



# Mercury Bay Flyer

December 2024

Editor: Wally Pendray  
021 907 782 email:  
pendrayw@gmail.com



## Flying Activity:

MBAC member Tony Pilmer has recently passed at age 93 as per the message to the right. Tony was a MBAC member for many years right here in Whitianga. Our MBAC Members extend our condolences to Tony's family.



A number of our Whitianga Coffee drinkers were seen earlier in November sampling Pauanui brews while fine weather prevailed.

 Timeline photos

**TONY PILMER**

A message from the Pilmer family.

It is with great sadness that we advise the passing of Tony Pilmer on 28th October, aged 93 years, after a brief illness.

The Pilmer family have many fond memories farming and growing up on Waiteko Station.

More recently, Tony had enjoyed residing at the Pacific Coast retirement village in Papamoa for the past 4 years.

From 1993 to 2021 Tony and his late wife Heather Meikle lived in Whitianga where they were both actively involved in the community.

He will be missed by all that knew him.

A private cremation has taken place. Tony is survived by his three children Penny, Sandy, and Chris.

MBAC

**The Rotorua Aero Club - Young Eagles** flew up to Whitianga recently and many of our members were on deck to show them the sights in their open Hangar houses followed by a Coro Club Café lunch stop. This topped them up for a follow-on

look at the MBSAT hangar where Tony Turner showed them aircraft in construction. That's not all as Pete Walton engaged them with build and fly stories in his hangar followed by John Gemmell opening his Pietenpole build project to their gaze. The 8 Young Eagles had good weather for their flight up from Rotorua in 4 aircraft and left Whitianga in fine spirits.



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## Coro Club Cafe & Venue



**Summer hours 28 Dec-12 Jan 8 am to 3pm**  
**Closed 13 & 14 January 2025**



**15 January '25**  
**onwards Wednesday to Sunday 8 am to 3pm**

### Committee 2024-25

President	Evan Wheeler	021 924 807	
Vice President	Keith Skilling	021 333 767	
Secretary	Mike Norton	021 667 866	
Treasurer	Bruce Turner	021 388 343	----- Hangar rental enquires
Club Captain	John Gemmell	027 498 5381	
Ordinary Executive Members – Brian Wigley, Alan Coubray, James Andreae, Graeme Spurdle			

### Notices from committee:





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New hangars are progressively being clad before the new perimeter fence is erected around the edge near the Westpac Helicopter site.

Our newly formed and grassed Taxiway D has been opened in November so please refer to your landing chart for Whitianga to enable pilots to be familiar with the layout and usage of this taxiway to enable the runway grass to last through our summer months.

When parking vehicles beside hangars, please park parallel to the doors, against the doors. This provides clearance for aircraft taxiing past on the main taxiway. Vehicles parked facing or reversed to the doors have been blocking the main taxiway causing considerable inconvenience.

Please be considerate!



## Happy Summer Season

Next Executive Meeting – Friday 6th December 2024 1000am



The MBAC website allows you to view the pictures within the newsletter in larger sizes if you are not receiving them on your tablet. Remember to check your browser view if you are unable to download the newsletter on your tablet.

Whitianga Aerodrome is on [Facebook](#)



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**Let's get out there in our flying machines while we have this great summer weather!**

Please Support Our Sponsors:

**Whitianga Waterways – [www.whitiangawaterways.co.nz](http://www.whitiangawaterways.co.nz)**

**Avsure Insurance – [www.avsure.co.nz](http://www.avsure.co.nz)**

**Hart & Associates Ltd – Chartered Accounts – [www.hartal.co.nz](http://www.hartal.co.nz)**





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## Mercury Bay Model Club



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Wayne has yet another seafaring model under construction so will be ready to launch by Christmas it seems



## New Members



New members will arrive in January newsletters



## Flying Events

### 30 December Whananaki fly IN





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Contact Martin Farrand 021 933 804 if interested as there are specific procedures to be adhered to for this location -

**Whananaki Airstrip:** Private airstrip 68 miles north of West Auckland at S35° 30.5' E174° 27.8". To find it fly into the Whananaki estuary entrance at low altitude and turn left at the shore, and you'll be on short final for runway 20 for the airfield which runs between the road and the harbour shore. Unconfirmed Google Earth measurements show it as 500m long aligned 02/20 at 6ft. Contact Martin Farrand Ph 021 933 804



Whananaki Airstrip from the north. [Tony Lloyd photo]



Whananaki Airstrip  
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**WHANANAKI**  
*Fundraising Festival '24*

WBRRRA  
WHANANAKI BEACH RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

LOCAL CRAFTS DELICIOUS FOOD FUN ACTIVITIES GOOD VIBES

WHANANAKI NORTH RESERVE

MONDAY 30 DEC 24 | 11am - 3pm

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## Aero Day - Tauranga 18 January 2025 9:30am to 3:00pm



