



HARS
AVIATION
MUSEUM
www.hars.org.au

March 2019 Newsletter

Australia's Aviation Heritage



Handiflight stages though HARS

On Tuesday 26 February HARS became a staging point for a very intrepid group of travellers on a round-the-world flight in support of Handicap International, a charity aimed at promoting inclusion and changing perceptions about disability. The Swiss aviation association for people with disabilities "Handiflight" comprises a small team of mostly paraplegic pilots who are flying solo in a Flight Design CTLS ultralight aircraft around the world over a nine month period. The flight will visit over 40 countries to meet, share, inspire and promote the inclusion of people with disabilities all around the world. Lions Clubs International is a major supporter of Handiflight.

The CTLS is a German-produced fibreglass ultralight with a range of up to 1,000 nautical miles. Leaving Switzerland in November 2018, the flight has travelled through Italy, Greece, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia before arriving in Perth earlier this month. The aircraft has been modified with a hand control for the rudder and brakes so that it can be operated by pilots who are unable to use their legs.



Eric Dabas and the CTLS

Photo: M. Keech



The Handiflight team and supporters

Photo: M. Keech

The CTLS arrived at Illawarra Regional Airport from Merimbula on Tuesday afternoon piloted by Eric Dabas and accompanied by the flight's Piper Comanche support plane. Local Lions Club supporters met the team and all enjoyed a quick tour of the HARS collection before departing for their official functions.

HARS Aviation Museum is proud to have supported the achievements of Handiflight by hosting the flight's aircraft overnight. If you would like to follow the adventure you can visit their website: Handiflight and if you would like to support the inclusion of people with disabilities you can sponsor Handiflight through the website: Handicap International (this website is not entirely in English).

Wessex helicopters relocated to HARS

The first items from the RAN Historic Flight, which HARS successfully bid for in 2018, have been transferred to our museums at Illawarra Regional Airport and Parkes Airport. There have been containers of aircraft parts relocated, but the most notable items are two, largely complete, Westland HAS.31B Wessex Helicopters.

On 6 February Wessex 832 (N7-222) bade farewell to its old home at HMAS Albatross and was transported by low-loader to HARS Illawarra where the aircraft was unloaded and, after some minor reassembly, has now been placed on display in Hangar Three. Sister Wessex 813 (N7-203) was despatched from Nowra airport to Parkes on 7 February where it will be placed on display in our Hangar once some aircraft reorganisation can be completed. It is intended that both aircraft will be polished and/or repainted in the coming months.



Wessex helicopters served with the RAN Fleet Air Arm from 1963 to 1989 in roles which included anti-submarine patrols, troop transport including service in Vietnam and search and rescue. They were also an important asset in the evacuation of Darwin after Cyclone Tracy.

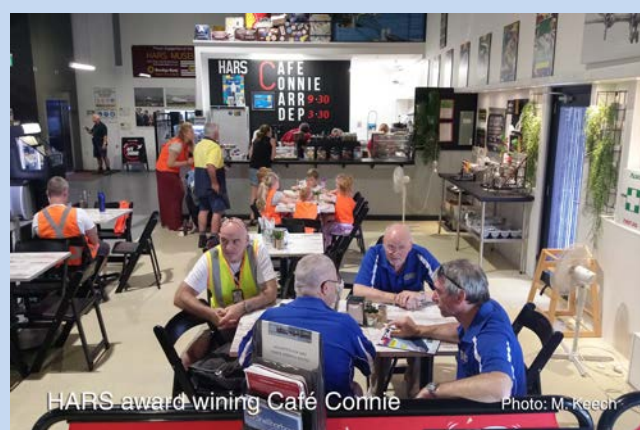
Stay tuned for more RAN Historic Flight movements over the coming months.

Café Connie scores gold

For the second year in a row Café Connie has been awarded a gold medal in the Best Café section of Wave FM's Best Of The Illawarra competition!

The award results from Wave FM listeners' choice of their favourite cafés. For our hard working café volunteers this award is welcome recognition of not only their devotion to customer service but also their ability to deliver a premium product. Café Connie would like to thank all of our supporters who voted for us.

