



# Mercury Bay Flyer

May 2025

Editor: Wally Pendray

021 907 782 email: pendrayw@gmail.com



## Flying Activity:

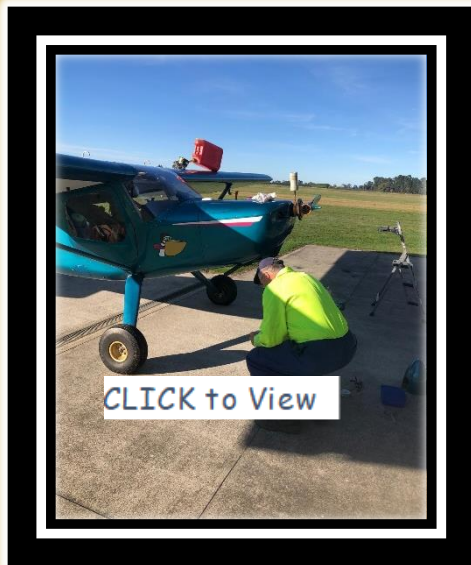


To the left is the new solar farm taking shape to the south west of the aerodrome and making quite a statement on the ground for us flyers but largely unseen by passing motorists



Wet weather in April has caused many events to be cancelled. The short video to the left was my ambitious plan to fly down to Rangiora for propeller maintenance followed by a couple of nights at

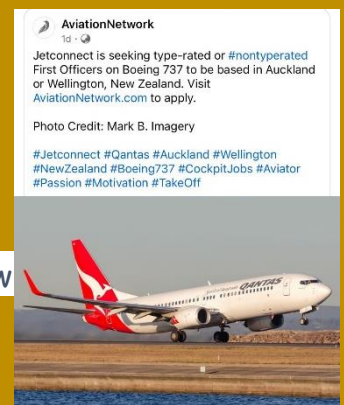
Kenepuru Sounds on return, then off to the RANZ annual fly-in at Waipukurau. That was cancelled due weather bomb so took place the following week but not to the original plan. *on YouTube by clicking the picture.*



Classic Flyers Easter event at Omaka also suffered the same consequences as my Rangiora trip and was cancelled due weather.

Kauri Mountain fly-in was also cancelled by Northern Aviators due weather so we are all wanting and

improvement in May to tick off some of these flying events. The link below shows a take off and landing on a previous visit to Kauri Mountain.



# Mercury Bay Flyer

## CORO CLUB CAFE & Venue



[CLICK to View](#)

Contact Phone 021 0800 2970 or  
Hello@coro.club

**Specials** Phone ahead to see what  
delights are on offer each day

Hours Wednesday to Friday  
8:30am - 3pm

Weekends 8am -3pm

Closed Monday & Tuesdays

Serving all day brunch, cabinet food and daily lunch Specials

## Notices from committee:

### MBAC Committee 2024-25

President	Evan Wheeler	021 924 807 -	Hangarage enquiries too
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



### AGM.

#### MERCURY BAY AERO CLUB INC NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held in the Main Hangar  
1.00 pm Saturday 10 May 2025

The AGM is to be held on Saturday 10 May 25 in the Main Hangar  
behind the Coro Club Café & Venue.

### Aerodrome Works

The new concrete entrance to the final hangar build has  
now been laid to improve access to these hangars...the  
next development will be the security fence to ensure  
access is restricted to only hangar owners or those with  
passes to enter through these gates....



## Well-earned break for Niklas



Samantha Tavorai, Niklas Brandt  
and Angela Baker – some of the  
excellent team at the Coro Club  
Cafe.

Niklas Brandt arrived from Sweden in 2018 and has become head chef and manager at the Coro Club. This is Whitianga's best kept secret, located at the Whitianga airport it offers high quality innovative meals. Their standards are well recognised with the Coro Club being named New Zealand's Best Airport Café in 2024.

