

## Gearing Up for the Air Freight Revolution!

### Gap Drone's ATLAS-C aircraft could revolutionise regional freight transport.

Archerfield Airport is powering ahead with its preparations for emerging aviation technologies, signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gap Drone, a Melbourne-based developer of uncrewed aerial vehicles that can deliver freight payloads of 60 to 90kg within a 1,100km range, in April.

AAC and Gap Drone have agreed to collaborate, share technical knowledge and address regulatory issues to develop remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS). Archerfield Airport Joint Managing Director Lachlan Bird said RPAS represented a rare opportunity to help shape the technical, infrastructure,

regulatory, environmental and investment ecosystem for a new aviation sector, one that Archerfield approached with expertise, experience and excitement.

"Travelling at speeds of 120km/h, Gap Drone's aircraft have enormous potential to ease 'middle-mile' supply chain pressures, particularly in regional areas," Mr Bird said. "Archerfield Airport is uniquely well-placed to bring this exciting new era in aviation to commercial fruition. Located close to Brisbane's CBD and central to many of South-East Queensland's most vibrant regions, Archerfield offers unbeatable proximity and access to a critical mass of established aeronautical skills and suppliers."

Gap Drone Chief Executive Officer Liesl Haris is excited to be partnering with Archerfield Airport to explore the future of uncrewed aerial logistics.

"This collaboration marks an important step towards enabling RPAS operations in Australia," she said. "We look forward to bringing innovative solutions to regional and remote communities from metropolitan airports like Archerfield."

The MoU with Gap Drone builds on agreements Archerfield Airport recently signed with Wisk Aero and AMSL Aero to develop the airport's capacity to service freight and air taxi operations using new aviation technologies.







## A Message from the Executive General Manager

Rod Parry  
Executive General  
Manager Operations

With Archerfield celebrating its 94th birthday and Qantas marking the 90th anniversary of its first international flight in April, this edition of *Plane Torque* reminds us of our airport's success over many generations. When Archerfield Aerodrome opened in 1931, aviation was still a novelty. Visionary aviators and businesses expanded the horizons of this new industry and Archerfield's place in it, setting records, developing aircraft and establishing services that reset perceptions of distance and revolutionised communication and travel.

As the industry grew and changed, Archerfield did too, taking a big leap forward in 2020 with the modernisation of its airside infrastructure to cater for next-gen aircraft. That momentum continues with Hangar 101 rapidly taking shape on Ditchmen Drive and Archerfield's proactive preparations for emerging aviation technologies, including our agreement with Gap Drone.

Archerfield delivers daily for an industry that never stands still. We appreciate your part in that and hope you enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Rod Parry

## Emergency Exercise T-Tail



'Casualties' are rescued and the threat of an engine fire neutralised during Emergency Exercise T-Tail in May.

It's a terrible scene: a chartered Beech King Air 350 from Mount Isa carrying one crew and six passengers has landed hard on Runway 28L. The landing gear fails, resulting in two fatalities, three people seriously injured and two with minor injuries. Survivors are trapped, the engines are smoking and the aircraft could burst into flames at any minute. That was the dramatic scenario war-gamed by Archerfield Airport and Queensland Police, Ambulance and Fire and Emergency Services in May.

Emergency Exercise T-Tail rehearsed the airport's call-out procedures, retrieval and treatment of casualties, fire control, communication, triage, evacuation and coordination. The comprehensive post-exercise de-brief highlighted strengths and flagged issues for future consideration. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive regarding the exercise and Archerfield's emergency procedures and preparedness.

## Hangar Rising

Hangar 101 is taking shape on Ditchmen Avenue right before the eyes of passersby, with more than 60 tilt panels – each more than 14 metres tall and weighing around 32 tons – cast on site and installed over three days recently.

This state-of-the-art, 4,000m<sup>2</sup> aviation facility features two purpose-built hangars designed to support charter and maintenance operations.

Both hangars will be able to accommodate a wide range of fixed-wing aircraft with tail heights up to 8.5 metres and door openings up to 40 metres. The complex also features a passenger lounge with direct airside access to the hangar apron to facilitate boarding.

Hangar 101 reflects Archerfield Airport Corporation's continued investment in general aviation. As Archerfield evolves into a modern aviation hub, developments like Hangar 101 help drive



Ditchmen Avenue is being transformed with the rapid construction of Hangar 101.

economic growth, support local jobs and strengthen Archerfield's role as Australia's pre-eminent general aviation destination.



# The Way We Were

## Qantas Launches International Air Travel at Archerfield

Archerfield Aerodrome made aviation history 90 years ago when a De Havilland 86 took off on Qantas's first international flight on 17 April 1935. The Qantas Empire Airways flight to Singapore took 3.5 days with 16 stops for refuelling including overnight stays in Cloncurry, Darwin and Rambang. With a range of only 1,200km and a speed of 230kph, the unpressurised, four-engine aircraft landed four times before it even left Queensland.

There were no cabin crew; the First Officer served sandwiches and drinks but most passengers dined during the frequent stops. In Singapore, passengers connected with Imperial Airways flights to India, the Middle East and, eventually, London.



According to Brisbane's *Telegraph* newspaper, only one passenger joined Captain H B Hussey and First Officer Shepherd at Archerfield. At six feet five inches tall, Major H Philips of HM Coldstream Guards must have found the conditions onboard cosy: the tiny plane accommodated only 10 passengers and space had to be left for mail.

