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plane torque

Archerfield

Brisbane's Metropolitan Airport



New Complex for LifeFlight Heroes

LifeFlight's new 5,000m² maintenance and administration facility, to be built on Wirraway Avenue, will be the largest hangar complex ever constructed at Archerfield, cementing the airport's important place in southeast Queensland's emergency aviation network, and as a strategic aviation maintenance base.

The facility will service and maintain LifeFlight Australia's growing fleet of rotary-wing aircraft including AW139, BK117 and B412 helicopters. It will provide high-tech hangarage for four helicopters at a time, equipped with the latest maintenance equipment and technology, as well as office space.

AAC will construct the \$20 million complex adjacent to the airport's recently rebuilt runway. Construction is slated to begin in July with completion expected in early 2024.

AAC General Manager Rod Parry said LifeFlight's new facility marked another milestone in Archerfield's 92-year evolution as a major locus of sustainable emergency, general and corporate aviation.

"As southeast Queensland continues to grow, Archerfield's role in servicing aeromedical and emergency services and general aviation will only become more important," he said.

LifeFlight Group Head of Aviation Capability-Commercial Michael Richmond said the new facility would help future-proof the aeromedical service's maintenance base. It will double LifeFlight's capacity for base maintenance activities.

"The current base maintenance facility at Archerfield has been a fantastic home for many years but increasing demand for our aeromedical services means we have outgrown it," he said.

"The new purpose-built facility will ensure we have a site large enough to accommodate the growth of our LifeFlight fleet and, subsequently, the work of our skilled engineers who perform significant maintenance activities daily, including fleet management tasks and major aircraft inspections."

The new Archerfield facility will be the epicentre of LifeFlight's engineering operations, working with onsite engineers strategically situated throughout Queensland. Some five hours of meticulous maintenance is required for every hour flown. LifeFlight recently received CASA Part 145 approval.

Above: LifeFlight's new hangar complex at Archerfield will keep Queensland's fleet rescue-ready.



A message from the **GENERAL MANAGER**

There were times we thought we'd never get here but Project AIM is finally complete, transforming Archerfield's airside infrastructure and positioning the airport for an exciting and more sustainable future.

We've had everything thrown at us over the last few years – a pandemic, lockdowns, economic upheavals, record rainfall – but together we've pulled through, not only keeping the airport operating and building for the future, but achieving awards along the way.

While our new infrastructure is certainly very exciting, it's important to remember why we needed such a huge investment. Archerfield Airport serves a vital community purpose. For more than 90 years, our airport has serviced southeast Queensland's aviation needs and it has had to adapt as demand and technology have changed.

One of Archerfield's most important community roles is facilitating emergency aeromedical operations and it is very satisfying to welcome LifeFlight's renewed commitment. LifeFlight's new maintenance and administration facility – the largest hangar complex ever constructed here – is just one of a number of exciting new projects planned for the airport.

Archerfield offers an unparalleled breadth and depth of aviation opportunities, from state-of-the-art emergency services, to world-class pilot training, to efficient new directions for general aviation. It might be a cliché, but the sky really is the limit for Archerfield and I'm honoured to be a part of it.

Once again, thank you all for your support over these transformative years. Together, we have much to look forward to.

Warm regards,



Rod Parry
General Manager

That's a Wrap!

The biggest infrastructure overhaul in Archerfield's history is finally complete with Stage 3 of Project AIM (Airside Infrastructure Modernisation) delivering a reconstructed Taxiway Hotel and a new, floodlit Eastern Apron.

Launched in 2020, Stage 1 of Project AIM extended and rebuilt Archerfield's main runway 28R/10L, incorporating modern safety features including Runway End Safety Areas, Precision Approach Path Indicators and Runway Threshold Identification Lights; and installed a new ground lighting system.

The rejuvenation continued with Project AIM Stage 2 in late 2021-2022 providing a fully reconstructed, stronger 1,200m Taxiway Bravo, widened to Code B standard, that complements the new runway and can cater for Challenger 604 aircraft.

The new 19,000m² Eastern Apron completes the \$22 million Airport Infrastructure Modernisation Project and has been upgraded to accommodate Code A, B and C aircraft. Taxiway Hotel is now rated to Code C standard.

AAC General Manager Rod Parry said Project AIM was the biggest transformation in Archerfield's history, fast-forwarding it from the 1970s to the 21st century.

