



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

Quarter 1, 2023 Newsletter

Australia's Aviation Heritage

Air Shows Downunder.

At the Air Shows Downunder, Avalon Air Show (2023) it was announced Wings Over Illawarra event will hence forth be owned by the Aviation, Maritime and Defence Foundation Australia Ltd (AMDA).

Wings Over Illawarra will be rebranded and known as Airshows Downunder – Shellharbour. The Air Show will be held every two years in the alternate year to the Avalon Event with the first one being in early **March 2024**.

The change has been agreed after several years discussion between AMDA and Mark Bright, owner of the Wings over Illawarra event.

The AMDA Foundation Ltd started out from small beginnings in 1975 at Schofield Airfield where it ran small bi-annual Air Shows. In 1982 the previous iteration of AMDA was asked if it could run an International Air Show to help celebrate Australia's Bi Centenary in 1988. It was a very successful event, which was the catalyst for forming what is now the AMDA Foundation Ltd. The foundation promotes and develops a wide range of events to help Australian industry grow. AMDA also runs the Pacific Maritime Industry event in Sydney and Land Forces Event, which in the future will be held in Melbourne.

For information about AMDA Foundation Ltd go to: AMDA Foundation Limited



Australia Day Flights

On Australia Day 2023 HARS scheduled several aircraft fly overs of Australia Day celebrations in the Illawarra.

Alas the weather had other ideas! Only one HARS aircraft, a Caribou, managed to get airborne early in the day. A privately owned Spitfire, resident at Shellharbour airport, also managed to do some flying later in the day, just before the weather front arrived.



HARS Caribou flying earlier in the day prior to the weather closing in.
Photo: Howard Mitchell.



Spitfire back on the ground with weather front approaching.
Photo: Howard Mitchell.

Vampire A79-637

In March Vampire A79-637's engine was run up for the first time in many years.

The aircraft has been undergoing a full restoration with the aim of achieving flying condition. Part of the restoration involved the engine being stripped down and overhauled. The Vampire team have spent many hours achieving this.

The successful run of the aircraft's engine was a big step on the path to the goal of seeing the aircraft fly again. Needless to say, the Vampire team were all smiles after the successful engine test.



Engine run in progress.
Photo: Ian Poulter.

Weighing Southern Cross and Twin Pionair

Early in March HARS arranged for both our Southern Cross replica and Twin Pioneer aircraft to be weighed, to establish the respective aircraft's dry empty weight.

Both aircraft had to be drained of fuel before the weighing could be undertaken. Aircraft performance and safe operation are very dependent upon weight. Together with establishing its weight carrying capability and where that load is distributed within the aircraft, weight metrics are essential pieces of information.

Aircraft are weighed when first put into service. They are re-weighed periodically to ensure that additions of, for example equipment, or structural alterations that have been made to the aircraft, are taken into account for weight and balance calculations. Weighing is achieved by jacking the aircraft using "load cells" between the jacks and the jacking points or, as was the case for HARS, rolling the aircraft up onto calibrated "scales", one for each main wheel and one for the tail wheel. The aircraft is placed in its flying attitude for the actual weighing.

With the Southern Cross weighed, she is one step closer to flying again.



Southern Cross on the scales.
Photo: James Thurstan



Scottish Aviation Twin Pioneer's turn to be weighed.
Photo: James Thurstan.

Parkes Aviation Museum

Grumman SG-2 Tracker

As reported in the Q4 2022 newsletter, HARS Parkes Museum has been allocated a Grumman SG-2 Tracker. This aircraft has now been relocated from Nowra Airport to Parkes.

The wing centre section was removed from the fuselage to facilitate transport to Parkes. Reassembly of the aircraft has now commenced. The restoration will be challenging, given the condition of the aircraft, but with the assistance of the Parkes High School students each Thursday, much progress has already been made.

Unfortunately, the aircraft is missing wings and some cockpit windows, so the hunt is on for these components.



Photo: Ian Poulter

Douglas C – 47 progress

Our C – 47 has had its undercarriage extended so the aircraft is now sitting on three wheels. The fin, rudder and elevators have been fitted. In addition, one engine has been unseized, enabling the prop to be turned.



