



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

August 2020 Newsletter

Australia's Aviation Heritage



Farewell Qantas 747

Wednesday 22 July was a sad day for many aviation enthusiasts as Qantas' last Boeing 747-438 ER, VH-OEJ, 'Wunala', departed Sydney for Los Angeles and eventually to the aircraft boneyard in Victorville on the edge of the Mojave Desert, to be placed into storage. The departure was done in style though with all the fanfare and flourish befitting the 'Queen of the Skies'!

After push back, the aircraft initially performed a 'lap of honour' at Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport, complete with the traditional water cannon salute, before departing on Runway 16R as QF7474. The departure was followed by some low level passes over the Sydney metropolitan area before VH-OEJ turned south to the Illawarra to fly over her older sibling, VH-OJA 'City of Canberra' at Shellharbour airport.



Qantas staff farewell final 747

Photo: M. Keech

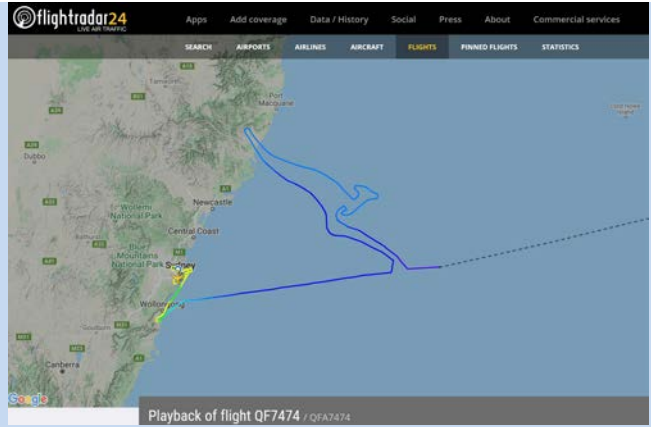


VH-OEJ flies over HARS

Photo: M. Keech

The departure of VH-OEJ marks the end of almost 50 years of Qantas operating Boeing 747 'Jumbo jet' aircraft. The first was a Boeing 747-238, entering service with Qantas in September 1971. A total of 65 747s were operated by Qantas during the period 1971 to 2020, including almost every variant offered by Boeing.

Many Qantas staff, past and present, attended HARS on the day to wave farewell to VH-OEJ and catch up with old friends from their days of flying. As VH-OEJ passed over Shellharbour airport at 1,500 feet, Captain Sharelle Quinn saluted the first Qantas 747-438: "...from the last Qantas Boeing 747, farewell to HARS and farewell to OJA," before setting course for Los Angeles. At least that's what everyone thought until somebody noticed on a flight tracking app, the aircraft turning back towards Port Macquarie. It wasn't long before it became clear that, for this final flight the Qantas flying kangaroo was being traced in the sky!



VH-OJA gets a clean

In preparation for VH-OEJ's flyover the HARS 747, 'City of Canberra' had its exterior professionally cleaned courtesy of Sparkles External Cleaning. Sparkles specialise in cleaning buildings but were keen to try something different and offered their services free of charge to clean VH-OJA. The timing of the offer couldn't have been better as the aircraft was left 'sparkling' for the flyover of Qantas' last 747, VH-OEJ.



Mr Sparkles at work

Photo: A Williams



A clean VH-OJA

Photo: I. Poulter

...at the Drive-in

On Friday 24 and Saturday 25 July, Kidzwish Foundation Inc, held drive-in movie shows at Shellharbour Airport.

Runway 08/26 is closed for reconstruction at the moment, so the Kidzwish Foundation took advantage of the closure and set up this pop-up drive-in theatre where five classic movie sessions were scheduled. Kidzwish is a not-for-profit organisation whose mission in the Illawarra and South Coast is to locate children in the area who are sick, disadvantaged or living with a disability, and connect them to programs of assistance.



Kidzwish drive-in

Photo: M. Keech

HARS Aviation Museum supported the movie sessions with volunteers and the display of three of our aircraft: P2V-7 Neptune 281, English Electric Canberra and our newly acquired MiG-21 jet fighter painted in Indian Air Force colours.

July Tarmac Days

The second weekend in July saw the return of our Tarmac days.

Tarmac days are held over three consecutive days commencing on the second Friday of each month. The Tarmac day experience differs from a normal tour of the museum, Hangar One and part of the tarmac in front of the hangar are open for visitors to walk around and inspect our aircraft at leisure. Tour guides are on hand to answer any of your questions.

Aircraft featured at the July Tarmac days were,
On the tarmac:

- Fokker F27-500 Friendship
- Lockheed AP-3C Orion
- Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 Fishbed



Inside Hangar One:

- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-9 Wirraway
- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-27 Sabre
- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-25 Winjeel
- Corby CJ-1 Starlet
- de Havilland DH-82 Tiger Moth
- 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

The next Tarmac Days will be on 14, 15, 16 August.

