



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

January 2020 Newsletter

Australia's Aviation Heritage



Happy New Year!

HARS Aviation Museum wishes all our subscribers a safe and prosperous new year.

This new year promises to be an exciting one for us at HARS as our visitor base continues to grow along with our collection of aircraft. There are many projects of significance which are expected to unfold during this year including:

- the return to airworthy status of our de Havilland T.35 Vampire, Fokker F27-500 Friendship, Bell UH-1 Iroquois Helicopter (one of the aircraft acquired as part of the RAN Historic Flight) and the Fokker F.VIIb/3m Southern Cross.
- addition to static display collection of the de Havilland FAW Mk 53 Sea Venom, Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 and a DAP Mk 21 Beaufighter. We are constantly being offered additional aircraft so this list is likely to expand.
- continuing work to return to Australia John Travolta's Boeing 707-138. This is proving to be a significant challenge, but perseverance will prevail!



Vampire taxiing under its own steam

Photo: M. Keech



A pair of Fokkers

Photo: M. Keech



Another Fokker

Photo: M. Keech



Sea Venom almost ready to paint

Photo: M. Keech

It is also anticipated there will be a continuation of the tempo of flying operations which ramped up in the second half of 2019 with many of our flying operations in the advanced stage of planning.

2019, the year that was...

2019 was a very busy year for HARS. Some of the significant events that occurred during the year include successful participation in Wings Over Illawarra, a visit to Shellharbour Airport of a French Marine Falcon (based in Tahiti), attendance by four HARS aircraft at the RAAF Edinburgh Air Show and, of course, a visit by Mr John Travolta.



Our Lockheed Super Constellation was awarded an Engineering Heritage Marker by the Institute of Engineers of Australia, recognising the efforts of HARS and our sponsors in restoring and continuing to fly the aircraft. Many of our aircraft have been involved in film productions both here at Shellharbour Airport and at locations around the country.

New aircraft arrivals included the second Fokker F27 from New Zealand and, transferring from Nowra to Shellharbour, parts of the RAN Heritage Collection - a Sea Venom, Sea Fury, Wessex Helicopter and Grumman S-2G Tracker 844, which is airworthy and was flown in. In addition, one Wessex was transported to our Parkes Museum.



Our Lockheed AP-3C Orion, ex-RAAF A9-753 commenced flying operations making it the only military configured AP-3C in the world that is flying in civilian registration.

Parkes Museum

The recent focus at the HARS Parkes Museum has been on the restoration of ex-RAAF Lockheed P2V-5 Neptune A89-302 (this aircraft was upgraded from P2V-4 whilst still in production), the de Havilland DH.114 Heron and some minor work on P2V-7 Neptune A89-272.

Neptune 302 is planned to be completely reassembled in 2020. The nose section, engine cowlings, jet pods, wing tanks, vertical stabiliser, MAD boom, rear fuselage and horizontal stabiliser section have all been cleaned up and have received their first coat of paint.

The de Havilland Heron has been moved outside and the wings, engine cowlings, vertical and horizontal stabilisers have all been installed. The noticeable components still missing are the engines, which Parkes Museum continues to try to source.



Several students from Parkes High School attend the museum each Thursday during school term and contribute significantly to the restoration work.

December Tarmac Days

There was a lot of movement on the tarmac in front of Hangar One for the December Tarmac Days and at different times the space was occupied by the de Havilland DHC-4 Caribou and the Douglas DC-3 'Hawdon' as they were prepared for flight. The de Havilland T-35 Vampire and Grumman S-2G Tracker were also present for engine runs and a brief taxi for the Vampire. Aircraft on display in Hangar One included:

- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-9 Wirraway
- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-25 Winjeel
- Convair CV-440
- Corby CJ-1 Starlet
- de Havilland DHA-3 Drover
- de Havilland T.35 Vampire
- Department of Aircraft Production Mk. 21 Beaufighter
- General Dynamics F-111C
- Government Aircraft Factory IIIO(F) Mirage
- Grumman S-2G Tracker
- Hawker FB.11 Sea Fury
- Lockheed C-121C Super Constellation

The Caribou and DC-3 both committed acts of aviation and engine runs were conducted on the Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune, Tracker and Vampire.



On Saturday and Sunday Santa also flew in to participate in activities and was only too happy to be photographed

with visitors both young and old.

Illawarra Light Rail Museum partnership

On Sunday 16 February 2020 a new event is planned for both HARS and Illawarra Light Railway Museum - a 'Trains and Planes Sunday' will be an opportunity for visitors to see both museums in one day!

Visitors will be able ride the trains at the Illawarra Light Railway Museum and then see the planes at HARS Aviation Museum all in one day with a free shuttle bus between the museums. Our visitors will have a unique opportunity for train travel, aircraft tours, car and vintage farm machinery displays and also travel on an historical bus that is the free shuttle bus between the museums.



Visitors will pay full price at the first museum of their choice then receive a 10% discount on entry to the second museum for this day only. The shuttle bus between the museums is free of charge.

Wings over Illawarra 2020

Yes, it's time to start thinking about the air show again! The Wings over Illawarra air show will be held over the weekend of 2 and 3 May. This year promises to be bigger than ever with the RAAF again making a significant contribution. HARS, as usual, will be a major contributor with aircraft such as our Boeing 747-438 and Lockheed Super Constellation on display.

Details of the event and tickets can be found at www.wingsoverillawarra.com.au.

Did You Know...

...the North American Aviation XB-70 Valkyrie was a 1950's designed six engine bomber which was to be capable of flying at Mach 3 and above 70,000 feet? It never entered production and only two prototypes were ever built.

...the de Havilland Sea Venom entered service with the Royal Australian Navy in 1956? It replaced the Sea Fury as Australia's primary aircraft carrier based fighter.

...the world's largest helicopter is the Russian Mil Mi-26 (designated 'Halo' by NATO)? Its maximum take-off weight is 56 tonnes and it can carry 20 tonnes of cargo.

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

The next Tarmac Days will be held on 10, 11, 12 January and 14, 15, 16 February 2020.

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 11 January and Saturday 8 February 2020. 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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