Gold Coast Airport

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 14th March 2012

GOLD COAST AIRPORT HOSTS CHINDERAH SCOUTS

Gold Coast Airport this week welcomed an onsite visit to the airport from a group of 1st Chinderah Scouts.

The group of fifteen Scouts and their leaders visited the airport with the purpose of fulfilling their citizenship badge. Of particular interest to the Scouts were the areas of border protection, counter terrorism, air traffic control, aviation rescue and fire fighting.

Gold Coast Airport Chief Operating Officer Paul Donovan said airport staff were more than willing to give the Scouts a behind-the-scenes tour of the airport.

"We are fortunate that both airport staff and our on-airport stakeholders are willing, where possible, to help educate school-aged groups such as Scouts on how an airport operates.

"It's rewarding to see the thrill the children get from visiting back-of-house areas and having the rare opportunity to tour the air traffic control tower," Mr Donovan said.

The 1st Chinderah Scouts group, aged between 11 and 15, enjoyed a presentation from an AFP Liaison Officer on important issues such as border protection and counter-terrorism before being transported airside for a tour of the Airservices Control Tower and a visit to the on-airport fire station.

"These special tours are a worthwhile way for the airport family to give back to our local community and perhaps we are even imparting our knowledge to future cabin crew, air traffic controllers, baggage handlers, AFP personnel or airport COO's ," Mr Donovan said.

1st Chinderah Scouts Group Leader David Hutchinson said the idea came from one of the Scouts who is particularly interested in a career in airport security or air traffic control and was really hoping to undertake work experience there later this year.

"The visit will count for badgework towards both the Air Activities and Citizenship badges for the Scouts and is particularly important this year in the lead-up to the Australian Jamboree in 2013, as only Scouts who have achieved a high level in their badgework are eligible to go."

David said the Air Activities badge requirements are usually only available from the Scout airbase in Sydney, thus the opportunity made available for Scouts in this area by Gold Coast Airport, Airservices and the AFP was a very lucky one that was greatly appreciated.

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Melissa Pearce, Communications Manager on 07 5589 1196 or Mb 0408 606 802
Karen Harrigan, Communications Coordinator on 07 5589 1107