



**HARS**  
**AVIATION**  
**MUSEUM**  
[www.hars.org.au](http://www.hars.org.au)

## Quarter 1 2022 Newsletter

### *Australia's Aviation Heritage*

#### **HARS Parkes Aviation Museum**

As always there has been much activity at our Parkes Museum.

##### **Lockheed 12 reassembly**

Work has commenced on reassembling our Lockheed 12A Junior Electra, c/n 1275. This aircraft was once registered VH-BHH and, was built at the Lockheed Burbank facility in 1939.

The aircraft was initially civilian registered but in March 1942 it was impressed into service with the United States Army Air Force and subsequently transferred to the Royal Air Force under lend/lease arrangements. After WWII it returned to civilian duties and was briefly owned by Sidney Cotton. For those who are not familiar with Cotton's "espionage" flights over Germany pre-WWII, it is worth doing a google search to learn more.

The aircraft came to Australia in 1952 and initially flew for Silver City Airways before eventually being sold to Bush Church Aid Society, Australia, and Tasmania. It was severely damaged in a landing accident at Ceduna in 1960 and was subsequently cancelled from the Australian Aircraft Register in November 1960. Since 1960 the aircraft has had various owners until gifted to HARS.



Lockheed 12 – fuselage and wing centre section mated. Photo Ian Poulter.

### **C-47 to be added to the Parkes collection**

HARS acquired Ex US Army Air Force C-47, “Oklahoma Girl” in 2021. Currently the fuselage section is still at Caboolture airport, with the wings at Albion Park. During this year it is planned to transport the aircraft components to HARS Parkes Museum, where it will be reassembled for static display.



**Oklahoma Gal at Caboolture airport – being prepared for transport. Photo: Ian Poulter.**

### **Parkes Secondary School Student involvement**

Students from the Parkes Secondary School attend our Parkes Museum on Thursdays. The students provide invaluable assistance with the many projects at the museum. Their work not only assists with our restorations and general maintenance but is also a great way for them to gain some training and work skills which hopefully will assist them when they join the workforce.

### **HARS Parkes Aviation Museum membership**

Our Parkes Museum is actively seeking new members. If you live in the Central West and would like to get involved with the various projects, which can also include tour guiding, contact Col Lucas on 0428 625 269, or drop into the museum and make an enquiry. The museum is open for tours on Thursdays and Sundays.

## Four burning, four turning

During March, our P3 Orion and Lockheed Super Constellation “Connie” undertook simultaneous engine runs, which has not previously been done. As one member quipped “four burning, four turning.”



Photo: Howard Mitchell.

## Canberra Airport open day

Sunday April 3 was Canberra Airport open day. HARS had planned to have five aircraft on the tarmac for the public to view. These were our Grumman Tracker 844, PBV Catalina, Douglas C-47 Dakota, DeHavilland Caribou, and our P3 Orion. Departure was planned for Saturday afternoon.

Whilst three of the aircraft did depart, bad weather enroute forced them to return to Albion Park. As the saying goes, “if you have time to spare, go by air”!



Grounded aircraft at Albion Park. Photo: Carl Robinson.



## Tracker 844 flies again



Photo: Howard Mitchell

HARS Navy Heritage Fleet's Grumman Tracker 844 finally took to the skies over Shellharbour Regional Airport over the first weekend in April. The aircraft has spent two and a half years in maintenance, being a ten yearly inspection and including an annual inspection.

On Saturday she was all set to fly to the Canberra Airport open day, but inclement weather, which prevented our aircraft from flying to Canberra, unfortunately forced cancellation of HARS participation in the event.

Now 844 is again certified to fly it is expected she will be a regular flying attraction, particularly on Tarmac Weekends.

## Planned future flying activities

Future planned activities include Anzac Day. HARS has traditionally supported ANZAC day commemorations by flying over various ANZAC Day services in the Illawarra and the City of Sydney. This year is no exception with several aircraft expected to be in the air.

Tarmac days over the next several months should also see more HARS aircraft flying.

