



Hanger 48 before (inset) and after (above)

# Hangar 48 Goes Back to the Future

One of Canberra's oldest structures has been successfully restored and refurbished in a multi-million dollar upgrade.

Built in 1939 as part of the Second World War defence effort, Hangar 48 was one of the first structures erected at the former RAAF base Fairbairn.

Originally used to house aircraft of the day, the hangar was used in later years by the RAAF as a warehouse because of its rundown state and unsuitability for modern aircraft.

Transferred to Canberra International Airport in 1998, the hangar, according to Cercol Construction Services was "in extremely poor condition and in need of substantial restoration works that could not be justified on a commercial basis alone."

However, in September 2005 a team of local consultants and building professionals commenced work on a full restoration of 650 m<sup>2</sup> of office area and 1,050 m<sup>2</sup> of hangar area.

Airport Manager Fairbairn, Mathew Brown, said: "This project required a high degree of attention to detail and intricacy to achieve a quality finish. I believe the design and building team that completed this project is one of the few in the ACT capable of handling such an environmentally sensitive task."

A comprehensive program of investigation, remediation and reconstruction work was

undertaken, including:

- Relocation and replacement of utility services;
- Removal of aged mechanical and electrical services and their replacement with modern building services;
- Restoration of the external façade, including the patching of miscellaneous wall, window and roof penetrations and;
- Re-engineering the original windows to meet the acoustic and thermal requirements of a contemporary building while retaining the dominant horizontal and vertical window mullions and;
- Reconstruction of the internal hangar wall.

Working in close collaboration with architects Renfree and Hanrahan as well as Cercol, the Airport team successfully restored Hangar 48 while maintaining its original character and at the same time maximising its opportunity for use as a modern and efficient building. The works were completed within a tight 20 week program, at a cost of \$2 million.

Mr Brown said restoring Hangar 48 was challenging because it involved using best practice heritage principles.

"More than 4,000 recycled Canberra Red Bricks were hand selected and meticulously cleaned in order to retain the integrity of the repaired areas of the hangar's external façade," he said. "The end result is a visually appealing and extremely functional building that meets the high standard for tenant accommodation at Canberra International Airport."

Mr Brown praised Cercol Constructions for its comprehensive management of the Project.

The refurbished hangar is now home to the ACT's Emergency Services Authority.

# New Airport Link to South Coast

**Monday 8 January 2007:** Canberra International Airport's role as a major regional hub for south - eastern Australia continues to grow.

This follows an announcement by Transborder Express to run a first-class coach service between Canberra and the South Coast's Eurobodalla Shire and Shoalhaven regions.

'Surfborder Express' will give travellers the option to travel from Canberra, north to Ulladulla and south to Narooma, with stops at most popular beaches (timetable available at [www.transborder.com.au](http://www.transborder.com.au))

Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, hailed the new service as a bonus for travellers wanting a fast and efficient service to the South Coast. Leaving Canberra International Airport at 6.05pm Monday to Sunday, the 'Surfborder Express' arrives at Batemans Bay at 8pm with connections north and south. The new service departs Batemans Bay at 7am Monday to Sunday, arriving at the Airport at 9.15am.

"This new service connects the Airport to some of the South Coast's most beautiful beaches - Broulee, Burrill Lake, Malua Bay, Surf Beach and Tomakin," Mr Byron said. "The service is equally important for South Coast residents who can now visit Canberra attractions, or hub through the airport to major cities around Australia."

The Managing Director of Transborder Express, Max Williams, said the new "Surfborder Express" represented a niche in the travel market.

"Surfborder Express" was the result of a four year viability study into the travel needs of the Canberra, Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla Shires," he said.

The new service would fill an important gap in the travel market providing comfortable and affordable travel between the nation's capital and the growing south coast region.



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# The Hub Special Edition

# Connected to the World



**Monday, 4 December:** Prime Minister John Howard cuts the ribbon and formally opens Canberra International Airport's new extended runway.

Flanked by Executive Chairman Terry Snow and Managing Director Stephen Byron, Mr Howard hails it as "a first class day for the national capital".

Full story and pictures inside page 3.



Walking the line.

## Inside this Issue



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RUSSIAN GIANT'S SPECIAL DELIVERY



Diverted Malaysian 747 Freighter: a sign of things to come.

## Tralee Development Not Sensible, Senate Told.

**Wednesday, 31 January:** A proposal by Queanbeyan City Council to build up to 4,000 homes under Canberra International Airport's main flight path has drawn strong criticism from a recent Senate inquiry.

Inquiry Chairman, Senator Bill Heffernan, said it seemed extraordinary to him that such a proposal might well 'shut down' some of the great benefits of the Airport. "I cannot believe it," he told the Senate's Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee. "The Airport is a great asset for the area. You all ought to be working to fulfil the potential of what the Airport can do for the area and, at the same time, look after the interests of citizens."

NSW Planning Minister, Mr Frank Sartor, is considering Council's proposal which also has the

backing of local MP, Mr Steve Whan.