Café Connie, as part of the award process, has been entered into a draw for the major prize of a \$10,000 marketing campaign. The outcome will be known in coming weeks.



So, don't forget, next time you're visiting Illawarra Regional Airport drop in to our award-winning Café Connie! Breakfast and lunch menus offering a wide selection of both hot and cold foods are available at very reasonable prices. The Café's beverage offering features barista coffee with milk shakes, smoothies and soft drinks. If you're passing our way, why not drop in for coffee and a chat with our friendly staff, or if you're planning a visit to the museum, you can now make a meal of it.

February Tarmac Days

Aircraft on display in Hangar One and adjacent tarmac area were:

- Boeing B747-438, City of Canberra
- Cessna C-310B
- Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation CA-25 Winjeel
- Corby CJ-1 Starlet
- de Havilland DHA-3 Drover
- de Havilland DH-82 Tiger Moth
- de Havilland T.35 Vampire
- English Electric T Mk.4 Canberra
- Fokker F27-500 Friendship
- General Dynamics F-111C
- Government Aircraft Factory IIIO(F) Mirage
- Grumman S-2G Tracker
- Lockheed C-121C Super Constellation
- Lockheed P2V-7 Neptune, A89-281



Our Lockheed Super Constellation, “Connie” took to the air briefly and Douglas DC-3, “Hawdon” had its engines run.

Australian Aviation Museum Mirage

The Australian Aviation Museum at Bankstown, which regrettably has been forced to close, has transferred ownership of Mirage A3-44 to the Benalla Aviation Museum. During February members of that museum travelled to Bankstown to commence the work to move A3-44 to Benalla. To transport the Mirage to Benalla, it will be necessary to remove the wings, so the Benalla museum requested assistance from the experienced engineers at HARS.



Unfortunately, the first attempt was unsuccessful with some wing bolts steadfastly refusing to be removed, possibly due to corrosion, our engineers being accustomed to removing wings from serviceable aircraft in the 1970s. A halt in proceedings was called to enable further research into the wing removal process to be undertaken. Completion of the wing removal and transport to Benalla is expected to occur in March.

Boeing 747 turns 50

The legendary Boeing 747 otherwise known as the “Queen of the Skies” marked the 50th anniversary of its first flight on 9 February 2019. The 747, as most would be aware, is credited with both revolutionising international air travel and making it much more affordable. Boeing has built 1,548 aircraft of various marques and production of the 747 continues to this day with the 747-8, however the order backlog is now down to 24 aircraft.

At HARS our Boeing 747-438, City of Canberra will celebrate the 30th anniversary of its first flight on 3 July this year.



Boeing 747-438, City of Canberra

Photo: M. Keech

Did You Know...

...the Westland Wessex helicopter was a development of the American Sikorsky H-34? The Wessex was designed with a gas turbine engine (the Sikorsky used a piston engine) and became operational with the Royal Navy in 1961.

...the Grumman S-2 Tracker first entered service with the US Navy in 1954? The aircraft was powered by two Wright R-1820, 9-cylinder radial engines, the same engine type that powered the WWII B-17 bomber.

...the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom fighter first flew in 1958, with 5,195 examples having been built? It is still in service with the Japanese Self Defence Force with final retirement of the type scheduled for 2020. Phantoms were briefly in service for the RAAF in the 1970s while the F-111s were being built.

Airshows for 2019

A reminder that Australia's best annual airshow, Wings over Illawarra is to be held on May 4 and 5 at Illawarra Regional Airport. Tickets can be purchased at the [Wings over Illawarra](#) Website.



Next Tarmac Days

Upcoming Tarmac Days will be held on 8, 9, 10 March and 12, 13, 14 April 2019.

Membership

Are you or a friend interested in joining our tour guide or reception/shop staff ranks? We are actively looking for volunteers to join these areas; lots of laughs and mateship are guaranteed. Maybe you or your partner have a few spare days a month that you would like to contribute to the smooth running of our Museum. Information sessions for potential new members will be held at 11:00 am on Saturdays 9 March and 13 April. All are welcome.

For further information about membership please visit <http://hars.org.au/contact-us/>. Select 'New Member Enquiries' in the 'Who would you like to contact?' field.



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