Welcome to this edition of Touchdown which sees us more than half way through another calendar year.

The first half of 2010 saw us welcome Katie Cooper to the position of General Manager at Alice Springs Airport. Katie has already settled in well and we look forward to benefiting from her extensive aviation knowledge.

Darwin Airport welcomed back Tiger Airways on the Darwin-Melbourne sector with a significant six services per week just in time for the peak tourist season. NT Airports has always enjoyed a good working relationship with Tiger, indeed Darwin was the first domestic destination for the airline when it first commenced operations in Australia back in 2005. We look forward to continuing to foster this important relationship and will assist them wherever possible to assist in their resumption of services to Darwin.

Both Darwin and Alice Springs airports are working on sizeable and operationally significant projects, the Solar Power Station in Alice Springs due for completion at the end of August and the potential expansion of the general aviation precinct at Darwin Airport due to commence works in the later half of 2010.

I trust you enjoy this edition of Touchdown.

IAN KEW
Chief Executive Officer

Katie Cooper appointed General Manager, Alice Springs Airport

NT Airports welcomes Katie Cooper to the position of General Manager, Alice Springs Airport (encompassing management of Tennant Creek Airport).

Prior to her appointment in Alice Springs, Katie worked with Air New Zealand for eight years with her most recent role being that of Australian Regional Airport Manager (Southern), based in Melbourne.

Before her time at Air New Zealand, Katie worked with Ansett Airlines and recently completed her MBA with Deakin University.

Katie’s extensive experience in the aviation industry will be a tremendous asset to the Alice Springs Airport operation and indeed Northern Territory Airports as a whole.

The Big Cat is Back in Darwin!

Tiger recommenced their services on the Melbourne-Darwin sector on 18th June with six weekly flights. In addition to this, Tiger Airways also celebrated the milestone of carrying their four millionth passenger in Australia!

Modest capacity increases have also been announced for the Alice Springs services with increases from three to four per week from 2nd August, with an additional Sunday service.

Melbourne-Darwin will go from six services per week to daily from 2nd August with an additional Saturday service.

The Low Fare Revolution is here.
On Airports

Alice Springs Airport Public Art Precinct

Over the last 12 months, work has been progressing steadily on the Alice Springs Airport Public Art Precinct. It features works based on the theme of ‘Heart of the Country’, recognizing Alice Springs and its environs’ deep geographical, cultural and spiritual significance in the centre of our great country. The arts precinct at Alice Springs Airport cements NT Airports’ commitment to the development and promotion of arts and culture within the Northern Territory.

Project management has been facilitated by Ros Moriarty and her team at Balarinji who commissioned Aboriginal community arts centre, Keringke Arts and Tapatjatjaka Art & Craft in Titjikala, to create the designs for the canopy, pillar bases and bollards.

An official launch function will take place at Alice Springs Airport in the final quarter of 2010.

General Aviation Expansion

Darwin International Airport is planning for expansion of its general aviation area, due to begin in late 2010.

Part of the airport’s 20-year Master Planned vision for growth, the development of expanded general aviation (GA) facilities will allow existing operators and support businesses to increase capacity. The development is also expected to attract several new GA businesses.

Darwin’s position, mid-way between Australia’s capital cities and its northern neighbours (a four-hour flight each way), has created a natural trade route and allowed the area to become a supply base for the mining and gas industries in southeast Asia.

“The expansion of the general aviation precinct would deliver an extra 16,000sqm of land side aviation sites next to 11,000sqm of apron and 38 parking positions to cater for aircraft,” Darwin International Airport Commercial Development Manager Cameron Bowes said.

The general aviation expansion will also see a significant increase in the staff car parking area.

Solar Project

Construction at Alice Springs Airport’s Solar Power Station kicked off in April with an official “sod turning” event officiated by Senator Trish Crossin.

Using new Concentrator Photovoltaic (CPV) technology that will supply around 28% of the airport’s energy needs, the power station is the first of its kind in the southern hemisphere. Valued at around $2.3 million, the project received $1.132 million of funding from the Australian Government as part of the Alice Solar City Project.

Brisbane solar energy specialists Ingenero Pty Ltd are the principal contractor for the solar power station which is located 700 metres north-west of the terminal building and will be visible from Roger Vale Drive.

“It will reduce the airport’s carbon emissions by around 470 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, the equivalent of about 70 Alice Springs households per annum” said Ian Kew, CEO Northern Territory Airports.

The solar power station is expected to be fully commissioned and operational by the end of August 2010 with an official launch shortly after.
**General Aviation Pedestrian Walkway**

Construction of a new walkway between the Darwin Airport terminal and Slade Court general aviation precinct is almost complete. The new walkway allows easier and safer access for pedestrians to and from the important general aviation area.

