



Qantas Founders Museum

Media Release

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LOCKHEED SUPER CONSTELLATION ONE STEP CLOSER TO ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA

Qantas Founders Museum's Super Constellation Project completed a major milestone this weekend with the aircraft moving from the Manila International Airport (MIAA) to the Manila International Container Port in preparation for shipping to Australia.

In the early hours of Monday 12 December 2016, the disassembled Super Constellation was lifted from its Airport storage site, which had been generously provided by Cebu Pacific Air, and transported by seven Lowbed and Super Lowbed trailers to the International Container Terminal Services Inc (ICTSI) site at the Manila seaport.

The whole operation took about four and a half hours, travelling 15 kilometres which included the partial closing one of Manila's main highways, so that the trailers could travel on the incorrect side of the highway, and lifting some low power lines. Close cooperation with and support from MIAA, the police, city governments and road authorities ensured that the tricky operation of moving the very-much oversized fuselage, wings, tri-tail and four engines/propellers was accomplished smoothly and efficiently with minimal disruption to the road system.

Qantas Founders Museum Chairman John Vincent said the Museum was very excited to see the project complete this stage safely and efficiently.

"Moving a 60 plus year old disassembled, very large aircraft is no easy feat so we are delighted that this stage of the project has been completed and the aircraft is one step closer to its final home of Longreach."

"Qantas Founders Museum has spent over two years fundraising and working on this project and we look forward to having this iconic aircraft in our museum collection soon.

"I want to sincerely thank and to acknowledge all the support, assistance and advice we have received from Qantas Airways and Qantas Engineering, retired aviation engineers, Lufthansa Technik Philippines, MIAA, Cebu Pacific Air, our contractors and advisers in Manila and Australia and now ICTSI. I want to particularly acknowledge the hard work that our Project Manager Rodney Seccombe has contributed to get the project to this stage," Mr Vincent said.

The next stage of the project will be the transportation of the aircraft by sea to Australia. This stage is expected to commence in mid 2017.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM AND THE SUPER CONSTELLATION AIRCRAFT

Qantas Founders Museum is a not for profit organisation which tells the story of Australia's national airline, Qantas Airways, and how it began in Western Queensland in 1920. The museum, which has an annual visitation of 40,000 people a year, has a variety of exhibits, interactive displays, artefacts and aircraft

including an original Qantas Boeing 747, Qantas' first Boeing 707, a DC3 and a Catalina flying boat together with replicas of early-era aircraft.

In September 2014, the museum was the successful bidder for Lockheed Super Constellation N4247K, in an auction held by the Manila International Airport Authority. The aircraft, which had been grounded in Manila for 25 years, had been used by World Fish and Agriculture Inc to transport fish cargo and had been previously operated by the United States Navy.

The Super Constellation Project goal is to transport the aircraft to Longreach where it will be restored to appear as a late 1950's Qantas Super Constellation and be included in the museum's aircraft collection, with innovative interior displays which will form the basis of another aircraft tour experience for visitors. Due to the condition of the aircraft, it will be transported by ship to Australia and then be transported by road to Longreach.

The museum was initiated by the people of Western Queensland and is independent of Qantas Airways, although Qantas provides significant support in various forms, focused on the museum's artefacts. To donate to the museum and its projects, go to the Qantas Founders Museum website donation page at: <https://qfom.com.au/donate-to-our-museum/> and follow the links or contact the museum by phone on: 07 4658 3737 or email: info@qfom.com.au.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUPER CONSTELLATION AND QANTAS

The Lockheed Constellation is an iconic aircraft in the history of Qantas and Australian aviation for the following reasons:

- The Constellation operated the Qantas Kangaroo Route air services between Sydney and London from 1947.
- The Constellation was the first aircraft that enabled Qantas to establish and sustain long-range overseas air service in its own right.
- This was the longest air service in the world using the same aircraft all the way.
- A Super Constellation operated the first Qantas trans-Pacific air service in 1954.
- The Constellation was the first Qantas aircraft to feature flight hostesses.
- The Constellation was the first pressurised aircraft operated by Qantas, bringing significantly increased comfort and operational reliability to long distance routes.
- Qantas Super Constellations operated the first ever regular round-the-world air service via both hemispheres in 1958.

Media Contact: John Vincent, Chairman, Qantas Founders Museum on 07 4658 3737 or j.vincent@qfm.org.au.

Photo Credits

Photo 1: Jennifer Dainer

Photo 2: Rodney Seccombe

Photo 3: Jennifer Dainer