion team in getting all four engines running and all systems functioning so that some spectacular high speed taxi runs could be completed.

Aircraft on display were:

- Auster J-5G Autocar
- Boeing B747-438 "City of Canberra"
- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-27 Sabre
- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-25 Winjeel
- Corby CJ-1 Starlet
- de Havilland DHC-4 Caribou
- de Havilland DH-82 Tiger Moth
- both de Havilland T.35 Vampires
- Douglas C-47B Dakota
- Douglas DC-3 Dakota "Hawdon"
- English Electric T Mk.4 Canberra
- General Dynamics F-111C
- Grumman S-2G Tracker
- Lockheed AP-3C Orion

Guided tours of Hangar 3 were available throughout the weekend and engines were run on the following aircraft:

- de Havilland DHC-4 Caribou
- Douglas DC-3 Dakota "Hawdon"
- Lockheed AP-3C Orion

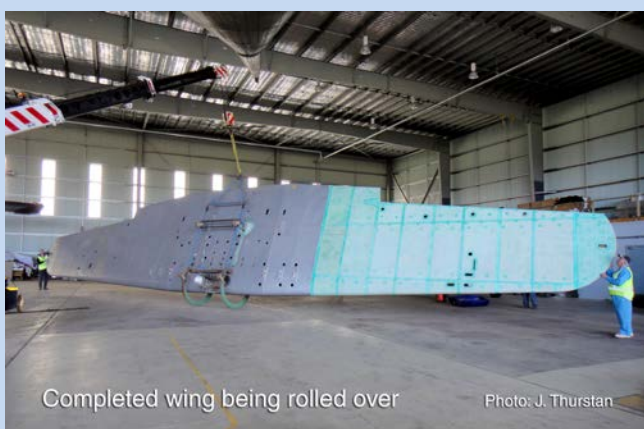


Southern Cross replica status report

Much of the work to return the Fokker (another one!) F.VIIb/3m Trimotor "Southern Cross" replica to flying status has been completed and the aircraft is now undergoing reassembly. The project is gaining a lot of interest, especially as this year is the 90th anniversary of Charles Kingsford Smith's record-breaking crossing of the Pacific Ocean in the original Southern Cross, and it is hoped to have the aircraft flying soon.

Built in South Australia in the 1980s the aircraft is a faithful replica of the original Fokker and suffered damage in a landing accident in 2002. HARS engineers have been meticulously restoring every part of this aircraft and when it is complete it will be in better than new condition.

Milestones achieved in February include completion of the wings and painting of the fuselage. The engines are currently being assembled and it is hoped to mate the wings to the fuselage in time for ground display at the Wings over Illawarra airshow in May.



Completed wing being rolled over

Photo: J. Thurstan



Fuselage painted

Photo: J. Thurstan

Did You Know...

...that in 2017 the world's airlines carried around 4.1 billion passengers, the highest number ever, and more than double the number of passengers carried in 2004? The year 2017 was also the safest year on record with no recorded passenger fatalities on commercial jet passenger aircraft (Source IATA).

...that 586 Fokker F27 Friendships were built, more than any other aircraft type produced in the Netherlands post WWII? A further 128 F27s were built by Fairchild Hiller in the USA under a licence agreement with Fokker and yes, it is the same company that was responsible for the Fokker scourge during World War I with such types as the Eindecker and the Triplane made famous by the Red Baron.

...the British de Havilland Vampire first flew in September 1943, but did not see combat during WWII as it was still under development at that time? The de Havilland (Australia) company built eighty single seat and 110 dual seat aircraft at their Bankstown facility for use by the Royal Australian Air Force.

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

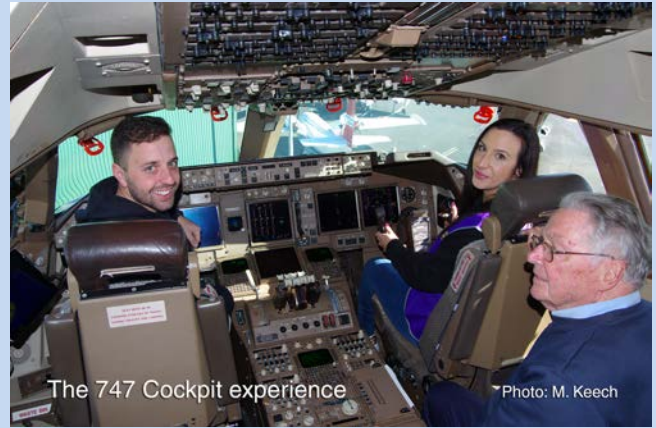
Follow in the footsteps of the Hon. Stephen Jones MP and view our 747 from a completely different angle. The walk will take you to about 16 meters (52 feet) along the right wing. With the beautiful Illawarra escarpment in the background, a totally unique picture and experience awaits you. Wing walk times 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.



Stephen Jones MP wing walk

Photo: M. St John



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.



City of Canberra - Boeing 747-438 tours

Photo: Mark Keech

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 9, 10, 11 March and 13, 14, 15 April 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 17 March. 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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