It has been a labour of love for Niklas to build the Café and its team but he feels he now needs a break. So, it's back to Sweden for a break of up to three months, aiming to return refreshed and with some new recipes and ideas. In the meantime, the Coro Club remains open with its competent team ready to serve you.



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The new concrete entrance to the final hangar build has now been laid to improve access to these hangars...the next development will be the security fence to ensure access is restricted to only hangar owners or those with passes to enter through these gates....

A bit of wind and rain has had our grass remaining green but forcing Barrier Air to cancel many flights in April.

The sea birds have been having a relaxed time around Whitianga on our 'drome and elsewhere

Updated on: 21:39, Thursday 17 April 2025

**\*\*WIND\*\***  
Wind Direction: 29 degrees magnetic  
Wind Speed  
Instantaneous: 22 knots  
3 sec Average: 22 knots  
1 min Average: 18 knots  
Peak Gust (last 10 minutes)  
from inst: 38 knots  
from time period: 34 knots  
Peak Gust  
this hour: 38 knots (21:34)  
last hour: 43 knots (20:20)

**\*\*PRESSURE\*\***  
Met Service QNH: 1011.3 hPa

**\*\*CLOUD COVER\*\***  
(height in feet)  
Cloud data not available



Volunteer mowing brigade has been out and about keeping fence lines clear and drains from getting blocked with kikuya grass strands, with some hangarage mowing too



whitianga wettest on record for ap

All News Images Videos Short videos Shopping

AI Overview

Yes, based on available data, Whitianga is experiencing its wettest April on record in 2025. The provided data indicates that Whitianga has received significantly more rainfall than normal for the three-month period of March-April-May. The [NIWA data](#) shows that Whitianga Aero AWS has received an above-normal rainfall range of 487-872 mm for this period.

Rainfall Mar-Apr-May - NIWA

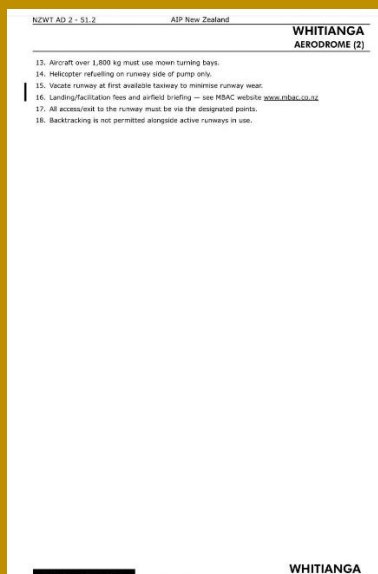
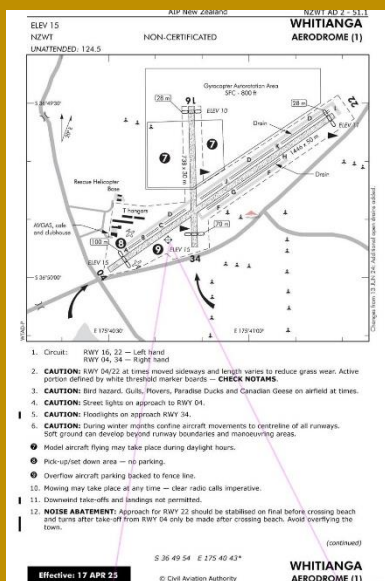
NIWA

A new Whitianga Aerodrome Chart has just been released with a new reference to I5/ Vacating runway at first available exit to minimise wear on the runway surface.