Mr Mike Mrdak, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Transport and Regional Services, told the inquiry it would not be sensible to allow a residential density under flight paths available in and out of the Airport. "In Canberra, quite clearly we have an opportunity to prevent that inappropriate development taking place," Mr Mrdak said.

"For many years we have been making it clear to planners, the community and councils that ANEF contours are noise metric. They do not stop at the boundaries at the ANEF contours. They are for planning and building purposes, to give some idea for attenuation and other land and planning issues but, quite clearly there will be noise," he said.

ACT Planning Minister, Mr Simon Corbell, also gave evidence to the Inquiry. He agreed with Senator Heffernan, that Canberra International Airport was a great asset for the area. He also agreed that being curfew free added to the Airport's value to the community.

Mr Corbell confirmed that the ACT Government, unlike Queanbeyan, had no plans to support an Airport curfew. "We don't see the need for that as long as appropriate land use planning is in place around the Airport to prevent the impact of Airport noise on surrounding areas,"

## Qantas Increases Canberra Capacity

**Tuesday, January 30 2007:** Qantas says it will increase capacity on its busy Sydney to Canberra service in January 2008.

This follows the group's decision to take delivery of a further two 72 seat Bombardier Q400 aircraft in January next year. This gives Qantas a regional fleet of nine Q400's.

Qantas Group General Manager Regional Airlines, Mr Narendra Kumar, said the purchase would allow the airline to increase capacity on a number of key regional routes. This will include Canberra to Sydney, which will be operated exclusively by B737 and Q400 aircraft," he said.

"As with our initial Q400 order, these latest aircraft represent another substantial investment in the Qantas Group's regional fleet and our ongoing commitment to our regional operations," he said.

he said. "That has successfully been the case for almost all the residential areas of the ACT... It has not been the case for some developments in Queanbeyan's local Government area, but we do not see that as a reason to impose a curfew."

Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, told Senators that community support was fundamental to the success of any Airport. "If you do not work properly with your community and your community is against you, you can forget it, you are finished, you will have a curfew."

There was an alternative to Tralee, he said. The Council and Mr Whan had chosen to ignore the findings of a Government appointed Independent Panel of Inquiry which recommended against building homes at Tralee. Instead the Independent Panel recommended construction of homes at Googong - a location that was not under a flight path and offered a 25 year land supply.

"We see that as the future," Mr Byron said. "It's an opportunity to double the population of Queanbeyan over the next 25 years."

Canberra International Airport was part of the nation's infrastructure. The Airport is too important to be trashed by the Council and the local State MP, Steve Whan.



The Russian mega-freighter touches down, - helicopters on board.

## Russian Giant's Special Delivery

**Monday, 6 November:** One of the biggest aircraft in the world and the largest to ever land in the national capital, a Russian Antonov mega-freighter, touches down at Canberra International Airport.

Weighing a massive 175,000 kilos, the big Russian was one of the first aircraft to safely test the full extent of the Airport's new extended runway. While Airport engineers, construction crews and safety officers watched on, the Antonov began its slow approach seven kilometres out.

Even at that distance, the jet's 73 metre

wingspan filled the horizon. Carrying two US based Skycrane fire-fighting helicopters for Australia's 2007 bushfire season, the giant freighter made a copy book landing. The Antonov and its crew of six stayed on the ground only long enough to refuel and unload the Skycranes - one of which is to be based in Canberra for the summer.

Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, said the Antonov's arrival heralded a new role for the Airport as a freight destination. "Our new extended runway enables us to operate as an 24 hour freight alternative to Sydney. We will see more of these flights as the airlines begin to realise the cost effective potential of Canberra as a major freight destination."

For the aviation enthusiast, the Antonov's four engines give it a maximum cruising speed of 865 kilometres an hour. The undercarriage has 24 wheels and cargo doors are featured in the nose and tail of the aircraft.

## New Runway Long Overdue, Says P.M.

Formally opening the Airport's new main runway, Prime Minister, John Howard, said he had always thought it demeaning that overseas visitors to Canberra, including Heads of State, had been required to transfer to smaller aircraft in Sydney.

The new runway was long overdue, he said, and it opened the national capital to the possibility of a major boost to tourism. Congratulating Airport management and workers, Mr Howard said the runway works were the results of "a smooth and harmonious" partnership between the Commonwealth Government and the Airport.

Airport Executive Chairman, Terry Snow, agreed. The strengthened and extended runway would not have been possible without the Commonwealth's financial support. "This is really all about 600 metres of asphalt which may not seem all important at first glance," he told the Prime Minister. "But this particular stretch of asphalt is going to make a world of difference to the nation's capital city because it links us to the world and makes us a true national and international gateway. This new runway gives us unrestricted ability to handle the many bigger aircraft that are now regular visitors to Canberra," Mr Snow, said.

True to his word, a Boeing C17 Globemaster became the first aircraft to land at the Airport after the official opening ceremony. The first of four aircraft bought by the Royal Australian Air Force, the Globemaster executed a perfect touchdown for the Prime Minister and Defence chiefs.



C-17 successfully lands on the new runway.