## Did You Know...

... The Boeing Stearman biplane, built during the 1930's and 1940's was primarily used as a military trainer? Over 10,620 examples were built, with many still flying today.

... The final Airbus A380 constructed was delivered to Emirates airline in December 2021? 251 examples of the A380 were built.

... The Vickers Virginia Mk X was the standard heavy bomber of the Royal Air Force from 1924 until withdrawn from service in 1937? The Virginia was developed from the WWI Vimy bomber.

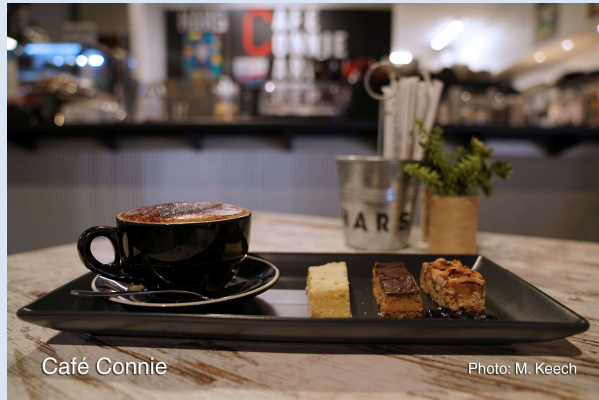
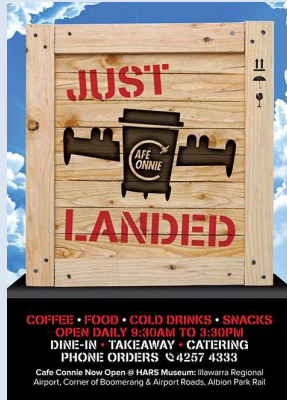
## Aviation anecdotes.

“Say ... what’s a mountain goat doing way up here in a cloud bank?”

Caption to a Gary Larson “The Far Side” cartoon.

## Café Connie

Café Connie is now fully operational for eat-in and takeaway options.



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-branded 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 shop located 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](http://www.harsmuseumshop.com.au)

## City of Canberra – Boeing 747-438 tours

HARS is now able to accept bookings for tours of our Boeing 747-438 ‘City of Canberra’.

### Wing Walk Experience

The Wing Walk will provide you with a unique perspective of the 747 taking you about sixteen 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 \$70, which includes museum entry.

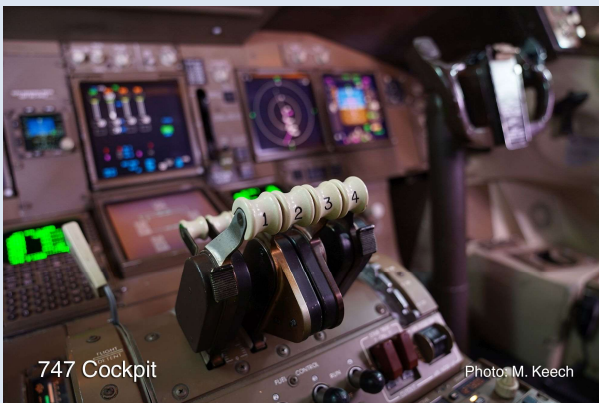
## The Total Boeing 747 Experience

This premium tour commences with a brief audio-visual presentation followed by a tour of the entire aircraft, including the cabin and galleys, crew rest areas, the avionics bay, forward cargo hold and a detailed inspection of the cockpit. Conducted by experienced 747 crew, the tour duration is approximately 4 hours and includes a personalised tour of the full HARS museum. The tour is priced at \$200 per person with a maximum of four persons per tour.



## 747 Cockpit Experience

The 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 are limited to two guests per tour, the cost is \$105 per person and includes museum entry.



## Bookings

All tour prices include a full museum tour. 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.

## Next Tarmac Days

Upcoming Tarmac Days will be held on 14, 15, 16 May and 11, 9, 13 June 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](https://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.

Information sessions are held at our Shellharbour Airport Museum on the first Saturday of each month. 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](https://hars.org.au/2020/06/hars-aviation-museum-is-now-open).



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