Major Philips was joined in Charleville by Lady Mountbatten who was travelling to Malta to join her husband Lord Louis Mountbatten, second cousin to

nine-year-old Princess Elizabeth who was crowned Queen in 1952. Conditions became increasingly cramped as passengers boarded en route so all those stops were probably welcome.

Qantas's first international passengers paid £195 for the weekly flight to Singapore, equivalent to about \$18,000 today.

**Qantas promoted its weekly Brisbane-Singapore service with this publicity shot taken at Archerfield Airport in 1936, featuring a DH86 and Hudson Terraplane taxi.**

## Happy Birthday, Old Girl!

### Archerfield Airport turned 94 on 1 April!

The Defence Department purchased the site - measuring 297 acres 1 rood 22 perches (three times the size of Eagle Farm!) and boasting runs of 1,300 yards in all directions - for £7,000 in 1929.

There was plenty of space for infrastructure, but *The Brisbane Courier* newspaper noted: "... the existence of a small cemetery on the eastern boundary ... interferes with the development of this portion of the aerodrome."

Officially opened in 1931, Archerfield set the scene for rapid industry growth with record-breaking aviators staging historic flights; Australia's first air mail service and Qantas's first international flight taking off; and hosting the Australian, American and Dutch air forces during World War II. Archerfield maintains that pace and passion today, nurturing the development of emerging aviation technologies.

## Open House at Archerfield!

Saturday 19 July 2025 10.00am to 4.00pm

Archerfield's historic Terminal Building will be a focus of the Brisbane Open House weekend in July. Designed in the 1930s, constructed at a cost of £15,000 and opened in 1941, the Terminal Building was built in the Moderne architectural style, closely related to Art Deco, which was popular from 1925 to the 1940s. Moderne style was characterised by streamlined outlines, smooth, rounded surfaces and flat roofs - all prominent in Archerfield's Terminal Building - and was influenced by the burgeoning field of aerodynamics that was all the rage in the 1930s.

The beautifully preserved Terminal Building remains much as it was enjoyed by early aviators and passengers, with its oak-lined entry, original ticket booth and spacious waiting area with sweeping views of the airport. It also houses Archerfield's History Room that chronicles the airport's story.

Archerfield Airport's Brisbane Open House program includes airside tours, talks on the airport's important role in World War II by Peter Dunn of the Aviation Historical Society of Australia (Qld) and the opportunity to see a WWII Spitfire.

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





## Safety and Service All in a Day's Work for Zach

Zach Frizzell and the AvFuel team keep Archerfield's aircraft operators fuelled up and ready to go.

In his role as AvFuel's Operations Supervisor, safety and service are Zach Frizzell's key priorities and he draws on skills he originally gained refuelling and rearming Army helicopters in Darwin.

Zach ensures AvFuel's fuels and lubricants are safe to use and aircraft operators have them when they need them. He also oversees maintenance, assists with deliveries and ensures AvFuel customers experience an efficient and friendly service

"We have a morning routine when we check all the fuel, everything from each tank," Zach explains. "We've got four tanks, so we'll check them all, all the dispensers, all the filters, including the inlet to the filter and the outlets, and we check all our trucks and fuel bowsters as well, making sure everything is good to go before we deliver any product for the day."

AvFuel's seven-member team operates from 6.00am to 6.00pm daily, with a 24/7 phone number to cater for any out-of-hours needs. "Every team member is qualified to go out at night and do the tests on whatever vehicle they're using for that refuel," Zach says.

"We try to be very proactive so we have routines for a lot of our customers. They like to get going at a certain time in the morning, so we make sure that if they bring their aircraft out early enough, we are ready to go on time."

With two trucks and a trailer with its own pump delivering fuel, and two bowsters on site where customers can refuel themselves, AvFuel customers have plenty of time- and cost-efficient refuelling options.

## Small Spill, Big Impact!

### Help Protect Our Environment and Pavement

A fuel spill in the 28R Run-Up Bay in early May caused the area to be promptly secured and part of the bay closed temporarily, disrupting access and operations. Even small fuel spills can damage the pavement, delay aircraft movements and require unplanned time for clean-up and reporting. If not managed properly, fuel or oil runoff can affect stormwater quality.

You can help protect airport surfaces, support the AAC team and keep daily operations running smoothly by reporting any non-fire-danger spills or near-misses – early notice helps reduce impact – and reminding your team of safe handling and equipment checks. Staying proactive helps maintain safe, clean and durable surfaces, avoiding disruptions for others.

## For Lease

### Site 621 Lores Bonney Drive

This 277m<sup>2</sup> metal clad/part tilt panel warehouse/office features 136m<sup>2</sup> of warehouse space with an internal height up to 6.8m and access via 2 x 3.6m wide roller doors; as well as a 141m<sup>2</sup> air-conditioned, first floor office area with four separate offices and a large reception space. It has dual amenities on both levels and a full kitchen, provides valuable exposure to Mortimer Road and is zoned 'Light Industry.'

### Aeroport 227

This 180m<sup>2</sup> steel-clad aeroport measures 14m wide x 10m long x 3m high (4m at apex) with a hardstand of central concrete with gravelled sides, and fence security gates.

### Rooms 28GD, Terminal Building

Conveniently located on the ground floor of the Terminal Building, these air-conditioned rooms have a private office entrance.

## See you in September!

Where  
horizons  
begin