



ISSUE 39 | DECEMBER 2023

plane torque

Archerfield

Brisbane's Metropolitan Airport



Coming through: an RAAF F-35A Lightning II buzzes YBAF at 250 feet.

Buzzed by the Best

They don't call them stealth fighters for nothing.

With their 'low observable' design, the two RAAF F-35A Lightning IIs were hard to spot through the summer smoke haze at first, but within seconds they had swooped over runway 10L in 1/2NM trail formation, executing a practice approach at 250 feet.

The RAAF top guns showed off their aircrafts' extraordinary acceleration, agility and manoeuvrability, buzzing Archerfield with an upwind departure and left turn, tracking approximately 080 degrees and climbing to 1,500 feet.

Operational in Australian service since 2021, these advanced, multi-role, supersonic fighters lead the country's air combat capacity with their internal weapons and fuel carriage, advanced radar, electro-optical and infrared sensors, cutting-edge voice and data link communications, and scope for air-to-surface and air-to-air weapons.

Their flying visit from RAAF Base Amberley brought Archerfield to a brief halt on 30 October. All eyes were fixed on the blink-and-you'll-miss-it flyover but there was no escaping the noise!

Vital Stats:

Manufacturer:	Lockheed Martin
Role:	5th gen multi-role fighter
Crew:	Pilot
Length:	15.7m
Height:	4.4m
Wing span:	10.7m
Wing area:	42.7m ²
Weight:	13,290kg (empty), 29,900kg (max)
Engines:	Pratt and Whitney F135-PW-100
Thrust:	40,000lb max power (with afterburner); 25,000lb military power (without afterburner)
Range:	2,200km
Max speed:	1,960km/h (Mach 1.6)
Max g rating:	9.0
Internal fuel capacity:	8,278kg
Ceiling:	50,000 feet

(www.airforce.gov.au)

Merry Christmas

AAC wishes the Archerfield community a very happy Christmas. Our office will be closed from 4.30pm Friday 22 December to 8.30am Tuesday 2 January 2024.

We look forward to working with you in 2024.



A message from the **EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER**

When state-of-the-art stealth fighters flew over Archerfield recently, it reminded me of the important role our airport has played in the development of civil and military aviation. Some of Australia's earliest aviation triumphs were launched from Archerfield and the airport played an important role in World War II.

Of course, Archerfield's role has changed as aviation has grown and evolved. We don't see so many military aircraft these days but we continue to play an essential role in emergency services. Our modern infrastructure means Archerfield remains a relevant and dynamic part of Australian aviation, something we should never take for granted.

Aviation will always be Archerfield's main focus but all sustainable businesses recognise the importance of diversification for long-term viability. It's great to see *Transition-Archerfield Logistics Estate* literally taking shape before our eyes and attracting interest from tenants, investors and even the media.

With 2023 drawing to a close, and hopefully taking the spectre of Covid with it, we have every reason to look to 2024 with pride and confidence. With the right mix of businesses, investment, skills and passion, we can achieve so much together.

On behalf of everyone at AAC, thanks for your support this year. I hope Santa delivers precious time with friends and family during the holidays and the chance to recharge for an exciting 2024.

Happy Christmas!

Rod Parry
Executive General Manager



The Archerfield community, including some boys and girls in blue, turned out in numbers for the annual FOD walk on 18 October.

FOD Walk Record

A record 117 sharp-eyed participants lined up on a cloudless October morning for Archerfield's annual FOD walk.

Flight One's Elias Cuevas spotted the marked five-cent coin planted by AAC Operations Manager Don Foy, winning a gourmet prize hamper.

After FOD-walking up an appetite, the sausage sizzle was a big hit. Jaimie Harrison and Corey Scott barbequed 144 sausages and 3kg of onions, serving them up with eight loaves of bread. And that's not to mention the 120 Freddo Frogs distributed by Don to keep the walkers' strength up.

