

GENERAL UPDATE 19/2019-
The NHF Project- Progress Report-WEEK ENDING 23 Jun 19

Michael Hough AM
HARS Navy Heritage Flight Project Leader

The NHF project report this week again focuses on selected airframes- with particular activity focused this last week on:- rebuilding the fuselage of the Sea Venom, some more touch up of the paint on the Wessex at HARS ALBION PARK, and action 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 engineering checks by HARS volunteers, 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
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***Dakota C47**

No new work this last week, and I repeat the recent 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 Ken Jackson and his painting team improved the paint job around the wheels and continued the painting of the rotor based ahead of them being remounted
- 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.

***Sea Venom**

Some seriously impressive progress work continues on the challenges of re-assembling the Sea Venom this last week, with Bob De La Hunty and friends making serious progress on the airframe. 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. This week I received the following from an unnamed source who flew the RAN Hueys in a previous life:- *“ Interestingly, RAAF and RAN bought Hueys at about the same time in early sixties- but they were separate projects. RAAF Hueys were built as Bell UH1B- but RAN Hueys were built as Bell 204 ie civvy aircraft. The RAN aircraft could be registered as VH whereas ex RAAF could only operate on a “Permit to Fly”. The civvy data plates were removed from the RAN helos and were held by the HF when I was involved. Be interested to know where the plates are now.”*

***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:-**

This week HARS Lodged an application with 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**

Following the approvals received from the Director of Naval Heritage and the Manager of the Fleet Air Arm Museum to use of photographs from the FAA Museum archives in the HARS NHF Update reports, I have selected some historic photos of the relevant airframes in the NHF , drawn from the photographic records of when they were in active service with the FAA . Again, I would like to thank both Damien Allen (Director of Naval Heritage) and Stu Harwood (Manager, FAA Museum) for obtaining and granting these permission(s).

We Request Your Support:-

It is the end of the Tax Year and don't forget that donations to HARS of over \$2 are tax deductible so please reflect on whether a tax deductible donation would assist you in the next few weeks, please act now before the 4th of June and IF YOU CAN ASSIST 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 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***

UPDATE 19 23 JUN 19

In the meantime, enjoy the accompanying photos of NHF related activities at HARS Albion Park (Sea Venom/Wessex 832) and selected archival photos reproduced with permission from the FAA Museum.

Enjoy!

Michael Hough

Navy Heritage Flight Project Leader

23 Jun19

PHOTOS:-

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

MH:-

Sea Venom in HARS Hangar 3 a series of photos of the reconstruction progress being made
Wessex 832 in HARS Hangar 3 with wheels being painted and the rotor blades being prepared for painting

FROM THE FAA MUSEUM COLLECTION

One shot each of the following airframes "in RAN FAA service":-

Tracker

C47

Sea Fury

Huey