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# plane torque

Archerfield

Brisbane's Metropolitan Airport



## Flying for Good

Community aviation has been a major focus for Archerfield Airport since its inception and new services are helping to link regional communities with the city-based medical services they desperately need.

Little Wings, a not-for-profit organisation providing free air and ground transport for seriously ill children and their families, recently expanded into Queensland, establishing an office in Archerfield's Terminal Building. One of Little Wings' five Beechcraft Barons and a ground vehicle will operate from Archerfield, making sure country kids reach their city-based doctors quickly and safely.

Little Wings owns its aircraft fleet – three other Barons are based at Bankstown and one in Cessnock – and trains a team of volunteer pilots.

As well as bringing patients to doctors, Little Wings also flies medical specialists to rural areas to conduct clinics and provide ongoing care, a need made urgent during the Covid-19 pandemic. Working with local hospitals, Aboriginal Medical Centres and primary health clinics, Medical Wings facilitates six to ten missions a week covering a wide range of medical specialties including cardiology, mental health, obstetrics and premature births, oncology, diabetes, end-of-life training and research. Little Wings Chief Executive Officer Clare Pearson said the first clinics from Archerfield would focus on psychiatry and paediatric health in indigenous communities from July.

Visitors to Archerfield might also notice Mark McMurtrie's Community Flights-badged Piper Arrow (pictured above right) parked outside the Terminal Building. A pharmacist with a successful business at River Heads near Hervey Bay,

Mark became increasingly concerned about his clients struggling to access vital medical treatment in the local area. Forced to travel to Brisbane, often for onerous heart, brain and cancer therapies, long hours on the road were taking an emotional and financial toll on them.

So Mark swung into action. With more than 20 years' flying experience and his own aircraft, he launched Community Flights a year ago to make reaching specialist services faster and less stressful. Before he knew it, Mark and more than 40 volunteer pilots and aircraft owners were transporting many of the 440 patients heading to Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast each month for the care big city residents take for granted. As well as closing the healthcare gap for rural and remote Queenslanders, Mark is also helping to close the career gap for newly graduated commercial pilots. His new volunteer pilot program is seeking funds to help pilots build their hours by flying patients in need.

Angel Flight's volunteer pilots and their passengers also regularly transit through Archerfield to attend medical appointments. In September 2021, at the height of the pandemic, Angel Flight even helped reunite a family separated for eight weeks by border closures.

Archerfield Airport is also an important base for Queensland's emergency services aviation and maintenance. Archerfield Airport Corporation is proud to support community aviation services by waiving landing charges and providing other assistance.

**Can you help?** Find out more at: [www.littlewings.org.au](http://www.littlewings.org.au), [www.communityflights.org.au](http://www.communityflights.org.au) and [www.angelflight.org.au](http://www.angelflight.org.au).



## A message from the **GENERAL MANAGER**

We're only half way through 2023 and Archerfield Airport has already marked two important milestones: the successful completion of Project AIM and 25 years since the airport was privatised.

The changes made possible by privatisation ultimately culminated in the transformation of Project AIM. The airport infrastructure we offer the world today is almost unrecognisable compared to what confronted the Bird family in 1998. Back then, the airport was stuck in the 1970s but Gavin and the Archerfield team saw its potential and had the faith to see it through. The road was long and rough in places, but by bringing together the talents and skills of a dedicated team of employees and contractors, and staying focussed on our goal, we've made it to where we are today: ready to embrace a promising future.

It's exciting to watch modern infrastructure go up around us but high-tech runways and hangars alone are not what we are about. It's what we do with our assets that matters and Archerfield has always been conscious of its special place in Brisbane's history and community.

Right from the beginning, Archerfield has been a place where people can dream big and make it happen. Early aviators created a whole new industry here, families are building businesses for future generations, volunteers are helping people in need, can-do corporations are embracing sustainability, and innovators are pushing back the limits of civil aviation.

Archerfield has always been proud to support a good idea. Thanks to everyone who is 'having a go' here and being part of our story.

Sincerely,



**Rod Parry**  
General Manager

## Transition Lifts Off

Construction is gathering pace at Transition–Archerfield Logistics Estate, with structural steel and roofing going up on site 580, an almost 10,000m<sup>2</sup> warehouse and office building with the flexibility to be leased over one or two tenancies. Completion is expected in October. Early site works have started on site 560, a 5,600m<sup>2</sup> state-of-the-art cold-store facility with freezer, chiller and ambient temperature-controlled zones. The development answers growing demand for well-located, high-tech food storage and distribution capability, with completion expected in April 2024. Negotiations are also progressing well for another potential development, site 570, a 16,900m<sup>2</sup> logistics warehouse and office building.

Transition Estate is one of Brisbane's best connected and serviced new industrial areas and the last greenfield estate within 11 kilometres of the CBD. Offering flood-free sites for buildings from 2,500m<sup>2</sup> to 50,000m<sup>2</sup>, with design flexibility to adapt to any operation, Transition Estate is ideal for 'last mile', logistics, cold store, aerospace and manufacturing businesses.

