



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

July 2019 Newsletter

Australia's Aviation Heritage



Second Friendship arrives at HARS

The second of two Fokker F27 Friendship aircraft arrived at HARS Aviation Museum, Illawarra Regional Airport on 26 June after a short series of ferry flights from Ardmore, New Zealand. The route took the aircraft through Norfolk Island and Coolangatta, where it spent a night, before making the short morning flight to Wollongong.

Now registered VH-TQN, the aircraft was retired from NZ Post in 2017 and donated to HARS Aviation Museum where she will join her sister ship, VH-EWH, which has been on display at Illawarra Regional Airport for almost a year. Our intention is to re-paint the two aircraft in the liveries of two of the Australian airlines that operated them and then maintain them in airworthy condition as part of Australia's aviation heritage, with one of them being based at Parkes.



Fokker Friendship arriving at Wollongong Photo: M. Keech



Fokker Friendship arriving at Wollongong Photo: M. Keech

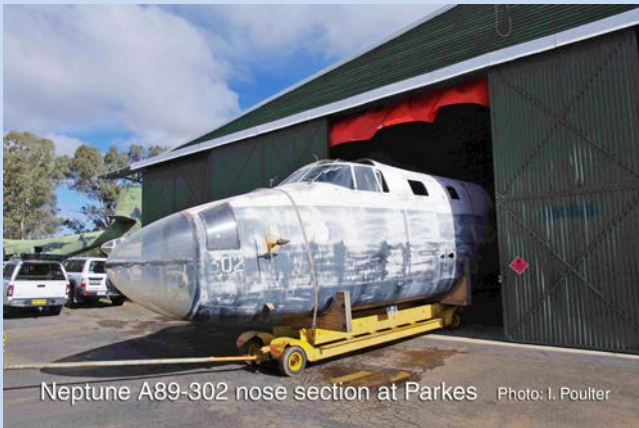
More than 80 Fokker Friendships once served with airlines across Australia from 1959, replacing the legendary DC-3 to provide vital links to the major cities for people in regional, rural and often remote areas. The high-wing aircraft, with its distinctive whistling, Rolls Royce Dart engines, were very popular as they flew many thousands of passengers around the nation over a 30-year period.

HARS Parkes Museum news

Work has commenced on restoration of ex-RAAF Lockheed P2V-5 Neptune A89-302. The Neptune was gifted to HARS by the RAAF in June 2018 and during the latter half of the year was transported from Point Cook and Laverton to Parkes.

Neptune 302 has immense historical significance as it arrived in Australia in November 1951 and is probably the oldest Neptune in the world. Originally the aircraft began construction as a P2-4 for the US Navy but the production slot was acquired by the RAAF and the aircraft was converted to P2-5 whilst still on the line in Burbank California. It went on to serve Australia until the 1960's.

Also receiving attention has been our ex-RAN Westland HAS.31B Wessex. The fuselage has been given a clean up and an application of clear coat. The visual difference in the paint work is very impressive.



Neptune A89-302 nose section at Parkes Photo: I. Poulter



Wessex N7-203 at Parkes Photo: I. Poulter

June Tarmac Days

Engines were run on a number of our aircraft as part of our regular maintenance program during the June tarmac days. Both of our ex-RAAF Dakotas, A65-94 and A65-95 were run as well as the Drover and, as a special treat, two generations of maritime patrol aircraft were fired up simultaneously. The French Neptune 566 was run at the same time as our AP-3C Orion.



June Tarmac Days Photo: M. Keech



Maritime patrol scramble! Photo: M. Keech

Aircraft on static display were:

- Boeing B747-438, City of Canberra
- Cessna C-310B
- Corby CJ-1 Starlet
- de Havilland DHA-3 Drover
- de Havilland T.35 Vampire
- Douglas C-47B Dakota
- General Dynamics F-111C
- Government Aircraft Factory III(F) Mirage
- Grumman S-2G Tracker
- Lockheed AP-3C Orion
- Lockheed C-121C Super Constellation, Connie
- Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune

A Bell 47G helicopter, a regular visitor to HARS for Tarmac weekends, was in attendance and carried several enthusiastic customers on flight experiences over the Illawarra.



de Havilland DHA-3 Drover

Photo: M. Keech



Mustang A68-769

Photo: M. Keech

Also, former RAAF P-51D Mustang fighter, A68-769 was available from the museum for a flight experience like no other over the Illawarra.

