



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

October 2020 Newsletter

Australia's Aviation Heritage



HARS Aviation Museum Parkes activities

Restoration work on aircraft at our Parkes museum continues with significant progress made since our last Parkes report.

Lockheed P2V-5 Neptune 302 has now had most external painting completed with attention also focused on painting internal surfaces. Engines and propellers are installed, main wings have had a coat of paint and the vertical stabiliser is ready for installation. Parkes High School students have painted window trims, installed the windows to the cockpit, repainted safety markings on the aircraft and spray painted the interior nose area.



The Westland HAS.31B Wessex helicopter has had a wash down and the main rotor blades have been installed. Wooden blades for the tail rotor were mocked up by the Parkes High School students as we have been unable to source original blades. Unfortunately, while the Wessex was outside the wind caught the hinged tail and three of the wooden tail rotor blades were damaged. These have now been remade and fitted.

A Fiat tractor has been procured to be used as an aircraft tug. It has had a strengthened chassis fitted and now the students are in the process of preparing the vehicle for repainting.

Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune 272 has had some sheet metal repairs to the areas damaged by a cyclone while it was still at Townsville and the fin and rudder have had their first coat of paint.

Parkes Rural Fire Service cadets

RFS cadets from Parkes High School were at the museum on 16 September to carry out a training exercise. The scenario was that a crashed aircraft required evacuation of personnel and the fighting of internal fires. Neptune 272 was used for the exercise and as a side benefit for the museum the fire hoses washed away 12 months of dust from the inside of the aircraft.



The cadets enjoyed the training opportunity and, as it was a sunny and warm day, were unconcerned about getting very wet. Local TV filmed the exercise with some of the footage aired on regional Prime News Orange that night.

September Tarmac Days

The September tarmac days at Shellharbour airport were very busy with many of the project teams taking the opportunity to get their aircraft out in the open and run engines. Our Lockheed AP-3C Orion was given a complete systems cycle including engine runs and high-speed taxi runs as was our World War 2 Dakota, Douglas C-47B, VH-EAE. The Dakota is in the final stages of preparation for a return to flying status.



The French Marine Neptune 566 and our Super Constellation 'Connie' were also given engine runs, and not to be outdone, our de Havilland Tiger Moth was finally returned to the air after a lengthy period of maintenance.

Aircraft featured during the September tarmac days, on the tarmac were:

- de Havilland DHC-4 Caribou
- Fokker F27-500 Friendship
- Lockheed AP-3C Orion
- Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune 566
- Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune A89-281
- Grumman S-2G Tracker 844



Wirraway project

Photo: M. Keech



de Havilland DH.82A Tiger Moth

Photo: M. Keech

In Hangar One were:

- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-9 Wirraway
- Corby CJ-1 Starlet
- de Havilland DH-82 Tiger Moth
- de Havilland T.35 Vampire
- General Dynamics F-111C
- Government Aircraft Factory IIIIO(F) Mirage
- Grumman S-2G Tracker
- Hawker FB.11 Sea Fury
- Lockheed C-121C Super Constellation 'Connie'

Caribou 234 flights

Over the three days of the September tarmac weekend HARS Caribou 234 flew on each day. On Friday, the Museum opened at 8:30 am so visitors could see our Vietnam veteran Caribou take-off from Shellharbour Airport for a short flight to southern Sydney to fly over a funeral service.

On Saturday and Sunday, the Caribou operated additional local training flights.



Preparing Caribou 234 for flight

Photo: M. Keech



Caribou 234 and Orion 753

Photo: M. Keech

Worldwide only three Caribou in original condition remain airworthy – one in the United States and the two aircraft maintained and flown by the dedicated volunteers at HARS Aviation Museum.

Sydney Airport welcomes a Piper Cherokee

Commercial aviation has slowed down dramatically due to the pandemic so HARS member Mark Keech could not resist the opportunity to fly a light aeroplane into and out of Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport. Back in April he took a Piper Cherokee 140 into Sydney, landing on the longest runway, 34L.

Normally, Sydney airport is a no-go zone for light aircraft because the airlines take up all the landing and takeoff slots but the pandemic-induced slow down has meant that these slots are now available to anyone who asks for one.

Runway 34L is over 4,000 metres long. Mark said, "I can land this thing in about 250 metres and they told me to get off at the first taxiway as quickly as I could [because another plane was coming]. The first taxiway is one kilometre away, and I said to my daughter we might have to take off again just to get to it."

"It became surreal because on one hand it was the same as landing at any other airport, but then I thought, 'this is serious, it's an international airport and I've got a [Boeing] 777 on my tail.'"



Mark is one of many small aircraft pilots taking advantage of Sydney's eerily-quiet airport during Covid-19 and said that landing at Sydney airport was a unique opportunity that he had to take. His story was recently featured on ABC News.

Did You Know...

...the Government Aircraft Factory, based at Fishermans Bend in Melbourne, built 98 Mirage III's between 1962 and 1968?

...the de Havilland DH-82 Tiger Moth was built under licence in Canada, Sweden, Norway, Portugal, New Zealand and Australia? Over 1,000 examples were built at de Havilland Australia in Bankstown, NSW.

...the Douglas A-26 Invader was a World War 2 era light bomber and ground attack aircraft (not to be confused with the Martin B-26 which was a different aircraft)? Some highly modified versions of the aircraft served with the USAF in Southeast Asia until finally retired in 1969.

Aviation Anecdotes

"Truly superior pilots are those who use their judgement to avoid those situations where they might have to use their superior skills." – Astronaut Frank Borman

Wings over Illawarra

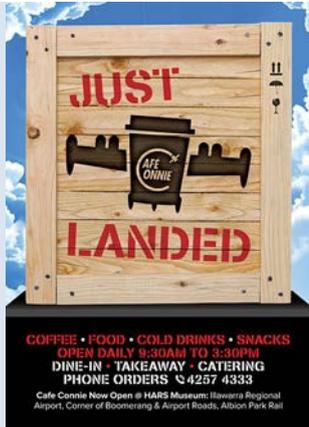
After consultation with NSW Health, the organisers of Wings Over Illawarra 2020, Mark and Kerry Bright, have made the heart-breaking decision to cancel the 2020 event which was due to take place in November 2020.

It is now planned to hold the event over the weekend of 12, 13, 14 November 2021.

For further information go to wingsoverillawarra.com.au.

Café Connie

Café Connie is now fully operational for eat-in and takeaway 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, why not stay for breakfast or lunch. Café Connie is open from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, seven days per 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 www.harsmuseumshop.com.au

Next Tarmac Days

Upcoming Tarmac Days will be held on 9, 10, 11 October and 13, 14, 15 November 2020.



Membership

HARS Aviation Museum 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 of the museum.

If you or a friend are interested in joining HARS please visit 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 Saturday 10 October and Saturday 7 November. 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: hars.org.au/2020/06/hars-aviation-museum-is-now-open.



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1914