



Mercury Bay Flyer

September 2024

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Flying Activity:



The coffee group has been winging around the local area and now the squadrons of Storchs seem to be appearing when the smell of roasting coffee beans is in the air.



Graeme Spurdle has now had the Wilga showing off its wonders around the aerodrome too.

All go in a Wilga a sunny day in Whitianga wilitstayin circuits or willitgoelsewhere 🌞🌈🤪



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JG has meantime had his 100 hrly completed one recent rainy day



Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield Inc.

Waxes from which the statue of ACM Sir Keith Park will be cast will be despatched to the foundry in the next couple of weeks;

A six-metre mural portrait of Sir Keith has been erected on the highway-facing end of the HAC Hangar at the Thames Airfield. This image is floodlit at night;

President Geoff Furkert has been invited to London for the unveiling 9th September at the RAF Club of new portraits of ACM Lord Dowding and ACM Sir Keth Park;

Thames Battle of Britain Commemorations start 11:00am Sunday 15th September at the Thames Airfield.

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Monika Lange Admin 2h · 🌐

This wonderful new Mural in Thames was created by none other than our very own Kylie Gunn 🥰🥰🥰



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Coro Club Cafe & Venue



Coro Club Café Team are back on duty to help you celebrate the days getting longer, dryer and warmer...Please call ahead if flying in for food and beverages.



Notices from committee:

MBAC Committee 2024/5

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
Club Captain	John Gemmell	027 498 5381

Ordinary Executive Members – Brian Wigley, Alan Coubray, James Andreae, Graeme Spurdle

MBAC Hangar Rental Contact Bruce Turner 021 388 343

Final block of new Hangars are finally being prepared as the wet weather abates as shown in these pictures.



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What is happening at Whitianga Airfield

The Mercury Bay Aero Club (MBAC) have recently introduced changes to the operating procedures for Whitianga Airfield (NZWT) that pilots need to be aware of. These new procedures have been introduced following upgrades to the airfield which were needed to ensure NZWT could cope with increasing traffic volumes.

The increased traffic has come from increased commercial and training activity at NZWT, including the establishment of a regular air service to Auckland by Barrier Air. This plus the construction of 48 new hangers has significantly increased the number of aircraft based at and/or operating from the airfield.

The increased traffic was causing significantly more wear and tear on the grass runway surface and to mitigate this, the MBAC has funded substantial upgrades to the airfield to make the runway more resilient year-round. These upgrades drove the introduction of the new procedures to ensure continued safe operations at NZWT and to alleviate further wear and tear on the runway.

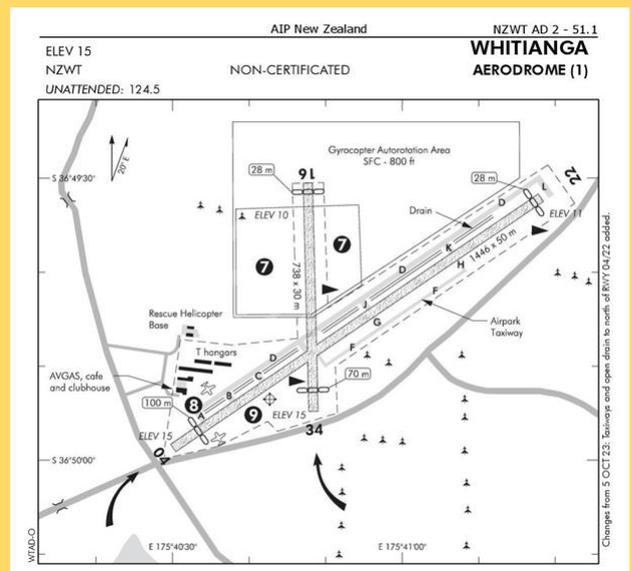
While these changes should prevent further runway deterioration, we do require the help and cooperation of visiting pilots to comply with the new procedures to help keep the airfield in the best possible condition.

Runway 04/22 “in-use” strips.

The main 04/22 runway has increased in width enabling establishment of parallel runway sections. Each week, an “in-use” section is designated by runway end marker boards which are moved weekly to spread wear on the strip. Pilots must identify and use, the “in-use” runway section when landing and departing NZWT.

NZWT Runway 04/22 border in black. “In-use” section in yellow. Taxiways in blue.

Taxiing and backtracking changes



For safety, we have introduced a policy of not permitting aircraft to backtrack or taxi on 04/22 alongside the “in-use” runway section as there is insufficient clearance between taxiing aircraft and

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aircraft taking off or landing. If pilots need to backtrack or taxi along 04/22, they must use the “in-use” runway section.

New Taxiways.

