



ISSUE 41 | JUNE 2024

plane torque

Archerfield

Brisbane's Metropolitan Airport

LifeFlight Moves In

RACQ LifeFlight has moved into its new, state-of-the-art maintenance base at Archerfield, the largest hangar complex ever constructed at the airport.

The \$24 million, 5,000m² facility built by Archerfield Airport Corporation (AAC) on Wirraway Avenue will service LifeFlight's rotary-wing aircraft, including AW139, BK117 and B412 helicopters.

The new hangar doubles LifeFlight's heavy maintenance capacity as the organisation expands to meet Queensland's growing need for emergency services. LifeFlight aircraft will be rotated through the facility for major inspections and maintenance work that totals five hours for every hour flown.

The purpose-built facility reflects Archerfield's key role in

emergency aviation. As well as LifeFlight, Archerfield Airport supports PolAir and QGAir whose Rotary Wing recently became the first emergency medical services (EMS) helicopter operation in Australia to exceed 30,000 operational flight hours with its AW139 EMS chopper. QGAir's fleet provides frontline aeromedical, search and rescue, law enforcement and government capabilities from bases in Archerfield, Cairns and Townsville.

AAC Executive General Manager – Operations and Aviation Infrastructure, Rod Parry, said Archerfield's modern facilities and central location were essential to Queensland's emergency services and general aviation network, and would only become more important as the state continued to grow rapidly.



Moving in: RACQ LifeFlight helicopters will be serviced in the largest hangar complex ever constructed at Archerfield Airport. Photo: Corey Scott.



A message from the **EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER**

Archerfield has come a long way to become the thriving economic, educational and emergency services hub it is today. Businesses based here support hundreds of jobs and livelihoods, foster innovation and investment, and contribute handsomely to government revenues. Diversification of AAC's business model provides a sustainable framework for future infrastructure and services.

AAC recently expanded its skillset to help achieve its strategic initiatives leading up to the 2032 Olympic Games, including positioning Archerfield as an industry leader for emerging aviation technology.

As Executive General Manager – Operations and Aviation Infrastructure (EGM-Operations, for short), I will continue to ensure Archerfield remains at the cutting edge of a rapidly changing aviation sector, including the introduction of advanced air mobility.

As General Manager – Property and Landside Infrastructure (GM-Property), George Delibaltas facilitates competitive solutions for southeast Queensland's business community, particularly through the development of the *Transition Estate*.

Safety will always be our primary priority and I'm delighted to announce that Nikolay Radev has been promoted to the position of Senior Manager – Safety, Security and Aviation Services.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce staff who have joined us in recent months. Alexandra Ramos as Airport Compliance Officer, Alex Ho as Operations Technical Officer, and Mitchell Fenech Camer as Airport Business and Innovation Manager are working with me. Development and Delivery Manager Daniel Reader works with George in Property and Landside Infrastructure. I'm also pleased to welcome Michael Jackson who has joined AvFuel.

Everyone at AAC is focused on delivering the best services and outcomes and we are grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

Rod Parry
Executive General Manager



From left: AAC General Manager - Property and Landside Infrastructure George Delibaltas, SLR Trans General Manager Jimmy Gupta and AAC Joint Managing Director Lachlan Bird outside SLR Trans' new HQ in the Transition Estate.

Transition Estate Delivers for SLR Trans

Archerfield's *Transition Estate* is filling up with SLR Trans moving into a new 5,600m² cold store and freezer distribution centre on Logistics Drive in May.

When SLR Trans General Manager Jimmy Gupta was looking for a new home for his growing refrigerated transport logistics business, *Transition's* flood-free flexibility was paramount. The facility comprises 8,000 pallet spaces over six areas providing specific temperature and ripening capabilities to maintain strict cold-chain compliance for meat, seafood, dairy, fresh produce and pharmaceutical products.

"*Transition Estate* is located near the Rocklea Markets, most of the major supermarket distribution centres, and rail and road networks," Mr Gupta said. "It makes sense for us to be in this part of town to support our customers and partner with businesses around us."

