



Mercury Bay Flyer

June 2025



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Flying Activity:

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A 6 aircraft sortie flew to Great Barrier recently to enjoy lunch and a coffee break at My Fat Puku Café while the autumn weather was agreeable for flight.



Barrier Air continues to supply a very well patronised service between Auckland Airport and Whitianga and its great to see this service being used by so many people. Check their reduced schedule here through to end of October 😊 It will vary somewhat throughout winter so be sure to check for any variations to their flights.

June brings us up to that month of Winter that has some still wishing for the long days of summer. We have had such a beautiful settled Autumn we have been able to fly in - that it's always a little unsettling to see the dark clouds and rain return to our winterless north of the Coromandel Peninsula.

BARRIER AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE - week beginning 02/06/25					
		DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL		
DAY	DATE	AUCKLAND	WHITIANGA		
MONDAY	2/6/25	8.30am	9.00am		
		3.30pm	4.00pm		
WEDNESDAY	4/6/25	8.30am	9.0am		
THURSDAY	5/6/25	8.30am	9.00am		
FRIDAY	6/6/25	3.30pm	4.00pm		
SUNDAY	8/6/25	3.30pm	4.00pm		



Another MBAC member, Saki, has just completed her PPL with Steve in their own Cherokee as pictured on the left. Congratulations from us all at MBAC Saki...

Paul and Lynette Hood in their Cessna 206, ably assisted by copilot and crew Leigh and Linda Hopper, are currently touring Australia having crossed the Tasman Sea via Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Is. A nice cool drink after 4.5 hrs flying from Gold Coast to Hamilton Island and further north a crocodile check at Normanton.



Weather not too good here as we go to press.



Mercury Bay Flyer

Coro Club Café & Venue



Specials Daily

Contact: Phone 021 0800 2970 or Hello@coro.club

Phone ahead to see what delights are on offer each day



Hours Wednesday to Friday **8:30am - 2pm**

Weekends 8am - 3pm

Closed Monday & Tuesdays

Serving all day brunch, cabinet food and daily lunch Specials

Notices from committee:

MBAC Committee 2025-26

President	Keith Skilling	021 333 767
Vice President	Evan Wheeler	021 924 807 - Hangarage enquiries too
Secretary	Mike Norton	021 667 866
Treasurer	Bruce Turner	021 388 343
Club Captain	John Vanderwee	021 185 2409
Ordinary Executive Members – Alan Coubray, Graeme Spurdle, Steve Chilcott, Damon Barakat.		

Mercury Bay Flyer

President's Corner

The MBAC constitution requires that the president must stand down after three years in the chair so sadly we lose Evan Wheeler, for the time being anyway! Evan has done a remarkable job, transforming the club by overseeing the hangar builds and runway improvements. He has carried out a huge amount of work behind the scenes and we now have an (almost) all weather runway and facilities that receive very favourable comments from visiting aviators. We can all be very proud now of our airfield, thank you Evan.

There have been a few changes to your committee but there is still good depth and a few fresh faces. John Gemmell, James Andreae and Brian Wrigley have all stood down after many years of excellent contributions to the club, thank you all. John is carrying on with the drone admin, a big job as all drone operations in the area have to be approved by the MBAC, and there are lots of them.

And congratulations to Brian, our new life member, well deserved. Brian has served the club very well over many years including several as President and will continue to help as required. Thank you, Brian.

John Vanderwee has taken over as our Club Captain. John is a very experienced pilot who purchased Bill Beard's 210 hp Cessna 172 some time ago and he has got away to a roaring start. He has already set up a WhatsApp group to keep members informed of social occasions and flying trips away. Within a couple of days, we have had a Friday get together and a few drinks in his hangar and six club aeroplanes to Great Barrier for breakfast. If you would like to join this group please contact John or me and we will add you to it.

Damon Barakat is our new committee member and it is great to welcome some youth onto the committee. Damon currently flies for Jetstar and is a LAME, so I'm sure that he will make a valuable contribution.

The club finally has resource consent for our summer irrigation system. This has been a battle led by Evan, taken many months and has cost \$32,000, all to take treated water from a pipe that runs under the airfield, that already irrigates the local sports fields and golf club, and would otherwise be fed into the sea. Evan has written a brief summary that follows.

He has also done a great job sourcing and carting new fencing materials for our new security fencing, work on which has already started. A brief summary of this from him follows.

We have an issue with the growth in the spouting of the hangars. Terry Boubee has very kindly cleared the northern side of the E block but said the grass was too wet for his scissor lift and that water blasting was required. Probably the best way to handle this is to get in "professionals" which will mean a small cost to individual hangar owners. Suggestions greatly appreciated.

Club members Paul and Lynette Hood in their Cessna 206, ably assisted by copilot and crew Leigh and Linda Hopper, are currently touring Australia having crossed the Tasman Sea via Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Is. An exciting adventure and we wish them well. Currently they're chasing crocodiles in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Well done to two of our lady members, both of whom won their respective championships at the Mercury Bay Golf Club. Saki Mosen won top of the top and Bobbie Preston top of the bottom! And a big cheer for Saki who recently gained her PPL, next stop the big jets! I'm away next month so you are back in the very capable hands of Evan.

Keith Skilling



Mercury Bay Flyer

Fencing



Work on security fence commenced last week of May with it being erected over the following week. A general tidy up of the drain and finishing off landscaping will be completed once fence installed. The gate is to be constructed over next few weeks and will then be installed. This will then enclose the rear area of the hangar development project and provide some security.

