History made as Avalon Airport welcomes first Jetstar flight

Australia's low fare airline, Jetstar, has launched operations from Melbourne Avalon Airport, introducing new air services to its route network now comprising 14 airport destinations.

The launch of services today from Melbourne Avalon Airport will see Jetstar become the only Australian commercial airline to operate flights out of a second capital city airport.

Jetstar will be the sole commercial jet operation at Melbourne Avalon Airport and will fly 70 weekly services (35 return flights) directly to both Sydney and Brisbane, providing a new gateway for travellers to Geelong, the Great Ocean Road, Bellarine Peninsula and Melbourne.

The addition of Melbourne Avalon Airport to Jetstar's network comes exactly one week after the airline's national launch of its services on 25 May across four Australian states to 13 destinations with a fleet of 14 Boeing 717s.

Jetstar's fares, which can be purchased directly at jetstar.com start from $65 one way Sydney-Melbourne Avalon and $95 one way Brisbane-Melbourne Avalon. An additional $2 per flight applies to fares paid by credit card and flights booked by telephone (13 15 38) are $10 extra.

Jetstar Chief Executive Officer, Alan Joyce joined Victorian Premier Steve Bracks, Linfox Managing Director of Airports, David Fox and over 200 guests to welcome the airline's inaugural flight (JQ301) from Sydney to Melbourne Avalon Airport.

Mr Joyce said Jetstar would operate three Sydney and two Brisbane return flights daily, initially with B717, 125 seat configured aircraft from a $4.5 million passenger terminal and associated facilities. Jetstar's progressive introduction of the Airbus A320 to its fleet, the first from late July, would also see the airline operate future A320 services from Melbourne Avalon Airport.

Around 20 per cent of Jetstar's total weekly Victorian services will now fly from Melbourne Avalon Airport. The new services are in addition to Melbourne Airport, which is Jetstar's largest airport operation with 246 flights per week (123 return services).

Mr Joyce said Jetstar's operational launch from Melbourne Avalon Airport would prove successful on the basis that strong passenger numbers from the opening day of services were predicted to continue.

"The addition of Melbourne Avalon Airport to our route network reinforces Jetstar's innovative approach towards delivering quality every day, low fare operations to those who fly with us," Mr Joyce said.

"Flying to and from Melbourne Avalon Airport is all about Jetstar making it easier for travellers to access our affordable air services to places such as Melbourne, Geelong and the tourist appeal of the Great Ocean Road, the Otways and west Victorian regions.

"Jetstar means serious business with our Avalon operations and the strength of forward bookings at Melbourne's newest passenger jet airport shows people have a clear desire to use this facility.

"Our affordable fares for Melbourne Avalon services are also reinforced by the introduction of a cost effective shuttle bus transfer between Melbourne's Spencer Street Station and Avalon Airport from just $12 one way and the Airport's car parking prices from $10 for a single day.

"Melbourne Avalon Airport is strategically located between Victoria's two largest cities, Melbourne and Geelong, and is easily accessible by car in both directions with the triple lane Princes Freeway."
Mr Joyce said passenger bookings on both Sydney-Melbourne Avalon and Brisbane-Melbourne Avalon services were above expectation.

A 900 space car park, adjacent to the terminal facility, will be operated by the Airport, with competitive prices for both short and long term stays. Car parking prices per vehicle start from $2 (up to 30 minutes), $4 (up to one hour), $10 per day and $5 for each subsequent day.

Sunbus (Avalon Airport) Shuttles would operate regular coach services to and from the Melbourne CBD area, (including designated hotels), Spencer Street Station, Franklin Street bus depot and outer Melbourne suburbs. Sunbus Shuttle would also operate to and from the Airport and Werribee.

The comprehensive timetable by Sunbus Shuttles will meet every arrival and scheduled departure by Jetstar from Melbourne Avalon Airport, seven days per week.

A one way adult shuttle ticket from Melbourne Avalon Airport to Spencer Street/ Franklin Street is $12 and $15 to Melbourne CBD hotels. Sunbus reservations can be made on a ‘walk up basis’ (Avalon Airport, Spencer Street Station and Franklin St), directly online at sunbusaustralia.com.au or by phone.

“The clear accessibility and affordability of the transport options to and from Melbourne Avalon Airport is consistent with Jetstar’s commitment to offering all day, every day affordable fares to the travelling public,” Mr Joyce said.

Up to five car rental companies had also established operations at the Airport, including Avis and Budget.

Mr Joyce said Jetstar’s arrival at Melbourne Avalon Airport had been buoyed by the overwhelming support from the communities of Geelong, the Bellarine Peninsula, western Victoria and Melbourne.

“The people of Geelong and many other parts of Victoria have embraced Jetstar’s operations from Melbourne Avalon Airport with great enthusiasm,” Mr Joyce said.

“Jetstar will be offering these communities not only the potential of increased tourist traffic over time but also greater accessibility to affordable air travel with a new airport operation west of Melbourne”.

Jetstar’s scheduled departure times for Melbourne Avalon Airport are (from 1 June – 20 July 2004):

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