



Mercury Bay Flyer

November 2025

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Flying Activity:



Kim Winters soloed in beautiful weather at Whitianga on Thursday 9 October 2025. Congratulations Kim. Her Certificate was presented the following day by Club Captain John Vanderwee and Instructor Alan Coubray at the *Friday on the Deck*.



The street entrance to the MBAC Clubhouse, Coro Club & hangars is now looking a lot more presentable with the warehousing tidied up and a rock garden beside our signage.

Labour weekend was noticeably quiet for aircraft arrivals and departures but a few of our locals powered in and were pictured here on grass newly mown by Steve.



The annual Tiger Moth Club of NZ held their rally at Taumaranui 17-19 October and most were able to fly in successfully. Keith advised that low overcast and reduced visibility conditions on the Sunday restricted some pilots from leaving the event but it was otherwise another successful time there.

Aircraft tally was 11 Tiger Moths - Alan Coubray & Kim Winters, Pete & Donna McVinnie, Martin & Chris Farrand in the Fox Moth, Ace & Jeannie – drove on gravel roads!, Piper Cub - Kevin Paulson, Keith Skilling C180



Steve Williams and I were on site at Tauranga Airport the day the Air NZ electric aircraft was test flown. Looking good but looks like certification problems may delay its introduction into service.



Since baleage has been removed from the aerodrome after the grass cutting and baling process, care needs to be exercised when taxiing and operating on the runways and

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taxiways as when the new grass changes colour to dark green it makes the aerodrome look like an all over landing ground.

Our Whiti Flyers became Franklin Flyers on Saturday 1 November to take a look at a few strips that Evan Wheeler had organised them to fly to. Weather turned out great with light winds and blue sky to enable a trouble free mission to be flown.



[Click to View](#)

Saturday 6 December 25 is now planned for our Spot landing and bombing competitions so keep that date free so you can ready yourselves for the next Franklin Flyers sortie.

New VNCs are due out from 30 October 25.



[Click to View](#)

Coro Club Café & Venue



Coro Club

1.2K likes • 1.3K followers

Whitianga Airfield
Café open WED-SUN 8AM-3PM
Book The Hangar for your next event

7 Dakota Drive, Whitianga, New Zealand

0210 800 2970

hello@coro.club

coro.club



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BY MARK SERVIAN

The doors of the Coro Café Hanger were open for a pleasant spring evening and enthusiastic chatter filled the air as local community and business leaders gathered last Wednesday evening for the launch of the Mercury Bay Future Fund.

If the support shown by the eighty-strong crowd is any indication, then the new Coromandel 'Future Funds' promoted in The Informer in recent months are off to an excellent start.

Notices from committee:



The club has a Toyota corolla available for visiting pilots who would like to get around Whitianga

The car is parked outside the tractor shed at the moment but will be located eventually in the tractor building.

Pilots can contact Graeme on [0272737142](tel:0272737142) to gain access to the car via a lockbox holding the keys.

Cost will be \$5 per use for local driving only.

Looking along runway 22 after Murray had mown the runways and baleage had not been cut.



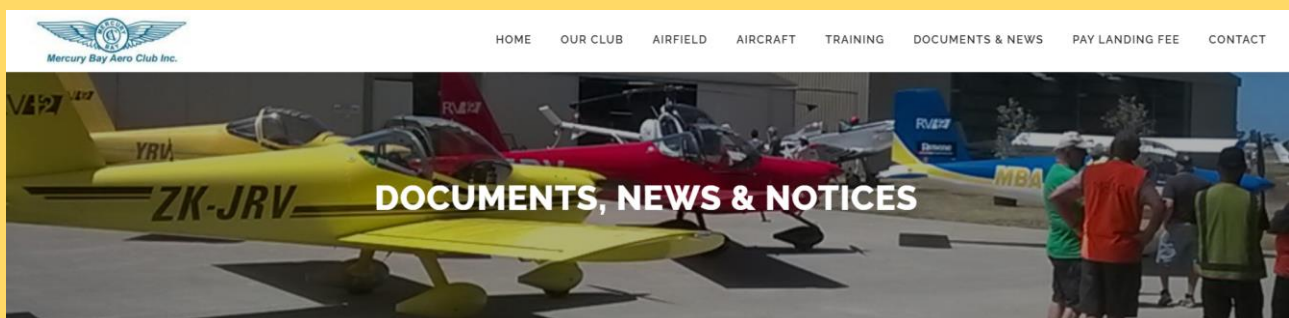
MBAC Committee 2025/6

President	Keith Skilling	021 333 767	
Vice President	Evan Wheeler	021 924 807	Hangar purchase/ Rentals
Secretary	Mike Norton	021 667 866	
Treasurer	Bruce Turner	021 388 343	Casual Hangar rentals
Club Captain	John Vanderwee	021 185 2409	
Ordinary Executive Members – Alan Coubray, Graeme Spurdle, Steve Chilcott.			

