



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

Media Release

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AIRLINE LEGEND DC-3 ON SHOW FOR AUGUST TARMAC DAYS

An historic DC-3 which pioneered the launch of Trans-Australian Airlines will feature when HARS Aviation Museum holds its monthly tarmac days on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10-12 August, at the Illawarra Regional Airport at Albion Park.

The gleaming polished metal **DC-3**, named Hawdon in honour of Australian settler and mail pioneer Joseph Hawdon, was built as a military C-47 for the US Army Air Force in 1941.

After seeing service across the Asia-Pacific region as USAAF 41-18660, in 1944 she was converted to a civilian DC-3 then, when TAA was formed, flew the first service from Melbourne to Sydney in 1946.

In those days it took over three hours of low-level, non-pressurised flight to travel the route now covered by jets in about an hour.

After being retired in 1979 Hawdon was placed on public display, suspended in the car park at Melbourne Airport. After being restored to flying again in 1988 she was gifted to the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society in 2016 and is maintained in flying condition.

Crewed by two pilots and a navigator, the DC-3 had a maximum speed of 350 km/h with a range of 1,650 km.

In addition to the DC-3, HARS Aviation Museum also flies two American designed and built Douglas Aircraft **C47s** with cargo doors which were delivered to the RAAF in May 1945 where they served in many squadrons until retired in 2000.

While the HARS Aviation Museum is open daily from 9.30 to 3.30 for visitors and groups the monthly "Tarmac Days" allow museum volunteers to put the spotlight on selected aircraft unique to Australian aviation history. The museum's Café Connie also is open for great coffee and light meals.

Also featured is the last of only 20 de Havilland DHA-3 **Drover** aircraft built at Bankstown in 1951. The distinctive three-engine aircraft was totally designed and built in Australia, serving with TAA, Qantas and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Like so many of the heritage aircraft preserved for the future at HARS Aviation Museum, the Drover is beautifully maintained in flying condition.

For details of HARS Aviation Museum tours see www.hars.org.au

(caption)

The beautifully restored DC-3 "Hawdon" is a key component of the display of Australian aviation heritage at HARS Aviation Museum, located at Albion Park.

ENDS: For further media information please contact HARS President and Chief Pilot Bob De La Hunty on 0433 941 306.