

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM ARCHERFIELD AIRPORT CORPORATION

The last few months since I joined the Archerfield Airport Corporation in July have been very interesting to say the least.

There seems to be a level of pessimism among many aviators about the future of General Aviation in Australia, and some of that feeling seems to have been generated by a perception of what is happening on the privatised secondary airports around Australia. I am unable to speak about what is happening in other States but my focus remains on Archerfield where I hope to have a positive influence on the future.

I am able to say with absolute conviction that the Archerfield Airport Corporation is working to secure the future of Archerfield as an airport. There is a belief at AAC that over the next few decades, Archerfield will grow to become a valuable and important community asset as Brisbane's secondary airport. AAC wants to rejuvenate Archerfield Airport and play a role in the rejuvenation of the General Aviation Industry.

Recently AAC developed a new mission statement which I think sums up where we all want things to go.

ARCHERFIELD AIRPORT CORPORATION STRIVES TO NURTURE THE DYNAMIC POTENTIAL OF ARCHERFIELD AS A SUPERIOR AVIATION DESTINATION.

I understand that creating a new future for the airport has made some airport users disenchanted for a variety of reasons of which I am sure everyone is aware. Over the last few months I have been endeavouring to work out how we accommodate those issues as we move forward. I realize now that the airport operating environment is complex and that there are many conflicting priorities and some tricky decisions to be made.

Along with the often conflicting requirements of the various airport users, there are the issues of compliance with Regulatory regimes which govern airport operations and activity, the challenge of turning a subsidized environment into a commercial environment, the process of planning for the future renewal of the airport infrastructure in line with trends that are emerging in the industry and decision making about the appropriate mix of aviation and non-aviation business on the airport. The implementation of a new security regime has forced a questioning of many past practices at the airport and begun to impose restrictions on who can access the airport and when. It has also become clear to me that the future of the airport will also be influenced strongly by decisions taken about off-airport developments in the local area.

I do not share the pessimism that I mentioned earlier. I believe that General Aviation in Australia is going to boom over the next ten to twenty years. It seems to me that this will be driven by huge demand from overseas for Australia's aviation expertise and a wave of new technology and aircraft that are currently emerging in the industry. This will create significant opportunities for Archerfield businesses.

I believe that the Federal Government's announcement of a General Aviation Industry Action Agenda is a welcome step forward for an industry which has traditionally suffered due to its highly fragmented nature.

There are many positive things happening on the airport. The growth in the Cirrus operation springs to mind immediately. The new Multi-Crew Pilot training program will create national and international focus on Archerfield over the next twelve months. The Corporate Hangars will soon be complete and are one of the first steps in exploring new markets.

AAC is looking to support these initiatives where possible. For example, one of my first projects next year will be the issue of student accommodation for the airport.

I look forward to the next twelve months and hope for everyone's benefit that we can continue to move forward. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions or you would like to discuss any issues relating to the future of the airport. Likewise, I would like to hear from you if you believe there are opportunities which we should be exploiting which would prove positive for the airport.

On behalf of everyone at AAC, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a safe holiday for those fortunate enough to be taking a break.

AAC will be moving into new offices in the Terminal Building early in the New Year and we will be inviting everyone to share some hospitality with us when that project is complete and we are settled in.

Regards

Gerard Campbell
Chief Executive Officer
14 December 2006