Mr Gupta started SLR Trans in 2013 with two refrigerated vans doing home deliveries for Hello Fresh before venturing into value-adding services. Today, the company operates more than 250 vehicles and delivers nationally.

AAC General Manager - Property and Landside Infrastructure, George Delibaltas, said *Transition Estate* provided sustainable, customised solutions for supply chain businesses and the cold chain industry. "The SLR Trans facility was a speculative cold store and freezer development designed and constructed by AAC to meet demands for well-located, high-tech food processing capability in Brisbane," he said.

SLR Trans joins Shellby Power, Allied Express and Star Entertainment at *Transition Estate*, which offers the last premium, large-scale industrial infill sites within 11 kilometres of Brisbane's CBD. Find out more at www.transitionestate.com.au.

Pay Online!

AAC customers who are registered to receive electronic invoices can now pay their landing/parking fees online using American Express, Mastercard, Visa, BPay, PayPal and ApplePay.

To get set up, email jess@archerfieldairport.com.au

Café Society à la Archerfield

Parisian café culture has landed at Archerfield Airport with two visionary young women opening the Jean Claude Café.

Axelle Beaujean is a trained pastry chef, learning the craft from her father while growing up in the heart of Paris. "I've been in the kitchen since I was two years old," she explains.

After following her Australian husband to Brisbane, Axelle met Claudia Carey on the job in a retirement home café. "We just clicked," Axelle says. "We knew we could work together."

With barista and front-of-house experience, Claudia mans the coffee machine while Axelle creates French delicacies for Australian tastes in the kitchen.

Axelle and Claudia have been testing and expanding their menu since opening in May and it's obviously working because Jean Claude's cabinets are nearly empty at the end of the day. Axelle often starts work at 3.00am to bake the bread for Jean Claude's lavish sandwiches. There's an extensive breakfast menu and – *bien sûr!* - no French café would be without its own artisanal quiche.

Both women knew they eventually wanted to run their own business and were delighted to find the Archerfield property. "It's beautiful here and it suited our vibe," Claudia says. "It's a nice community."

Axelle also has a family connection to Archerfield: her sister-in-law, a commercial airline pilot, learned to fly at the airport and met her husband here.

The women have given the cottage space a fresh look with a soft blue colour scheme and new lighting. Jean Claude Café is open Monday to Friday, 7.00am to 2.00pm or until Axelle's creations are sold out. Follow Jean Claude Café on Instagram: [@jeanclaudecafe](https://www.instagram.com/jeanclaudecafe). Bon appétit!



All cravings covered: Claudia Carey caters for your caffeine needs while Axelle Beaujean dishes up French panache at Jean Claude Café.

FLASHBACK 1934:

Jean Batten Visits Archerfield

Ninety years ago this month, 20,000 people converged on Archerfield Airport to welcome Jean Batten who had recently smashed the women's solo flight record from England to Australia by five days. As Brisbane's bigwigs waited outside Qantas Hangar 5, the 24-year-old waved away chivalrous offers to help her out of her Gypsy Moth, emerging with her kitten Buddy. The Royal Queensland Aero Club celebrated Batten's arrival with afternoon tea, including a saucer of milk for her copilot. Batten stunned the world again in 1935, flying from Africa to Brazil with just a watch and compass for navigation.

Obsessed with flying from her first lesson with Charles Kingsford-Smith in her native New Zealand, Batten was soon setting records. With movie-star looks (she was dubbed the 'Garbo of the Skies' after Greta Garbo), she helped glamourise aviation and caught the eye of Belgian King Leopold III who wanted to marry her. Her fiancé, pilot Beverley Shepherd, was killed in the 1937 Stinson tragedy. After WWII, she lived in the Caribbean near James Bond creator Ian Fleming who based the character 'Solitaire' in *Live and Let Die* on her. After soaring to the heights of aviation's golden age, Batten died a recluse in Majorca in 1982.



Jean Batten (centre, holding Buddy) is interviewed by Radio 4BC at Archerfield Airport on 17 June 1934.