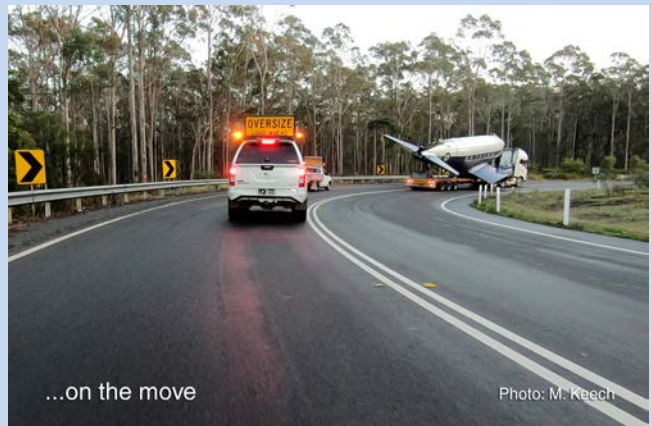
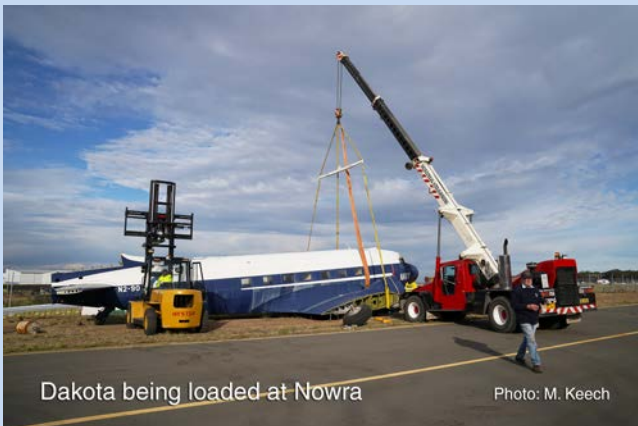
Dakota and Tracker moves from Nowra

After months of planning and a few false starts the Royal Australian Navy Historic Flight Dakota and Tracker aircraft were moved by road from HMAS Albatross to HARS Aviation Museum at Shellharbour airport on 12 and 13 July. HARS successfully tendered to purchase the RAN Historic Flight aircraft in 2018 and most of the easily transportable items had been relocated to Shellharbour through 2019 but the Dakota and Tracker were something of a challenge.

Because of the size of the aircraft, even though some components had been removed, special over-size permits from Transport for NSW were required to move the wide loads and they had to be moved early in the morning, with Police escort, on separate days to reduce the impact on traffic. The moves were conducted without any problems thanks to the professionalism of all involved.

Douglas C-47B Dakota, A65-90, was built in 1944 and arrived in Australia in April 1945. It served in 35 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force for the final months of World War 2 and shortly after the war was converted for VIP duties operating under 86 Transport Wing. It would eventually be part of the Queen's entourage providing support during the 1954 Royal Tour and again for the Duke of Gloucester's visit in 1956. In the early 1960s the aircraft was transferred to 34 Squadron and operated out of Parafield in South Australia until 1968 when it was handed over to the Royal Australian Navy Fleet Air Arm and re-serialised N2-90.

Grumman S-2E Tracker, N12-153600, was delivered to the RANFAA aboard HMAS Melbourne in late 1967. Also known as Tracker 845 this aircraft was one of four that survived the devastating hangar fire in December 1976 at HMAS Albatross. It received some damage in the fire but was not considered viable to repair at the time so it was used as an instructional airframe until eventually finding its home in the RANHF.



Within hours of their arrival at Shellharbour airport, teams commenced reassembling both aircraft in preparation for their display to the public in the museum.

Aviation anecdotes

'Every take-off is optional, landing however is mandatory.'

Did You Know...

...the first aircraft to fly faster than the speed of sound was a Bell X-1 rocket powered research aircraft? The flight took place on 14 October 1947 and was piloted by Major Charles "Chuck" Yeager.

...that CAC Sabre A94-101 is credited with being the first aircraft in Australia to travel faster than the speed of sound? Though not a supersonic aircraft, during a test flight at Avalon on 21 August 1953, the aircraft was put into a dive and exceeded the speed of sound at 36,000 feet.

...the fastest ever manned flight occurred in October 1967 by a rocket powered X-15? The aircraft achieved Mach 6.70 or 7,274 km/h.

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 both 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 are passing our way, why not drop in for coffee and a chat with our friendly staff, or if you are planning a visit to the Museum, you can now make a meal of it. Café Connie is open from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, 7 days a week.

Online Shop

HARS Aviation Museum now has an eShop. A special range of HARS-badged 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/>

Next Tarmac Days

Upcoming Tarmac Days will be held on 14, 15, 16 August and 11, 12, 13 September 2020.

Membership

HARS is 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 guides, 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 HARS please visit <http://hars.org.au/contact-us/>. Select 'New Member Enquiries' in the 'Who would you like to contact?' field and complete the details. One of our membership team will email you with details regarding our next membership information session.

Our next information sessions, held at our Shellharbour airport museum, are on Saturday 8 August and Saturday 5 September. Sessions start at 11.00 am and typically run for about 45 minutes.

HARS practises Covid-safety

HARS Aviation Museum has a safety plan in place in accordance with the NSW Government's template for Covid-19. Full details of our precautions can be found on our website: <https://hars.org.au/2020/06/hars-aviation-museum-is-now-open/>.



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