**Apron Expansion – Darwin Airport**

To cater for the continued growth in passenger numbers at Darwin Airport, construction of two additional parking positions was required to cater for aircraft such as the Airbus A320 and Boeing 737. The site selected for the new apron required the back fill of a major drain and consequently a new drain was required to divert stormwater around the new site.

The new drain required excavation of 37,000m³ of material and construction of approximately 600 metres of road around the site to cater for fuel trucks and vehicles. The project utilised recycled asphalt millings (which were produced during the re-sheeting of the main runway in 2008) which was used as road base material for the new access road.

Completed on time and on budget at a cost of $2.5million, the design of the drain and contract supervision was carried out by local consultants SKM and construction undertaken by Sage Contracting.

**Ticket Counter Remodelling**

Following extensive consultation with our airline customers, construction has now commenced on the remodelling of ticket counters at Darwin Airport. The design allows for a smaller footprint for two ticket counters within the terminal, allowing a greater area for passenger queuing at the eastern end of the check in hall. Works are due for completion in September 2010.

**Velluto’s Redevelopment and Ale House**

The Fannie Bay Ale House was recently refreshed with a new paint scheme and the installation of new wooden cafe style seating, bar stools and tables. The new decor has created a more appealing atmosphere for terminal visitors. The bar also now has a breakfast offering which is proving very popular for our morning travellers.

The cafe in the international departures lounge also underwent a major refurbishment in April and reopened as a Velluto’s Cafe at the start of May. The new cafe is bigger, brighter and has a great range of food and drinks for our travellers to enjoy prior to heading off overseas.

**Changes to Parking at Darwin Airport**

To provide improved customer service and convenience across all ground transport options, we are planning some changes to the Eastern and Western car parks. The proposed changes are:

- Permit bays currently located in the Western Permit Car Park will be relocated to the Eastern end of the terminal.
- The Western Permit Car Park will be reconfigured to cater for an expanded car rental area and an additional public car parking facility.
- A new ‘drive in drive out’ bus and coach facility will be developed in the northern end of the ‘old’ staff car park.
- A new permit parking facility will be created in the remainder of the ‘old’ staff car park and all current users of the Western and Eastern Permit areas will relocate to this facility with entry into this area controlled with boom gates. There will be a covered walkway linking the coach facility and the permit bay with the terminal.
- The existing Eastern Permit car park will become a ‘premium’ permit parking facility with additional access control.
AIRNORTH ANNOUNCES
NEW SERVICES FROM DARWIN TO PORT HEADLAND AND KARRATHA, VIA BROOME

Airlnorth, Northern Australia’s regional airline, recently commenced services to Port Hedland and Karratha in Western Australia, from Darwin via Broome.

Operated by Airlnorth’s new generation Embraer 170 jet, the service will initially operate twice weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays and provide a direct link between Karratha, Port Hedland and Broome. These services will also provide an important link between Darwin and the Pilbara for business and leisure with a flight time of a little over three hours.

Ms Simone Saunders, Chief Executive Officer of Airlnorth said “We are launching these services to meet increasing demand following extremely positive discussions with both business and community representatives in the Pilbara, Broome and the Northern Territory. With population and workforce demand increasing across this area of Western Australia, it is a great time to expand travel options, provide increased flexibility for business travellers and boost tourism opportunities for Broome, Darwin and the Pilbara region”, Ms Saunders said.

For bookings visit www.airnorth.com.au

VIRGIN BLUE INCREASES FREQUENCY TO DAILY ON MELBOURNE TO DARWIN ROUTE

Virgin Blue will increase Darwin to Melbourne flights to daily. The Melbourne-Darwin sector has proved successful for Virgin Blue and the premium-economy class is particularly popular with Darwin residents.

For bookings and schedules visit www.virginblue.com.au

TENNANT CREEK SERVICES RESUME

The long awaited return of an air service for Tennant Creek is over.

Hardy Aviation recently announced it would expand its services to Tennant Creek, with regular flights to and from Darwin every Tuesday and Thursday with flight times of just under two hours. The service is in response to increased demand from government agencies and in recognition of the growth of the resource sector around the area.

Hardy’s aircraft will depart Darwin early mornings and return in the late afternoon and the company’s Fly Tiwi facility at Darwin Airport will be used for passenger handling.

For reservations visit www.flytiwi.com.au or phone 08 8927 0099

AIRBUS VISITS DARWIN FOR TEST FLIGHTS

This Airbus A340-313 F-WWAI operated out of Darwin earlier this year to complete a high altitude icing test campaign.

The campaign involved a daily flight of approximately five hours within a 300 mile radius of Darwin.

Airbus F-WWAI (Serial number 001) was the first A340 built and made its first flight from Toulouse in October 1991. The aircraft has been retained by Airbus as a flying test bed.
Property

Airport Lodge – Darwin Airport

The latest development by Darwin International Airport Hotels Pty Ltd, The Airport Lodge, is now open for business.

