



HARS AVIATION MUSEUM

www.hars.org.au

Media Release

Australia's Aviation Heritage

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HISTORIC AIR FORCE NEPTUNE SUB HUNTER FLIES AGAIN ...

HARS Aviation Museum Tarmac Days Fri 8 to Sun 10 March

A veteran Neptune submarine hunter of the cold war era will fly again during the March monthly "Tarmac Days" at HARS Aviation Museum based at Illawarra Regional Airport at Albion Park Rail.

Held for three days starting on the second Friday of each month, the Tarmac Days cover Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8 – 10 March.

Neptune "273" joined HARS Aviation Museum 31 years ago and remains in RAAF colours, celebrating its service with No 10 Squadron in Townsville from 1962 to 1977.

The Neptune model P2V-7 is set to fly on Friday afternoon and during the Saturday, subject to operational and weather factors.

The volunteers at Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS) also plan to fly some of their other unique aircraft, including the last of 20 tri-motor De Havilland Drovers built at Bankstown in 1949, a vintage Cessna 310 and possibly the recently retired Orion turbo-prop AP-3C.

Now registered VH-ORI, the former RAAF Lockheed Orion long-range surveillance turbo-prop aircraft will be the first of its type to fly under civil registration.

This Orion completed some 16,400 flight hours, including many searching the Indian Ocean for the missing MH-370 until it was handed over to HARS 15 months ago.

A remarkable showcase of cold war aviation is on display at HARS Aviation Museum for the March Tarmac Days including a Hawker Hunter, the first Sabre jet to enter Australian service, an RAAF Mirage 3 fighter jet, F-111C supersonic fighter-bomber and two more Neptunes including the former French Marine "566" which is still in operational condition.

Visitors can climb aboard many of these and other vintage aircraft including the former US Air Force Lockheed C-121C Connie which was flown to Australia by HARS members who found her in a decrepit condition in an aircraft boneyard in the Arizona desert back in 1990.

It's a remarkable opportunity to sit in the style in which Qantas used 16 of the long-range Super Constellations in the 1950s to pioneer around the world services.

With former RAN Historic Flight aircraft recently transferred to HARS, visitors can sit in the Wally the big Wessex helicopter at HARS Aviation Museum.

Also forming part of what will become HARS Navy Heritage Flight are a Sea Venom jet and a Sea Fury carrier aircraft now under restoration.

The more than 40 aircraft on show bear testament to the dedication of the 700 plus volunteer members of HARS to preserve Australia's aviation heritage, operational where possible, for the benefit of future generations.

Plus, an immaculate Bell 47 M.A.S.H. style helicopter which is authentically presented in Australian Army livery intends to conduct spectacular joy flights – offering a unique way to view the Illawarra.

Apart from Christmas Day, HARS Aviation museum is open from 9.30 to 3.30 daily for visitors, and groups, to see and sit in many of more than 40 aircraft on display. The last tour starts at 2.45 pm.

The museum's acclaimed Café Connie is open for barista coffee plus delicious hot and cold food at very reasonable prices ... so when visiting HARS Aviation Museum you can make a meal of it.

Visitor details at www.hars.org.au

(captions)

Former RAAF Neptune "273" is set to fly again during March Tarmac Days with HARS Aviation Museum at Illawarra Regional Airport.

The M.A.S.H. style Bell 47 in Australian army colours will be on show and able to take visitors on spectacular joy flights during March Tarmac Days at HARS Aviation Museum.

ENDS:

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