Two new taxiways designated Golf and Hotel have been established on the southern side of runway 04/22 connecting to taxiway Foxtrot which runs parallel with 04/22 in front of the Airpark houses. Where possible, aircraft should use taxiway Foxtrot rather than backtracking or taxiing down the main runway. In addition, in late September, a new full-length taxiway, designated Delta, will be opened on the northern side of the 04/22 runway. This taxiway runs from the clubhouse to the threshold of runway 22 and three new taxiways, designated Juliet, Kilo, and Lima, provide access to and from runway 04/22 from Delta. Once these taxiways are operational, pilots will be expected to vacate the “in-use” strip at the earliest opportunity and use either taxiway Delta or Foxtrot. When exiting, please use the taxiways as other grass areas are soft most of the year.

Note also, that when using taxiway Delta, caution is required where it crosses runway 16/34. Holding-point signs have been added at the cross points and while a radio call is not required, a good lookout is needed prior to crossing 16/34.



Hold-point 16-34 looking East

Hold-point 34-16 looking West.

Downwind operations now prohibited.

There is now a note on the airfield plate prohibiting downwind operations. This is to reduce the impact on the runway from the higher speeds associated with downwind landings and departures.

Notams, noise abatement rules, and other considerations.

Before heading to Whitianga please ensure you check the latest Notams for NZWT. While new grass is being established, taxiways may be closed, and these will be advised via Notam.

The AIP Vol 4 NZWT aerodrome plates now also contain notes regarding noise abatement rules. We are privileged to be located close to town and are trying to be good neighbours. With this in mind, we have established rules whereby pilots departing on runway 04 are to maintain runway heading until crossing Buffalo Beach, conversely when landing on runway 22, pilots need to be established on final prior to crossing the shoreline.

Also, when operating in the circuit, although not published, the preferred downwind track is along the estuary river to minimise noise over the town.

Lastly, we also ask that all aircraft use standard joining procedures and observe the correct circuit direction as published on the AIP Vol 4 chart. Pilots also need to be aware that the airfield is used by training schools in the area.

Plans for the future.

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We are looking at providing an AWIB service in the future as well as creating some new VRP's around the airfield which will hopefully assist pilots when joining or vacating the circuit at NZWT. Also, with more helicopter traffic at the airfield, we are looking to introduce helicopter arrival and departure procedures.

Summary of Changes

- Runway 04/22 has been widened to allow multiple parallel strips.
- Only one strip will be "in-use" on any given day.
- The "in-use" strip will be marked by runway marker boards.
- If taxiing/backtracking on 04/22, aircraft must taxi on the "in-use" strip.
- Taxiing/backtracking on the runway beside the "in-use" strip is prohibited.
- Aircraft should exit 04/22 and use parallel taxiways where possible.
- Two new taxiways now provide access to southern Foxtrot taxiway.
- A new full-length taxiway Delta is to open in September.
- Pilots should taxi on Delta or Foxtrot rather than taxiing on 04/22.
- Downwind landings are now prohibited.
- Please read Notams before visiting NZWT.
- Taxiways may be closed as improvements are made.
- Noise abatement rules now apply when departing on 04 or arriving on 22.
- The preferred downwind track is along the estuary river.
- All circuits for 04/22 are to the south of the runway.



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.

Daylight saving is here Sunday 29 September 2024!

The new flying season is underway!

Next Executive Meeting – Friday 6 September at 0900hrs -

Whitianga Aerodrome is now on Facebook so check out the recent happenings!

Please Support Our Sponsors:



Whitianga Waterways – www.whitiangawaterways.co.nz

Avsure Insurance – www.avsure.co.nz

Hart & Associates Ltd – Chartered Accounts – www.hartal.co.nz



New Members

New members have not called in yet but wait for next month, so best you all keep chatting over a coffee at the Coro Club.



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Flying Events

This is a good list of the must do s this flying season

Dargaville Aero Club Saturday Lunch Saturday from 12:30pm **\$15**
Whangarei Flying Club Sunday lunch from 12:30pm ph 021 762 077 **\$15**
Rodney Aero Club Saturday Morning Cuppa & Coffee...