We have finally received confirmation of a consent to irrigate the airfield from Environment Waikato, using treated wastewater from the TCDC treatment plant. At a cost of just on \$32000 for the paperwork side of the operation before we get into the next phase of purchasing holding bladder system and the laying of supply lines for the irrigator.

Now that we have a consent, we can start working on the actual project itself so we are ready to operate next summer. The consent allows us to operate daily from 1st December until 1st May year following as required for maintaining grass growth. As to be expected, the consent comes with a list of conditions.

Thats about it this time.
Evan Wheeler

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The MBAC website allows you to view the pictures within the newsletter in larger sizes on your PC

Winter is upon us! But the weather is still Ok if we pick a path between the weather systems!

Next Executive Meeting - 13 June at 10am.

Please Support Our Sponsors:

Whitianga Waterways – www.whitiangawaterways.co.nz

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

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

Mercury Bay Flyer

New Members

New member Clive Whittfield has joined our club so please welcome him into our world when next you see him on the aerodrome or looking for coffee & cakes at the Coro Café.



Mercury Bay Model Club

Wayne's maiden voyage of the model that he made of his friend's old launch and George's new Jet waiting for calm weather to return for its maiden flight! His other fleet has been using the fine weather too.



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Mercury Bay Model Show 12 -13 July 25 (Amended dates)

Please get in touch with Damon www.mbmrc.org

Stop Press

New Headgear and shirts now available from Bruce

Turner 021 388 343

\$20 per cap and polo shirts \$38

Ipad mini with Oz Runways for sale Alan Turner 021 458 375

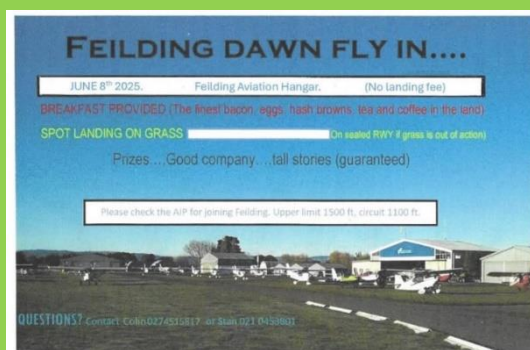
Feilding Fly In

Sunday 8 June - early

Questions to Colin 0274515817

..... Or Stan 0210453801

See Facebook



The Model Show Whitianga Town Hall 11-12 July 2025 from 10am - 4pm

30 exhibits this year planned -

Tauranga Model Railway with a hands on self drive layout + Raurimu Spiral layout

Mixed Trains x 5 local layouts

Military Boats, miniature houses, frog collection

Planes, Cars, Lego



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Dargaville Aero Club

[Click FB Picture](#)

Dargaville Aero Club Saturday lunch



Raglan any day lunch



Sunday BBQ Day 12:00 at **Whangarei Airport**



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We bought C172 EJU last year and on looking through the logbook saw that it was owned by MBAC in the late 70s or 80s. We keep it hangered in B block and use it to travel to and from our small farm in Bombay which unfortunately does not have an airstrip so we park it at Mercer. Attached is a photo I found

with MBAC on the side and one parked outside our hanger after a paint job. Cheers Rob and Martina Llewellyn



Propellers are a fan to keep the pilot cool. Because when it stops, the pilot starts sweating

The airline pilot was having his regular medical check.

"When did you last have sex?" asked the doctor as a routine question.

"Nineteen fifty-eight" said the pilot.

"Hell that's a long time ago"

The pilot looked at his watch. "Its only twenty-two fifteen now" he said



Mercury Bay Flyer



BIRDS, BIRDS, BIRDS

Are everywhere lately with all this rain



T Hangar C5 is for rent at Whitianga Aerodrome.

Big enough for a C182 or similar so contact Graeme Wilton 029 419 2371



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Just add water to the Channel Country and watch it spring to life.... See more



Pelicans flock to the outback after flood transformation

What once looked like a desert is now full of lush flora and fauna



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Kodiak 100 Takes Flight in New Zealand – Glenorchy Air & I I Aviation Collaboration!



Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log



Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
28 th May 2025	12:30-17:00	6	Wing Construction, Mid Fuselage Section, Parts Prep



Wing Construction

Le Sueur, Toby and Dan are back on the building of our next wing. Today's tasks include riveting all the wing ribs to the spar, double checking their work and signing the task off, they then shifted their attention to finding the wiring for the wing, installing the wiring grommets and then running the wire through them. With four people on the job, the wiring was run in a jiffy.

Mid Fuselage Section

Sam and Kane are working with Graham, Alan and Jim on the mid fuselage section today. Their tasks today include fitting the aircraft control column, this is what the control stick will attach to. To make this part fit correctly, the paint needed to be removed from the mounting holes, in doing this makes the fitting much easier. Once the control column was in position, Sam was introduced to the washer pliers. These hold washers in place while a bolt is fed through the correct number of washers. It's a challenging task but one that only gets easier with experience.



Parts Preparation

Liam wasn't looking busy enough today, so he was tasked with preparing wing skins for undercoating. There were hundreds of holes that needed deburring! The plastic coating on the skins were particularly difficult to peel off today, some of the toughest we have come across. Liam also got reacquainted with the acid etching process, it's been a while since he's done it, but I don't think he missed it that much.

More Next Week!



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Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log

