



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

June 2020 Newsletter

Australia's Aviation Heritage



HARS Re-opening 15 June

Throughout the Covid-19 lockdown HARS Aviation Museum has remained closed to the public in order to protect our visitors and members alike. There has been some essential maintenance and other regulatory duties requiring attention from some of our members during this time, work that was considered essential to keep our aircraft alive for when we re-open but now, we're almost ready to receive visitors again.

With the State Government now advising that museums and some other venues can re-open from 1 June, HARS Aviation Museum is planning to re-open to the public from 15 June. The health and safety of our visitors and volunteers is paramount, and we have developed a Covid-19 Safety Plan in line with the NSW Government's template that was released on 30 May. The size of our hangars will allow us to accommodate up to 100 visitors at a time and the Café will be able to accommodate up to 50 seated patrons. Guided tours will be available with group sizes limited to 10 visitors.



Café Connie

Photo: M. Keech



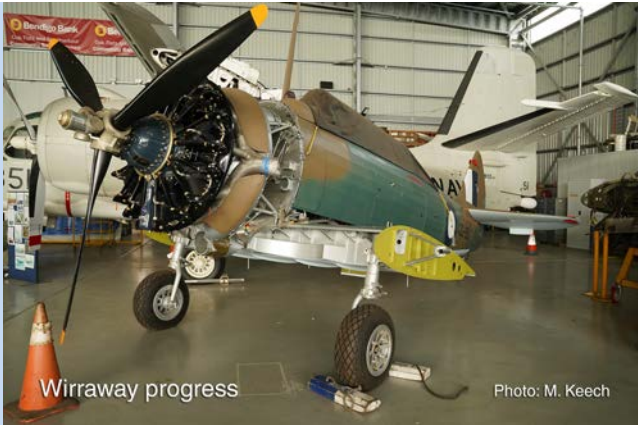
Connie

Photo: M. Keech

We will also be implementing a range of hygiene measures, in accordance with Government guidelines, to ensure everyone's safety, including health screening, social distancing guidance and hand sanitizing. We're all accustomed to these types of measures now so please be patient if you arrive and have to wait while we make space for you.

Our award-winning Café Connie re-opened on 1 June, ahead of the museum opening, for takeaway service only. So, if you are in the Albion Park area, why not drop in for a takeaway coffee and snack?

We look forward to welcoming our visitors back to the museum!



Wirraway progress

Photo: M. Keech



Catalina engine runs

Photo: M. Keech

Shellharbour airport runway re-surfacing

While there was not so much traffic at the airport over the last few months, Shellharbour Council took the opportunity to bring forward some long-planned maintenance work on the runways. The main runway, 16 / 34 was closed for a couple of weeks while it was re-surfaced at a cost of \$2.5M. The new pavement comprises a stone mastic open graded asphalt surface which is considerably smoother than the previous surface and also has much better drainage.



New runway opening

Photo: M. Keech



Connie first on new runway

Photo: M. Keech

In a quiet ceremony on 11 May attended by representatives from Council, Cleary Brothers and Fly Corporate, the new Runway 16 / 34 was opened. Our Lockheed Super Constellation, 'Connie', featured in the ceremony and became the first aircraft to use the new surface.

Convairs

In 2018 a collection of Convair CV-580s and associated spare parts were generously donated to HARS after being retired from freighter duties. At the time one of the Convairs was flown to Parkes to become part of our collection there and another one remained at Bankstown airport awaiting a decision on its fate. During the lockdown, a small group of HARS engineers inspected the Convair at Bankstown and decided that it was feasible to return it to airworthy status and work has now commenced on that project.



Convair 580 at Bankstown

Photo: I. Poulter



Cockpit section loaded for trip to Parkes

Photo: I. Poulter

In addition to the complete airframes, the forward fuselage section of another Convair was also donated. This section includes three rows of passenger seats and comes with most of the cockpit instrumentation and controls. It has already been relocated to our Parkes museum where it is undergoing refurbishment for static display. Visitors to our Parkes museum will be able to sit in the cockpit and passenger seats of an aircraft which is representative of a 1950's vintage airliner.

Wings Over Illawarra

As previously reported, this event has been postponed to the weekend of 7 and 8 November 2020 and, as always, HARS will play a significant role in the displays.

Details of the event and ticketing information can be accessed at: <https://wingsoverillawarra.com.au/>

Did You Know...

...the Russian K-13 air-to-air missile was reverse engineered from the American AIM-9 Sidewinder? It is widely believed a Sidewinder, fired by a Taiwanese F-86 Sabre during the 1958 Taiwan Strait Crisis, lodged in the tailpipe of a Chinese MIG-17 without exploding. Russian engineers obtained the missile from China.

...Trans Australia Airlines (TAA) was the first airline outside of the United States to purchase the Convair? Introduced into service in 1948, it was the first pressurised domestic passenger aircraft.

...the Boeing 377 Stratocruiser was a two deck, four engine and pressurised passenger aircraft that owed a significant amount of its design to the Boeing B-29 Superfortress?

Aviation humour

To brighten up our current Covid-19 mood, we offer an amusing quote:

"There is an art to flying. The knack lies in learning how to throw yourself at the ground and miss". – Douglas Adams, The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy.

Next Tarmac Days

Tarmac Days have obviously been on hold for the last few months but stay tuned for some exciting news about future Tarmac Days when we are able to fully open again.

Membership

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, new membership enrolments currently remain closed. It is anticipated new member applications will begin to be accepted from sometime in July. An update will be published in our July 2020 Newsletter.



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