



# Mercury Bay Flyer



September/October 2025

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## Flying Activity:



[Click to View Vintage Aerobatic Air Show](#)

group has been winging around the local area but complaining about the lack of dry aerodromes to enjoy their flights to coffee drinking.

This Vintage Aerobatic Airshow was happening when I was holidaying near Berlin, Germany so thought I had better get my camera out and show you the fun zone.

It is followed by a bit of heli logging in low overcast conditions

The coffee

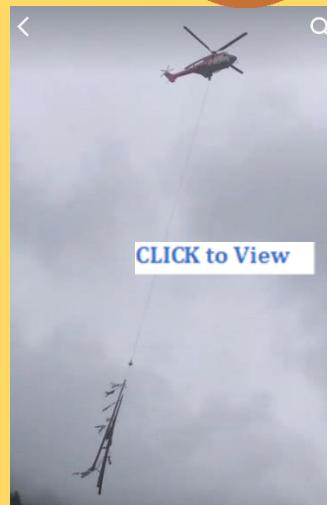


Whitianga seems to have been handling the wet conditions very well and was only closed once to Barrier Air due rain buildup at their parking bay beside the Clubhouse. That's showing how good the drainage has been handling the water flows since that work has been carried out in the last few years.



James Andreae has now parted company with RVI2 ZK MBA due to his imminent departure for Motueka. The aircraft remains in Whitianga, now belonging to Kim Winters so she can continue her flying lessons in her own flying machine. We wish James and Steph a happy relocation to another great flying spot at Motueka.

Club Captain John Vanderwee has put a plan together with Evan Wheeler to go visiting a few airstrips in the Pukekohe/Franklin district so get yourselves on [Whiti Flyers WhatsApp](#) to stay in the loop of timings. Currently proposing Sat Nov 1 with backup Sun Nov 2.



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Friday afternoons on the Coro Club deck have been seeing to the Club side of the flying group so feel free to attend as the message goes out on What App. Whiti Flyers.

**Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield Inc.**

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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. 021 0800 2970 **Menu** <https://www.coro.club/menu/>



## Notices from committee:

### MBAC Committee 2025/6

President	Keith Skilling	021 333 767
Vice President	Evan Wheeler	021 924 807
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

### MBAC Hangar Rental Contact Bruce Turner 021 388 343



New clear curtains have been installed on the Coro Club deck so should keep out our winter conditions and make the Café more user friendly now that the north entry door has new zipped area.



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The MBAC rental house has been undergoing upgrade work for the past few months and now that Keith has finished his ironing, he may be able to invite us in to the show home for a pre rental inspection.



Fencing and driveway works are outstanding jobs to be completed. Looking good team MBAC.



Hangar taxiways seem to be completed allowing great wet weather transit to taxiways but very wet taxiways are then the issue for accessing 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 has arrived Sunday 28 September 2025!**

**The new flying season is underway!**

**Next Executive Meeting – Friday 10 October at 1000hrs -**

**[Whitianga Aerodrome](#)** is now on Facebook so check out the recent happenings! [CLICK to View](#)



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**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)

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## 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.



## Flying Events

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

- **Dargaville Aero Club Saturday Lunch.** Every Saturday from 12:30 pm. **The catered lunches are back on! Now \$15.**
- **Whangarei Flying Club Sunday Lunch.** Penny burgers every Sunday \$7 Contact Rusty 021 1738942 **Penny burgers are now back on!**
- **Rodney Aero Club Saturday Morning Cuppa and Coffee.** The RAC will have the clubrooms open and the jug on for a Cuppa or Coffee every Saturday morning. You might even get a biscuit or the occasional scone! Call in on your way to Dargaville lunch.



Opotiki Aero Club 12 October 25 Lunch  
BBQ - Terry 0274771835



Steampunk Festival 2025  
PROGRAMME STEAMPUNK MARKET WINDOW DISPLAY COMP SHOP   
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[GET TICKETS](#)

the family, there's fun for everyone!!

RAANZ  
RAANZ 2025 National Fly-in and AGM  
November 7-8-9  
Ashburton Airfield

This year we are combining the two events into a single weekend of flying, hangar flying, and a bit of business. Organised by the Geraldine Fliers Group in association with the Ashburton Aviation Museum - with a chance to view their new hangar and collection.