Stage two of the Lodge is anticipated to commence in the second half of 2010, increasing the number of rooms from 116 to 208. This will bring the total number of accommodation rooms available at Darwin International Airport to 525.

AXIS Launch

The AXIS 12°130° precinct, the first master-planned development of its type in Darwin, was officially launched in March. The Deputy Chief Minister the Honourable Delia Lawrie MLA, representing the Chief Minister, formally launched the initiative. The precinct plans provide for an integrated mix of commercial projects, including a proposed $100 million home and lifestyle super centre, showroom space, offices, shops and leisure facilities.

AXIS 12°130° will be developed in stages over the next 20 years and promoted as an “urban habitat” for hand-picked tenants. The landscaped surrounds will include walking and cycling tracks, connections to the Rapid Creek corridor and attractive outdoor spaces for people to gather.

It meets a gap in the market at a time when Darwin is poised for significant growth and a more sophisticated consumer is looking for quality, well-appointed commercial space. Darwin International Airport has established a strong track record as a developer and business partner, with projects such as the Darwin Airport Resort, Bunnings and several Federal Government offices on its land.

The advantage of a master-planned approach is the thought we have put into creating the precinct, the quality infrastructure, and the high standards we will set to ensure compatible developments and attractive environs.

The name AXIS 12°130° signifies a central location, both in Darwin and the Asia Pacific Region, as well as Darwin’s coordinates.

For more information on the AXIS 12°130° development visit www.axis12130.com.au

Bulky Goods Retailer Association Forum

NT Airports and the NT Government recently hosted the first Bulky Goods Retailer Association (BGRA) Forum in Darwin.

The “Opportunities in the Northern Territory” Forum, officially opened by Chief Minister Paul Henderson, provided insight for the BGRA members looking to expand or move their businesses to the Northern Territory.

The term ‘bulky goods retailing’ refers to the merchandising of goods that are bulky.

Membership of the BGRA includes some of the best-known retail names and brands in the country including Freedom Furniture, IKEA, Beacon Lighting, Spotlight, Supercheap Auto, Fantastic Furniture, Barbeques Galore, Harvey Norman, Forty Winks, OZ Design Furniture and Bunnings.

Darwin International Airport is soon to be home to Darwin’s newest business and lifestyle address, the AXIS 12°130° precinct.

For more information on the AXIS 12°130° development visit www.axis12130.com.au
An advertisement in the NT News on Saturday 12 June 2010 launched the public consultation period for the Darwin International Airport (DIA) Preliminary Draft 2010 Master Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Airports Act 1996.

This is the second opportunity for the community to comment on the DIA Master Plan. The Master Plan was put out for public comment in July last year when effort was made with public consultation including a stall at the Royal Darwin Show. Unfortunately, the joint civil-military Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) in the 2009 Master Plan was not endorsed by Airservices Australia because of a technical issue which could not be resolved between Airservices Australia and the Department of Defence.

This 2010 Master Plan has gone out to public comment with an endorsed ANEF.

The 2010 DIA Master Plan has been underpinned by:
• detailed long term technical studies including land use, road access and traffic management, parking demand, aircraft noise, aircraft movement area requirements and economic impact; and
• extensive consultation with airlines, government agencies, aviation regulatory bodies, local government, general aviation operators, airport businesses and community groups. This consultation occurred both during development of the technical studies and in seeking comment on a working draft of the Master Plan.

Copies of the Master Plan can be downloaded from www.darwinairport.com.au or collected from the Airport Management Centre at 1 Fenton Court Marrara.

Increased Security Measures at Australian Airports

Earlier this year the Federal Government announced it will introduce additional measures at Australian Airports as a result of the failed terrorist attempt to detonate an explosive device on board North West Airlines Flight 253 to Chicago on Christmas Day 2009.

Over four years, the Government will invest $200 million on new and improved security technologies, increased policing at airports, enhanced security procedures, as well as strengthened international cooperation. An immediate measure has been to increase the amount of passengers subjected to random and continuous explosive trace detection at screening points. NT Airports will work closely with the Office of Transport Security to introduce technology such as explosive detection capable hand luggage screening X-rays and body scanning devices for all international flights. These measures will further increase the effectiveness of aviation security screening throughout Australia.
Field Trip

During April, staff from Darwin International Airport (DIA), along with Darwin City Council (DCC), Greening Australia Northern Territory (GANT) and Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) hosted a field trip as part of the National Resource Management Conference being held in Darwin.

The field trip, dubbed ‘Darwin community (land) cares’ was organised as part of the conference to highlight the collaborative work being done by the four parties and local community groups such as Rapid Creek Land Care for the management of Rapid Creek.

