

AIRNEWS

No. 285 APRIL 2026

AUTUMN EDITION



**Coming Home to the Sky
Three Pilots and a Comedian
Girls Can Fly**

Official Magazine of The Australian Women Pilots' Association
Founder: The Late Nancy-Bird Walton AO OBE

PRINT POST APPROVED 325999/0001 ISSN 1321-0564



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Registered by Australia Post, Print Post approved 325999/00001. ISSN 1321-0564

Airnews is published by the Australian Women Pilots' Association

ABN 61 009 026 279

and edited by Michelle Fortune (Melbourne, Victoria).

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ADVERTISING RATES

1/3 page \$160 per issue; 1/2 page \$235 per issue; full page \$310 per issue.

Business size classified ads \$48 each (8 per page). Must be aviation related.

Members discount 20%. Contact editor for further details.

LETTERS/EMAIL TO EDITOR - must be addressed "letters to the editor" for publication consideration.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Stories and articles are welcome and should be sent to airnews.editor@awpa.org.au.

Images should be supplied separately to the article, with a list of captions and must have a resolution of no less than 300dpi for the actual size of the image.

Next copy deadline: 12 July 2026



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In the spirit of reconciliation, the Australian Women Pilots' Association acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to the lands, seas and communities over which we fly.

FRONT COVER: Belinda Beatty sitting on the wing of a PC-21



TASMANIA REPORT

By Aimee Butler



Glider



Steph and Charlotte at the Fly-In and Open Day.

Aviation events

"Pilots are a rare kind of human. They leave the ordinary surface of the world to purify their soul in the sky, and they come down to earth, only after receiving the communion of the infinite." - José María Velasco Ibarra

Former President of Ecuador, Ibarra's words, perfectly describe those who fly, including for Gliding Tasmania's Fly-In and Open Day, held at Old Tunbridge RAAF Airfield. For aviation enthusiasts, there were over 25 aircraft to see, a warbird flyover, and (of course) gliders on display. Our very own AWPA TAS President, Steph Hey (a glider pilot herself), was present with her family, as was new TAS branch member, Kathy Hoare. Also in attendance were TAS Aviation Newshound, Aimee Butler, and her husband, Robert Cassidy. Robert is a former Boeing 747 Captain who has shared some of his photos from the day.

Meetings and international counterparts

AWPA TAS branch meetings have occurred at various places around Tasmania. There have been robust discussions, as well as great efforts to promote (for the second year) the Free Trial Instruction Flight. The meetings have also included food, chatter, and sightseeing from the air. Steph Hey and Maria Stiles enjoyed a fantastic trip over Friendly Beaches, thanks to hitching a ride in Dee Bond and Neil Young's SuperPac 750XL-II (ZK-EPO). Sandra and Paul, an amazing couple who run Freycinet Air, even took the group to Freycinet Marine Farm. The first meeting of the year was held at the Low Head Pilot Station Café, near George Town

Former AWPA TAS President, Maria Stiles, and Aimee Butler met with Kathy Koshan and her husband, Will Weatherbee, for dinner in Hobart's Salamanca Square. Kathy is a life member of the Southeast Section of The Ninety-Nines, Inc, International Organization of Women Pilots. She and her husband are both pilots. It is always great to meet other aviators, and as Robert Cassidy eventually appeared, the two male pilots enjoyed chatting with each other too.

Flying helicopters

Welcome to new AWPA TAS member, Chloe Wessling, who has moved down to fly for Tasmanian Helicopters.

Coincidentally, helicopter pilots have been working hard to help extinguish the fire near Woods Lake, as photographed by Aimee Butler. It is a reminder of the coordinated efforts that must continue if we are to increase the number of female pilots in all sectors of the aviation industry, including flying helicopters.



FROM TOP: **Steph, Gail, Maria, Vicky and Ian at the Low Head Pilot Station café. Aimee, Kathy, and Maria at Suzie Luck's. Dee flying with Steph, Maria and Neil in the SuperPac. Bell 214B helicopter coming in to refuel at the Bothwell Recreation Grounds.**

