



Mercury Bay Flyer

March 2025

Editor: Wally Pendray

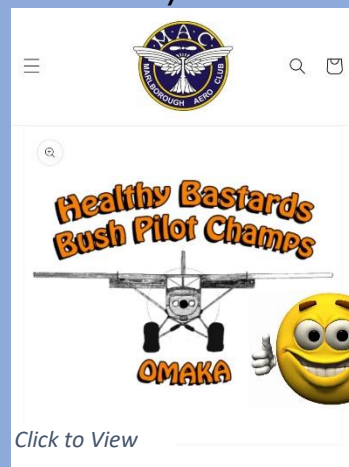
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Flying Activity:

February had another Young Eagles visit to Whitianga when a group of 12 in 5 aircraft flew up from Tauranga to be shown around by Tony Turner. Trish Stevens advised they have 58 Young Eagles on their list so they have to keep the flow going continuously.

I flew south to Turangi for a Bush Flyers BBQ Lunch which was organised to bring some additional attention to the Taupo their lease on the Turangi Aerodrome Sandra Greenslade, Taupo District the arrival flyers.



I was one of heading for by the time peeled off for of the under the Bristol Freighter.



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new owners in Australia where it now resides.

Air Chathams had their final flights in February at Whakatane in their DC3 before it flew to

Peter McVinnie held a BBQ at his hangar to celebrate 100 years



of Gypsy Moth /Tiger Moth production & flying and was one of many aircraft which were flown on Sunday within NZ and also worldwide.



District Council not renewing ground. 48 Aircraft flew in and Councillor, was there to talk with

a number of aircraft initially Omapa for Healthy Bastards but we reached Hastings most had one reason or another so only 3 originals arrived to enjoy camping



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The 100th anniversary of the first flight of the DH60 Moth was celebrated by two of our Whitianga based Tiger Moths flying over and around the local area on the 23rd of February. The MBAC is fortunate to have three Tiger Moths based here but on the day one owned by Alan Coubray was in Alexandra awaiting several other Tigers and GA aircraft to join him for a grand tour of the South Island lighthouses, starting at Omapere on the 28th February.

Peter McVinnie flew his Tiger Moth on the day accompanied by Alan Butler flying Ace Edward's beautiful Tiger.

Following the flight, a very successful function was held in Pete McVinnie's hangar attended by 40 plus members and visitors. The format was simple with the ladies bringing salads and nibbles and everyone bringing their own drink and utensils.

Everyone agreed that this was so successful that similar more regular get togethers should be held using a similar format. A big thanks to Pete and Donna McVinnie for the use of their Tiger and Hangar and to all the volunteers that made this such a very enjoyable function.

Coro Club Cafe & Venue

<https://www.coro.club/>

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Serving all day brunch, cabinet food and daily lunch Specials

Contact: 021 0800 2970

Email: hello@coro.club

New hours

Phone for our opening hours as summer has caused many changes in the Coromandel and Whitianga



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Notices from committee:

The new hangars have now had their concrete laid up to the hangar doors and the surrounding area has been relandscaped in preparation for a new entrance and gate to be modified for easier access to these hangars.

Birds are an ongoing problem around the aerodrome and the



Canada

Geese seen here are to be eliminated after the appropriate permits have been obtained.



Matarangi has also been having similar problems and

I read that they are also to be eliminated to clean up the waterways and footpaths.



Obtaining an entry for the AVGAS delivery tanker has also been an ongoing problem and the tanker used by Go Fuel is heavier than the previous before Go Fuel took over. This has been coordinated with the new owner of the premises adjoining our aerodrome and MBAC has contributed to the costs of the new concrete between the factories which will enable the tanker through to our pump.

President's Report

We are currently in the AGM season with most of us flying to destinations around New Zealand to our various association's events. The Tiger moth team is embarking on their South Island Lighthouse tour starting 27th February and for the next two weeks.