Over the last three years, hundreds of volunteers have planted thousands of trees and created a biological corridor that links a woodland area on the airport to the Rapid Creek riverine area. In addition to this, DCC work has improved the ecosystem around the Rapid Creek area with plantings and weed management over the last decade.

The work undertaken at the Airports Conservation Reserve and along Rapid Creek is a shining example of business, government and the community sectors working together to achieve preservation of native flora and fauna species, sustainable development, and providing long term catchment management of a significant fresh water system.

Airport Environment Strategy Documents Approved

Darwin International Airport and Alice Springs Airport recently received approval from the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP for both Airport Environment Strategies (AES).

The Airport Environment Strategy is required under the Airports Act 1996 and must be reviewed and renewed every five years and once approved, it is a requirement to publish the documents.

The AES outlines how we will build on our environmental achievements and continue to put systems in place to meet our environmental aspirations over the next five years and into the future. The AES also provides the mechanisms to better manage our environmental risks and further integrate and embed sustainable environmental management into every aspect of our business.

Matboerrma Garden Launch

An official launch was recently held at Darwin International Airport for the installation of interpretive signage designed by Pauline Clack, at Matboerrma (mat-berd-ma) Gardens. Matboerrma is a Larrakia word referring to “a group of plants”.

Situated between the terminal building and Airport Management Centre, the garden was created with the assistance of Greening Australia and NT LanDesign. Larrakia people, the traditional owners of the greater Darwin area, kindly provided their knowledge, perspective and a name for the garden.

Melaleuca Awards – Harry Stubbins

The airport team is proud that Reporting Officer Harry Stubbins from the team at Alice Springs Airport was this year nominated in the category for individual excellence in the 2010 PowerWater Melaleuca Awards. Harry was nominated for his extensive work in controlling the feral rabbit population at Alice Springs Airport.

Although not a category winner, Harry’s still a winner to his colleagues and we thank him for his dedication to protecting our natural environment.
GUIDE DOGS DONATION
NT Airports recently made a $1,000 donation to Guide Dogs NT. In the near future a handler and guide dog will be visiting the Darwin Airport team to give us a demo on just how valuable these wonderful animals are to their vision impaired recipients.

GOLF DAY
The much anticipated Darwin Airport Golf Day is nearly upon us with two nominated beneficiaries this year – The Alan Walker Care Centre (or Oncology Unit in Darwin) and the Wongalilla Equestrian Centre (WEC).

WEC is based in Darwin and provides a number of youth programs to a variety of community organisations. WEC is part of the Police and Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) and relies heavily on sponsorship and fundraising to provide equestrian activities to under-privileged children.

NT GECKOS
Darwin International Airport sponsored the NT Geckos U14 Girls Basketball to the tune of $3,000 to assist them in their efforts to represent the Territory in this year’s National Club Championships. The Corporate Giving Committee got a chance to meet with the girls at one of their training sessions. We wish them all the best for their year ahead!

CORRUGATED IRON YOUTH ARTS
DIA are pleased to announce that they are a key sponsor for Corrugated Iron Youth Arts for 2010.

Corrugated Iron provides and facilitates quality performing arts experiences for Darwin’s young people. Their arts delivery includes acting, dance, circus, multimedia, directing, producing, film making, technical production, writing, set design and puppetry.

The Corporate Giving Committee looks forward to attending some of the exciting and varied performances throughout the year, and wish Corrugated Iron a successful season.

Visit by Students from the Clontarf Academy to Alice Springs Airport
Earlier this year, Alice Springs Airport hosted students from the Clontarf Academy on a visit to the airport. The Clontarf Academies are part of a nationwide initiative based at schools throughout the country and aim to foster personal development, schooling, and football skills.

Students enjoyed an airport tour courtesy of Richard Tucker, Alice Springs Airport’s Security Coordinator. The tour included most facets of airport operation including the passenger check-in area, security screening point and baggage-handling operations.

Martin Gardiner and Nathan Pankhurst from the Aviation Rescue and Fire-Fighting Service also generously gave their time to display the equipment and facilities including the initiation of fire hose operations with a live demonstration.

Tribute to CHARLIE LEW FATT
Age the age of 60, Charlie Lew Fatt passed away recently in Melbourne. A member of the well known and respected Darwin Lew Fatt family of sports men and women, Charlie worked at Darwin Airport for over 30 years, initially in the Groundstaff team then as an Operations Officer. Charlie was known for his terrific sense of humour and was a wonderful ambassador for the airport.

Charlie is survived by his two daughters and wife Lyn who live in Darwin.

BELOW: Josiah Jackson eases off on the fire tender's hose nozzle under the supervision of Martin Gardiner (ARFFS) while Richard Tucker (ASA), Henry James, Tyrone Lankin and Roddy Mentha check the handiwork. Nathan Pankhurst (ARFFS) was out of sight in the fire tender operating the pump controls. Picture: Simon Coutts.