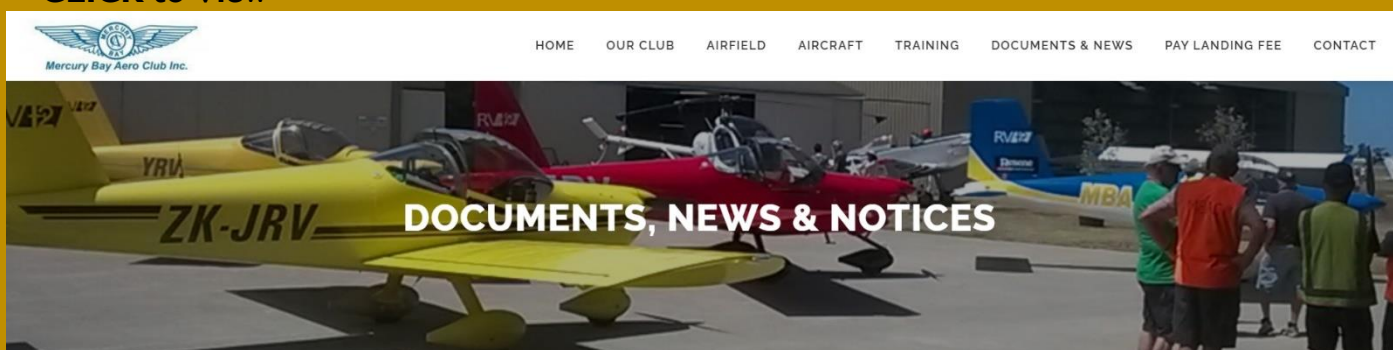


The gulls seem to have taken a liking to our hangars during this very wet April that has kept our grass so green

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**CLICK to View**



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

**Daylight saving - gone for another year!**



**But the Summer weather is still prevailing on our aerodrome....allowing our pilots to complete many of their autumn missions**

**Next Executive Meeting – Friday 9 May 2025 at 1000hrs**

Please Support Our Sponsors:

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

Gallagher Insurance – [www.ajg.co.nz](http://www.ajg.co.nz) or [bill.beard@ajg.co.nz](mailto:bill.beard@ajg.co.nz)

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



# Mercury Bay Flyer

## New Members

New member Allan Murgatroyd has joined us this month so please welcome him into our world when you see him fly in or enjoy the delicious food and coffee at the Coro Club.

## Mercury Bay Model Club

Wayne has been at it once again and has done a beautiful job on his new build.



### 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

**CLICK to PLAY**



Kiwi Invented Rocket Plane set to go faster than a bullet



**MODEL AUCTION**  
NEW EARLY DATE  
**TMAC**  
Tauranga Model Aircraft Club Inc.

**Sunday 25 May 2025**  
Classic Flyers Aviation Museum  
9 Jean Batten Drive, Mt Maunganui  
Doors open 7.30 am. Auction starts 10.00am

For more information refer to website:  
[www.taurangamodelfly.org/annual-auction](http://www.taurangamodelfly.org/annual-auction)  
or  
Contact the Club Secretary - Garry Bentley  
Phone: 027 6432103  
Email: [taurangamodelfly@gmail.com](mailto:taurangamodelfly@gmail.com)



## Stop Press

Headgear and shirts available from Bruce Turner 021-388-343



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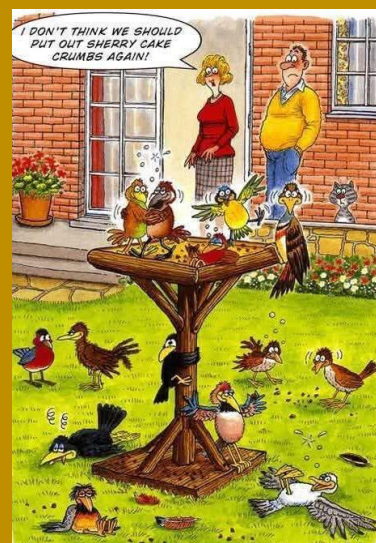


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## The Incredible Story Of Juliane Koepcke, The Teenager Who Fell 10,000 Feet Out Of A Plane And Somehow Survived

By Kara Goldfarb | Edited By John Kuroski  
Published March 10, 2024 | Updated December 13, 2024

Juliane Koepcke was aboard LANSA Flight 508 on December 24, 1971 when it was struck by lightning, causing her to plummet 10,000 feet to the Amazon rainforest below.



