

Honourable Company of Air Pilots (NZ Region)



Issue 7: November 2025

NEW MEMBERS

Mary Whitehouse

Herwin Bongers

Hamish Findlay

Andre Williams

REINSTATED MEMBERS

David Bennett

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Greetings fellow Air Pilots,

With the Master's visit complete, the year draws to a close for the NZ Region. We have made good progress with our social media strategy and we have seen a modest increase in membership. We will continue this effort in the New Year while also exploring more opportunities to contribute actively to the aviation community.

I need to thank the executive committee for their work during the year and, while it's risky singling out individuals, I particularly want to acknowledge the work of Barry Mitchell (Treasurer), Mike Zaytsoff (Technical Director) and Richard Beaton (Secretary and membership engagement lead). 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).

I wish you all tail winds and fair skies for the Christmas holiday period.

Upper Freeman Ron Thacker
Chair

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Our social media engagement is only as good as the stories we tell. To that end, I encourage you all to consider what stories you may have to share, particularly those that afford lessons to our fellow aviators. Sharing those stories will enrich the wider aviation community while also furthering recognition of the Honourable Company.



MASTER'S VISIT

The Master, Mr John Denyer, and his wife, Kate, departed NZ for the Hong Kong leg of their southern tour on 23 November. During their time with us they conducted a range of aviation-related activities and made calls on a range of aviation agencies. A few of our Christchurch members were able to meet the Master at the Air Force museum, while Wellington-based members (along with invited guests) enjoyed the cocktail reception at the Wellington Club. In Auckland, Brett Nicholls took the Master for a flight in his Auster, adding another aircraft type to the Master's log book. The NZ tour finished with our annual dinner in the Whenuapai Officers Mess, where the Jean Batten Memorial Award was presented to CAPT (Rtd) Allan Boyce and the RNZAF presented the Air Pilots Sword to SQNLDR Craig Clark.

Despite a few hiccups that were beyond our control, the visit proved useful in furthering our profile among key aviation organisations and in opening a few doors for cooperation. There is little doubt that John and Kate enjoyed their first experience of New Zealand, having indicated their desire to return at some stage.



Wellington Cocktail Reception



Air Pilots Sword
SQNLDR Craig Clark



Jean Batten Trophy
CAPT Allan Boyce

YOUNG PILOT NETWORKING EVENT

Committee members Brett Nicholls and Lloyd Willis have been developing a proposal to host a networking event to allow young pilots to meet potential employers and gain an understanding of the requirements and skills to gain employment as pilots. The outline of this event (yet to be confirmed) is:

- Date: Friday 20 February 2026
- Venue: NZ Warbirds Bar at Ardmore
- Format: Start at 5pm with some selected speeches from potential employers, then networking afterwards over a Cash Bar. Possible pizza dinner.
- Prize Raffle - Tiger Pt 115 Ride (put up by Brett) with money going to an aviation-related charity

If any Air Pilots have contacts (employers or potential pilots) that might be available, please reach out via our email admin-nz@airpilots.org.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINARS

Our series of professional development webinars continue 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.

"In flying, you need at least two of these three to stay alive: altitude, speed or brains."

Anonymous

