



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

February 2019 Newsletter

Australia's Aviation Heritage



French Marine Falcon visits HARS

On Saturday 19 January a Falcon 200 Guardian aircraft from French Marine Squadron 25F, with its crew, visited HARS. The crew took the opportunity to inspect one of the French Marine's former maritime surveillance aircraft, the Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune, 566, now operated by HARS.



The Falcon 200 Guardian

Photo: M. Keech



Neptune 566

Photo: M. Keech

The Dassault Falcon 200 Guardian maritime surveillance aircraft was developed for the French Marine from the Falcon 20, a modified version of the Mystère / Falcon 20 business jet. Squadron 25F operates the Guardian from its base in Tahiti.



Crew boarding Neptune 566

Photo: M. Keech



The Falcon 200 Guardian

Photo: M. Keech

Neptune 566 was built in 1959 and spent most of its life patrolling the Atlantic until it finished its career in Tahiti in 1984. The French Government donated Neptune 566 to HARS in 1987 and the museum's volunteers spent almost two years making visits to Papeete Airport restoring it to a condition that would allow it to be flown to Australia. Although it hasn't flown for some time, HARS volunteers keep it in operational condition through regular engine runs. Neptune 566 is the finest example anywhere in the world of a Lockheed Neptune, since it has low flight hours and is in complete, original condition inside.



French crew welcomed to HARS

Photo: M. Keech



French crew welcomed to HARS

Photo: M. Keech

The French Marine crew were invited aboard Neptune 566 for an engine and taxi run. The Guardian departed HARS at 15:00 bound for Sydney where the crew spent the night before flying on to Noumea on the first leg of their return trip to Tahiti.

Parkes Elvis Festival

The Parkes Elvis festival was held from January 9 to 13 to celebrate the music of Elvis Presley. HARS Aviation Museum Parkes was open on all days of the festival. For those who were “Elvised out”, a visit to the museum was no doubt a bit of a relief.



Elvis and Elvis visit HARS Parkes

Photo: M. Scott



More Elvises

Two of the Elvis impersonators who visited the museum had served with the RAAF 92 Wing. They were particularly interested in our P3 Orion 759 as they had worked with the aircraft during their time in the RAAF.

January Tarmac Days

Tarmac Days are a great opportunity to see selected aircraft from our collection up close and out of doors. During the January tarmac days the following aircraft were on display in Hangar One and the adjacent tarmac area:

- Boeing B747-438, City of Canberra
- Cessna C-310B
- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-25 Winjeel
- Corby CJ-1 Starlet
- de Havilland DHC-4 Caribou
- de Havilland DHA-3 Drover
- de Havilland DH-82 Tiger Moth
- de Havilland T.35 Vampire
- English Electric T Mk.4 Canberra
- Fokker F27-500 Friendship
- General Dynamics F-111C
- Government Aircraft Factory IIIO(F) Mirage
- Grumman S-2G Tracker

- Lockheed C-121C Super Constellation
- Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune



The privately owned Bell 47G helicopter was available for visitors to experience a local scenic flight and, as usual tours of Hangar Three were available throughout the weekend.

Rolls Royce car club visit

The Rolls Royce Owners Club NSW visited HARS during January. The oldest vehicle present was a Rolls Royce 20 HP built in 1927, coloured maroon in the pictures below. The 20 HP was displayed along with a blue Corniche under the wing of our 747, City of Canberra adjacent to the port side Rolls Royce RB211 engines.



Flying activities in January

During January flying activities increased with the following aircraft taking to the skies over Illawarra Regional Airport:

- The de Havilland DHA-3 Drover has flown many training flights,
- The Lockheed Super Constellation, Connie, made a welcome and much anticipated return to the air for training circuits,
- DC-3, Hawdon, made a number of flights over several days,
- The Cessna 310B also returned to the air following a major maintenance check.

Flying activity is expected to increase over the coming months with Tarmac Days being the focus. Check our [facebook](#) page for details of flying activities on the next Tarmac Days.

Airshows for 2019

Time is running out to secure tickets to the Australian International Airshow, which will be held from March 1 to 3 at Avalon Airport Victoria. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com.au/airshow2019.

Wings over Illawarra is to be held on May 4 and 5 at Illawarra Regional Airport. Tickets can be obtained at www.wingsoverillawarra.com.au.

Did You Know...

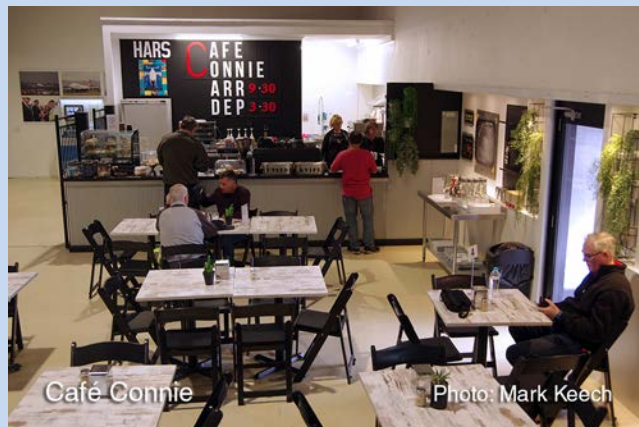
...the North American F-82 Twin Mustang was the last piston-engine fighter ordered into production by the United States Air Force? The aircraft was based on the P-51 Mustang but used two fuselages.

...a trip to London in the Super Constellation in the late 1940s took three days with overnight stops in Singapore and Cairo? The return airfare was £585, equivalent to 130 weeks average pay.

...the Fairey Swordfish, designed in the early 1930s, was a biplane torpedo bomber nicknamed the "Stringbag"? Although considered obsolete by the beginning of WW2, it was used by the British Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm throughout the war.

Café Connie

Next time you're visiting Illawarra Regional Airport drop in to Café Connie! Breakfast and lunch menus offer a wide selection of both hot and cold food items available at very reasonable prices. The Café's beverage offering features barista coffee with milk shakes, smoothies and soft drinks also available. If you're passing our way, why not drop in for coffee and a chat with our friendly staff, or if you're planning a visit to the museum you can now make a meal of it.



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.

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. All wing walks are subject to weather conditions and may not be available on all days.



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 8, 9, 10 February and 8, 9, 10 March 2019. Check our [facebook](#) page for details of any flying activities over each of these weekends.

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. Information sessions for potential new members will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday 9 February and Saturday 9 March. 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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