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MEDIA RELEASE

God's Acre Remembrance Day 2016

God's Acre pioneer cemetery just inside the gates of Archerfield Airport will host local residents and history enthusiasts later this month for the annual God's Acre Remembrance Day.

The free community event on **Sunday, June 26** will mark 157 years since the area was dedicated as a cemetery. It will be held by the Friends of God's Acre Inc and include historical presentations and guided tours.

God's Acre was established in 1859 by Thomas and Mary Grenier after the death of their 16 year-old son Volney. At the time, the Grenier's 64 acre property (which is now Archerfield Airport) bred horses and grew oats, maize and potatoes. The farm was part of New South Wales, with Queensland becoming a separate state soon after.

According to the Friends of God's Acre, Thomas Grenier left the private family cemetery to the local community after his death in 1877. It became known as the Coopers Plains Cemetery, with the last funeral held in 1980. Some 240 people are believed to be buried in God's Acre, with more than 80 pioneering families represented.

Remembrance Day will start at 10am with morning tea (a gold coin donation) and a conducted cemetery tour. Brother Brian Grenier, God's Acre Historian and a descendant of the pioneer family, will talk about those buried in the early years of the cemetery; Robin Barke, Vice-President of the Friends of God's Acre Inc, will talk about life in the area in the late 1850s; and Archerfield Airport General Manager, Heather Mattes, will outline the history of the airport and its development as Brisbane's metropolitan airport.

Archerfield Airport Corporation supports Friends of God's Acre to preserve and care for the area, which is one of very few cemeteries within an Australian airport.

For more information about God's Acre, visit www.foga.org.au

MEDIA ENQUIRIES: 0407 036 791

Issued 13 June 2016