

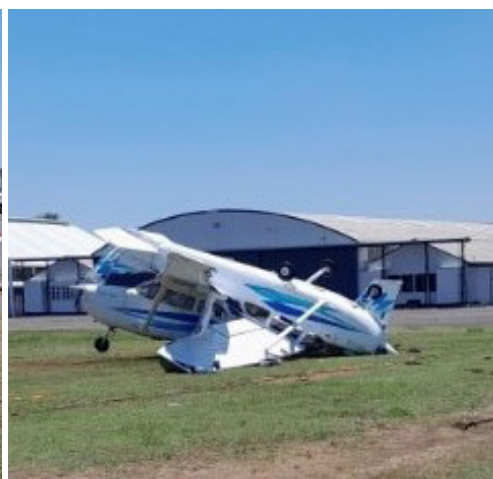
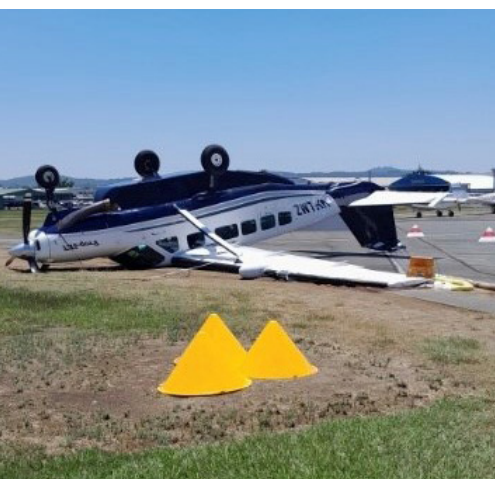


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# plane torque

**Archerfield**

Brisbane's Metropolitan Airport



## Short, Sharp, Record-Breaking: Freak Storm Lashes Archerfield

2023 had a sting in its tail for Archerfield with a record-breaking wind gust flipping aircraft and damaging hangars during a storm on December 15.

The unprecedented SSW wind gust of 169kph, recorded at 4.31pm, was worse than winds recorded during Cyclone Jasper and shattered the previous Archerfield record of 143kph in December 1946. It was the highest wind speed the Archerfield equipment could measure, maxing out the anemometer for an agonising six minutes - long enough to damage nine planes, buckle hangars and create plenty of mess for Archerfield's ground crew, but no airport infrastructure was damaged.

Bureau of Meteorology Senior Forecaster Shane Kennedy told ABC News that winds over 125kph were considered destructive and Archerfield's experience was at the lower end of a category three cyclone. "It's also within the range of the second-lowest tornado," he added.

Weatherwatch described the storm as a rare "straight line wind event" and compared it to tornado-like winds recorded in the destructive storm that smashed The Gap in Brisbane's northwest in November 2008. Locals still call that storm the 'Gapocalypse'.

Fortunately for Archerfield, the December 15 storm passed quickly but the straight line wind phenomenon revisited southeast Queensland on a wider scale and over a longer duration on Christmas night when large parts of Mount Tambourine and the Gold Coast hinterland were devastated.

## Transition's New 'Star'

The Star Entertainment Group has signed a five-year lease on a 4,500m<sup>2</sup> commercial storage facility at *Transition-Archerfield Logistics Estate* to house more than 2,500 pallets of inventory, ranging from bedding, furniture and food and beverage equipment, to building materials and heritage-listed items from Treasury Brisbane.

Star's Senior Manager Supply Chain Shaun Micallef said the *Transition Estate* warehouse would help The Star expand its local logistics operations and Brisbane footprint.

Star joins inaugural tenant Shellby Power and Allied Express at *Transition Estate*, the last premium, large-scale industrial infill sites within 11 kilometres of Brisbane's CBD. The Star warehouse comprises half of a recently completed 9,500m<sup>2</sup> duplex with the remaining 5,000m<sup>2</sup> still available for lease. An adjacent 5,600m<sup>2</sup> cold store and freezer complex is also nearing completion.

*Transition Estate* offers 23 hectares of flood-free sites with unrivalled road, rail and air links, making it ideal for 'last mile' logistics, cold store, aerospace and manufacturing businesses.

For more information visit [www.transitionestate.com.au](http://www.transitionestate.com.au)



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

With 2024 well under way, everyone seems busy again at Archerfield. Busyness is usually a good sign – it's certainly better than the alternative! – and it reminds us that aviation has always been powered by people with good ideas and the courage to put them into action.

Whether it was developing new transport options for people and goods, or investing in the skills and services that keep planes flying, aviation has provided sustainable careers, livelihoods and investment opportunities for countless individuals, families and enterprises.

We're proud at Archerfield to be home to a diverse range of companies. Some have been here for generations; some are starting from scratch. They all contribute to our vibrant community. The improvements we've made at Archerfield and the development of *Transition Estate* maintain the momentum of innovation and growth that characterised aviation from its earliest days.

Thank you all for playing your part and here's to another successful year in the air and on the ground at Archerfield.

