



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

October 2019 Newsletter

Australia's Aviation Heritage



Tracker 844 arrival

On Saturday 14 September another aircraft was added to the HARS collection with the arrival of ex-Royal Australian Navy Grumman S-2G Tracker, N12-152333 or Tracker 844. The aircraft was ferried from Nowra, concluding that brief flight with a missed approach that delighted onlookers at Illawarra Regional Airport who hadn't heard the distinctive Tracker grumble for some time, before landing.

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.

The Grumman S-2 Tracker was developed for the United States Navy after WWII. It was the first purpose built anti-submarine warfare aircraft for the USN 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.



Tracker 844 at Nowra before departure Photo: M. Keech



Tracker 844 on arrival at Illawarra Photo: M. Keech



This should make it easy to fit in Photo: M. Keech



Tracker 844 at HARS Photo: M. Keech

Airventure Australia

Airventure Australia, general aviation spectacular, was held at Parkes Airport from Friday 20 to Sunday 22 September. There were aviation seminars, aircraft on display and various flying demonstrations over the three days, capped off by a stunning display by a Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18 Hornet.

Although the programme was interrupted on Saturday by a large dust storm, by all accounts the weekend was a success.

HARS Aviation Museum's Douglas DC-3 'Hawdon' flew to Parkes on the Sunday and was on static display for the day. Our Parkes museum also generated a great deal of interest, with numbers of visitors swelling considerably on the Saturday afternoon as people sought refuge from the dust storm.



September Tarmac Days

The weather for our September tarmac days was somewhat more pleasant than the previous two months. Aircraft on display in Hangar One were:

- Corby CJ-1 Starlet
- de Havilland DHA-3 Drover
- de Havilland T.35 Vampire
- General Dynamics F-111C
- Government Aircraft Factory IIIO(F) Mirage
- Grumman S-2G Tracker
- Hawker FB.11 Sea Fury
- Lockheed C-121C Super Constellation

In the sunshine out on the tarmac the following aircraft were also displayed:

- Fokker F27-500 Friendship
- Grumman S-2G Tracker 844
- Lockheed AP-3C Orion
- Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune

with engine runs being conducted over the weekend by the Orion, DC-3 and Catalina.



Lockheed AP-3C Orion

Photo: M. Keech



Consolidated PBY-6A Catalina

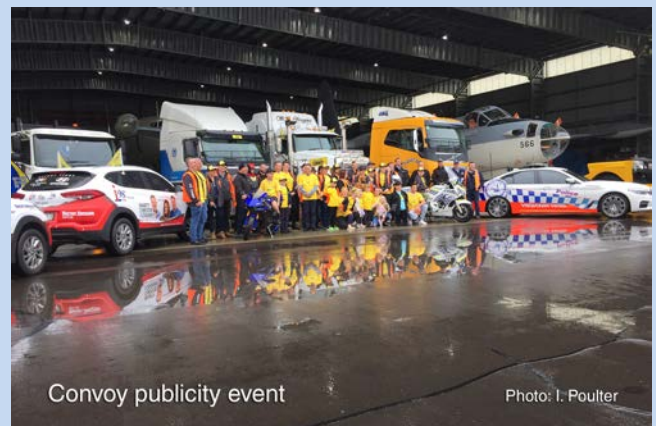
Photo: M. Keech

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 raised over \$13 million. Organisers recently conducted a photo and publicity event with photos and material from this to be used in promotional advertising for the Convoy. HARS happily assisted this activity by providing access to our Hangar One which enabled the event to proceed despite some very inclement weather.

For more information on the Illawarra Convoy visit <https://illawarraconvoy.com.au/>



Convoy publicity event

Photo: I. Poulter

John Travolta 707 project update

The following update is provided by Maureen Massey, Director HARS 707 Project:

The 707 project continues to progress with work starting on the inspection of the Pylon Support Brackets. The aircraft has been relocated to a hangar at Stambaugh Aviation, Brunswick, Georgia where work will be undertaken to comply with an Airworthiness Directive. The inspection involves using a HFEC (High Frequency Eddy Current) to search for cracks in the attachment fittings and this exercise will be carried out on all four engines. Until we have a result from these inspections, we cannot move forward with the ferry flight.

The paperwork trail is enormous and it already outweighs the aircraft itself!

As has been published in the media, John Travolta is coming to Australia in November for a speaking tour to be broadcast on national television. Interviews will be held in Adelaide, Sydney and Brisbane, all privately sponsored. This is a private trip organised by John Travolta's company and tickets are available through Ticketek.

Contrary to some media reports, Mr Travolta will not be arriving on the 707 this trip. He has his own private arrangements, private jet and private accommodation. No doubt he will be mentioning the 707 he has donated to

HARS and the possibility of its arrival early next year.

Originally the arrival of the 707 was planned for November 2019, but, as all aviation professionals know, the paperwork on an acquisition such as the 707 is enormous and involves hours and hours of research by engineering teams to ensure adherence with the strict aviation safety procedures of CASA and the FAA.

John Travolta has committed to be on board the 707 for its arrival at Albion Park next year.

As can be appreciated, the costs associated with this project are substantial. Should you wish to assist the project by making a tax deductible donation, please contact HARS on 02 4257 4333 or email HARSInfo@hars.org.au to obtain details of how to contribute.



Did You Know...

...Qantas Boeing 707-338 VH-EAG was the 707th 707 produced by Boeing and had the serial number 707? Qantas sold this aircraft to the RAAF in April 1979 where it had the tail number A20-627. The cockpit and cabin section forward of the wings of VH-EAG has been part of the HARS collection since July 2015.

...production airframes of the Douglas DC-4 Skymaster, originally conceived as a passenger aircraft, were assigned to the USAAF for use as military aircraft after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour? The military version was designated the C-54-DO.

...the de Havilland Tiger Moth was designed as a primary trainer and first flew on 26 October 1931? Total number of aircraft built was 8,868, with over 1,000 of these built at de Havilland facilities in Bankstown, New South Wales.

City of Canberra - Boeing 747-438 tours

HARS Aviation Museum is pleased to offer three different exclusive tours of our 747-438:

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

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

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.



Boeing 747-438, VH-OJA, City of Canberra

Photo: Mark Keech

Bookings

Reservations for all tours are strictly limited. Combinations of the various 747 tours are also available at discounted prices. For more information and bookings call 02 4257 4333.

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.



Café Connie

Photo: M. Keech

Next Tarmac Days

Upcoming Tarmac Days will be held on 11, 12, 13 October and 8, 9, 10 November 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. Information sessions for potential new members will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday 5 October and Saturday 9 November. 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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