

GENERAL UPDATE 29/2019-
The NHF Project- Progress Report-WEEK ENDING 01 SEP 19

Michael Hough AM
HARS Navy Heritage Flight Project Leader

This WEEK'S NHF project report focuses on the actual activities occurring in this last week, which were:-Continuing to prepare Tracker 844 for flight /Advising of a Tracker reunion being planned for October 2019/ Rebuilding the fuselage of the Sea Venom/ repainting external details on Wessex 832/ Preparing for C47 Move to Albion Park .

It is my pleasure to now update you on the progress we are making, thanks to a lot of very 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 received its regular weekly run-up and engineering checks by HARS volunteers, and the successful engine run week, again continued the sequence of weekly checks with the Tracker running well! At present, we are sourcing batteries for the emergency backup system in preparation for flight.

AN URGENT TRACKER 844 SPONSORSHIP REQUEST We have now found a source of the two batteries required to provide emergency backup power to Tracker 844 when airworthy. LIKE NEARLY ALL THINGS AVIATION THEY COST SO WE ARE REQUESTING YOUR HELP TO RAISE NEARLY \$5000 (YES 5 THOUSAND!) - which is the retail price of the two batteries required for flight. Can you help please?

- 845 is in open storage at our major sponsor AIR AFFAIRS, and our long- term intention is to repaint it externally by moving it to HARS Albion Park, and then use it as the first display aircraft on the block of land next to the FAA Museum when this is granted by EIG

CLAIM THE DATE:- **Tracker Reunion 23-24 October 2019**. Venue: HARS at Albion Park, over two days. This event is being organised by Bruce Saville, who runs the "Friends of the RAN Grumman Tracker" Facebook page. You can register interest in attending the re-union by going to:- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/703844286295816/events/>

- We have had the offer of sponsorship by an A-V company to record the final stages of Tracker 844 being prepared for flight, the actual flight from Nowra to Albion park Rail, and then our *plan* is for Tracker 844 to fly during the Tracker reunion over 22/ 23 Oct. We will keep you posted as to progress on this great offer of A-V support.
- I have deliberately sourced some historic photos of Trackers in service in anticipation of this great event soon!

***Dakota C47**

We are planning to move the C47 to HARS Albion Park soon with the generous sponsorship of Chris Sievers at Air Affairs, and some historic photos of the RAN C47's are attached.

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***Wessex**

- Wessex 832 is on display at HARS Albion Park in HARS Hangar 3 and this week we have attached some shots of the results of the HARS paint team led by Ken Jackson who have continued to repaint some of the fine external details on Wessex 832. I again want to thank Steve Long- who last week contributed some sketches of the interior fit-out of the WESSEX in ANTI- SUBMARINE ROLE, and an open request-we would still welcome any other operational photos/ plans will guide us in that fit-out task.
- Wessex 813 is at HARS Parkes - no update received this week

We are still 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 and if accepted, coming to assist with a particular project such as the Wessex.

***Sea Venom**

Following are progress shots taken last Saturday of the Sea Venom reassembly, and the team is now focusing on re-assembling the cockpit- again illustrating how much has been achieved in re-assembling the Sea Venom over a very short time period:-
Once again- a big "Thank You Very Much!" to everyone who is helping with this challenging project.

***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.

***Sea Fury**

- Sea Fury WG 630 airframe is still on display in HARS Hangar 1 and is already a very popular display item, and the attached photos show the Sea Fury on display in HARS Hangar 1 on 30th Aug 2019

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 adjacent to the FAA Museum**

We are still waiting a reply to our formal application now lodged with EIG to have the block of land adjacent to the FAA museum reconfirmed as allocated to HARS for the building of a future hangar and admin complex for the HARS Navy Heritage Flight.

We Request Your Support:-

Don't forget that donations to HARS of over \$2 are tax deductible so please act now 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**

In the meantime, enjoy the accompanying photos of NHF related activities at HARS Albion Park:- Wessex 832 Rotor support frames/ Sea Venom re-assembly- progress photos / Sea Fury and Tracker, plus some historic photos of the RAN C47 and Trackers courtesy of the FAA Museum archives, and reproduced with permission

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Enjoy!

Michael Hough

Navy Heritage Flight Project Leader

01 Sep 19

ATT

PHOTOS:-

A number of shots attached- all are copyrighted with permission to use in non-profit usage - given by M Hough and the FAA Museum archives