Sea Fury

As previously reported the ex-RAN Hawker Sea Fury was transported from Nowra to Albion Park in April. Since then the aircraft has been reassembled to enable static display. The aircraft is currently just a shell with much work yet to be done on most of the internal systems and fittings. Over the coming months work on restoration will continue and will include an assessment of the potential to restore the aircraft to airworthy status.



Hawker Sea Fury assembled

Photo: M. Keech

Sea Venom

Another aircraft obtained as part of HARS successful tender for the RAN Historic Flight was de Havilland FAW.53 Sea Venom, N4-895. The aircraft arrived in several containers, having been completely disassembled and placed into storage many years ago. Work has now commenced to reassemble this aircraft. With little in the way of documentation or drawings, the aircraft is proving to be a giant jigsaw puzzle, but no doubt persistence will prevail.



Turning this...

Photo: M. Keech



...into this - Sea Venom 870

Photo: P. Lea Jet Photos

Boeing 707 project update

A media update has been released and there has been much interest in our John Travolta 707 project now that the project timing has been announced. We are currently actively working towards a ferry flight in November this year. The precise date is yet to be finalised but November has been set as the planned end date for all the work that has yet to be done. An engineering package has been prepared, approvals obtained and flight planning almost completed. Standby for details of the events around the arrival at Illawarra Regional Airport.



Did You Know...

...the de Havilland Comet 4 was used by Qantas between 1959 and 1963? Six Comets were wet leased from BOAC to fill a capacity gap while waiting for the larger Boeing 707-338C.

...the Hawker Sea Fury was one of the fastest single piston engine aircraft ever built? It was powered by an 18-cylinder Bristol Centaurus engine driving a five bladed propeller and had a top speed of 740 Kilometres per hour.

...the handover to defence of the first Australian assembled Mirage III took place on January 29, 1964, with the last delivery occurring in December 1968?

City of Canberra - Boeing 747-438 tours

HARS Aviation Museum is pleased to offer three different exclusive tours of our 747-438:

Wing Walk Experience

This walk will take you to about 16 meters (52 feet) along the starboard wing where your guide will explain many aspects of the aircraft components and operation. Wing Walk times are between 10am and 3pm for the price of \$65.00, which includes museum entry.

The Total Boeing 747 Experience

This tour includes 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 a 747 expert. The tour duration is approximately 4 hours with a personalised tour to the full HARS museum also included in the tour. The tour price is \$195 per person with a maximum of 4 persons per tour.

747 Cockpit Experience

This Cockpit Tour is conducted by an experienced 747 pilot who will explain the cockpit in detail and take you through the many procedures required to mount a typical operation. Bookings cost \$100.00 per person with a limit of two guests per tour.



Boeing 747-438 at HARS

Photo: M. Keech



Wing walks on the 747

Photo: M. Keech

Bookings

Reservations for all tours are strictly limited. Combinations of the various 747 tours are also available at discounted prices. For more information and bookings call 02 4257 4333.

Café Connie

Next time you're visiting Illawarra Regional Airport drop into Café Connie! Breakfast and lunch menus offering a wide selection of both hot and cold foods are available at very reasonable prices. The Café's beverage offering features barista coffee with milk shakes, smoothies and soft drinks. 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.



Café Connie

Photo: M. Keech

Next Tarmac Days

Upcoming Tarmac Days will be held on 12, 13, 14 July and 9, 10, 11 August 2019.

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. An information session for potential new members will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday 10 August. 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.



Privacy

You are receiving this email because you have registered your email address with us to receive the HARS Newsletter. We respect your privacy