

GENERAL UPDATE-  
**The NHF Project- Progress for WEEK ENDING 17 MAR 19**

Michael Hough AM  
HARS Navy Heritage Flight Project Leader

This week ending 17 MAR 19 has been a quieter week, after a very busy period for HARS achieving its commitment to ADF disposals in moving 9 airframes and associated stores off the operational HMAS Albatross base.

The main activities that have been achieved this last week are now listed- NOT in any order of time sequence or of relative importance:-

#### New Members and Sponsors

It is a pleasure to report that we have had a number of potential new members of HARS express an interest in joining us- because they have been following the reports of our activities in the media, and we welcome all enquiries offering to help.

I am also pleased to report that we have had some very practical sponsorship assistance from groups such as the Fleet Air Arm Associations – at National NSW and Queensland levels- who have made donations to assist with airframe insurance (FAAA NSW) / Road movement of Wessex to new locations (FAAA National), and Road movement of Sea Fury to new location (FAAA Qld).

I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank these Fleet Air Arm associations for their very practical support!

This week we also had a statement of a bequest from the son of a previous Navy FAA pilot, who has offered a monthly bequest payment to support the Navy Heritage flight. At the appropriate time and with his permission, I will acknowledge him personally, and we were very grateful to receive this type of practical support

Here is a brief summary of each airframe of the NHF and its status this week:-

#### Trackers 844 and 845

- No change to their status, which is that 844 is located at Air Affairs Nowra (AA), has been restored by HARS volunteers to ground running, and is being maintained each week as required with e.g. engine startups and wingfolds. Tracker 845:- no action on this airframe (currently in storage at AA), and we have begun a dialogue as to how we can raise funds and move this airframe to our HARS ( Parkes) Museum.

#### Dakota C47

- There has been no planned work on this airframe in the last week. We are planning to move the wings from their present storage location, to adjacent to the fuselage at Air Affairs in the next week or so.

#### Wessex

- Wessex 832 (Albion Park) is being worked on to improve its display features, and our Wessex volunteers are working hard on sorting through a large container of spares
- Wessex 813 is at HARS Parkes- no reported activity but planning is under way to move it into its long-term storage location inside the Bellman hangar

#### Sea Venom

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- The completely dismantled Sea Venom has a team of HARS volunteers unpacking and cleaning components as they are removed from e.g. their containers. The main advance this week is that the fuselage has been located into a rotisserie type frame- which will enable more effective restoration to occur.

Sea Fury

- Sea Fury WG 630 is temporarily in secure storage at Air Affairs, and we are planning to move the airframe by road on 22<sup>nd</sup> March from Nowra to HARS Hangar 1 Albion Park. We have now been advised that we will require additional Police escorts plus two other escort vehicles to make the move, and the estimated costs of this move have just increased considerably as a result of this decision

Hueys

- Iroquois UH-1B Numbers 893 and 898 are at Air Affairs at AATP in secure storage. There is no reported activity this week

The airframes are in a very wide range of condition, and therefore represent many challenges, and I restate that HARS is, in principle, committed to the future return of **selected** operational airframes back to the long- term home of Naval aviation at Nowra Hill.

#### Historic Photos

One of our HARS Volunteers- Murray Lindsay- has searched through the FAA Museum archives and (with permission) collected large numbers of earlier photos. I again attach 1 example of each airframe in action in earlier times- ENJOY!

#### We are going to ask for your help!

As advised last week, I reconfirm that the HARS Navy Heritage Flight is incurring, and will continue to incur, real costs associated with ground transport and haulage of airframes, and the purchase of essential restoration items such as paint and oils.

We will VERY SOON launch a crowdfunding project with a 'can you help' series of requests for help-either straight financial or 'in-kind' support e.g. paint/ transport and similar.

The logic of crowdfunding includes the fact that- 'Lots of people giving small and realistic (for them) amounts, can quickly add up to significant financial or 'in kind' project help. We look forward to any support that you can choose to give!

Regards and thanks to all our followers and supporters

Michael Hough

Navy Heritage Flight Project Leader

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PHOTOS OF:-

1 each of the HARS airframes (or similar) in earlier service with the RAN Fleet Air Arm  
Selected shots around the HARS hangars at Albion Park supplied by John Sperring