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MUSEUM
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Media Release

Australia's Aviation Heritage

Issued Thursday 27 June 2019

TWO FOKKERS ON SHOW FOR TARMAC DAYS DISPLAY ...

Second F27 adds to classic airliners at HARS Aviation Museum

The wings of friendship returned to Australian skies when the second of two Fokker F27 aircraft landed at its new home at HARS Aviation museum in June.

Two specialist ferry pilots and an engineer flew the “relatively new” 34-year-old Fokker Friendship from New Zealand via Norfolk Island and the Gold Coast to the museum at Illawarra Regional Airport, south of Wollongong.

Now registered VH-TQN the F27-500 was retired from duty with New Zealand Post in 2017 and donated to the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS) to be maintained in flying condition for its new career as a tribute to airlines of yesteryear.

More than 80 Fokker Friendships once served with airlines across Australia from 1959, replacing the legendary DC-3 to provide vital links to the major cities for people in regional, rural and often remote areas.

The Fokker Friendship brought a significant leap in airline standards for people otherwise faced with long overland journeys to connect with the world.

The distinctive high-wing aircraft, with Rolls Royce Dart engines, were very popular as they flew thousands of passengers around the nation over a 30-year period.

Recognising that there were none of the once popular passenger Friendships left in Australia, after some 25 years of flights delivering mail New Zealand Post arranged to donate their last two F-27 aircraft to HARS so they could be kept operational.

The two Fokker Friendships will highlight the monthly Tarmac Days at HARS Aviation Museum on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 12-14 July.

Also open to inspection will be the museum's other historic airliners including the massive Boeing 747-400 which set an unequalled world record in 1989 when it flew 18,001 km non-stop from London to Sydney in a time of 20 hours and nine minutes to start a 23-year career with Qantas.

Entry to HARS Aviation Museum includes access to the history-making 747, while additional wing-walk and cockpit tours can be booked.

Other veterans of airliner service on display include the iconic Super Constellation Connie, the last of her type in the world currently still flying. Connie is open for visitors to see how Qantas used 16 of these piston engine aircraft to establish world-wide services in an era before passenger jets.

Also open for inspection is a DC-3, a DC-4 under restoration and the 1949-era still flying three-engine de Havilland Drover and an immaculate Convair.

The DC-3 is Hawdon which, in the tradition of HARS of preserving Australia's aviation heritage, remains airworthy more than 70 years after flying the first service with 21 passengers from Melbourne to Sydney in 1946 for the then newly created Trans-Australia Airlines.

A beautiful replica of Kingsford Smith's Southern Cross, in the final stages of restoration, takes visitors back to the 1920s when these Fokker tri-motor airplanes pioneered air routes in many countries.

Mr De La Hunty praised the contribution of donors for making it possible to have the two F27s on display.

"As Fokker Friendships were a very popular aircraft for passengers having these icons on display and operational will add to the aviation history experience at our museums," he said.

HARS Aviation Museum holds Tarmac Days on the second Friday of each month, in addition to being open every day for guided visitor tours of the more than 40 vintage and historic aircraft on display.

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 2.25 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.

Details at www.hars.org.au

(caption)

The second of two Fokker Friendship F27 aircraft arrives at HARS Aviation Museum in June.

ENDS:

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