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**AOPA NZ - Member Update - 6th May 2026**

1 message

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**Member Service** <member.service@aopa.nz>  
To: Member Service <member.service@aopa.nz>

Thu, May 7, 2026 at 9:05 AM

From: **AOPA NZ Comms** <comms@aopa.nz>  
Date: Wed, 6 May 2026 at 10:25  
Subject: AOPA NZ - Member Update - 6th May 2026  
To: All AOPA NZ members

Good morning

We're racing towards the middle of the year - a time when our flying days get shorter and the temperatures a bit chillier. But it also makes for some of the most stunning flying days around NZ. We hope you are getting some great flying in.

In this edition, some upcoming fly-ins, some useful member resources for those of you who have not flown into Milford aerodrome but wish to do so, a welcome to new Pathway members, a super-silent supersonic space jet, NZ's only aircraft manufacturer (which you may have never heard of) and the usual roundup of news and information for members.

So dive on in ...

### **Save the date(s) - upcoming fly-ins**

Two new entries for your diary - especially if you enjoy the collegiality of fly-ins! Who doesn't?

Further information about these two fly-ins will be posted in future updates, including registration links. But for now, please put them in your flying calendar/diary!

- Saturday June 20th - AOPA NZ Meet and Greet at Te Kowhai Airpark.
- The weekend of 18-20 September - the AOPA NZ Fly-in at Darfield.

## Thinking of heading to Milford Sound?

Regular (flying) visitors to Milford Sound will already know about our AOPA NZ Milford Concession. But if you are thinking of planning a trip for the first time (or the first time in a while), you might like to find out more.



*Image: AOPA NZ "Destination Milford" video*

Our concession allows for 100 movements to Milford aerodrome per annum. There are specific steps you need to follow to take advantage of this, and you should familiarise yourself with what you need to do.

All the information is [on this page of our website](#).

And don't forget - if you are flying in for the first time, you should probably watch our AOPA NZ "Destination Milford" video, featuring immediate past-President Sue Kronfeld, who knows the approach into Milford very well, and offers some superb tips. [You'll find that video here](#).

## AOPA NZ welcomes 22 new Pathway members

We're pleased to confirm that we already have a whopping 22 Pathway members on board. Ranging in age between 17 and 26 years, these new members are from right around New Zealand, from Balclutha to as far north as Auckland.

Later this month, we'll introduce our new Pathway members to everyone at AOPA NZ so that you can reach out to them locally, and look out for them at upcoming gatherings including Fly-Ins.

Welcome, Pathway members. Great to have you in the cockpit!

And for everyone else - please keep your thinking caps on to help us find more Pathway members - see the item further below.

### **Have you ordered your AVSEC card?**

Since reminding members about AVSEC cards, many have applied to get their cards issued. Here's further information for you if you haven't quite got there yet ...

AVSEC Cards are Airport Identity Cards required throughout New Zealand.



The primary intent/benefit of this Aviation Security ID card is to enable you to have ready access to your aircraft at any time. Although traditionally, we have often been able to show our pilot's licence to achieve this same effect, this is not a photo ID, which means that security staff have no way of checking that you are not using somebody else's card.

Aviation Security has changed to a new online portal ..... so a whole new way to apply for / renew your AVSEC Cards.

Everything you need to know, including how to apply, what it costs, and where to get help if you need it, is on our website (log in first!) [on this page](#).

### **ADS-B rollout: could you please help us with locations?**

As mentioned in previous updates, we have ADS-B units ready to install. We are looking for locations, with internet and power available, that can view areas that have poor ADS-B coverage.

If you think you fit this criteria please complete the [information form](#)

[here](#) and ADS-B page [on our website here](#). And a big thank you to those who have assisted so far.

### **Approach Magazine - read it online!**

A reminder for those of you who enjoy thumbing through Approach Magazine when you get it in the post, you can also flick through back-issues online.

You'll find a section of our website containing [recent editions of Approach here](#).



### **Chipmunk Anniversary just three weeks away**

A reminder that the celebrations for the 80th anniversary of the first flight of the de Havilland Chipmunk are to be held at Te Kōwhai Aerodrome on 23 May 2026.

We know that there will be some enthusiasts out there who will want to plan ahead for this celebration.

### **Repeat request: AOPA NZ seeks a new Treasurer**

You might recall that the Committee is seeking a Treasurer to oversee our accounts.

Geoff van Asch has done a great job for too many years, and it's time for him to step back from this. We therefore need to find a person to replace Geoff and take on this important role. Please

note, Geoff's replacement doesn't need to be a Chartered Accountant, just an exacting person that is familiar with accounts and has a keen eye for spotting issues in an overseeing role.