A recent flight to Tauranga allowed me to wander through the Tauranga Aero Club facility and see how well set up they are for training and hangaring their aircraft. Not only that but I also spied an interesting Notice on their Notice Board that I thought might attract a few flyers down there and into their world.

**4 & 5 June Night circuits**



[CLICK to View](#)



## President's Report

Quick update as the first quarter of the year comes to an end.

### CONSTITUTION

As most will be aware, Incorporated societies are required to register a new constitution by 5th April 2026. The existing club constitution is well out of date and includes objectives which are no longer relevant and not fit for purpose. We have started re drafting this and including the new rules as required by the new act.



A truck loaded with Vicks Vaporub overturned on the highway. Amazingly, there was no congestion for eight hours.



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Our existing rules only allow for a President to hold this office for a maximum three-year term before having to stand aside. My current three term is up, and I am standing aside at the completion of the AGM on Friday 10th May but remaining on the executive as Vice President.

We will be circulating the new draft of the constitution later in the year but do welcome any feedback from members now while we are in the process. This will be completed by Xmas.

## **HANGARS.**

Work is now being completed on the rear aerodrome access road with concrete having been laid and new security fence and gate to be installed. At time of writing, I have been advised there is a 6 week delay in delivery of materials but am looking at an alternative supplier to get the work completed sooner than later. The new fence will enclose the complete rear area from the boundary with Westpac through to the existing security fence by the self storage units behind the airfield house.

## **AIRFIELD HOUSE.**

The existing tenants are currently moving out prior to us completing some overdue maintenance with fencing, painting and heat pumps etc as required under the healthy homes act due to come into force 1//7/25. This is a three-bedroom house and will be available for renting once the up grade work is completed.

## **RUNWAY/IRRIGATION.**

We have been fortunate that the weather pattern over the summer has seen rain fall almost weekly on the airfield helping maintain some grass growth. This last week or so has been very wet. We are still awaiting the consent from Environment Waikato to irrigate with wastewater. Without going into detail, it's unbelievable how a bureaucrat is unable to comprehend information provided on the application, questions which have the answers already provided, accompanied with an extra fee for the question. Example: What are you doing to prevent the treated wastewater entering the stream or drains if the holding tank ruptures? Answer, The wastewater is currently being poured into the stream direct from the wastewater ponds under the existing TCDC council consent issued by EW and we have already said the tank will be within a bund anyway

## **AGM**

The AGM is scheduled for 10th May in the main Hangar. Light refreshments available. We will need a quorum as there may be an election for three positions on the committee. Look forward to seeing you there.  
Evan Wheeler



# Mercury Bay Flyer



## Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log



Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
9 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	12:30-17:00	10	Nose Landing Gear, Fuel Lines, Flaperon



### Nose Landing Gear

Reuben, Sam and Isaiah are working with Andy today on the nose landing gear. Today their task was to start assembling the nose wheel assembly. This component holds the wheel/tyre and allows the fibreglass fairings to be attached. The students learnt about castle nuts, torque wrenches and torque settings today. The main goal was to get to the stage of fitting the front wheel.

This is our last week with Andy as he makes his way back home to the USA. Thanks for sharing all your knowledge and helping us out Andy, it's been fun!

### Fuel Lines

Kane and Liam have been teamed up with Jim today to start the fabrication of fuel lines. The keys skills being learnt today are using a pipe cutter, using a pipe bender and a pipe flaring tool. This task requires a large amount of measuring and precision. Care had to be taken to ensure all the fittings were on the fuel line before bending or flaring the tube.

### Flaperon Construction

It has been a challenging day out the front of the workshop as the students have been learning about the properties of stainless steel and in particular the technique for drilling it. It has been a day of rich learning for the students. The rest of the day was spent assembling the flaperon that will fit to the wing that we have just completed.

### Wing Light

Le Sueur and Dan are back on the wing trying to make sense of the wing light lens instructions. It has been an afternoon of thinking and progress. Once we get some double-sided tape, the lens will be fitted.



We are on school holidays for the next two weeks, thanks for following us!





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## Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log

