



Archerfield Airport Corporation

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MEDIA RELEASE / ADVISORY NOTE (12/4/19)

UPDATE: Commemorative landing of Gypsy Moth this Sunday

Tim Barron, the grandson of aviator Captain Charles Kennedy Scott, is flying from the UK to participate in a commemorative flight into Archerfield Airport this Sunday (April 14 *weather permitting).

Mr Barron will be a passenger aboard the newly restored de Havilland Gypsy Moth, VH-UQH, flown by his grandfather 88 years ago to set an England to Australia solo flight record and become the first aircraft to land at Archerfield Airport on its opening day in April 1931.

Sunday's flight into Archerfield Airport commemorates these historic events, and will be the aircraft's first major flight since the 1950s. Interested media are invited to attend:

Date: Sunday April 14, 2019

Aircraft arrival time: 2pm (Media may attend from 1.45pm)

Place: Airside presentation adjacent to Terminal Building, Archerfield Airport, Betty Road, Archerfield

BACKGROUND: The aircraft was piloted by Captain Charles Kennedy Scott in 1931 to set a world flight record from London to Darwin of 9 days, 4 hours and 11 minutes. This broke an earlier record set by Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith, by 19 hours. Scott then flew to Camooweal and Longreach, before heading to Brisbane to land the first aircraft at the brand new city airport at Archerfield.

English-born Captain Scott left the RAF in 1926 to emigrate to Australia. He was one of the original pilots for QANTAS. Today, his aircraft is co-owned by Ed Field of the Sunshine Coast and Peter Gartshore of Brisbane, and hangared at Caboolture Airport.

Ed found VH-UQH and two log books among a shed full of Tiger Moth parts in the outback WA town of Trayning. The aircraft was damaged in a cyclone in 1953 and considered beyond repair. After researching VH-UQH and discovering its historical significance, Ed brought the Gypsy Moth to Melbourne, then Caboolture. Its on-and-off restoration project started in the mid-1980s and was completed only last week, returning VH-UQH to as it was 88 years ago – including British registration markings (G-ABHY) which required special CASA approval.

*VH-UQH will be accompanied to Archerfield Airport by two antique aircraft owned by Bill Finlen of Boonah: Gypsy Moth VH-UMK (involved in the search for Lassetter's Gold Reef in 1930) and a Tiger Moth originally from the RAF in England and used as a wartime trainer.

FOR MEDIA: AAC 0407 036 791 / Peter Gartshore 0412 880 722 / Ed Field 0404 213 537

For enquiries on the day: Please contact Airport GM Heather Mattes 0414 233 901