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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Remembrance Day at God's Acre Cemetery**

**When: From 10am, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**Where: God's Acre, Main Entrance to Archerfield Airport, Beatty Rd, Archerfield**

The General Manager of Archerfield Airport, Heather Mattes, will be guest speaker at a Remembrance Day at God's Acre Cemetery on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Ms Mattes will speak about the airport Master Plan which was developed to ensure the orderly development of the airport to meet the needs of the community well into the future. The plan includes a commitment to preserve God's Acre, which is located at the airport entrance on prime land. God's Acre is believed to be Brisbane's oldest surviving cemetery.

God's Acre was established when Thomas and Mary Grenier buried their 16 year old son Volney on their property on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1859 in what was then NSW. Just over six weeks later, Governor Bowen read the Proclamation declaring Queensland a separate State. The Grenier family migrated from Brighton in England in 1838, and after six years in New Zealand came to Brisbane in 1845. The family became large landholders.

In the following years many other locals were buried near Volney including his 38 year old sister Eliza in 1875. When Thomas Grenier died in 1877, his will left the plot of land to be used as a district cemetery, and it became officially known as the Coopers Plains Cemetery which closed in 1931. In 2008 and 2009, Dr. Jon Prangnell and a team from the University of Queensland used a probing technique to identify a large number of unmarked graves in the cemetery which are now marked with brass plates. This and other research show that some 240 people are buried in God's Acre, representing 83 pioneering families.

Andrew Derbyshire from Brisbane Living History will also speak at the Remembrance Day, which will include a tour of the cemetery and displays. Another presentation will highlight the background to the separation of Queensland from NSW.

*Media representatives are invited to attend this event. Presentations will begin at 11am.*

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES: 0407 036 791**

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