BATTLE OF BRITAIN
COMMEMORATIONS
15 September 2024
11am Sunday
To be held at the
Sir Keith Park
Memorial Airfield
395 Ngati Maru Highway

Battle of Britain Commemorations and Wreath Laying Thames Airfield: 11:00am, Sunday 15th September 24

ZK BAZ with **Barry Payne & Bob Bates** is now underway again for the final leg of their Around the World flight which is expected to be completed on 28 September'24, back in Mt Hagen, Papua New Guinea. The same day that the 1924 original flyers arrived back in Seattle 100 years previously



www.pngtours.com/tours/bobnbaz.htm

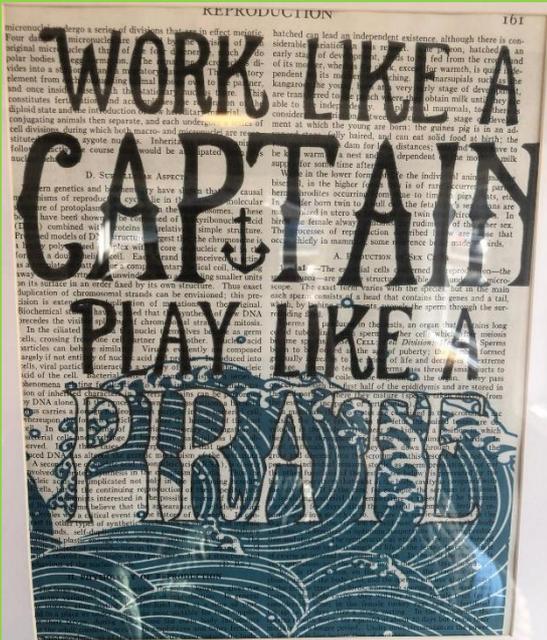
greenstone
PRESENTS
WHITIANGA
SUMMER CONCERT
SUN 26 JAN 2025
WHITIANGA WATERWAYS ARENA

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Whitianga Summer Concert 2025, 10:00am, Sun 26 January, 2025, Whitianga Waterways Arena,

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Mercury Bay Model Club



Wayne's boating projects are making great progress over the wet months so we should see these launched in our fine weather spells from now on as our daylight keeps extending.



Light hearted comments to keep you going until daylight saving gets you tearing around the countryside again

It was mealtime on an airplane, and the flight attendant asked a passenger if he would like some dinner. "What are my choices?" the passenger asked.

"Yes or no," she replied.



Just look at what happens when Chicken Wings goes flying

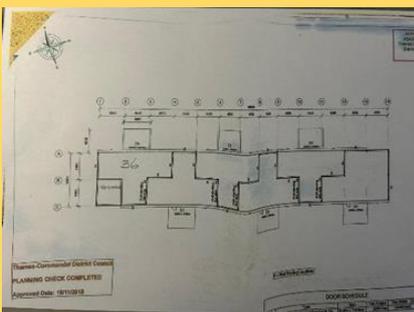


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Stop Press

Tee Hangar B6 For Sale. Whitianga, North facing. Power and lights. Water. Painted floor. By negotiation. Contact Peter 021747404 peterthepilot@gmail.com



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Headgear and shirts - available from
Bruce Turner 021388 343

Shirts: \$38 Polo & T Shirts \$25 Caps \$25
(Sizes available T Shirts (2XL, XL, L, M))



Firewood

Winter Wood supplies...

.6 x 4 trailer chopped firewood \$66 Pickup Coroglen

Phone Ben 0272639410 or Julie 0276551943



Hangar house FOR SALE Pauanui 5 BR, 3 bath, Open Plan living, double garage and hangar
(12.8m x 11.6m) Contact Pete: 0224035320 or jenorpete@hotmail.com



Sierra echo echo
Yankee oscar uniform
November echo xray tango
Mike oscar november tango hotel



Happy Spring Season

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Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log

Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
21 st August 2024	12:30-17:00	9	Stabilator, Mid Fuselage, Wing Preparation



Flight Training Starts Today

Four of our students have submitted all of their paper work and are now ready to start taking flying lessons. Under the guidance of Alan; Sam, Liam, Euan and Luke walked down to the aero club to learn how to pre-flight ZK-MBB, Mercury Bay Aero Clubs RV-12. Once completed, Sam was chosen as the first student to fly. He learned ground handling skills and flew a few circuits, including a take-off and a landing! The smile on his face reminds us about how cool this project is.

Stabilator

Because of the flying disruptions today, the stabilator progress was a little slower than normal, however progress was still made. Today's main goal was to get the skins clecoed to the ribs. This was achieved, and Toby and Cameron even started to rivet the skins on.



Mid Fuselage Section

Euan and Casey have been working with Graham on the mid fuselage section, today was about getting the bottom skin attached to the mid fuselage section and then rolled over and placing it on the bench so that work can continue. Once that was sorted they then set about fitting the step floor plates.

Wing Preparation

All of our wing components are ready for building, hopefully this will start on our next build day. A big thanks to Tony who made good use of the rainy weather during the week to finish off some parts and getting them painted.

We are taking next week off for our students practice exams. Next build will be the 4th September.



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Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log