Digging In: Greg Celebrates 10 Years

Nothing much happens on Archerfield Airport land without Greg Morgan's input. As AAC's Environmental Consultant for the past 10 years, Greg (pictured) monitors the airport's land, soil, groundwater and surface water,

keeping an eye on past environmental legacies. He was instrumental in handling some of the environmental issues arising from Archerfield's recent makeover, particularly where they affected building approvals.

"I investigate the land prior to an application being submitted," Greg explains. "If we find soil contamination issues, we come up with a plan to deal with them in a safe and responsible manner. I also carry out baseline investigations for any new leases and perform annual groundwater and surface water monitoring."

Any issues arising from Greg's investigations can usually be traced to Archerfield's historic use, well before the turn of the century, and he describes them as 'low-level.'

"With today's environmental awareness, there are few risks because everything is monitored and controlled and everyone does the right thing," he says. "Any contaminants we've found have been easily managed on site in a sustainable way in accordance with Queensland legislation."

That legislation keeps Greg busy. "The laws have certainly become tighter. Companies have very strict environmental compliance procedures and they're on board with that."

American-born Greg studied at the University of South Florida and was lured to Australia in 1991 when his Environmental Engineering qualifications were less common here. He established his company EMR Group (Environmental Management and Remediation) in 2011 and made a successful pitch to AAC. A decade on, Greg is delighted to be part of the Archerfield family.

The Way We Were ... Smooth Operators

Pilots have long admired Archerfield's quality grass airstrips – American B-17 Flying Fortress crews commented on them during World War II – but keeping 140 hectares in tip-top condition has always been a big job. In the 1930s and 40s, groundsman Andy Lauchland ensured smooth landings by having his draughthorse Anzac drag a length of railway line over the airfield. Andy and Anzac were among the Civil Aviation Branch's first employees, working at Eagle Farm from 1925 and at Archerfield from the airport's opening in 1931. When Anzac retired, Andy swapped to a tractor with a power-pole.

These days, Corey Scott makes short work of Archerfield's groundskeeping with AAC's new John Deere 5105M and Rhino 4150 slasher. The tractor's PowerTech™ diesel engine boasts 105 'Anzacs' (horsepower, or 78.3kW) of power and the slasher spans 15 feet, but it still takes about a week to mow the whole airfield. The tractor can be adapted to fully autonomous operation so Corey might soon do the job from his mobile phone.



Then and now: Andy Lauchland's tractor-and-power-pole are no match for Corey Scott and AAC's John Deere. (With thanks to Bruce Robinson)

Do you have any photos of the way we were at Archerfield Airport? We'd love to share them and your stories in Plane Torque. Email Tracey Wood at comms@archerfieldairport.com.au.

For Lease

Aeroport 231 – Located at the northern end of the airport, this 173m² site features a steel-framed, open-ended Colorbond aeroport with a concrete floor. It measures 13m x 12m x 4m high and has airside access.

Site 621A – This 277m² metal clad/part tilt warehouse/office building features 136m² of warehouse space and 141m² of attractive, air-conditioned office space comprising four rooms and a large reception area. It has an internal height of up to 6.8m with access via 2 x 3.6m roller doors. Amenities are located on both levels and there is a full kitchen. Located on Lores Bonney Drive next to a large common car park.

Preppy Pilots Pop In

Archerfield Airport welcomed a group of curious four- and five-year-olds from the Seedlings and Co Childcare Centre's pre-prep class in May. Their fascination with flight was sparked by planes they noticed flying in and out of the airport during an excursion to a nearby aged care facility, and AAC was happy to arrange the visit. Many thanks to Angel Flight pilot Paul Michel who showed them the organisation's Cessna 402C 'Kayla'.



Pilot Paul Michel introduces young fans to Angel Flight's Cessna 'Kayla.'

Anywhere @ Archerfield



Brisbane's popular Anywhere Festival returns to Archerfield's Terminal Building with a performance by Indooroopilly State High School on Wednesday 24 July. Anywhere Festival brings the performing arts to unlikely spaces all over the city. Launched in 2011, it's Brisbane's answer to the global fringe festival phenomenon, allowing artists to stretch their creative wings in rent-free, non-traditional venues. Check the Anywhere Festival program at www.anywhere.is/events for details.



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