Photo: Ian Poulter

Parkes Elvis Festival

This year the Parkes Museum decided to enter a float in the annual Elvis Festival Parade held in January.

The Museum's Jindivick had been undergoing some further restoration work, resulting in the wings having been removed. In the planning to refit the wings for the float, it was realised this would make the aircraft too wide for the parade, so instead the Lockheed 12 wing tips were fitted. They were a surprisingly good fit and reduced the width of the aircraft enabling it to be towed through town without any issues.

By all accounts the parade was a real hoot. HARS Parkes Museum members were on hand to distribute Museum pamphlets, which had the desired effect of large numbers of people visiting the museum over the weekend.



Photo: Col Lucas.

Tarmac Days

The usual collection of HARS aircraft are on display during each Tarmac Weekend, held over a three-day period commencing on the second Friday of each month and continuing over the following Saturday and Sunday.

Upcoming dates are April 14, 15 and 16, May 12, 13, and 14, and June 9, 10, and 11.

Aircraft normally on display in Hangar 1, or on the tarmac are:

- Lockheed Super Constellation "Connie,"
- Douglas C-54 Skymaster,
- Lockheed AP-3C Orion
- Mirage IIIO,
- Hawker Sea Fury,
- Hawker Sea Venom,
- General Dynamics F-111C,
- Corby Starlet,
- Convair 440,
- Grumman S-2G Tracker,
- De Havilland DH-82 Tiger Moth,
- Two De Havilland DH-115 Vampires,
- Victor Airtourer, and,
- Cessna 310.

HARS endeavours to fly and/or conduct engine runs on several aircraft over these weekends.



Grumman Tracker engine runs, January Tarmac Weekend.

Photo: Howard Mitchell.

Did You Know...

... The American Curtiss C-46 Commando was a twin-engine transport aircraft in use by early 1942? The C-46 served in a similar role to its Douglas-built counterpart, the C-47 Dakota.

... The German Arado Ar-234 Blitz was the world's first operational turbojet powered bomber? It was in service during the final years of WWII.

... Assuming no more orders are placed, Boeing will end production of the F/A-18E-F Super Hornet in 2025? The aircraft will have been in production for 30 years at that time.

Aviation Anecdotes

Quote: “When everything seems to be going against you, remember that aircraft take off against the wind, not with it.”

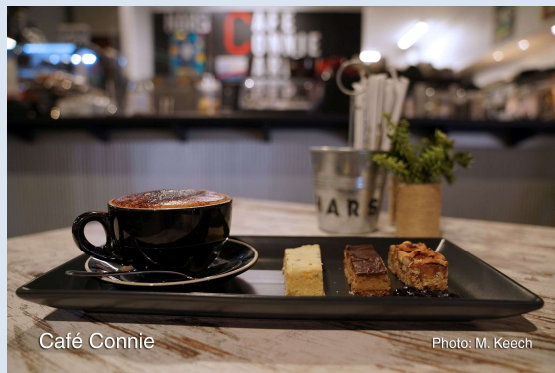
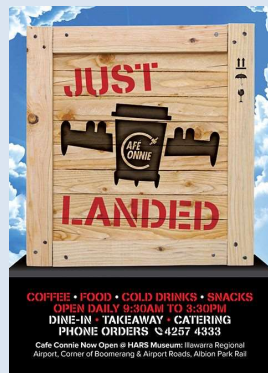
Henry Ford.

Café Connie

Café Connie is open from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm daily 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.



Museum Shop

The HARS Aviation Museum shop, located adjacent to the Museum Reception, has a diverse range of aviation products for sale. These include T shirts, jackets, children’s toys, aircraft memorabilia, books, and DVDs.

There is also a broad range of collectable diecast aircraft models for sale.

When next at the Museum have a browse through our shop.



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 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

City of Canberra – Boeing 747-438 Tours

Bookings can be made for the following 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 tours can be taken between 10am and 3pm for the price of \$75, 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 \$205 per person with a minimum of two and 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 \$110 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.

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 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.

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 Parkes Aviation Museum membership

Our Parkes Museum is also actively seeking new members. If you live in Central Western NSW and would like to get involved with the various projects at Parkes, 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.



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