Find out more at: [www.transitionestate.com.au](http://www.transitionestate.com.au)



*Work has started on Transition's site 560.*

## Time Flies!

### Archerfield Celebrates 25 Years Since Privatisation

June 19 marked the 25th anniversary of the privatisation of Archerfield Airport and the start of a new era for a Brisbane icon.

When the Commonwealth Government privatised 22 airports in 1998, Archerfield was among the worst performers. The airport had been in decline since its peak of operations in the 1980s; it had never turned a profit and was a serious drain on taxpayers.

Archerfield Airport Corporation (AAC), a family company with airport links stretching back to the 1950s, took over its management and stabilised and gradually improved its financial position. In a triumph of innovation and dogged persistence, AAC's staff and contractors repaired and maintained Archerfield's dated infrastructure until an interest-free loan from the Queensland Government kick-started Project AIM (Airside Infrastructure Modernisation) in 2020.

Twenty-five years after privatisation, Archerfield is transformed, boasting some of the best general aviation infrastructure in Australia, after fast-tracking \$20 million worth of Project AIM works during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Today, Archerfield is Queensland's premier GA airport, an important base and maintenance facility for emergency aviation, a centre for flight training and aeronautical services, and a busy business hub. AAC's recently updated Masterplan ensures continued investment and development suits the needs of an evolving aviation sector and the wider community, with the focus firmly fixed on safety and sustainability.

Archerfield proudly enters its tenth decade ready to reprise its role at the forefront of aviation, catering for next-generation corporate jets, facilitating Advanced Air Mobility, and capitalising on opportunities arising from Brisbane's 2032 Olympic Games.



## Keeping Archerfield Caffeinated

Avgas isn't the only fuel that keeps aviation going – you need caffeine too, so there was an almost audible sigh of relief when news broke that Archerfield's café, closed since the end of 2022, was reopening with new operators and a new name.



The Run-Up Bay Café is the dream of Madeline and Luke Caban (pictured) who bring skills and passion for hospitality and aviation together in one unique location. Madeline has a background in hospitality and Luke trained as a pilot with Basair and works as an instructor with Flight Standards at Archerfield.

"I missed being able to grab a coffee while the café was closed and Maddy always wanted to own her own café, so it was the perfect storm for us," Luke says.

Those aviation links have shaped the café, as Madeline explains: "We've had a close connection to the aviation community here from Luke's training and we really like the pilot group on Facebook. We pitched the café name to them, they voted on it and we stuck with it. It's great having that springboard with the aviation community. We can respond to requests and test ideas."

When Elite's helicopter pilots pointed out to Madeline that her menu had a lot of airplane references and not enough of the rotary-wing variety, she quickly put it right.

"I said we'd put a sandwich in the cabinet if they could name it and they came up with Chopper Chicken. It's now our best-selling sandwich," she said.

The Run-Up Bay Café provides a convenient, green oasis to give local workers a break. And, despite being on the airport, the neighbours are surprisingly quiet.

"I was really surprised at how our girls, aged six and four, have taken to the God's Acre cemetery," Madeline says. "They like reading the names on the headstones and they are obsessed with the time capsule buried there."

But the Cabans have their sights set firmly on the future, launching an online ordering system to streamline lunch breaks. Orders can be placed up to seven days ahead so food is ready when it's needed, with little time wasted in queues.

While you're there, you might see some unusual characters at the counter. They are the Cabans' gnomes who love to visit mystery locations. Archerfield's aviators are invited to take one for a flight, photograph it with a recognisable landmark and tag the café on Instagram. The best travelled gnome will win his travel buddy free coffee for a month. Last month's winner took Gnome Steve to Stanthorpe and there's talk of a lucky gnome heading off overseas.

Madeline's unflappable smile makes running a café look easy but starting a business amid the pandemic's economic fallout has had its complications.

"It's not the perfect time to start a business but there's no perfect time," she said. "This is something we've always wanted to do and the nice thing about Archerfield is that we feel like we have friends here, it feels like home."

The Run-Up Bay Café is open Monday to Friday, 7.00am to 2.30pm. **Follow them on Instagram: @runupbaycafe.**

## The Way We Were



**Ocean's Fifteen?** No, this is not the cast of a new retro production of the famous movie franchise. This very real group of dapper movers and shakers – and one very cute photo bomber! – were taking care of business at Archerfield in 1968.

### Do you have a photo of the way we were at Archerfield?

Archerfield Airport has been an exciting place to work, live and play for 90+ years and has many stories to tell. We'd love to see your pictures and share your memories in *Plane Torque*. Email them to [TraceyAWood@bigpond.com](mailto:TraceyAWood@bigpond.com).

