



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

August 2019 Newsletter

Australia's Aviation Heritage



30th anniversary of 'City of Canberra' record flight

17 August 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of our 747's record-breaking non-stop flight from London to Sydney.

The 'City of Canberra' was the first 747-438 in the Qantas fleet and the 12th 400 series built by Boeing. In the mid 1980's Boeing launched a design update of the 747 which included a 'glass' cockpit, efficiency improvements including a revised wing tip 'winglet', more powerful engines and a higher gross take-off weight. Qantas was one of the early customers of the type.



VH-OJA under construction at Boeing

Photo: Qantas



VH-OJA under construction at Boeing

Photo: Qantas

The design improvements would enable non-stop trans-Pacific flights between Australia and the USA at full passenger capacity. This was not possible with previous generations of the 747, with the notable exception of the 747-SP38 which compromised passenger capacity for extended range.

Qantas, having had a history of pioneering long-range routes, was keen to make a statement about the capability of their new aircraft and developed a plan to fly their first 747-438 non-stop from London to Sydney. The flight would challenge the capabilities of the aircraft, requiring an almost 4,000 kilometre increase over what would be its normal range. This was achieved by reducing weight and using special high density fuel. Passengers were limited to only 17, most of whom were technical crew from Boeing and Qantas, and, they were so concerned about weight that their baggage was carried on another flight!



VH-OJA crew departing London 1989

Photo: Qantas



VH-OJA arriving Sydney 17 August 1989

Photo: Qantas

On 17 August 1989 VH-OJA 'City of Canberra' arrived in Sydney having successfully flown non-stop from London. The flight had covered over 18,000 kilometres and had taken 20 hours, 9 minutes and 5 seconds, setting a world record for the longest commercial flight to that time. This London to Sydney non-stop flight has, to date, not been repeated.

Engineering Heritage Marker

On 12 July our Super Constellation 'Connie' was presented with an Engineering Heritage Marker by the Institute of Engineers Australia. The marker recognises the efforts of HARS volunteers and sponsors in restoring and continuing to operate the Super Constellation, 'the last generation of large piston-engined propeller-driven aircraft.'

Our Connie was built in 1955 as a Lockheed C-121C, the military transport version of the Super Constellation, and was operated by the US Air Force in various Air National Guard wings before being retired in 1977. It was sent to Arizona for storage and languished there until the early 1990s when it was acquired by HARS. After almost five years of restoration work by HARS volunteers the aircraft was made ready for a flight across the Pacific to its new home. It arrived in Sydney on 3 February 1996 and has been the flagship of the HARS collection ever since. The aeroplane is maintained in airworthy condition and at this time is the only airworthy Super Constellation in the world.



Engineering Heritage Marker presentation Photo: M. Keech

Frank Johnson, chair of Engineering Heritage, and Bruce Howard, President of Engineers Australia Sydney Division visited HARS to present the marker which will be proudly displayed inside the aircraft.

July Tarmac Days

The July tarmac weekend was unfortunately affected by inclement weather, with no aircraft available for viewing on the tarmac on the Saturday or Sunday. Displays were restricted to Hangar One, Boeing 747-438 'City of Canberra' and tours of Hangar Three. Despite the strong winds though, the weekend was well attended.

Aircraft on display in Hangar One were:

- Cessna C-310B
- Corby CJ-1 Starlet

- de Havilland DHA-3 Drover
- de Havilland T.35 Vampire
- General Dynamics F-111C
- Government Aircraft Factory III(F) Mirage
- Grumman S-2G Tracker
- Lockheed C-121C Super Constellation
- Ex-French Marine Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune 566



Drover and Connie Hangar One

Photo: M. Keech

RAAF Maritime Squadrons Association dinner

For the second year in a row HARS Aviation Museum hosted a RAAF Maritime Squadrons Association dinner on Saturday 27 July. To celebrate the achievements of the RAAF maritime patrol squadrons the members present were treated to night-time engine runs of two of our ex-RAAF maritime patrol aircraft, the P2V-7 Neptune and the AP-3C Orion. Most of the Association's members present had served on one or both aircraft types and all were very pleased to be reminded of the sounds and smells of these magnificently maintained aeroplanes.



Lockheed AP-3C Orion, A9-753

Photo: M. Keech



Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune, A89-273

Photo: M. Keech

A wonderful dinner was provided by our in-house catering volunteers followed by speeches from HARS President and Chief Pilot, Bob De La Hunty and RAAF Commander of the Surveillance and Response Group, Air Commodore Craig Heap. Air Commodore Heap gave a very enlightening talk about the ongoing role of surveillance that the new P-8 Poseidon units are currently undertaking, a subject close to the hearts of many of the Association's members.



John Travolta 707 project update

Work to bring ex-Qantas Boeing 707-138, which was gifted to HARS by John Travolta, is gathering momentum.

Whilst we have focused on November as a possible target date for an arrival, this has been done to make sure we work to a positive time frame. There are no guarantees in aviation and we are working closely with CASA to find 'alternative means of compliance' with the Service Bulletins and Airworthiness Directives applicable to the 707. This process is still underway and it is a big hurdle to clear. We are also meeting shortly with the US company that is watching over the aircraft to determine joint work processes.

We have been assessing crewing requirements as well and the final outcome will depend so much on the outcome of the above two steps. We are keeping John Travolta in the loop as these steps unfold.



Many challenges need to be overcome to make this flight happen, including securing the required funding. Should you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to this project, please contact HARS on 02 4257 4333 or email HARSInfo@hars.org.au to obtain details of how to contribute.

Did You Know...

(This month, to mark the 50th anniversary of the landing of the first man on the Moon, our 'Did You Know...' section has a space exploration theme.)

...the Apollo Lunar Excursion Module that carried humans to the surface of the Moon was built by Grumman Aircraft Corporation? The vehicle was structurally and aerodynamically unable to fly in earth's atmosphere.

...the Moon landings were propelled into space on the tallest and most powerful rocket built to date - the Saturn V? The Saturn V is also the only rocket thus far to propel humans beyond Earth orbit.

...NASA is currently developing the Space Launch System, a rocket which will surpass the size and power of a Saturn V? The system is intended to enable humans to return to the Moon and ultimately travel to Mars.



Saturn V rocket on its way to the Moon

Photo: NASA



Apollo 11 astronaut on the Moon

Photo: NASA

Aircraft action July

July was a busy month for HARS aircraft.

Engine runs were completed on the de Havilland DHC-4 Caribou and one of our Douglas C-47B Dakotas. The Lockheed AP-3C Orion had engines two and three run while the Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune had its reciprocating engines run. One of our de Havilland Vampires also burned some Avtur. Connie joined the action with engines two and three also run up and tested and our Cessna 310B was flown extensively to keep some of our pilots current.

In addition, our 747, 'City of Canberra', had its flaps extended and retracted in preparation for an upcoming project that will be discussed in our next newsletter.

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 four guests 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, VH-OJA, City of Canberra

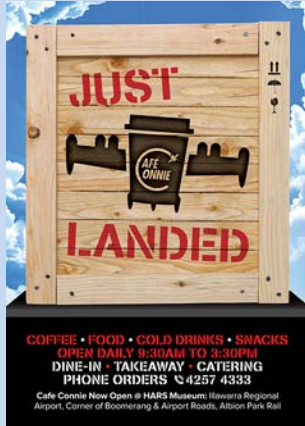
Photo: Mark Keech

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 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.



Next Tarmac Days

Upcoming Tarmac Days will be held on 9, 10, 11 August and 13, 14, 15 September 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.



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