



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

July 2020 Newsletter



Australia's Aviation Heritage

...and we're back!

HARS Aviation Museum opened its doors to the public again on Monday 15 June and it is fantastic to see people coming through our doors to tour the museum again or just to grab a coffee and snack at our Café.

As always, the health and safety of our visitors and members is paramount. In accordance with the NSW Government's template for Covid-19, HARS has implemented a safety plan which applies to guests and members alike. When you come to visit us we will take your temperature on arrival and ask you for some contact information. We will also ask you to practise appropriate hygiene and social distancing while you are with us. We do have some limits to the number of people we can safely accommodate so please be patient if you are asked to wait, and some of our more intimate tours, such as the detailed 747 tours, are not available at the moment for obvious reasons. We look forward to being able to lift these restrictions as soon as the Government allows it.



Café Connie

Photo: M. Keech



HARS is open for business

Photo: M. Keech

We have in place regular sanitizing processes, including periodic wiping of often touched surfaces such as reception and café counters, aircraft staircase rails and café furniture. More details of our Covid-19 precautions can be found on our website: <https://hars.org.au/2020/06/hars-aviation-museum-is-now-open/>.

Of course, if you are unwell or have flu-like symptoms please don't come to visit us yet, we'll still be here when you are feeling better.

Winjeel brought back to life

Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-25 Winjeel, A85-435 has been on display at HARS Aviation Museum for some time. After a long period of inactivity the aeroplane's single Pratt and Whitney R-985 engine was fired up on 6 June after being thoroughly checked out by our engineers.

The CA-25 Winjeel was a trainer aircraft developed for the Royal Australian Air Force in the late 1940s to replace the Tiger Moth and Wirraway. It was designed and built by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation at Fishermans Bend in Victoria and although it first flew in 1951 was not brought into service until 1955. A total of 62 Winjeel's were built, many of which are still flying today as part of Australia's vibrant warbird scene.

This aircraft, A85-435, was delivered to the RAAF in October 1956 and served with No. 1 Basic Flying Training School until 1968 when it was transferred to 76 Squadron to take up the forward air control role. The aircraft was in service until 1985 and spent some years in storage before making its way onto the civil register.



Now that the project has been confirmed as viable, maintenance work will continue with the goal of returning the aircraft to flight.

Tarmac Days are back!

Tarmac Days will recommence from July. Tarmac Days are held over three consecutive days commencing on the second Friday of each month. The Tarmac Day experience is different from a normal tour of the museum. Hangar One and part of the tarmac in front of this hangar are open for visitors to walk around and inspect our aircraft at their leisure with tour guides available to answer any questions. Access to our Boeing 747 'City of Canberra' and Hangar Three is also available by guided tour, with tours leaving every half hour. We generally try and conduct engine runs or test flights on these days so that our visitors can see the aircraft in action.



The next Tarmac Days will be on 10, 11 and 12 July and 14, 15 and 16 August.

Café Connie

Café Connie is now fully operational for eat-in and take-away options. The Café is Covid-19 approved to seat up to 50 customers.

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 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. Café Connie is open during museum opening times, every day from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm and you don't have to pay entry to the museum to enjoy the café.

Online shop

HARS Aviation Museum now has an eShop. A special range of HARS-branded clothing, such as T-shirts and hoodies, together with some HARS household items such as a carry bags and cushion covers are available.

These items are not carried in the HARS physical shop at Shellharbour airport. The merchandise is of exceedingly high quality and will be delivered by post to your nominated address.

Visit <https://www.harsmuseumshop.com.au/>.

Did You Know...

...that according to Flight Aware, pre Covid-19 on average there were around 9,700 aircraft carrying an estimated 1.2 million passengers in the air around the world at any one time?

...that a modern jet airliner is typically in the order of 70% more fuel efficient per passenger kilometre than an airliner of the 1960s?

...that early build Lockheed P2V-5 Neptunes had nose, tail, and dorsal gun turrets? It was not until later builds of the P2V-5 that an observation nose and MAD boom replaced the nose and tail turrets.

Aviation quotes

'When the weight of the paper equals the weight of the airplane, only then you can go flying' – attributed to Donald Douglas, founder of the Douglas Aircraft Company that produced the Douglas Commercial range which included the DC-3, DC-4 and DC-10.

Operation Buffalo

In August last year film crews were onsite at HARS Aviation Museum filming scenes for a number of productions including the new Qantas in-flight safety video that we featured in our March newsletter. We can now reveal that our DC-3 and C-47s were also used in the production of the current ABC mini-series 'Operation Buffalo'.

Over two days many of the scenes were shot inside and around the aircraft some of which were altered to represent different types from the era. The Bristol Type 170 Freighter that features in the first few episodes is none other than our DC-3 'Hawdon', digitally modified!



DC-3 converted to Bristol Freighter



DC-3 converted to Bristol Freighter

While Shellharbour airport bears no resemblance to the airport at Maralinga, where the film is set, the production team did an amazing job of making it look convincing.



The Attorney-General's Rolls Royce

Photo: M. Keech



The Attorney-General's Rolls Royce



Shellharbour becomes Maralinga

Photo: M. Keech



Shellharbour becomes Maralinga

Operation Buffalo is a six part mini-series set in a secret military base at Maralinga, South Australia during the Cold War when the British were conducting tests of their nuclear weapons. The satirical series deals with the political issues around the relationship between Australia and the Motherland at a time when the land where the tests were conducted was considered to be uninhabited. Of course it was inhabited by indigenous Australians many of whom were severely impacted by the tests.

Operation Buffalo can be seen on ABC TV on Sunday nights at 8:30 pm or at any time on ABC iview.

747 Premium and Cockpit Tours and Wing Walks

Unfortunately, due to social distancing restrictions, we are currently unable to take bookings for these intimate tours. We will advise when tours are again available.

Membership

Good news, HARS is now accepting membership enquiries!

HARS is now actively looking for volunteers who have an interest in preserving aviation heritage. We seek not only people with an aviation qualification, but also volunteers who can assist in areas such as facilities maintenance, IT, tour guiding, reception, the café, or just generally helping out with the day to day running the museum.

If you or a friend are interested in joining the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society please visit <http://hars.org.au/contact-us/>. Select 'New Member Enquiries' in the 'Who would you like to contact?' field. One of our membership team will email you with details regarding our next membership information session.

Our next information sessions, held at our museum at Shellharbour airport, are Saturday 4 July and Saturday 8 August. Sessions start at 11.00 am and typically run for about 45 minutes.



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