

GENERAL UPDATE 30/2019-
The NHF Project- Progress Report-WEEK ENDING 08 SEP 19

Michael Hough AM
HARS Navy Heritage Flight Project Leader

This Week's NHF project report again focuses on the activities of 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/ relocating the Sea Fury display/ celebrating a visit by a WW2 veteran to HARS .

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, but unfortunately during the successful engine run last week, the crew experienced a hydraulic failure in checking the wing unfold mechanism, necessitating some urgent extra work- which has resulted in a faulty hydraulic ram being removed for repairs—a classic 'left field' challenge when occasionally used systems are being brought back to life!

AN URGENT TRACKER 844 SPONSORSHIP REQUEST WAS QUICKLY SUPPORTED:- in last week's report I appealed for sponsorship to purchase the two batteries required to provide emergency backup power to Tracker 844 when airworthy. Two sponsors IMMEDIATELY stepped forward to help and the batteries have been ordered. Our sincere thanks for your generosity especially to Chris Sievers from Air Affairs!

- 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 accepted the offer of sponsorship by the A-V company Mountain Lion 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 23/ 24 Oct so we look forward to an A-V record of this great event
- I have again deliberately sourced some historic photos of Trackers in service in anticipation of this great event soon AND provided a shot of Tracker 851 in HARS Hangar 1 part of the venue for the re-union in October

***Dakota C47**

We are planning to move the C47 to HARS Albion Park soon with the generous sponsorship of Chris Sievers at Air Affairs. Unfortunately, the very strong winds today (Sat) have moved the C47 and our Nowra based volunteers have responded quickly and secured the airframe

***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 finer external details on Wessex 832, and we have added more colour updates plus an example of a training rotor blade section
- 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 very recent progress shots taken this Saturday of the Sea Venom reassembly, and the team is still 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 we have rearranged its location and the attached photos show the Sea Fury on display in HARS Hangar 1 on 7th Sep 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 preparing to engage with EIG to negotiate the allocation to HARS of the block of land adjacent to the FAA museum reconfirmed for the building of a future hangar and admin complex for the HARS Navy Heritage Flight.

***A special visitor to HARS:- a 100 y.o. Veteran of the Searchlight Units from WW2**

We were privileged to host last Friday a very spry 100 y.o. ex-Army WW2 veteran who served on searchlights in PNG, and our searchlight supervisor used some of his precious carbon rod display to 'fire it up' (Literally) and I attach some great shots of this great occasion honouring veteran "Buddy".

UPDATE 30 08 SEP 19

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:- The WW2 veteran's visit/ Wessex 832 being updated as a display/ Sea Venom re-assembly- progress photos / Sea Fury and Tracker, some historic photos of the RAN Trackers courtesy of the FAA Museum archives, and reproduced with permission

Enjoy!

Michael Hough

Navy Heritage Flight Project Leader

08 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