If anybody is keen to help us with this, we'd appreciate hearing from you. Please email Richard Eberlein at [president@aopa.nz](mailto:president@aopa.nz)

### **Members, can you recommend some young GA enthusiasts as potential Pathway members?**

Further to the item above, another reminder about our online campaign to raise awareness and encourage new (younger) recruits to join our membership.

Please remember that we're asking our existing AOPA NZ members - yes, you - to be on the lookout for potential Pathway members. Amongst your network there are guaranteed to be young(er), enthusiastic people who are thinking about GA. Potential pilots, avionics experts, engineers, ATC professionals and more. Please let them know about Pathway.

If you're active on Facebook, you might see this graphic from time to time as a reminder.



To remind you of the details, the new Pathway Membership category is designed for younger, aspiring AOPA NZ members as a

stepping stone into full membership within our organisation.

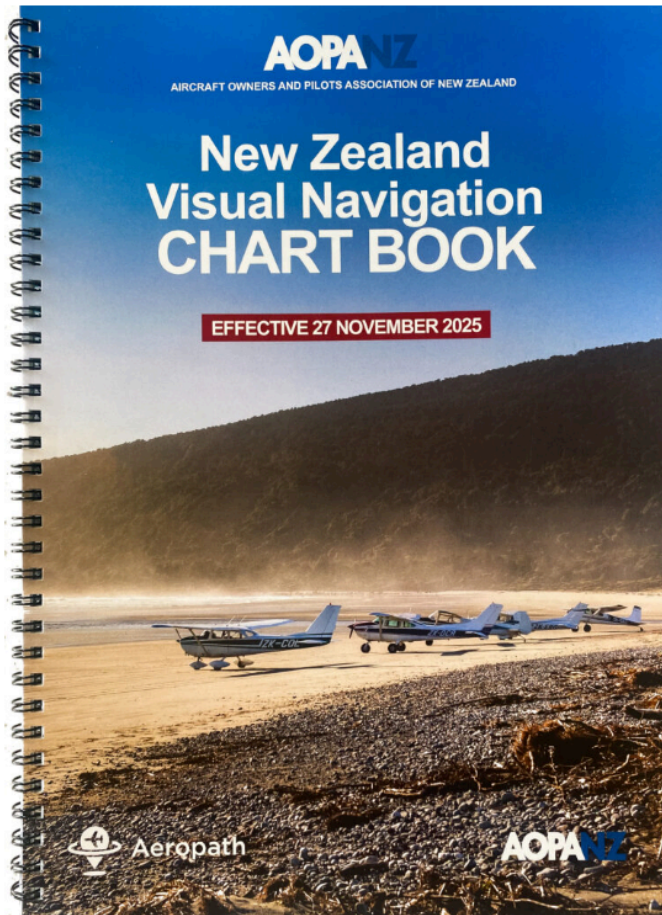
Designed to encourage people aged from 15 to 30 years to join our organisation, the new Pathway Membership offers:

- Access to AOPA NZ member benefits (including discounts)
- AOPA NZ member updates
- Access to AOPA NZ WhatsApp groups
- A copy of Approach magazine (digital only)
- Ability to join in on fly-ins and other social events
- AOPA NZ member website access
- The benefits of AOPA NZ advocacy
- Access to other AOPA NZ members (for connection and shared experience)

If you know someone who might benefit from this new membership type, please encourage them to get in touch with Nikki at AOPA NZ Member Service. There are details of the new membership category on our website, [via the "join" page](#) and the direct link to the [member sign up form \(including Pathway\) is here](#).

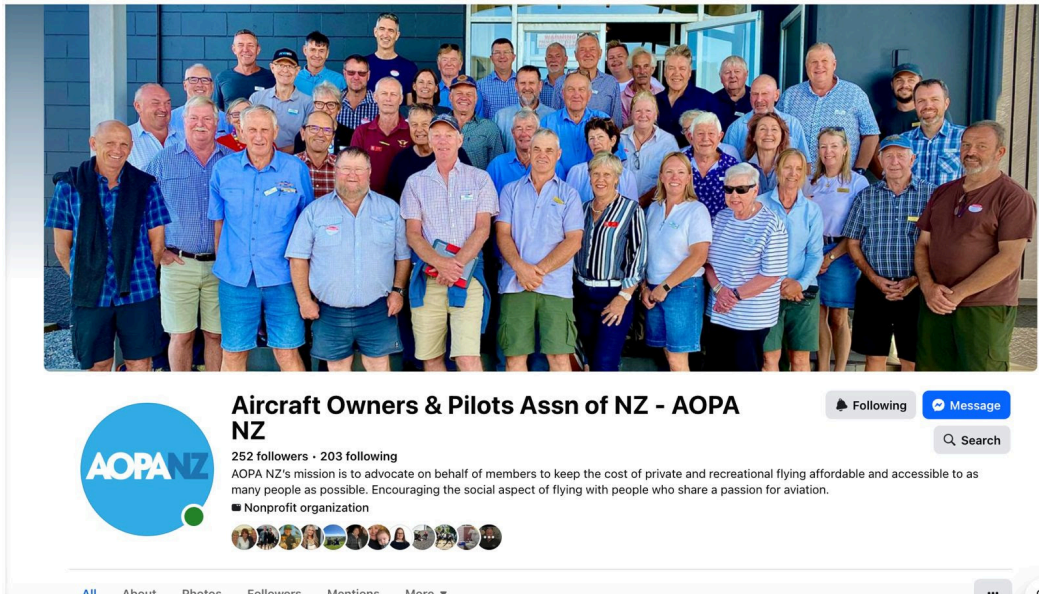
### **Have you ordered your VNC book yet?**

