



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

November 2019 Newsletter

Australia's Aviation Heritage



RAAF 71 Pilot's Course Reunion

A reunion of the RAAF Pilot's training course No. 71 attendees was held at HARS over two nights on 18 and 19 October. An informal gathering was held in Hangar One on the Friday night as members of the group caught up in the presence of some of the fast jets that many of them went on to fly. Saturday saw the group return for a detailed tour of the museum followed by a formal dinner attended by over 50 of the original attendees and their families.



Pilot's Course 71 reunion

Photo: M. Keech



Pilot's Course 71 reunion

Photo: M. Keech

Pilot's course 71 was one of the first experimental all-through jet courses and this year marks the 50th anniversary of the course which commenced in 1969. The function once again showcased the HARS facilities as a first-class venue for aviation themed events.

DC-3 'Hawdon' clean and polish

Work commenced at the beginning of October to polish the exposed metal surfaces of our DC-3 'Hawdon' in preparation for some upcoming events. A large part of the work was completed by a team provided by Corrective Services as part of a reintegration program for inmates. The inmates also contributed a huge effort in tidying our storage facility at the former Albion Park Rail Creamery.

Hawdon was being prepared for a trip to Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport on 30 October where it was used as a backdrop to a black-tie dinner commencing celebrations to mark the centenary of Sydney Airport. Nigel Love conducted the first flight in November 1919 taking one passenger in an Avro 504 from a 200 acre paddock at Mascot that was leased from the Kensington Race Club. Today Sydney Airport handles over 44 million passengers each year. The airport is named for Australian aviator Sir Charles Kingsford Smith who pioneered the trans-Pacific route flying the Southern Cross from America to Australia in 1928.



Hawdon at Sydney Airport

Photo: M. Keech



Hawdon at Sydney Airport

Photo: M. Keech

October Tarmac Days

Aircraft on display during the October Tarmac Days were:

- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-9 Wirraway fuselage
- Convair CV-440
- Corby CJ-1 Starlet
- de Havilland DHC-4 Caribou
- de Havilland DHA-3 Drover
- de Havilland T.35 Vampire
- Department of Aircraft Production Mk. 21 Beaufighter
- Douglas C-47B Dakota
- Douglas DC-3 Dakota 'Hawdon'
- General Dynamics F-111C
- Government Aircraft Factory IIIIO(F) Mirage
- Grumman S-2G Tracker
- Hawker FB.11 Sea Fury
- Hawker FGA Mk.74A Hunter
- Lockheed AP-3C Orion
- Lockheed C-121C Super Constellation

Aircraft activities in October

It has been a busy month for HARS aircraft.

Aircraft taking to the sky this month included one of our Caribous, which flew to South Australia to support a major Hollywood film production; our Grumman Tracker undertook some local flights and our Catalina and C-47 Dakota flew some circuits after completion of their annual inspections.



Vampire ground runs

Photo: M. Keech



Catalina flights

Photo: M. Keech

Other aircraft conducting engine runs and tests included our P2V-7 Neptune, the de Havilland Vampire and the Lockheed Super Constellation.

Edinburgh Air Show 2019

The Royal Australian Air Force will hold an air show at RAAF Base Edinburgh over the weekend of 9 and 10 November.

The theme of the air show is 'Vimy to Fifth Generation in 100 years'. It is 100 years since the epic flight in 1919 by Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith from London to Australia in a World War One Vickers Vimy bomber in 1919. The "Fifth Generation" refers to the F-35A Lightning II, currently being introduced into service with the RAAF, an example of which will be on display at the air show.

Flying displays will be held on each day of the show, with aircraft from Air Force, Navy and Army participating.

HARS will make a significant contribution to the Air Show with five of our aircraft making the journey to South Australia. Our Lockheed AP-3C Orion, Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune, Consolidated PBY-6A Catalina, de Havilland DHC-4 Caribou and our Douglas C-47 Dakota are programmed to attend. This is the largest contingent of HARS aircraft to attend an air show for a long time and has seen our engineering teams working feverishly to prepare the aircraft.

Tickets to the air show can be purchased from Ticketmaster. For further information go to www.airforce.gov.au/exercises/edinburghairshow2019.

Illawarra Convoy

The Illawarra Convoy will be held on Sunday 17 November. This annual event is a convoy of heavy vehicles, held to raise funds for the Illawarra Community Foundation. The Foundation distributes funds raised to local charities and families who are facing life threatening illness, as well as supporting local hospitals with vital medical equipment and upgrades.



The Convoy has been running for 14 years and in that time has so far raised over \$13 million. For more information on the Illawarra Convoy visit <https://illawarraconvoy.com.au/>

Did You Know...

...a Qantas Boeing 787-9 recently flew non-stop from New York to Sydney with a flight time of 19 hours and 16 minutes? However, the record set by VH-OJA 'City of Canberra' flying non-stop from London to Sydney in 1989 is yet to be repeated.

...the first flight of the Concorde was conducted on 2 March 1969? The last flight took place over 34 years later on 24 October 2003.

...with the recent retirement of Qantas 747 VH-OJU 'Lord Howe Island' there are now only six 747s left flying with Qantas? All GE powered 747-438ERs, they were the only passenger versions of the -400ER built by Boeing.

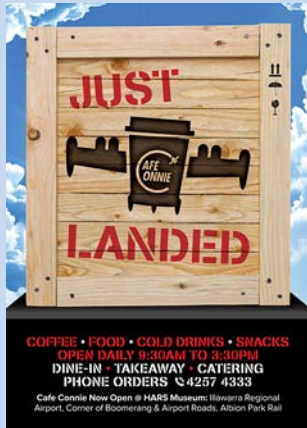
John Travolta 707 project

As reported last month work on this project continues, with the anticipated arrival of the aircraft in Australia now estimated to be during the first half of 2020.

Should you wish to assist with preserving this aircraft, an important part of Australia's aviation heritage, by making a tax deductible donation please go to the HARS website (hars.org.au), click on the donations tab and follow the prompts or contact us on (02) 4257 4333 to obtain details of how to contribute.

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

Upcoming Tarmac Days will be held on 8, 9, 10 November and 13, 14, 15 December 2019.

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 9 November and Saturday 7 December. 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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