



**HARS**  
**AVIATION**  
**MUSEUM**  
[www.hars.org.au](http://www.hars.org.au)

## Media Release

### *Australia's Aviation Heritage*

Issued Wednesday 23 October 2019

#### **BOOKINGS OPEN FOR TOURS ON RECORD-SETTING BOEING 747 AT HARS AVIATION MUSEUM'S NOVEMBER TARMAC DAYS**

With Qantas planning to retire its remaining Boeing 747-400 "Jumbo jets" over the next year, visitors to the HARS Aviation Museum can continue this onboard experience on a unique record-setting "Queen of the Skies".

The "City of Canberra" which dominates Shellharbour Airport holds two records – the longest and shortest delivery flights in Qantas history.

Thirty years ago the jet which is open for inspection by all visitors to HARS Aviation Museum set a world record in flying 18,012 km non-stop from London to Sydney in a time of 20hr 9min 5sec – almost an hour longer than the recent Qantas first non-stop flight from New York to Sydney in a Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

Because of its record flight, and being the first Boeing 747-400 to enter service with Qantas, on its retirement in 2015 the airline donated it to the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS).

Thousands watched the massive four-engine jet land at Shellharbour – an airport normally too small to accommodate a huge Boeing 747 – after an 11-minute flight from Sydney Airport which made it the shortest delivery flight ever by Qantas.

The record-setting Queen of the Skies, as Boeing 747s were dubbed when they first flew 50 years ago, and other historic airliners, will be on show for the November Tarmac Days at HARS Aviation Museum on Friday to Sunday 8-10 November.

HARS Aviation Museum is pleased to offer three different exclusive tours of our 747-400:

#### **Wing Walk Experience**

This walk will take you to about 16 meters (52 feet) along the right 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, which includes Museum entry.

#### **The Total Boeing 747 Experience** (phone booking in advance please)

This tour includes a brief audio-visual presentation followed by a tour of the entire aircraft, including the cabin and galleys, crew rest areas, avionics bay, 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 of the full HARS Museum also included in the tour. The tour price of \$195 per person with a maximum of 4 persons per tour.

### **747 Cockpit Experience** (phone bookings in advance please)

This Cockpit Tour is conducted by an experienced 747 pilot who will explain the cockpit in detail and will take you through the many procedures required to mount a typical operation. Bookings cost \$100 per person with a limit of two guests per tour and include Museum entry.

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

Other historic airliners on display include the HARS icon Super Constellation “Connie”, a Convair 440, one of just 20 de Havilland Drovers built at Bankstown 70 years ago, a DC-4 and Australia’s only still-flying Catalina of the type which carried up to three highly important passengers on legendary “Double Sunrise” 30-hour flights from Perth to Colombo through enemy territory in the dark days of World War 2. Those flights made by Qantas pilots remain listed as the longest commercial flight time on record, by a considerable margin.

On the Sunday of the Tarmac Days, a former Navy Grumman S-2G Tracker is planned to make a flight around 1 pm.

Tracker 844 was delivered to the RAN in April 1977 with several other Trackers to replace the nine aircraft lost in a hangar fire at HMAS Albatross in December 1976. This aeroplane served with the RAN until August 1984 when it was placed in the care of, and flown by, the RAN Historic Flight.

The aircraft was acquired by HARS in December 2018 after the RAN Historic Flight ceased flying operations and recently flew from HMAS Albatross at Nowra to Shellharbour Airport.

The Grumman S-2 Tracker was developed as the first purpose built anti-submarine warfare aircraft for the US Navy and was introduced into service in 1952. Powered by two Wright R-1820 engines the Tracker was capable of carrying up to 2,200 kg of torpedoes and depth charges in its internal bomb bay and under-wing hard points.

### **Café Connie is open**

On Tarmac (and other) Days you can drop into Café Connie where breakfast and lunch menus offer a wide selection of hot and cold foods at very reasonable prices.

The Café’s beverage offering features barista coffee with milk shakes, smoothies and soft drinks. If you’re passing 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.

Details at [www.hars.org.au](http://www.hars.org.au)

(captions)

While Qantas retires its remaining “Queen of the Skies” Jumbo jets, the record-setting Boeing 747-400 offers a unique visitor experience at HARS Aviation Museum. Mark Mennie photo.

The former RAN Grumman Tracker is planned to fly on the Sunday of November Tarmac Days at HARS Aviation Museum on Sunday 10 November. Mark Keech photo.

**ENDS:**

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