A reminder that you can buy your copy through our website at the discounted member rate of \$88 including post and GST (same as last year). To secure your current copy, [visit the website here](#).



### AOPA NZ Facebook page (different from the Facebook group)

You might well be a member of AOPA NZ's Facebook group. Please also make sure you are following our Facebook page. We need both in order to reach as many pilots as possible. [Follow us here.](#)



### AOPA NZ social calendar

We're updating it with anything appropriate sent to us (see above) -

and it has just been updated. [Check out the calendar here](#). And please keep encouraging contributions from Aero Clubs and other groups across New Zealand!

If you're tempted to send anything to us, please do so well in advance of your event/date so that our members can read about it in one of our updates.

Coming up in the next month or so

- Saturday, 23 May – Celebrations for the 80th anniversary of the first flight of the de Havilland Chipmunk – Te Kōwhai Aerodrome. All are welcome
- 30 May to 2 June (King's Birthday weekend 2026) – Airwomens' Rally – Hastings

### **In the media - in case you missed it**

We'll bring you a selection of recent articles from the media which may be of general interest to AOPA NZ members.

- Regional airport's only scheduled service survives — for now - Stuff, [5 May](#)
- Crowds get high from aircraft at Hood Aerodrome open day - The Post, [4 May](#)
- Super fly: can an electric aircraft spark a quiet revolution in New York travel? - The Guardian, [28 April](#)
- Last Kiwi World War II fighter pilot John Keesing dies aged 102 in Whanganui - Whanganui Chronicle, [2 May](#)
- Hamilton Airport hails expansion at \$2 billion business park - Waikato Times, [4 May](#)
- Retiring Spirit Pilot Has Impromptu Celebration After His Final Career Flight Was Canceled Due to Airline's Closure - People, [4 May](#)
- Evacuations after unexploded ordnance found at Ardmore Airport in Auckland - Stuff, [30 April](#)
- South Korean fighter pilot fined for mid-air photos that caused crash, RNZ, [23 April](#)
- New App Uses AI to Help Pilots Get Aircraft Renters Insurance - General Aviation news, [1 May](#) (Note: this is a USA news story)
- Pilot says plane hit by drone over US airport - RNZ, [30 April](#)
- United Airlines jet strikes light pole and delivery truck while landing in US - NZ Herald, [4 May](#)

**Bonus media: the untold story of NZ-made aircraft**

A fascinating video about NZAero - the Hamilton based aircraft manufacturer you may never have heard of.



Image: Madison Malone

[Watch the full video here.](#)

**Bonus media 2: NASA's supersonic aircraft - close up**

NASA's X-59 quiet supersonic aircraft was run through a series of manoeuvres during a flight over the Mojave Desert in California on April 14, 2026.



Image: VideoFromSpace

[Watch the full video here.](#)

**Podcast: Kiwi Tales**

We've recommended episodes featuring Ross Millichamp, Richard Rayward, Willie Sage, Ken Tustin, Dave Baldwin, Bernie Lewis, Keith Neylon, Patrick Nolan, Charlie Janes and Ray Patchett.

In this episode, hear Ewan Smith's story.

[Watch the podcast episode here.](#)

**Got something to share? Articles, ideas, dates?**

Do you have an idea for an upcoming AOPA NZ member update? Perhaps you'd like to write something? Have you found some news, videos or articles which you think members might benefit from? Do you have dates for the calendar? We're always thrilled when people wish to contribute. Please see [the How To guide here for editorial guidelines](#), how to quickly and easily submit and an upcoming publishing schedule for 2026.

**Feedback please?**

How are we doing with this regular member update? Please let us know at [comms@aopa.nz](mailto:comms@aopa.nz)

**Need help with something? Call Nikki at AOPA NZ Member Service**

If you need anything, have questions, or are having trouble finding something on the website or even logging in, please get in touch with Nikki. If she can't help you, she'll get hold of someone who can!