



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au



December 2020 Newsletter

Australia's Aviation Heritage



Merry Christmas

The Committee and volunteers at HARS Aviation Museum wish all our readers and visitors the compliments of the season. At the end of a difficult year we hope the Christmas season will bring happiness and prosperity to all. We look forward to the New Year with many exciting developments expected.

HARS Aviation Museum and Café Connie will remain open during the entire festive season and school holiday period, except Christmas Day. The holiday season is a great time to come and visit us and check out what has been added to our collection during 2020.

Qantas centenary celebrated at HARS

On 15 and 16 November HARS Aviation Museum hosted two official events to celebrate 100 years since the founding of Qantas. A barbecue was held under the wing of our ex-Qantas 747-438, City of Canberra, on the Sunday afternoon attended by many current and retired Qantas flight attendants and flight crew. On the Monday evening, 16 November, the date of the centenary, a formal dinner was held under the wing of our Super Constellation, Connie.



Under the wing of VH-OJA

Photo: M. Keech



Some very senior Captains

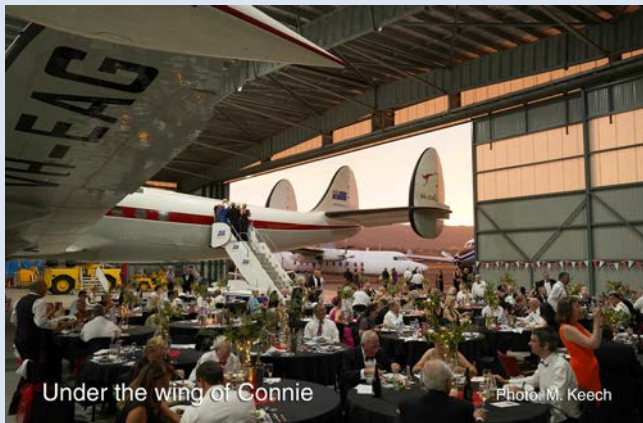
Photo: M. Keech

During the dinner a commemorative flight of the specially marked Qantas 787-9 Dreamliner passed over Shellharbour airport at 1,000 feet, dipping its wing to Qantas' first 747-400. The flight, QF100, lasted 100 minutes and included passes over Sydney Harbour where the Harbour Bridge was lit up to represent a birthday cake, the 787 blowing the candles out as it passed over.

The Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Service was founded on 16 November 1920 at Winton, Queensland by World War One aviators Paul McGinness and Hudson Fysh using a war surplus AVRO 504K biplane to provide a link between remote outback stations, although the first passenger flight didn't take place until two years later. The late 1920's saw Qantas expanding and even building their own aircraft at Longreach, Queensland. By the mid 1930s Qantas joined with Britain's Imperial Airways to begin international operations that would continue through the World War Two years and became a vital link between Australia and the UK. After the war the airline operated Lancastrians, DC-4s, Constellations and Sandringham flying boats until the jet age quickly made all of these types

obsolete.

Throughout the jet age Qantas continued to grow adding many international destinations and building a diverse fleet of aircraft types. There were also many records broken including the first non-stop commercial flight from London to Sydney with the delivery flight of their first Boeing 747-438, VH-OJA, City of Canberra, the aircraft that is on display at HARS. More recently Qantas pioneered direct flights from Perth to London and from New York to Sydney using the new 787 Dreamliner.



The formal dinner on 16 November at HARS was well attended by current and retired Qantas staff, some local politicians and dignitaries as well as many HARS members. Speakers included HARS President, Bob De La Hunty, retired Qantas pilot, Warwick Tainton, and HARS' own Captain Reg Darwell whose career with Qantas included flying Super Constellations through to Boeing 747s. Reg provided an important link to the centenary celebrations as he shared some humorous anecdotes about running errands for Qantas founder, Hudson Fysh in the early part of his career.