"Project AIM has already sparked a new wave of investment at Archerfield that will diversify the airport's operations and ensure it remains a vital part of Brisbane's future," he said.

"But it hasn't been without its challenges. Project AIM was launched just before the Covid-19 pandemic hit, with all its associated economic disruptions, and work continued during some of the worst weather Brisbane has ever experienced, all while the airport maintained 24/7 operations.

"I have never been more proud of a team than I have of everyone involved in Project AIM. What we see airside at Archerfield today is a credit not only to the staff and contractors involved but also to the airport users, operators and tenants who worked with us to make it happen."



The opening of the new Eastern Apron completes Archerfield's transformative Project AIM.

Lord Mayor's Visit

Brisbane's Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner and Councillor Fiona Cunningham, Civic Cabinet Chair for Finance and City Governance, popped into Archerfield Airport last month for an update on Project AIM.

AAC General Manager Rod Parry and Directors Duncan and Lachlan Bird briefed Lord Mayor Schrinner and Councillor Cunningham on the airport's Preliminary Draft Master Plan and showed them around the new Eastern Apron and other Project AIM infrastructure. They also visited Flight One's new Cirrus simulator, recently arrived from France.

The Lord Mayor, a lifelong aviation enthusiast, discussed opportunities arising from Brisbane's 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and expressed his appreciation for Brisbane's business community.

Everything for Aviators

When Don Ramirez bought The Aviator Store late last year, it felt a bit like coming home. Twenty-two years ago he completed his commercial pilot training at Archerfield and he has fond memories of the airport.



Don's flying career took him to Papua New Guinea where he nearly died of malaria, and he eventually joined Qantas where he worked in a variety of operational roles for 16 years. Then came Covid-19.

"Because of the pandemic, I was made redundant," Don recalls, "but then I met Ian, the previous owner of the store, and I got this opportunity."

He took over the store in December, moved it to its current handy location on Qantas Avenue, and has been busy ever since making The Aviator Store a one-stop-shop for students and pilots.

"I believe that, in doing business, you have to get the basics right first," he said. "When students come in, I don't want them to walk away frustrated because we didn't have what they need. We have 95 per cent of the essentials – maps, textbooks, aviation theory books – covered. That's really important because if students don't have the right maps for their exams, they will miss a point or two. We aim to offer the best possible service."

For Don, The Aviator Store's competitive advantage is convenience, being located at the airport and surrounded by flight schools. Support from the Archerfield community has been strong, with a steady stream of budding pilots coming through the door and businesses opening accounts.

While most of Don's customers shop instore, he has invested in a comprehensive new website and marketing to boost the 20 per cent of sales that are currently conducted online.

As well as aviation essentials like maps, books, charts, headsets and uniforms, there is plenty in The Aviator Store for anyone interested in flying. Don's wide range of T-shirts, coffee mugs, keyrings and Swiss Army products make great gifts for sky-bound family and friends.

And if it's some aviator chic you're looking for, Don has classic sunglasses and watches to give a Top Gun edge to any look.

Born and raised in The Philippines, Don's interest in aviation came from his father who was fascinated by aircraft.

"No-one in my family is a pilot," he explains, "but Dad always encouraged me to read books about the history of airplanes, always reminding me to do well at school. As I grew up, I decided I wanted to fly and I was blessed with very supportive parents. I finished my commercial pilot's licence in The Philippines in 2000 and was going to apply to our local airline, Philippine Airlines, but I needed 800,000 pesos, the equivalent of \$28,000, for my endorsement for their aircraft."

Instead, Don's father persuaded him to finish his training in Australia and insisted on Brisbane which, he told Don, had the best weather. Don completed his education with Flight Training Australia.

Don's association with the industry reaches over 20 years and he knows there is a need to supply students with the equipment they need to achieve their goals.

"My 95 per cent now will be 100 per cent in the future," he says. "Get better every day and strive for greatness."

The Way We Were



Peter Dunn OAM recently unearthed this photo of the Terminal Building during WWII, sporting camouflage paint and surrounded by a splinter-proof wall to protect the ground floor from flying shrapnel in the event of enemy bombing.

Archerfield was the star of a recent local history documentary by filmmaker Robert Braiden. Find his program at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6kiQELHWvY>.

And watch out for an upcoming episode of ABC Radio National's podcast, The History Listen, which will revisit the 1937 Stinson tragedy. Look for it at <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/the-history-listen>.

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.