Sincerely,



**Rod Parry**  
Executive General Manager

## **For Lease**

**Aeroport 227** – This 180m<sup>2</sup> aeroport at the northern end of the airport measures 14m (W) x 10m (L) x 3m (H – 4m to apex). It features steel-cladded walls, fence security gates and a hardstand with central concrete and gravelled sides.

**Aeroport 228** – Situated at Archerfield's northern end, this 173m<sup>2</sup> aeroport measures 12m x 14m x 3.8m (4.6m height at ridge). It has a Gavle sheet portal frame that is metal-sheeted, a concrete slab and no doors.



*Making themselves at home: Uplift Logistics CEO Jason Barnes (left) and COO Cameron Brown in their new office in Archerfield's Terminal Building.*

## **Uplifting Prospects**

A software system that effortlessly links charter operators and users – like many good ideas, it seems obvious in retrospect but until Jason Barnes and Cameron Brown developed Uplift, the sector relied on a tedious manual process of spreadsheets, emails and phone calls.

Uplift's secure, automated platform makes booking and using charter services as easy as accessing commercial flights, bringing to the industry the streamlined systems that major airlines have used for years.

Work on Uplift began in 2018 and was turbocharged by a certain virus. "Covid really elevated the business because suddenly there were no commercial flights," Cameron says. "The only way some companies could keep going operationally was with charters."

The result is a full reservation and travel management system. As well as a booking platform that gives customers visibility over flight manifests and reservations, Uplift facilitates check-ins, generates itineraries, prints boarding passes and bag tags, calculates aircraft weight balances, checks employee travel approvals, and provides valuable usage feedback. It's the only system that simultaneously shows operators and users real-time information; and, unlike dealing with a charter provider, it's accessible 24/7.

The resources sector was quick to see the benefits, FIFA World Cup organisers used Uplift last year, and the Royal Flying Doctor Service utilises it to schedule clinic runs in rural areas. Uplift can also help improve efficiency in the government sector, and has applications for conferences, events and sporting groups: "anything that's not commercial airline travel but needs coordination," Jason says.

Jason and Cameron are fielding enquiries from international private jet operators impressed by Uplift's ability to capture passport and visa information. Helicopter operators are showing interest and Uplift can also coordinate ground travel and camp accommodation. Jason and Cameron enjoy working with clients to adapt Uplift to meet their unique business needs.

Uplift Logistics recently moved into Archerfield's historic Terminal Building. Office decoration is taking second place to business development but Jason has found the perfect home for a photograph of his grandfather and four-year-old father visiting the airport in 1938. Cameron has his own piece of Archerfield heritage, having recovered an old propeller that will eventually make interesting wall art at Uplift HQ.

"Archerfield is a great location and it suits our product," Jason says. "People love coming out here, it's got great history."



## Superior Aviation Returns to Archerfield

A happy confluence of events brought Superior Aviation back to Archerfield Airport in late 2022, just in time to celebrate 30 years in business.

Established in 1993 as Superior Air Parts, distributors of the American brand of engine parts, the business navigated through market turbulence, adding new brands and diversifying until it had outgrown its original warehouse on Lores Bonney Drive.

"There was a very large market shift in the mid-2010s," Managing Director Peter English explains. "Aviall/Boeing massively changed the way they did business, then Hawker-Pacific closed its parts business in 2019. That was good for our business. For the first 15 years, we just supplied engine parts, then we decided to get new distributorships and start building. When we got the Lycoming distributorship in 2019, we couldn't fit all the parts in the Lores Bonney warehouse. We needed to scale up."

The company moved to Coopers Plains but was running out of space again within four years. Then came the February 2022 floods: Superior Aviation wasn't exactly inundated but it was enough to make Peter start looking at other options. The timing couldn't have been better as the former Boeing warehouse on Ditchmen Avenue had become available.

"AAC was very patient with us because we took a long time to make a decision," Peter says. "We were able to show the benefit of having a parts distributor on the airfield. There aren't many airfields that have a warehouse like this."

Superior Aviation is a one-stop-shop for aviation maintenance. As well as Superior Air Parts, it stocks Lycoming, Continental, McFarlane, Tempest, Hartzell, Concorde, Michelin and



*Glad to be back: Peter English in Superior Aviation's spacious new warehouse at Archerfield.*

other major brands. For Archerfield's flight maintenance operators, that proximity is priceless.

"They can pick up their part across the road - most people have to wait overnight," Peter says. "That's a value-add for Archerfield in attracting other businesses. Having lots of services can help attract jets and turbines and we can stock those parts too. We are happy for anyone to walk in off the street, say hello and buy parts over the counter. We love being part of the aviation community."

Peter enjoys being back at Archerfield and showing suppliers around. He sends his sales staff to work in his customers' businesses for a week to give them in-depth knowledge of what they need.

"Most people who work in aviation tend to stick around and it's important to understand why they do it and the passion they have," he says. "It's a fascinating industry."

