

PRESIDENTS REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 10th May 2025

Good afternoon members.

It is my pleasure to present the Presidents report for the 2024-2025 year at this annual general meeting held on 10th May 2025.

OVERVIEW

The past year has been another year of growth with further improvements around the airfield. I want to take this opportunity to reflect on our achievements, acknowledge the work of our dedicated team of volunteers and look ahead to the opportunities before us.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Hangars

Two further hangars were completed in December 2024 bringing the total number of hangars in this project to 52. Members have invested more than \$11million dollars into this project. Your support with this project has put our club into a strong financial position providing a regular cash flow enabling us to invest back in improvements to our facilities and equipment.

Work on second access to the new hangar area from Abrahamson Drive is well in progress. Security fencing and an electric gate are on order to be installed over the next few weeks.

Taxiway D

The new taxiway D became operational last December. This has helped reduce the wear on the main runway substantially and in maintaining good traffic flow when the circuit is busy.

Membership

Membership now stands at 180 with new members joining each month. Nine members were undergoing micro light flying lessons with a further six working through the PPL GA flying programme. Training is currently limited to the availability of instructors and is always a challenge to aero clubs.

Financial stability

Careful management and a positive inflow of rental income saw last year end with a surplus and strong financial footing as you have seen in the finance presentation of the accounts.

Community engagement

We continue to strengthen our ties with the community where we can, particularly in allowing the airfield to be available for commercial flight operations. We also have provided free use of the main hangar for some community fund-raising events at no charge.

Challenges

As is the situation for many similar flying operations, we face the usual challenges associated with airfield operations. Residential encroachment onto neighboring land, noise complaints and weather events.

Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our committee members and the small team of volunteers for their tireless work and dedication to the upkeep of the airfield and its facilities. Our monthly meetings are well attended by the committee members and your support has been most appreciated. Special thanks to three members stepping down from the committee this year. Brian Wigley after fourteen years on the committee with five as President is of note.

Most importantly to our members whose investment, feedback and support help guide us in what we do.

Looking ahead

As we look into the 2025-26 year, we have the irrigation scheme for the main runway to complete. This project is currently awaiting final consent from Environment Waikato which will allow us to irrigate the main runway from December to April each year with treated wastewater from the Thames District Council. Linked to this project is also a new power supply to the airfield which will serve both the new hangars and the irrigation pumps.

There is also the future upgrade of the existing café/clubroom/office area to consider.

The club constitution is in the process of being reviewed and written to comply with the new Incorporated Society's act.

Conclusion

Thank you all for your trust, participation and ongoing support. Our current constitution only allows for a maximum 3 consecutive years in the office of club President at our club. I therefore step down and hand the baton to incoming President, Keith Skilling. I will continue to support Keith as his vice president and working on the projects.

Together we have achieved a great deal this past year and I again thank all the committee for their time to help achieve this. We will all continue to work together moving Mercury Bay Aero Club forward to being one of New Zealand's leading aero club operations.

Warm regards

Evan Wheeler

President

Mercury Bay Aero Club.