The Future Cleared for Landing at Archerfield

The future touched down on Archerfield's new runway in February with the arrival of a Falcon 7X.

Dassault Aviation's Falcon 7X is one of the world's most popular and efficient corporate jets. Powered by three PW307A engines, it is up to 30 per cent more fuel efficient than other business jets.

Corporate jets like the Falcon 7X are nimble enough to use secondary airports like Archerfield, taking pressure off RPT airports. They can travel up to 12 hours non-stop and offer outstanding flexibility to users, providing direct access to a wider range of destinations.

Archerfield's longer, stronger runway 28R/10L was rebuilt as part of Project AIM and designed with an eye on the needs of next-gen aircraft like the Falcon 7X that provide faster, quieter, more efficient aviation alternatives.

At top: The Falcon 7X spotlights aviation's future at Archerfield.



A Little More Conversation

Fatigue and burn out are important mental health issues but even in the busy, pressured world of airport operations, the key to workplace well-being can be as simple as a friendly chat.

To drive that message, AAC Operations Manager Don Foy recently organised bright new high-vis shirts for his team, reminding everyone to take the opportunity to talk. The eye-catching shirts proudly declare THIS IS A CONVERSATION STARTER.

As one of AAC's longest serving employees, Don knows how important good mental health is to work/life balance and career sustainability.

"AAC values its workforce and that is reflected in people like me who have been here a long time," he said.

"I hope the ground crew wear these shirts with pride and use them to initiate the conversations we all need to have from time to time. It's important to reach out – to a colleague, a friend, a family member – and for workmates to have each other's backs when mental health becomes an issue.

"Never be afraid to start the conversation."

Above: Getting the message across: AAC's ground crew are unmissable in their new shirts.

Emergency Exercise Spark

Archerfield Airport recently tested its emergency response procedures with Emergency Exercise Spark, a mock scenario involving a fire and explosion on the tarmac as an Augusta Westland 139 helicopter operated by a community ambulance service conducted a hot refuel. In the hypothetical situation, air crew and ground personnel were injured, some seriously, and an adjacent building was damaged.

The simulation was attended by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Police Service and Airservices Australia, with the helicopter provided by QGAir.

The exercise rehearsed Archerfield's call-out procedures, first-responder actions, communication, triage and evacuation procedures and coordination between emergency services.

For Lease

Café/Takeaway in Central Location on Airport

Here's an outstanding opportunity for an experienced café operator to take advantage of established goodwill. This 120m² dine-in or takeaway space includes fit-out, has customer parking and attracts dining and catering trade from surrounding Archerfield businesses as well as airport tenants and users.

Building 009 – Student Accommodation and Training Complex, Grenier Drive

This modern, state-of-the-art complex features 40 bedrooms (some ensuited), communal dining and recreational facilities, breakout study areas, a commercial kitchen, laundry and observation deck.

Site 676 – Large Helicopter Hangar + Hardstand, Beaufighter Avenue

This 12,312m² site comprises a 1,800m² tilt panel building with 8m height hangar/warehouse, 50m² of office space including kitchenette and amenities, with room for expansion; and a 1,750m² hangar/warehouse with two helicopter landing pads, plus parking space in the facility. It has a 4,000m² drive-around hardstand with two driveways, and features container height electric roller doors, hangar openings large enough for AW139 aircraft, an awning area of 400m² and 20+ car parks. Surrounded by 1,513m² of gardens, this property is flood-free. Outgoings paid by tenant.

Ground Floor Office Space in Terminal Building

This 131m² partitioned and air-conditioned space offers various offices and a reception area. It has its own kitchen and cupboard space.

Anywhere Festival

The Terminal Building will become a contemporary dance space when the Anywhere Festival comes to Archerfield in May. The festival presents unique cultural experiences in unlikely places – anywhere but a theatre! – so artists can bring their work to audiences without the financial burdens of traditional staging. The Connect Dance Ensemble will present PPL PWR, an immersive dance piece about how we communicate, on 18 and 19 May 2023. Tickets and more information are available at www.anywhere.is.

FIRE ANTS

Fire ants continue to be a problem at Archerfield. These copper-coloured invaders can cause painful bites with prolonged itching and are found in grass, along roadsides and in open areas. If you find a nest, do not touch it but notify Biosecurity Queensland immediately on 13 25 23. The National Fire Ant Eradication Program website has more information: www.fireants.org.au.

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