- Registration forms and programme can be downloaded from our website [here](#).

Come and join our Delightful Madness at our **10th ANNUAL Steampunk Festival** Run over 4 days from the 6-9th November. We offer Fun, Entertainment, Competitions, Dancing, Prancing, Gears and Gadgetry. A great opportunity to unleash your creative side and **GET AMONGST IT!!** Bring

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## Mercury Bay Model Club



Wayne Lester - Uh oh here we go again, another customer build has just arrived in my garage, a radio-controlled aircraft this time. Power plant will be a 35cc petrol engine.

Wayne has also been launching more vessels



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Light hearted comments to keep you going until daylight saving gets you flying again.



**WOMAN:**  
Shampoo for dry and damaged hair.

**MAN:**  
6 in 1 shampoo for hair, face, body, carpet, car and dishes.



When your golden retriever is treat motivated, you can get them to pretty much do anything

### Meanwhile in Australia



A "welcome to Perth" sign painted on a building rooftop is scaring passengers landing at Sydney airport

## Stop Press



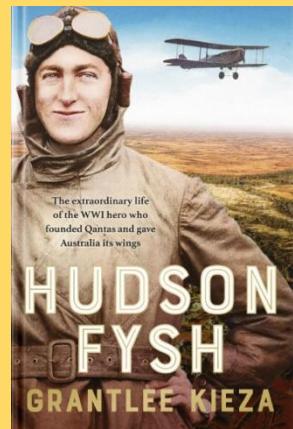
### Headgear and shirts - available from

Bruce Turner 021388 343

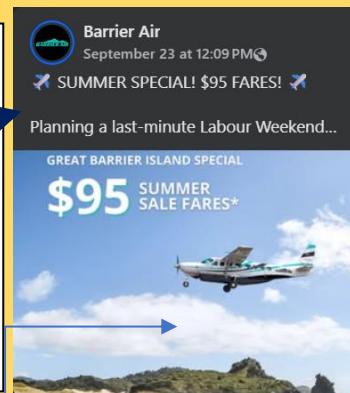
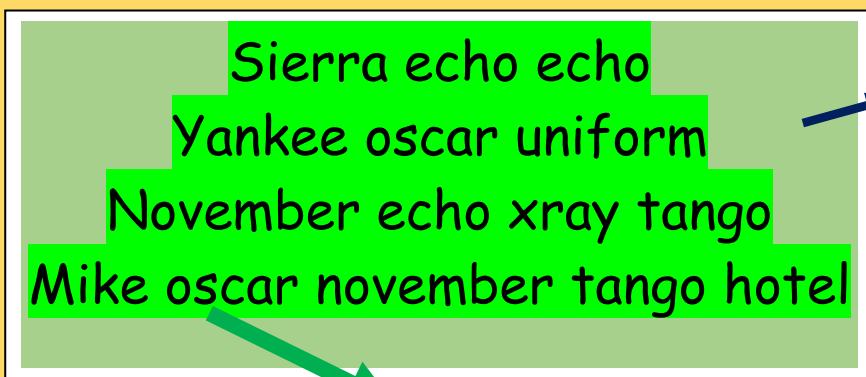
Shirts: \$38 Polo & T Shirts \$25 Caps \$25  
(Sizes available T Shirts (2XL, XL, L, M)



A book detailing the start of Qantas from outback Queensland and Hudson Fysh's continuing involvement through the developments to the jet age.



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## Happy Spring Season

### Presidents Corner

Some serious rainfall during the last few weeks has meant we have had to close the runway a few times this month. The runway has held up very well but access via the taxiways and around the hangars has become waterlogged and very prone to damage. A fix is underway so expect to see some trenching work being carried out shortly, and probably a call for helpers.

This brings a reminder to check NOTAM'S... again!...and again please! There seems to be a general reluctance for local pilots to check these but they can change daily and it is important that they are adhered to for safety reasons and just as importantly to prevent damage to our facilities.

A reminder as well to adhere to our local rules, in particular no downwind ops (use the AWIB 130.5) or flying over the township (we are getting complaints). And please use taxiway D when available even if only one half of it is active. Regrettably some pilots are still backtracking unnecessarily and it's not helping our fragile runway in the current weather conditions.

