

Honourable Company of Air Pilots (NZ Region)



Issue 6: August 2025

NEW MEMBERS

Mary Whitehouse (pending)

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Nil

RESIGNED

Nil

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Greetings fellow Air Pilots,

At our recent Annual General Meeting, the 2025/26 committee was elected. This saw the addition of one new committee member, Lloyd Willis. We welcome Lloyd to the role and look forward to his input into our activities. As our constitution requires, at the first committee meeting following the AGM (held on 29 July) the following committee appointments were made:

Chair: WGCDR (Rtd) Ron Thacker

Deputy Chair: Mr Bill Bennett

Secretary: WGCDR Richard Beaton

Treasurer: CAPT Barry Mitchell

Technical Director: CAPT Mike Zaytsoff

I need to acknowledge, Bill MacGregor, who had capably filled the role of Acting Chair pending the election of the new committee. He provided a steady pair of hands while we transitioned from Allan Boyce's leadership.

Allan was a founder member of the Air Pilot's New Zealand Region in 1989 and was elected to the New Zealand Regional Committee in 1993. Between 1993 and 1997, he was the Regional Technical Director and then succeeded as Chairman of our Region, which post he held until 2001. Following his term as Chairman, he continued as a member of the Regional Committee while also being elected an Assistant to the Court in 2006. In 2019, he was 'persuaded' into again becoming Chairman of the NZ Region, a post he retained until earlier this year. With his depth of knowledge and his formidable array of contacts in the aviation community, Allan has provided outstanding service to the NZ region over many years, supported (it's fair to say) by the sage



advice of his various committees. As the incoming Chair, I acknowledge and thank Allan for all he has done for the Company as a committee member and Chairman.

Our work on developing a more active social media presence is beginning to pay dividends, with growing numbers viewing. As well as managing our popular webinar series, Mike Zaytsoff is developing a two-day course for pilots looking to transition into air transport operations. We'll provide more detail on this venture in due course. As always, if any current members have ideas or proposals to further our profile, to engage new members, or to enhance our value to the aviation community, the committee would love to hear from you (via admin-nz@airpilots.org).

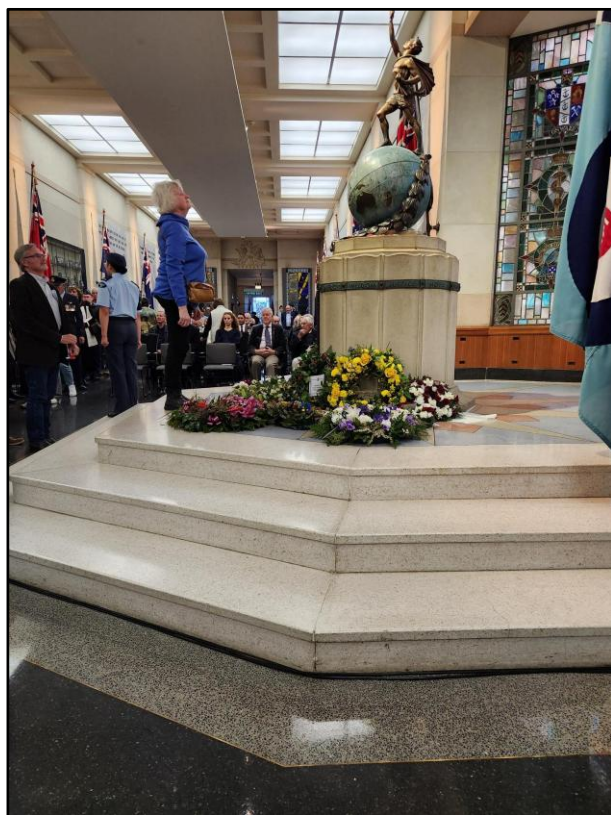
Upper Freeman Ron Thacker
Chair

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Our social media engagement is starting to pay dividends, with growing numbers of people viewing and commenting on our posts, on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn. As noted in earlier correspondence, we'd love to share some of your stories, experience and insights. As well as providing information relating to the promotion of aviation safety and standards, we would like to provide a more personal face to the Company. As Manfred von Richthofen said "The quality of the box matters little. Success depends upon the man [sic] who sits in it."

BOMBER COMMAND MEMORIAL

On Sunday 27 July, our Deputy Chair, Bill Bennet, attended the Bomber Command commemorative service at the Auckland War Museum and laid a wreath on behalf of the Air Pilots. He has provided the following images.



MASTER'S VISIT

Plans for the Master's visit in November are taking shape, and there are a few activities for which you might make a note in your calendars:

Saturday 15 November - Visit to Air Force Museum: During the Christchurch leg of his visit the Master will take a guided tour of the Air Force museum at Wigram. Members in the area are invited to join the party for the tour (commencing at 0930hrs) and at the follow-on lunch in town. This will provide an opportunity for members who can't make the formal functions to meet the Master. If you would like to attend either the museum tour or the lunch, please advise us at admin-nz@airpilots.org.

Monday 17 November – Cocktail Reception: If you are in the Wellington region, please consider joining us for the annual cocktail reception at the Wellington Club. This will be a great opportunity to meet the Master and other aviation industry leaders. Invitations will be issued to members shortly.

Saturday 22 November – Formal Dinner: Our annual dinner will be held in the Whenuapai Officers Mess on RNZAF Base Auckland. At the dinner we are likely to present 2025 awards made to NZ region members and, if awarded, the RNZAF Sword. Invitations to the dinner will be issued shortly.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINARS

Our Technical Director, CAPT Mike Zaytsoff, continues his series of professional development webinars each month. These are conducted at 1000hrs on the second Wednesday of each month. You should have all received email invitations to join these webinars – if not, please contact the secretary and we'll ensure you are on future invitations. These presentations are conducted in partnership with the NZ Society of Air Safety Investigators (NZSASI) and are open to all who are interested.

Our colleagues in Australia have also just started a professional development webinar series. In the inaugural presentation on 29 July, GPCAPT (Rtd) Peter Norford RAAF outlined the development of aviation safety culture in the Australian Defence Force, a change that saw a significant reduction in major aircraft accidents. NZ region members will be able to join the Australian webinar series – links to each presentation will be emailed to you in advance of each webinar.

PASSING OF FORMER CAA DIRECTOR

Your committee wishes to acknowledge the passing of Captain John George Jones, a former Director of Civil Aviation, who passed away on 21 July 2025.

John was Director of CAA from 2001-2006 and was then appointed CEO of the pilot training company, CTC Aviation Training, based at Hamilton International Airport.



"More than anything else, the sensation of flying is one of perfect peace mingled with an excitement that strains every nerve to the utmost, if you can conceive of such a combination."

Wilbur Wright

UPCOMING EVENTS

TROPHIES & AWARDS

The Trophies & Awards banquet in Guild Hall will be held on Thursday 23rd October. The awards ceremony is live streamed for those who wish to observe the proceedings – the link can be found on the Company web site.

MASTER'S VISIT

The new Master, John Denyer, will visit NZ over the period 13-23 November. A visit itinerary will be promulgated once finalised.

NZ REGION ANNUAL DINNER

The annual dinner will be held in the Whenuapai Officers Mess (RNZAF Base Auckland) on Saturday 22 November. Invitations will be issued in the near future. At the dinner we will host the Master and Mrs Denyer and present some awards.