Despite the hot dry windy conditions we have experienced at Whitianga, there has been just enough rainfall arriving at weekly intervals to keep the grass growing sufficiently. The trouble with this is the grass is perfect feed for paradise ducks. We have just on 300 currently resident. I have been in discussion with Fish and Game over the danger to aircraft and have now got a permit for three months to address the problem.

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Environment Waikato is still in the process of assessing our irrigation consent which hopefully will be through in the next month.

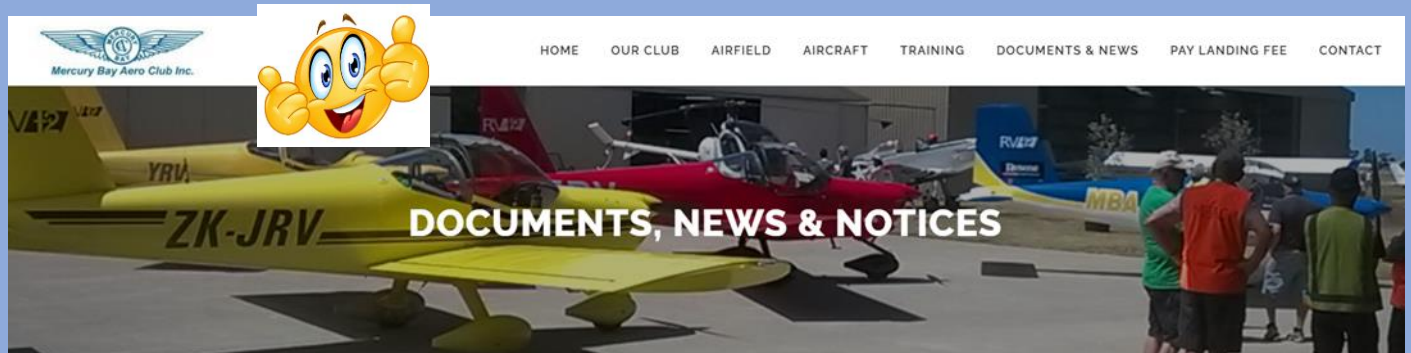
With the last two hangars now finished, we have been able to complete earthworks and the formation of an entrance to this area of the aerodrome. During March, a new drive entrance will be installed to take away the kerb off the road here. Also security fencing and an electronic gate to finally secure this area from miscreants wanting to dump rubbish and cause other problems around the place.

On the hospitality front, a very pleasant evening BBQ was held in Peter McVinnies hangar after a fly around commemorating the 100 year anniversary of the first Moth flight here in NZ. A great turnout by members on a sunny evening.

Thats my lot this month.

Evan Wheeler

The **MBAC website** allows you to view this newsletter on the link now being provided to members.



Daylight saving has a month to go! Let's get out there in our flying machines!

Next Executive Meeting – 21 March 2025 at 1000hrs

Please Support Our Sponsors:

Whitianga Waterways – www.whitiangawaterways.co.nz

Gallagher Insurance – www.ajg.co.nz or bill.beard@ajg.co.nz

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

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New Members



New members are Bobbie Preston, Blake Porteous and Steve Williams. Please welcome them into our world when you see them preflighting or refuelling the aircraft or chatting to others at the Coro Club.



Mercury Bay Model Club



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Gary Presland recently had his large Xtra model looking real cool with its on board smoke maker doing its thing.

Stop Press



New Headgear and shirts now available from Bruce Turner 021 388 343

Flying Events

AOPA NZ National AGM Hawera



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2025 AGM and 2025 Summer Safari

HAVELOCK MUSSEL & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL 2025

Saturday 8th March 2025, 10am-6pm
Havelock, Marlborough

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[Buy Tickets](#)

Havelock Mussel Festival 8 March 25

Can advise on airstrips nearby 021 907 782

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2025 AGM in Hawera – South Taranaki 8th March 2025 AND to start our 2025 Summer Safari from Hawera, after the AGM.