Many thanks to Mark from Concord Coaches for the transport and everyone who got up early to make the morning such a success.



Well spotted, Elias! Don Foy rewards an eagle-eyed Elias Cuevas from Flight One.



Watch Where You Wash

Airport users are reminded that aircraft may be washed only at the dedicated, free wash-down bay at site 032 (north-west of the Terminal Building).

The wash-down bay is fitted with a water treatment device that filters runoff so contaminants don't reach the stormwater system. It is strictly for washing purposes, not for parking, and helps protect Archerfield's precious environment. Call AAC on 3275 8000 for more information.

Transition Estate in the News

Transition-Archerfield Logistics Estate finishes the year in the media spotlight and with 35 per cent of its first stage already committed.



Recently featured in the *Courier Mail* and *The Australian*, Transition Estate will be the new Brisbane home of Allied Express which will move from its current 8,900m² depot in Rocklea to a purpose-built 16,900m² facility with two storeys of office space, all out of reach of Brisbane's notorious floods.

Allied Express Queensland State Manager Troy Finch said the decision to relocate to Transition Estate was a "no-brainer."

"Partnering with Transition means we can confidently ensure our current and future clients will receive the service that our depots across the country currently deliver," he said. "Working with AAC has been fantastic. They have been flexible and collaborative through the whole process and we look forward to building on the relationship over the next 10 years and beyond."

An ASX-listed tenant recently committed to half of a newly completed 9,500m² duplex warehouse, joining inaugural tenant Shellby Power. The remaining 5,000m² unit is still available for lease. A speculative 5,600m² cold store and freezer complex is scheduled for completion in April 2024.

A full-page editorial feature in *The Australian's* commercial property lift-out outlined Transition Estate's unique benefits for businesses seeking to establish or relocate at Archerfield: location, connectivity, security and design.

Transition Estate can accommodate buildings from 2,500m² to 50,000m² GFA and up to 50 metres in height. Designed and purpose-built by AAC, sites are suitable for diverse applications including high bay automation and e-commerce delivery, and can be expanded to cater for future growth. Transition Estate is approved for 24/7 operations with no noise restrictions and boasts 30-metre A and B-double Higher Mass Limits vehicle access.

AAC Director Lachlan Bird said Transition Estate offered sustainable solutions for stressed supply chains as Queensland's population continued to swell. "Transition Estate offers a unique infill opportunity, preserved as part of Archerfield Airport, that is central to a large population to support 'last mile' delivery," he said. "It's only 11kms from the CBD and close to the Brisbane Produce Markets and the traditional industrial areas around Rocklea, without any flood inundation issues. That kind of proximity and connectivity is vanishingly rare in Australia."

AvFuel Delivers ... Fast!

If there's one service all Archerfield aircraft owners and operators are well acquainted with, it's AvFuel Services, the airport's sole aviation fuel distributor, and that responsibility is taken very seriously by Operations Supervisor Dave Shinnars.

"Anyone who flies in and out of Archerfield, if they need fuel, we're the guys," he says.

Satisfying Archerfield's fuel demands keeps Dave's team busy enough on a normal day but that's supercharged during emergencies. With bushfires threatening Gold Coast properties recently, Dave and his refuellers were ready with their tankers when two Fire Bosses needed them. The AvFuel team had the aircraft back in the air in only 20 minutes.

Known for their speed, agility and reliability, Fire Boss amphibious water scooper aircraft are modified AT-802F Air Tractors. Operated by Kennedy Air from their main base at Toogoolawah, they can deliver 50,000 litres of water per hour when operating near a water source, and are expected to be in high demand with a long, hot, dry summer predicted.

"We put more than 1,000 litres of Jet A1 fuel in each aircraft, 500 litres in each wing," Dave says.

Although the cost of living is on everyone's mind, driven partly by petrol prices, Dave says aviation fuel costs have had little noticeable effect on activity, possibly because the aviation fuel price cycle plays out over months rather than days.