TAURANGA AIRPORT

**CLASSIC FLYERS**

**AERO DAY**

SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY

9.30AM - 3.00PM 2025

FOOD & DRINK

AWESOME AIR DISPLAYS

NO DOGS PERMITTED

\$85 FAMILY  
\$35 ADULT  
\$15 CHILD  
UNDER 5\$ FREE

SCAN FOR MORE INFO & ONLINE TICKETS

Enquire@CLASSICFLYERSNZ.com  
07 572 4000  
www.CLASSICFLYERSNZ.com

SUNDAY 19TH JANUARY 2025  
Whanganui Vintage Weekend—Wellington Anniversary

WANGANUI AERO CLUB

**OPEN DAY**

Open 9am — 4pm Adults \$10, Kids Free  
Joyrides, Scenic flights, Static exhibits, Airshow displays & more!  
See more at: [wanganuiaeroday.co.nz](http://wanganuiaeroday.co.nz)



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## Whitianga Summer Concert –



Sunday 26 January 25

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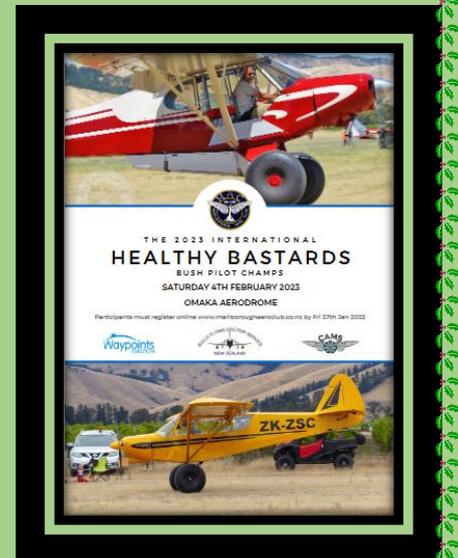
## Marlborough Aero Club 15th Feb 2025

Time for spring-cleaning, and old Safe Air Argosy "Merchant Enterprise" was treated to an excellent wash-down by Ben from Marlborough Waterblasting. She now looks good for the summer season. Visitors are always welcome at Woodbourne, where you can go on board, enjoy some inflight movies and climb up into the first-floor cockpit. Then a fine coffee at the Runway Cafe alongside - and in 2025, a visit to the new Argosy Museum. See you soon!



...

Be there for Fun in the Sun and take your tent



## Havelock Mussel Festival

Can advise on airstrips nearby 021 907 782



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## Stop Press



Our long time member of MBAC who flew his own build RV7A, ZK-ORV from Mercury Bay has sadly also passed away.

We extend our condolences to Ann and his family.

### Glen MULCAHY Obituary

**M**ULCAHY, Glen Stuart. Passed away peacefully on 25th November 2024; aged 76 years. Husband of Ann (nee McDermott), Dad of Mike and Brad. Pops of Luke and Sienna; Mavric and Xavier. Brother and Uncle of Murray, Brett, Lee and their families. He was dearly loved by us all. Our thanks to Whitianga Continuing Care for their care of Glen. A private cremation will be held. Memorial Service details are to follow at a later date.



Headgear and shirts - available from Bruce Turner 021 388 343

Sizes available T Shirts \$35 – (2XL, XL, L, M)  
Caps \$20



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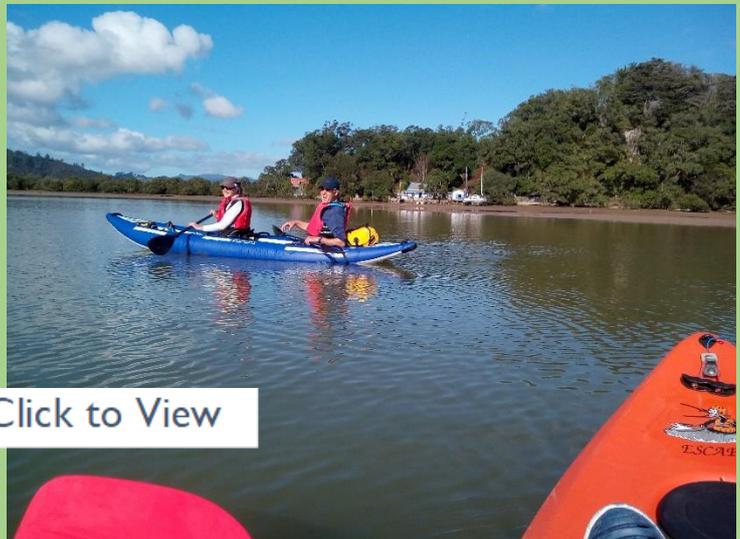
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# Merry Christmas



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