Warbirds on Parade 2025

Ardmore Airport Sunday 16 March 2025

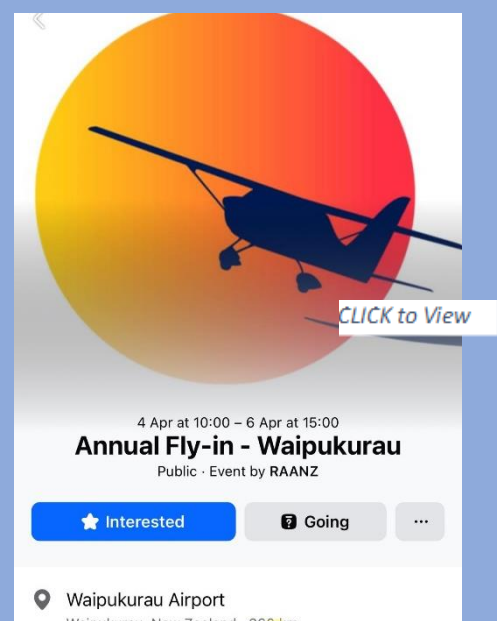


[CLICK to View](#) **Balloons Over Waikato 18-22 March 25**



RAANZ 2025 National Fly-In Waipukurau

4,5,6 April 2025



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Classic Fighters Omaka 18-20 April 2025

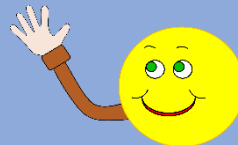


An Eastern Adventure '25 -

A group of pilots from Whitianga and beyond head out on the Eastern Adventure '25. Departure day had one leave Whitianga for Opotiki overnight to await other aircraft to join, then depart to Te Araroa and onwards down the east coast of North Island NZ to Omaka for Healthy Bastards Bush Flying weekend.



[Click to View 1](#)



John and Julie Bubb hand over their aircraft Sport Cruiser ZK JBZ to Wolfgang and Karen so it remains a Whitianga based aircraft.

John Gemmell is now the MBAC contact for Drone operators to call if they wish to launch their drones in the Mercury Bay Area. He has received a number of calls from a large variety of people and there will be a drone demonstration at the MBAC aerodrome shortly. Date to be advised for those who are interested to observe.

For the past month of February, we have had notification of 6 drone operations in our airfield immediate area.

Firstly, thank you to Bruce Turner for setting up the telephone answering system on our club phone number 07.866 5128 that directs incoming calls directly to the person you wish to talk, in my case, push 2 (drones) and it comes straight to my phone. Well done Bruce.

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Activity Feb.

Two commercial ops one for DOC on monitoring Kauri die- back. The other Waikato Regional Council survey of a large forestry block their second visit to this block. All of these ops were to the north west of WT.

One fishing op at Simpsons Beach, and one at Buffalo Beach.

NZ fishing News have made contact regarding the Kubota Billfish Classic competition March 12 / 15 they wish to operate in the blue zone, Whiti river mouth and the shotgun stampede start.

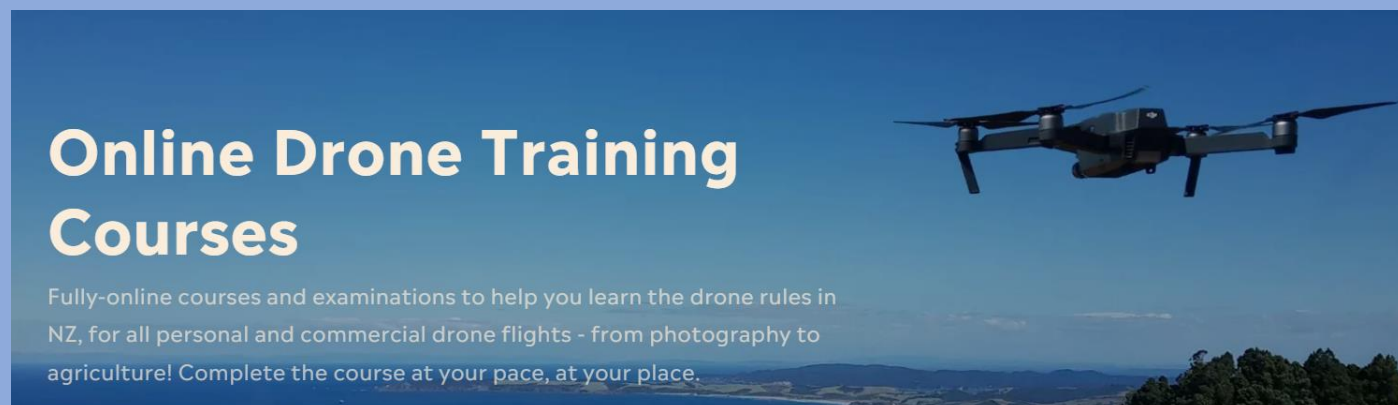
All commercial Drone operators are 101 and 102 certified and have two spotters in their team. I have also recommended they have a aero vhf and monitor 124.5.