"There are the usual peaks and troughs in demand but we're not seeing any downward trends," Dave says. "If we're not out refuelling aircraft, we're back at the fuel farm keeping all our equipment up to scratch and making sure our quality control is bang on the money. We're here to provide a service and we do it with a smile."

It's a job that's only going to get busier with Archerfield's recent upgrade.

"Demand for avgas for the smaller aircraft will probably stay where it is but, because of the new infrastructure AAC has put in, there are likely to be more business jets coming here which means there'll be more demand for jet fuel," Dave says.

"I see only good things for Archerfield. I'm excited for it. I enjoy what's going on around here. When I started, AAC had just finished the eastern apron. Now, we've got the new LifeFlight hangar going up on the western apron. My background is in the construction industry so it's interesting to watch it all happening. With AAC's plans moving forward, it's going to be a positive thing for the airport, that's for sure."



AvFuel Services Operations Supervisor Dave Shinnars and his tankers are well known around Archerfield.

School's Out!

Year six students from Acacia Ridge State School celebrated the end of the school year with a day out at Archerfield Airport on 7 December. About 50 young people enjoyed the end-of-year excursion which formalised a partnership agreement between the school and Archerfield Airport Corporation. The event concluded with a picnic lunch under the trees near gate one as students watched the busy airport's comings and goings.

AAC's Executive General Manager Rod Parry (left) and Acacia Ridge State School Principal Michael Lobb talk all things aviation and Archerfield at a special end-of-year excursion for year six students.



The Way We Were



Those magnificent men and their flying machines: the Royal Queensland Aero Club's Formation Team at Archerfield Airport in 1974. From left: Des Quince, Bevan Fleming, Norm Bothwell, Mick Boyle and Frank Watson.



Tomorrow's Top Guns

Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC) 219 Squadron celebrates 65 years at Archerfield Airport this month with senior cadets launching military careers and a surge in adventure-seeking recruits.

Cadet Under Officer Sienna Head, 17, (above, centre) is off to the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) in Canberra next year, a decision she made in her first weeks as a cadet after a general service training camp at RAAF Base Amberley gave her a taste of military life.

"I was always interested in aviation in general and aerospace in particular," Sienna says. "Cadets gave me a lot of direction and life skills."

Sienna will join the RAAF as a Logistics officer and another 219 Squadron senior cadet is set for a future in the Navy as a helicopter pilot.

AAFC offers a huge variety of experiences and Sienna took

full advantage of the opportunities during her five years in the program. The camps and squadron tours were a highlight, along with glider pilot training at Warwick, and field craft training in survival and navigation skills. Last year, Sienna was the No. 2 Wing AAFC Team Captain for the National Field Craft competition at RAAF Base Edinburgh in South Australia.

"There's so much on offer in Cadets and it's all funded," Sienna says. "There's one low yearly fee for families that covers uniforms and everything. Everyone's on the same level and gets to experience the same things."

Along the way, she made great friends, some of whom are heading to ADFA with her. Although AAFC and the RAAF are separate, Sienna's experience made the ADFA admission process easier.

"It helped me a lot with the assessment," she says. "Some friends who are older than me have gone on to ADFA or joined the military by another path. They helped explain things so I knew what I was talking about in my interview."

But it's not just about military careers. Some of Sienna's AAFC friends will apply the discipline and skills they learned as cadets to university studies in education and architecture.

219 Squadron has around 80 cadets and is recruiting for 2024, with 30 young people already signed up for AAFC's new curriculum. Exams are out and interactive tasks based on cadets' interests – like drone building and airport tours – are in. "It's really 'choose your own adventure'," Sienna explains.

AAFC is open to young people turning 13 up to age 18. 219 Squadron trains at Archerfield Airport on Friday evenings during school term, with additional weekend events. For more information, visit: www.airforcecadets.gov.au/how-to-join/wings/2-wing-aafc-sth-qld/219-squadron-archerfield.

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