

“This is the project that finally gives the Nation’s Capital City the international capability it needs to prosper and grow,”

Stephen Byron



The bitumen being laid on new runway extension

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The Hub

Special Pictorial Edition



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Airport Open Day - “A Runaway Success”



Inside this Special Edition

CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S OPEN DAY WAS “A RUNAWAY SUCCESS,” SAYS MANAGING DIRECTOR, STEPHEN BYRON. FULL STORY AND MORE PICTURES INSIDE. ALSO INSIDE: MAJOR RUNWAY WORKS NEAR COMPLETION.





Steam Heat

Local contractors have worked day and night on the project to lengthen and strengthen the Airport's main runway.

Now with the job almost complete and due to open around late September or early October, contractors are installing the high intensity approach lights, line-marking the runway and putting the finishing touches to the pavement. Hub Photographer **Ginette Snow** braved the below freezing temperatures to capture these night time images of the men and machines who are making it happen.

At night, the runway project takes on the appearance of a scene from Mad Max, George Miller's now famous post apocalyptic movie of the late 1970s. As the last flight soars into Canberra's night sky and the Airport shuts down, hastily erected temporary arc lights reveal an army of extras scrambling across the tarmac to prepare for the arrival of the steam blowing, fire-eating road warriors that lay and roll the asphalt surface.

It seems chaotic. But, it isn't. Everyone has a

job and everyone know how to do it. Besides, it's too cold to stand around. As giant Tonka toys lumber onto the runway, a long line of tar-filled trucks, just off the set, start engines, turn on lights and rumble ominously into the gathering fog toward the first of a series of mechanical monsters known as a shuttle buggy. Only this is no ordinary vehicle. This four-wheeler eats tar! Literally and then spits it out in a continuous stream via a conveyor belt into the bowels of the paver, another mechanical behemoth, which spreads the black stuff across the surface of the tarmac like vegemite. And, following close behind, steamrollers, hunting in packs of three, compress the asphalt to give it a perfectly flat surface. And that's the way it's been, night after night, day after day since late April.

Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, is delighted with the work of local contractors. On target and on budget, he says it's the most significant infrastructure development the Airport has undertaken in at least 20 years, and the largest runway project since Sydney's third runway. Canberra is yet to see the benefits of the project that will cost around \$50 million to complete. "This is the project that finally gives the nation's capital city the international capability it needs to prosper and grow," he says.



Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron rugs up for night inspection.



Testing The Tarmac

Canberra International Airport's Open Day was a runaway success. More than 7,500 people braved the winter chill and threatening skies to walk, cycle, blade, scoot or skate over the Airport's new \$22 million extended runway.

And while families also got up close and personal with aircraft, airport fire engines and the giant earth moving Tonka toys, passenger jets landed overhead, and aviation enthusiasts tracked their every move with video and still cameras.

It was, as Airport managing Director, Stephen Byron, described it "a once in a lifetime opportunity" and the community grabbed it. By 9am the runway was an ant heap of activity - hundreds of bikes, rollerblades, prams, scooters, skateboards and even a unicycle were testing the tarmac. "We were delighted with the turnout," Mr. Byron said. "It was a great day for families."

"Canberra is the first major Australian airport in 20 years to undertake a major upgrade of its main runway and we wanted to share the occasion with the community," he said.

The Airport's Open Day started with a 2.8 kilometre time trial for cyclists - 73 of the young, not so young and the professional - tore up the tar in a charity event that gave the proceeds to the Amy Gillett Foundation established in July last year after the young Australian cyclist

was tragically killed in a car accident. "The Foundation provides financial support to help rehabilitate five members of Amy's team who were also injured in the crash," Mr. Byron said. "We could not think of a more appropriate organisation to help."

The 'Virgin Runway Rider' award went to Graham Reilly who generously bid \$250 in a silent auction to become the first cyclist to ride the runway. After he finished his victory lap, cyclists were released every 15 seconds to test their legs or just enjoy the sight and sound of aircraft barely above them on approach to the Airport.

"We'd like to do it again," Byron said. "But, I don't think we could justify closing the Airport. This was a unique opportunity and I want to thank the over 7,500 people who shared the day with us."