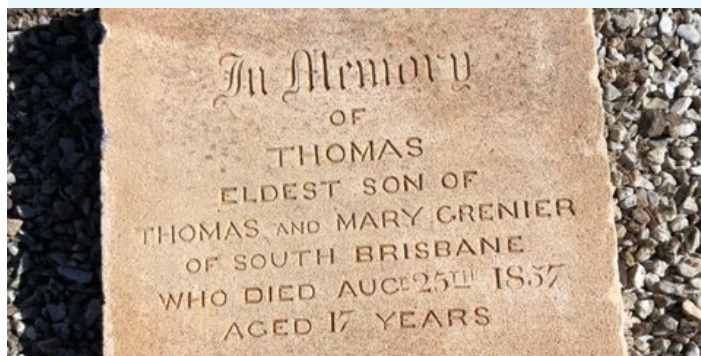
## History Unearthed

It's well known that Archerfield's God's Acre Cemetery – believed to be Brisbane's second oldest – was established by the pioneering Grenier family on their 640 acre property when their 16-year-old son Volney died in 1859. It was subsequently used by other families in the area to lay their loved ones to rest, and preserved within the airport's grounds when the government established Archerfield Aerodrome in 1931.

What's less well known is that Thomas and Mary Grenier had lost another son, their eldest boy, Thomas Junior, two years before Volney's untimely death. Young Thomas was only 17 when he passed away on 25 August 1857. He was buried in the Anglican Church Brisbane North Burial Ground, where Suncorp Stadium now stands. In the 1930s, many old headstones were removed from the site and dumped in a gully at Toowong Cemetery. A recent archaeological dig uncovered Thomas Grenier's headstone from a depth of 10 metres.

The rediscovery of Thomas's remarkably well preserved headstone adds a new frisson of excitement to Archerfield's annual Remembrance Day celebrations on 25 June. It's a tangible and very poignant reminder of the tough lives and personal struggles many settler families endured as they built the city we enjoy today.

*Coming home: Thomas Grenier's headstone will be placed with those of his family in God's Acre Cemetery.*



## Queensland's Finest Launch Careers at Archerfield

Since 1989, a very special breed of quiet achievers have launched their policing careers at Archerfield Airport. Tough, highly trained and uncomplaining, they can bring the nastiest offenders to heel but they also know how to turn on the charm.

They are Queensland Police Dogs who start their training at Archerfield Airport from only ten weeks of age.

Why Archerfield? Because the airport's wide-open spaces and limited public access make it perfect for teaching the dogs to follow a scent.

"We do a lot of work with our really young dogs at Archerfield," Queensland Police Dog Instructor Sergeant Dean Hansen explains. "All their learning, their 'imprinting', is done here because we can pretty much guarantee no-one is going to contaminate our tracks."

Sergeant Hansen's team mows strips in Archerfield's grassy paddocks every two weeks to form a giant chessboard pattern, then walk over it to create a scent trail.

"We teach the dogs that if they want to fill their bellies with food rewards, they have to follow the footsteps on the chessboard," he said. "Over a few months, they learn that if they follow the footsteps, they'll find their jackpot."

The puppies, mostly German Shepherds, train at Archerfield until about 12 months of age, along with their handlers.

"They have to reach a certain standard to be made operational police dogs," Sergeant Hansen said. "Some dogs have more natural talent than others and, given their genetics, they track in different ways. We try to get every dog tracking in a way that we can easily read the dog and understand its body language when we don't know where the track is."

Almost all the puppies are bred from serving Police Dogs and are fostered by young Police Officers who want to be specialist dog handlers. They begin their working careers at 18 to 24 months of age and work for about seven years before they retire. Around 25 dogs pass through Archerfield each year, going on to further training and postings all over the state.



### Cold War Drama

In 1962, a Handley Page Victor bomber took off with six crew from Edinburgh Field, South Australia, en route to Woomera Rocket Range to drop a Blue Steel standoff missile. While flying over Kangaroo Island, the aircraft entered uncontrolled flight and fell, spinning, 30,000 feet. The deployment of the brake parachute averted disaster but what really happened? Darryl Purdom will shed light on this incident at the next meeting of the Aviation Historical Society of Australia (Qld) Inc. in Archerfield's Terminal Building at 7.00pm, Friday 30 June 2023. **Don't miss it!**

*Above: What happened to the Handley Page Victor XL 161 over Kangaroo Island in 1962?*

## For Lease

### Ground Floor Office Space in the Terminal Building – 028A

Here's your chance to work from Archerfield's historic, Art Deco-style Terminal Building! This 131m<sup>2</sup> partitioned and air-conditioned space offers various offices, a reception area, kitchen and cupboard space.

### Site 030 Demountable Office

This 60m<sup>2</sup> air-conditioned demountable office on Grenier Drive opposite the airport's popular Run-Up Bay Café has a small kitchenette and bathroom amenities.

### Site 231 Aeroport

This concrete-floored, steel-framed, Colorbond aeroport off Qantas Avenue offers open-ended airside access. It measures 13m x 12m with a 4m entrance.

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