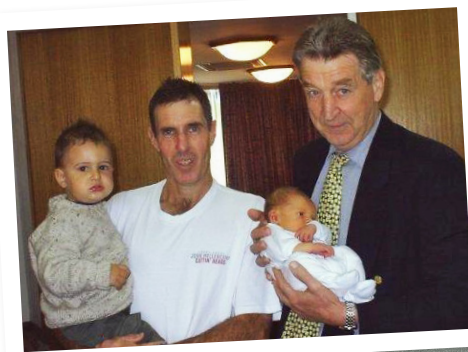
## Meet the New Foys

The Foy family has an unusual Christmas morning tradition. Before young Tim and Chris, sons of Archerfield Airport's long-time Operations Manager Don Foy, could open their presents, they accompanied Dad on his daily airport inspection. Only once Don was satisfied everything was right at the airport could the boys head home and see what Santa had brought. They wouldn't have it any other way.

Tim and Chris practically grew up on Archerfield Airport and were lucky to have an extra set of grandparents in Gavin and Karen Bird. They have worked in many parts of airport operations from primary school age and always had plenty of stories to impress their envious schoolmates.

Chris enjoyed watching the evolution of aviation at Archerfield: "There's been massive change. It used to be just small aircraft but there are much bigger aircraft and jets now. It's growing every single day and there's always something new to experience."

Tim was thrilled to be around such a "big project": "I remember coming to work as a kid, there was always something so exciting about it, something not many people get to experience. One thing I'll always appreciate was the view of the city, the fresh mornings, the sunsets and sunrises - they're amazing from here."



Tim and Chris have been on the ground staff payroll for a few years already and are now working with AvFuel while pursuing tertiary studies. Tim, 21, is studying Chiropractic, and Chris, 19, recently commenced studies in Civil Engineering.

With Don celebrating 35 years at Archerfield in January, he couldn't be prouder to have a second generation of Foys contributing to the airport he calls "the Commonwealth's finest."

*Growing up at Archerfield. Above left, AAC Operations Manager Don Foy holds two-year-old Tim while Gavin Bird gets acquainted with newborn Chris in 2004. Above right: From left: Tim, Don and Chris Foy at work at Archerfield today.*

## To the Bush and Back ... Fast!

Angel Flight Australia has launched Rural Medi-Flights to help medical professionals get where they're needed - and back home - much faster. The inaugural flight, on Angel Flight's new Cessna 402C 'Kayla', recently saved speech pathologist Rebecca Scanlan hours of arduous travel from Cunnamulla to Brisbane. While Angel Flight saw a 30 per cent increase in demand for patient flights in 2021-22, requests to transport health professionals have soared by 80 per cent. 'Kayla' is the first of a future fleet of lower-cost aircraft Angel Flight will use to transport health workers and is named in honour of a young patient the charity transported almost 400 times.

For more information, visit [www.angelflight.org.au](http://www.angelflight.org.au)



Angel Flight pilot Damon Pagoni gets speech pathologist Rebecca Scanlan home fast.

## The Way We Were

### 50 Years Since the 1974 Flood

January, 1974 – it's a hot, humid summer and Brisbane is about to experience its worst Australia Day long weekend ever.

Tropical Cyclone Wanda crossed the coast near Maryborough on the 24th. As a weak system, Wanda's winds didn't cause much fuss, but from Friday 25 January, she dumped 500 to 900mm of rain across southeast Queensland catchments already sodden from a wet spring/summer. More than 640mm fell in Brisbane over 36 hours. By Sunday, large parts of Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan and the Gold Coast were going under, with Rocklea the hardest hit suburb. It would be the region's worst flood since 1893. Sixteen lives were lost, 300 people were injured, tens of thousands of homes and properties were destroyed or damaged, and the recovery bill reached \$980 million – a lot of money in 1974! The flood became one of Brisbane's defining events, leaving behind a huge recovery and reconstruction challenge and two important legacies: Wivenhoe Dam and the State Emergency Service.

**Can you help?** Do you have any photos of the 1974 floods at Archerfield that you could share with AAC for archival purposes? If so, please email Tracey Wood at [comms@archerfieldairport.com.au](mailto:comms@archerfieldairport.com.au).



Rising anxiety: Archerfield Airport threatened by Brisbane's notorious 1974 floods before the construction of Wivenhoe Dam.

## Big Changes to Fire Ant Program



NATIONAL  
**Fire Ant Eradication**  
PROGRAM

The National Fire Ant Eradication Program was significantly updated in December and now encompasses a self-treatment zone or pre-eradication area that includes Archerfield Airport. In this designated zone, property owners and tenants are required to report fire ant sightings, provide access to fire ant teams if required, treat fire ants on their property, and implement preventive measures to mitigate their spread.

For information about reporting fire ants, visit <https://ants.daf.qld.gov.au/table-of-contents/report-fire-ants/>

For information about treating fire ants, visit <https://www.fireants.org.au/treat/residential-landowner-or-tenant/purchase-and-use-fire-ant-bait>

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