

UPDATE 18 16 JUN 19

GENERAL UPDATE 18/2019-
The NHF Project- Progress Report-WEEK ENDING 06 Jun 19

Michael Hough AM
HARS Navy Heritage Flight Project Leader

The NHF project continues with work this week focused on selected airframes- with a particular burst of activity this last week on:- rebuilding the fuselage of the Sea Venom, provision of an updated sign for the Wessex at HARS ALBION PARK, and continued active dialogue on our proposed long term home for the NHF next to the FAA Museum.

It is my pleasure to update you on the progress we are making, thanks to a lot of every enthusiastic people

Here is a very brief summary of each current NHF project-

***Trackers 844 and 845**

These are both still located in secure but open storage at our major sponsor Air Affairs at the Albatross Aviation Technology Park (AATP), where:-

- 844 is receiving its regular weekly run-up and engineering checks by HARS volunteers. It ran very successfully last week, and our engineering team is preparing to give it a final check before releasing it for flight
- 845 is in open storage and Ken Jackson our painting team leader is still actively scoping the costs associated with giving 845 an external paint job with a view to it becoming a 'gate guard' on our proposed new home adjacent to the FAA Museum

A Reminder:- HARS also has Tracker 851 in long term preservation and upgrade in HARS Hangar 3, and I attach a photograph to remind all that 851 was one of the replacement Tracker fleet, that flew with both US Navy and RAN FAA Squadrons!

***Dakota C47**

No new work this last week, and I repeat last week's news that we had planned to move the C47 WINGS from HMAS Albatross to HARS Albion Park on Thursday 7 June by road- again with the generous sponsorship and support of Air Affairs, but unfortunately the Air Affairs vehicle suitable for that task (a very low loader) had to be tasked elsewhere - so we have put it off for a few weeks until that vehicle becomes available again. I again want to acknowledge the generosity and support of Chris Sievers the CEO at Air Affairs, in providing this vehicle when available.

***Wessex .**

- Wessex 832 is on display at HARS Albion Park in HARS Hangar 3 and this week one of our HARS Volunteers- John Groom- made a handsome display sign and the accompanying photos show it on display - so THANKS VERY MUCH John!
- Wessex 813 is at HARS Parkes - no update received this week

We are really short of qualified/ knowledgeable Wessex support team members so if anyone out there can assist us, we would really welcome your enquiry about joining HARS OR coming to assist with a particular project. We had one interested person contact us in the last few weeks and it was great to see a previously serving ex RANFAA sailor keen to work on the Wessex with us again!

***Sea Venom**

Some seriously impressive progress has been made on reassembling the Sea Venom this last week, with Bob De La Hunty and friends re-assembling the cockpit and fuselage, and adding back the landing gear attachments including on the wings. I have attached a series of photos taken in the last few days which record the impressive work happening, and our sincere thanks to everyone involved!

***Hueys**

- Iroquois UH-1B Numbers 893 and 898 are at Air Affairs at AATP in secure storage and there has been no change in their status this week

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***Sea Fury**

- Sea Fury WG 630 airframe is still on display in HARS Hangar 1 and is already a very popular display item, and this will be a BIG CHALLENGING Project and we invite your involvement and assistance please

We have commenced our major Sea Fury appeal- help us to develop the engineering analysis which is the start the rebuild of this magnificent Sea Fury historic airframe back to flying status!

***Our Future Home:-**

We are continuing active negotiations with Navy Heritage and EIG (The Estate and Infrastructure Group) of Defence, for confirmation that the block of land next to the FAA Museum is allocated as the future home of the HARS Navy Heritage Flight.

***Access to FAA Museum Historic Photos for the NHF Update Reports**

I am pleased to report that both the Director of Naval Heritage and the Director of the Fleet Air Arm Museum have approved the use of photographs from the FAA Museum archives in the HARS NHF Update reports, and as of next week I will add, when appropriate, selected historic photos of the relevant airframes in the NHF , drawn from the photographic records of when they were in active service with the FAA . On behalf of all our NHF volunteers and supporters, I would like to thank both Damien Allen (Director of Naval Heritage) and Stu Harwood (Director FAA Museum) for obtaining and granting these permission(s).

We Request Your Support:-

IF YOU CAN ASSIST THE NAVY HERITAGE FLIGHT IN ANY WAY-PLEASE EMAIL ME AT:-

harsnhf@hars.org.au. or contact me through our HARS NHF Facebook page

We especially need your help on the following:-

- ***Raising Funds To Upgrade The Insurance To Support Tracker 844 Flying Again,***
- ***Raising Funds To Bring The C47 Dakota From Nowra To Albion Park So We Can Commence Restoration (Approx. \$5000)***
- ***Joining Our Sea Fury Restoration Team (Led by Mark Thurstan) as we begin the Engineering Evaluation Project and develop the Restoration Plan. We need skilled assistance Here Please***

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In the meantime, enjoy the accompanying photos of NHF related activities at HARS Albion Park (Sea Fury/ Sea Venom/ Wessex 832).

Enjoy!

Michael Hough

Navy Heritage Flight Project Leader

16 Jun19

PHOTOS:-

A Number of shots attached-taken by me and all are copyright free:-

MH:-

Tracker 851 in Hangar 1

Sea Venom in HARS Hangar 3 a series of photos of the reconstruction progress being made

Sea Fury in HARS Hangar 1

Wessex 832 in HARS Hangar 3 with new sign and the current contents on display within the sign