A recent visit by our local NZCAA safety officer, Pete Gordon highlighted the need for good airmanship at uncontrolled airfields which is at the top of their safety awareness program at the moment. There is a nationwide concern about ill discipline at uncontrolled airfields where mainly "locals" become complacent and rules and radio etiquette slip. We are very fortunate to have the services of a very experienced safety officer, Steve Chilcott, to oversee our operations and ensure that we comply and help make Whitianga a safe and pleasant airfield for all users. If someone approaches you and asks why you did something or point out maybe something you may have overlooked, please treat it with respect and have the conversation. There are no "aviation police" here, just volunteers trying to keep you and others safe.

Sorry for the gloom...maybe it's the weather, so some better news.

The club rental house is now ready for a tenant and we have local real estate agents handling that for us. A huge amount of work, and money, has gone into this over the last few months and thanks to all the volunteers who have done a great job in getting it up to a very good standard. Just a new fence to be erected next week, and then the search for tenants.

John Vanderwee, our club captain, has planned a few impromptu get togethers and flights away that have been well attended and good fun. If you want to be involved, please contact John and get onto the Whitianga

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flyers WhatsApp group. If you intend to fly somewhere and would like some company, please just mention it on the app ..you might be surprised who turns up.

John is planning a strip flying experience for the 1st Nov, it sounds like fun so if you are interested please add your name.

As the good flying weather approaches, expect the local area to get busy let's set a good example to our visitors.

Cheers Keith



## Mercury Bay Flyer

In 1982, Larry Walters, a 33-year-old truck driver from San Pedro, California, turned backyard whimsy into legendary adventure. Armed with 42 helium-filled weather balloons, a lawn chair, a parachute, a CB radio, sandwiches, beer, and even a pellet gun, Larry intended to float a few hundred feet above his neighborhood, soak in the view, and then pop the balloons one by one to descend safely.

[CLICK to View](#)

But things quickly spiraled out of control. Larry shot upward, reaching 4,900 meters (over 16,000 feet)—directly into the flight path of Los Angeles International Airport. Commercial pilots spotted a man suspended in a lawn chair, and air traffic control could hardly believe their eyes. His journey ended after drifting into power lines, causing a blackout in parts of Long Beach. Miraculously, Larry landed safely and was promptly arrested by the FAA.

Despite the chaos, Larry became an instant folk hero. Headlines around the world celebrated his daring stunt, he appeared on The Tonight Show, and his legendary lawn chair eventually found a home in the Smithsonian. Illegal? Yes. Dangerous? Absolutely. But Larry Walters captured the imagination of millions—a symbol of fearless curiosity, audacity, and the extraordinary lengths some will go to chase a dream.



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Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust

## RV12 Project Log



Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025	12:30-17:00	8	Landing Gear, Mid Fuselage Section, Roll Over Bar



**Mid Fuselage Section/ Roll Bar**  
This week the focus seems to be on the mid fuselage section. Douglas and Isaiah have completed the roll over bar and have started the process of fitting it to the mid fuselage section. To fit this bar, it needed to be held in place by one person, the supporting mounts clecoed on and then bolted down using two bolts on each side.  
Euan has been working with Tony on the mid fuselage bulkhead. Euan has been adding components to this bulkhead, one of these components is the mounting system for the fuel pumps.  
This section of the aircraft has made some huge visual progress today, it's amazing how much this kit can change in just a few hours when all the parts being built get put together.



**Landing Gear**  
Liam has been working with Alan on one of the main gear legs, their main tasks today was to add epi seal to the inside of the wheel fairings to form a spacer between the fairing mounting bracket and the fairing.  
Kane, Reuben and Casey have been working on the nose gear fairing, they have been closely following the manual and steadily ticking off tasks, none of these students are familiar with working on fibreglass fairings so it's a great opportunity to learn.

**Upper Firewall**  
Dan and Le Sueur are out the front continuing their progress on the upper firewall section, when quizzed about the brackets that they were fitting and what they were to hold, they weren't sure as the components weren't named in the manual. They both had some guesses before deciding that they would find the next manual to confirm their purpose.

We are on a trip to Ardmore Airfield next week, stay tuned for photos of our trip.



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## Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log

