



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

## May 2018 Newsletter

### *Australia's Aviation Heritage*

#### **ANZAC Day commemorations**

Every year on ANZAC Day and the weekend before, HARS Aviation Museum is always proud to remember those who have served by conducting flights over the various commemorations. This year the services at Bowral, Robertson, Kangaroo Valley, Kiama, Shellharbour, Wollongong, Cronulla and Sydney were overflowed by either our Catalina or Dakota or both.

Our Consolidated PBY-6A Catalina, A24-362, maritime patrol aircraft was built in 1945 and is painted to represent an aircraft that served with 43 Squadron RAAF during World War II. The Douglas C-47B Dakota, A65-94, transport was delivered to the RAAF in May 1945 and served in the South West Pacific theatre in the closing months of WWII. The Dakota proved to be such a reliable platform that it continued to serve in the RAAF for another 55 years, seeing involvement in conflicts in Korea, Malaya and Vietnam, making this the longest serving aircraft type and this actual aircraft the longest serving aircraft in RAAF history.



#### **Canberra Airport Open Day**

Canberra Airport Open Day was held on Sunday 8 April this year and HARS Aviation Museum was well represented with our Consolidated PBY-6A Catalina, Convair CV-440 and de Havilland DHC-4 Caribou making the short flight. The HARS aircraft were so popular with the public that waiting times to view the aircraft were over 45 minutes at times.



## Parkes Aero Spectacular

Following on from the success of the Canberra Airport Open Day, the Catalina, Convair and Caribou made the journey to Parkes the following weekend, 14 April, to participate in the Parkes Aero Spectacular. A dust storm blew in just before the HARS aircraft arrived at Parkes but this didn't detract from the show.

HARS Aviation Museum has a satellite facility at Parkes Airport that has been open to the public for about three years and the collection there continues to grow. The Parkes collection now includes a Cessna 150, Convair CV-580, de Havilland DH.114 Heron, de Havilland DHC-4 Caribou, Lockheed 12 Electra, Lockheed AP-3C Orion, Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune. Soon to be added will be the second of our Fokker F27-500 Friendships that have been sourced from New Zealand.



## April Tarmac Days

The April tarmac days were successful despite many of our aircraft and members being away at the Parkes Aero Spectacular. On display in Hangar One were:

- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-27 Sabre
- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-25 Winjeel
- Corby CJ-1 Starlet
- 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
- Hawker FGA Mk.74A Hunter
- Lockheed AP-3C Orion
- Lockheed C-121C Super Constellation

Visitors on Friday and Sunday were treated to the spectacle of our Catalina, Convair and Caribou departing for and arriving from the Parkes Aero Spectacular.

## de Havilland DHA-3 Drover

After an extensive period of maintenance our de Havilland DHA-3 Drover took to the air once again on Saturday 21 April. It was an absolute delight to see this aircraft in the air once again. The sound of the three de Havilland Gipsy Major engines running smoothly and in synchronisation is unique. Hopefully, this marks the beginning of an extended period of reliable service for our Drover.



## Wings Over Illawarra

Wings Over Illawarra is here - Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 May! Tickets are still available but don't miss out! Book now at: [www.wingsoverillawarra.com.au](http://www.wingsoverillawarra.com.au)



HARS Aviation Museum will have about 39 aircraft on display. In addition, Cockpit and Wing Walk tours will be available on the 747-438, "City of Canberra", on both days of the airshow weekend.

747 Cockpit Tours take a maximum of two guests per tour, hosted by a 747 pilot who will take you through the many procedures for operation of the aircraft. The duration of these tours is 45 minutes, with the first tour available at 9:30 am and the last tour at 2:30 pm each day. The cost is \$100 per person, payable at the time of booking. Note that children aged between 10 and 14 will only be accepted for Cockpit Tours if accompanied by an adult family member or guardian.

Wing Walk tours take a maximum of six guests per tour with a duration of 15 minutes. These tours will be run every half hour starting at 9:30 am with the last tour at 3:00 pm each day. Tour cost is \$50 per person, payable at the time of booking. Suitable clothing (shorts or slacks for women) and footwear (no thongs) must be worn. The minimum age is 14 years.

Advance bookings can be made by contacting HARS reception on 02 4257 4333.

## Did You Know...

...the world's busiest airport, based on passenger numbers, is Hartsfield-Jackson in Atlanta, Georgia? In 2017 nearly 104 million passengers passed through the airport. Sydney's Kingsford-Smith airport ranked number 42 busiest in the world with 43 million passengers.

...the North American XB-70 Valkyrie Bomber of the 1960's had a design maximum take-off weight of 240,000 kg? It was powered by 6 x General Electric YJ93 turbojet engines which gave it a maximum speed in excess of Mach 3 but only two examples were ever built.

...production of the Boeing B-52 Stratofortress ceased in 1962? The many examples still in service are therefore at least 56 years old.

## Southern Cross II update

Progress continues on the project to return the Fokker F.VIIb/3m Trimotor "Southern Cross II" to flying status.

This month saw many of the painting tasks completed with the fuselage now sporting the "Southern Cross" name and Kingsford-Smith's original registration code – VH-USU. It is hoped to be able to mate the wing to the fuselage in time to display it as a whole aircraft at Wings Over Illawarra.

Built in South Australia in the 1980s the aircraft is a faithful reproduction of Kingsford Smith's original Southern Cross. It suffered some damage in a landing accident in 2002 and HARS engineers have been meticulously restoring every part of this aircraft to return it to flying status. When it is complete it will be in better than new condition.



Southern Cross instrument panel

Photo: J. Thurstan



Southern Cross fuselage painted

Photo: J. Thurstan

## 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 11, 12, 13 May, the weekend after Wings Over Illawarra and 8, 9, 10 June 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 Sunday 20 May. 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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