Point of interest...

Kowhai Aero will be operating a Drone at Lovers Rock area close to WT no date has been set. We are invited to come and watch this and I have also asked them if they would come to our airfield and demonstrate this large commercial drone.

I will be in touch

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Online Drone Training Courses

Fully-online courses and examinations to help you learn the drone rules in NZ, for all personal and commercial drone flights - from photography to agriculture! Complete the course at your pace, at your place.

JG



Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust - Weather Station

Whitianga Weather Station Compliments of the Westpac
Helicopter Rescue Trust

<http://whiti.arht.org.nz:8080/index.php>

MY WIFE ASKED ME WHY I
SPOKE SO SOFTLY IN THE
HOUSE.
I SAID I WAS AFRAID
MARK ZUCKERBERG WAS
LISTENING!
SHE LAUGHED.
I LAUGHED.
ALEXA LAUGHED.
SIRI LAUGHED.

Copy this to your phone home screen and you will have Whitianga conditions readily available. Couple this with the Windy APP web cam and you have all the local conditions here in Mercury Bay.

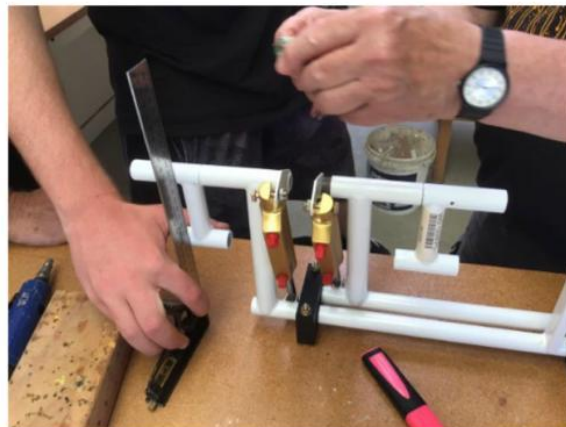
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Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log



Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
26 th February 2025	12:30-17:00	10	Toolbox Construction, Mid Fuselage Section, Wing Construction.



The Toolbox Construction Continues

This week our new students and Douglas are continuing their learning on their toolbox construction. This week see's the team learn how to attach hinges and ensure they are in the exact right place.

Firewall Section and Rudder Pedals

This week we welcome another new mentor, Jim. Jim is no stranger to building an aeroplane as we are currently looking after his RANS 19 in the shed. Jim expressed an interest in helping out with the build, so we snapped up the opportunity to have him onboard.

This week Casey is working with Jim on the firewall section, one of today's tasks is mounting the cowl attaching plates. Once the plate was attached their focussed then shifted to the rudder pedal mechanism. The pedal section first needed to be clamped to the bench, check that it is all square and level, then drill a hole to connect the brake pedals to the inner shaft.

Wing Construction

Out the front of the workshop John is working with Cameron, Euan and Toby to continue the attaching of the wing skins. This week their task is to close in the top of the wing and have all the rivets in place. This is where they all need to work together and get into a rhythm of putting rivet in, moving clecos and following each other in a sequence around the wing surface.



Thanks for following our progress!

Mercury Bay Area School
Whitianga - Mercury Bay - The Coromandel Peninsula - New Zealand
Te Kura o Te Whanganui-a-Hai



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Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log



More next week!