November Tarmac Days

The November Tarmac Days were very busy with one of the Qantas centenary celebrations being held on the Sunday and a number of flights being conducted throughout the weekend. Aircraft on display outside were:

- Bell UH-1B Huey
- Boeing B747-438
- Convair CV-440
- de Havilland DHA-3 Drover
- de Havilland T.35 Vampire
- Douglas C-47B Dakota
- Douglas C-54E Skymaster
- Fokker F27-500 Friendship
- Grumman S-2E Tracker
- Grumman S-2G Tracker
- Lockheed AP-3C Orion

In Hangar One aircraft on display were:

- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-9 Wirraway
- Corby CJ-1 Starlet
- de Havilland DH-82 Tiger Moth
- General Dynamics F-111C
- Government Aircraft Factory IIIO(F) Mirage
- Hawker FB.11 Sea Fury
- Lockheed C-121C Super Constellation



During the November Tarmac Days Tracker 844 had its engines run, as did Dakota 95, and Dakota 94 took to the air during the Qantas barbecue.

Navy Huey arrival

As part of HARS Aviation Museum's successful bid for the Royal Australian Navy Historic Flight we acquired two Bell UH-1B Iroquois (Huey) helicopters. After a period of maintenance at its base, the Air Affairs facility in Nowra, Huey 898 has now been restored to airworthy condition and, on Sunday 15 November, made its first public appearance at HARS Aviation Museum, Shellharbour airport. Preceded by its unmistakable sound and right on time at 09:30, Huey 898 put in a majestic appearance at the November Tarmac Day.

The Iroquois first appeared in the early 1960s and was originally designated HU-1, hence the nickname 'Huey' which has endured. Carrying the tail number N9-3104, Huey 898 was delivered to the Royal Australian Navy in 1966 and served with 723 Squadron until 1989. In total the RAN operated 7 Hueys with the aircraft seeing service in roles that included search and rescue, troop transport, and many other utility services.





Huey and Tracker 844

Photo: M. Keech



Huey office

Photo: M. Keech

Huey 898 will continue to be based at Air Affairs but is expected to make regular appearances at Shellharbour airport as well as accompanying other HARS aircraft to future displays.

WorldFlight 2020

During the first week in November, HARS members in two full cockpit flight simulators conducted a virtual flight around the world raising money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

One simulator, a Boeing 737, was setup in Hangar One at HARS Shellharbour alongside a DHA-3 Drover, an aircraft used by the RFDS in its early days. The other simulator, based in Chipping Norton, is a full motion Boeing 747-400 that has been raising money for the RFDS for the past 20 years. During WorldFlight 2020 the simulators visited 48 airports and covered 37,000 nautical miles taking seven days to complete.



The 737 simulator at HARS

Photo: M. Keech



WorldFlight 2020

Photo: M. Keech

The two simulators contributed \$15,000 out of a total of \$40,000 raised for the RFDS by the Australian WorldFlight Group.

Did You Know...

...that RAF pilot Frank Whittle is credited with inventing the jet engine? He patented his design in 1930, with his first prototype being run on April 12, 1937.

...that the Heinkel He 178 was the world's first jet aircraft, with the first flight occurring in August 1939?

...that the General Electric GE9X is currently the most powerful commercial aircraft jet engine in the world? Developed exclusively to power the Boeing 777X, during testing in 2019 it produced 134,300 lbs of thrust.

Aviation anecdotes

"It is better to be on the ground wishing you were in the air, than to be in the air wishing you were on the ground."

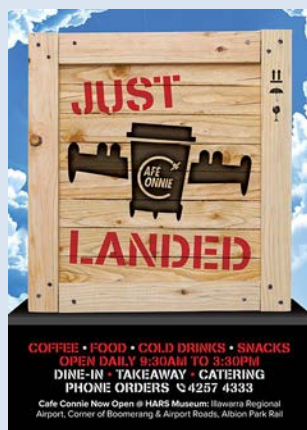
Mercedes-Benz Club visits HARS

Also on the Sunday of the November Tarmac Weekend, the Mercedes-Benz Club NSW visited the museum and displayed over 47 Mercedes-Benz cars of all types.



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 11, 12, 13 December 2020 and 8, 9, 10 January 2021.

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 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 5 December 2020 and Saturday 2 January 2021. 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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