



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

Media Release

Australia's Aviation Heritage

Issued Tuesday 5 February 2019

HARS NAVY HERITAGE FLIGHT A STEP CLOSER ...

FORMER NAVY WESSEX HELICOPTER BEING RELOCATED TO HARS AVIATION MUSEUM

Unloading at HARS, Illawarra Regional Airport, on Wednesday 6 February at 3pm

Australia's Navy aviation heritage will take a significant step to preservation when a former RAN Wessex helicopter arrives at the HARS Aviation Museum, at Illawarra Regional Airport, on Wednesday afternoon.

The Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS) has been selected as the preferred tenderer to acquire selected aircraft and spares previously operated by the RAN's Fleet Air Arm at Nowra.

This tender outcome is the result of over 14 years of dialogue between the RAN and HARS to develop acceptable ways of preserving Naval Aviation heritage, a dialogue which resulted in a restricted tender process where Australian Heritage Organisations were invited to tender to acquire the whole set of aircraft and spares.

HARS was selected as the preferred tenderer and, as the required administrative procedures are successfully completed, the selected aircraft and spares have now been transferred to HARS' ownership, and all are in the process of being removed from the operational sections of HMAS Albatross.

The airframes involved are: Grumman Trackers (2), Iroquois(2), Sea Venom (1), Sea Fury (1), Wessex (2) and a C47 (1).

As a practical illustration of the transfer of assets, HARS plans to move a Wessex helicopter by road from HMAS Albatross to HARS Aviation Museum at Albion Park on Wednesday.

This historic airframe will be available for viewing at the HARS Tarmac Days on Friday Saturday and Sunday.

HARS will create a HARS Navy Heritage Flight tasked to preserve Australia's Naval Aviation Heritage and it is HARS' long term intent to have selected airframes of the flight relocated back to, or kept at, Nowra.

Each airframe allocated this way to HARS ownership illustrates the wide range of conditions of these airframes ranging from very good (Tracker 844) through largely intact (Sea Fury) through display only (Wessex) and dismantled in containers (Sea Venom).

Project Leader for the HARS Navy Heritage Flight, Professor Michael Hough said: “We are delighted and honoured to be selected in this way to assist in the preservation of Naval Aviation Heritage.”

(captions)

Former RAN aircraft to be featured as the HARS Navy Heritage Flight develops, Tracker, Dakota, Sea Fury, Wessex and Huey. (All photos taken by HARS members and are copyright free)

ENDS

For further information check the HARS Website and Facebook pages regularly see www.hars.org.au or contact the HARS NHF Project leader at email: harsnhf@hars.org.au