

MEDIA RELEASE/DIARY NOTE – 25 June 2026

Archerfield Honours Pioneers

There's no missing Archerfield Airport's rich history – visitors drive past the unique resting place of the area's first pioneers, the picturesque God's Acre Cemetery, as they enter from Beatty Road – and it's a story that will be celebrated at the annual Remembrance Day on **Sunday 28 June 2026 from 10.00am**.

God's Acre Cemetery is Brisbane's second oldest - only one in Nundah predates it. The beautifully preserved and lovingly maintained graveyard was established by early settlers Thomas and Mary Grenier who purchased 640 acres - incorporating most of the present airport site - in the area's first land sales in 1856.

When the Greniers' 16-year-old son Volney died after a horse-riding accident in 1859, the Greniers set aside an acre of their land to accommodate the region's dearly departed. Burials continued at the site until Archerfield Aerodrome was established in 1931, after the Department of Defence purchased the land for £7,000 in 1929. Eighty-three pioneering families have loved ones buried there.

This year's Remembrance Day celebrations will include the display of Thomas Grenier Jnr's headstone. The eldest son of Thomas and Mary died aged 17 in 1857 and was originally buried in the Anglican Church Brisbane North Burial Ground where Suncorp Stadium now stands. Many headstones from that cemetery were removed and dumped in a gully at Toowong Cemetery in the 1930s, only to be rediscovered in an archaeological dig in 2023. Thomas Grenier Jnr's headstone has been reunited with his family at God's Acre, along with their friends and neighbours who helped build Brisbane.

The Greniers were an enterprising couple who migrated from Brighton, England, to Sydney, later moving to Melbourne and then to New Zealand's Bay of Islands, before relocating to Brisbane in 1845. They ran Grenier's Inn in Russell Street, South Brisbane, for nine years before buying the Archerfield land. Confident of its potential, they paid nearly three times the expected price to secure the prime site.

Archerfield Airport was Brisbane's main airport until 1949. It played a crucial role in the development of Australian civil and military aviation, was the site of many historic take-offs and landings, and hosted Australian, American and Dutch air forces during World War II. Now Queensland's premier general aviation facility, Archerfield Airport marked its 95th birthday in April.

Commencing at 10.00am, this year's Remembrance Day activities include informative talks by Marion Mackenzie, Secretary of the Oxley-Chelmer History Group; and Robin Barke, Vice-President of the Friends of God's Acre, the community group that maintains God's Acre Cemetery and hosts Remembrance Day. Visitors can enjoy guided tours of God's Acre as well as displays and morning tea.

Archerfield Airport's History Room, located in its graceful and thoughtfully restored Art Deco-era Terminal Building, tells the airport's story from First Nations through European settlement to ground-breaking aviation development. It will also be open and free for Remembrance Day visitors.



Remembrance Day is a free community event, a must-do for history buffs and anyone interested in Brisbane's heritage and aviation.

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