MELBOURNE AIRPORT 50 YEARS — MOMENTS IN TIME

When the then Prime Minister John Gorton (1968-1971) opened the airport in 1970 he said: "I will declare Melbourne Airport open, but I hope that lovely liquid name, Tullamarine, will not disappear from our vocabulary".

July 1, 1970 Melbourne Airport officially opens with the first international departure, Qantas QF530 to San Francisco.

1970 Passengers relax in the modern departure gate lounge. Visitors also flock to the airport to enjoy the purple, gold and red furnishings and decor.

1971 Trans Australia Airlines air hostesses gather on the observation deck when domestic operations start a year after the international airport opens.

June 20, 1972 The Concorde prototype, which promised to cut travel times, arrives in Melbourne from London on its first international proving flight.

March 1977 ABBA touch down at Melbourne Airport on a personalised Ansett jet featuring the ABBA logo. Thousands of fans flock to the observation deck to get a glimpse of the stars.

1996 The T2 international terminal satellite is expanded at a cost of $65 million to support growing passenger numbers.

March 2001 The luxury 276-room Hilton Hotel (now Parkroyal) opens. In September 2019, work began on a new 464-room Accor hotel.

When Melbourne Airport opened in 1970, there were six airlines operating. Today the airport is home to more than 40 airlines.

November 2005 The Airbus A380 lands at Melbourne Airport on its first long-haul test flight outside Europe for Qantas, coinciding with the airline's 85th anniversary.

December 9, 2015 Terminal 4 opens and is the first airport terminal in the Asia Pacific region to open with a full self-service check-in operation.

December 2017 Melbourne Airport's luxury laneway is unveiled as part of the renovated T2 international terminal retail and dining precinct.

Melbourne Airport has seen 769 million passengers pass through its gates in the past 50 years.

May 2020 Virgin Australia aircraft parked during the COVID-19 pandemic after planes are grounded due to travel restrictions.

2020 and beyond Taking off for a new era of air travel post COVID-19.

Timeline

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juniorTraveller — MELBOURNE AIRPORT

Airports are unique places where many things are possible; places of hope, adventure and intrigue.

To help junior travellers celebrate Melbourne Airport's 50th year, you're invited to experience the airport virtually at melbourneairport.com.au/junior-traveller.

Here you will find exclusive behind-the-scenes videos, including a guided tour of a Qantas A380. You can also meet some of the people who work at the airport and learn about their jobs, such as an air traffic controller, a pilot and the airport's CEO.

Finally, to keep junior travellers amused over the school holidays or ahead of your next trip, you will find fun puzzles, games, challenges and quizzes to download, with a learning module based around the airport's 50th milestone.

This is a website with content designed to suit junior travellers aged 7 years and above.

Melbourne Airport will award a prize pack to the Junior Traveller of the month, including a limited edition Melbourne Airport 50th Year photo book, pin, lanyard, toy and keep cup, so jump online and prepare for take-off today!

melbourneairport.com.au/junior-traveller