MBAC Hangar Rental Contact Bruce Turner 021 388 343

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Baleage cut and wrapped in the last couple of weeks.



The MBAC website allows you to view the newsletter so click on the picture to view the latest copy.

Daylight saving is here! The new flying season is underway!

Next Executive Meeting – Friday 21 November 25

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



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

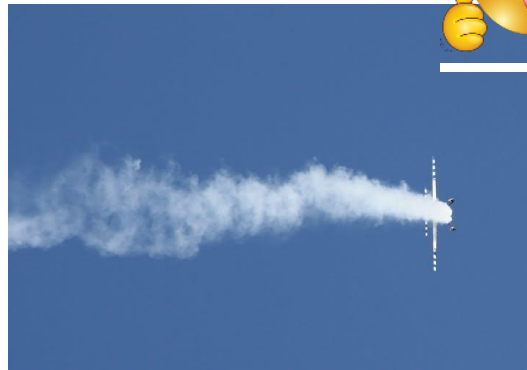
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New Members

New members Graeme Pilkington, Chris Riddle, Spike and Anne Mountjoy, Mitchell Coombe, Kevin Potter have signed up this month so please welcome them into our world in Mercury Bay next time you see them at the Coro Club or nearby on the 'drome.



Mercury Bay Model Club



George has been making sure the flyboys get to use the smooth grass on runway 16 whenever the wind drops and the sun shines happily for them all.

Nearby Event

Come and join our Delightful Madness at our 10th ANNUAL Steampunk Festival Run over 4 days from the 6-9th November 2025. We offer Fun, Entertainment, Competitions, Dancing, [CLICK TO VIEW](#)

Prancing, Gears and Gadgetry. A great opportunity to unleash your creative side and GET AMONGST IT!! Bring the family, there's fun for everyone!!



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Flying Events

- **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.

SAA Black Sands Fly-in Te Kowhai

The Black Sands Fly-In 15th and 16th of November 2025

Te Kowhai Aerodrome, Hamilton Hosted by the SAA Waikato Chapter



Athol & Betty SOWRY
336 Valley Road
R.D.2
WOODVILLE 4998
Phone (06) 3764754
Mobile 021 1578293
athbey@inspire.net.nz

ATHBEY FARM

**21st ANNUAL
FIRST IN THE WORLD FLY IN**
Returns to where it all began

Date: 1st January 2026
Time: In time for midday **\$20** lunch.
Place: "Athbey Farm" airstrip Woodville

How to find: 4 NM NE Woodville approx 1 NM west of SH2 on a line, Papatawa highway/rail over bridge – Whariti peak. 620m x 28m, vectors 31/13, 490 ASL
40° 18' 09 S 175° 54' 51 E 15-knot sock **119.10 PLEASE NOTE**

Caution: West end displaced threshold has trees, two storeyed house and power wires. Woodville is well known for fog, wind and turbulence. If unsure of you and your aircraft capabilities, please contact a previous visiting experienced pilot.
Should weather conditions on the day suggest it unwise to land on Athbey Farm, consider landing at Dannevirke and phone the above number before 11am, and road transport will be arranged.

AOPA is flying into
Turangi
30 November for lunch.
All flyers welcome.
Call Alan 021 458 375

**AOPA
Fly In
Turangi**
30 November 2025
Turangi Aero Club is hosting AOPA for 2025
Lunch
\$20 per person food and drink
Contact: turangiaeroclub@aopa.org.nz
Alan Turner: 021 458 375

Wings & Wheels
THAMES

Adults \$15
Children under 12 FREE

**SAT 24
JAN
2026**

10AM - 3PM
SIR KEITH PARK MEMORIAL AIRFIELD
FOOD STALLS | ENTERTAINMENT
VINTAGE AND CLASSIC DISPLAYS
CLASSIC TRUCKS - STATIONARY ENGINES - TRACTORS
FMX BIKES - MILITARY VEHICLES - AIRCRAFT
VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CARS

Hauraki Aero Club, Sir
Keith Park Memorial
Airfield



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This is a good list of the must do s this flying season
<http://www.flyingnz.co.nz/>

Whitianga Summer Concert Monday
26 January 2026
New Venue – Sherriff Block Arena



JANUARY 2026

25 January

Stratford Aero Club Fly In. Arrival time 10am.

Basic food provided at minimal cost to people flying in.

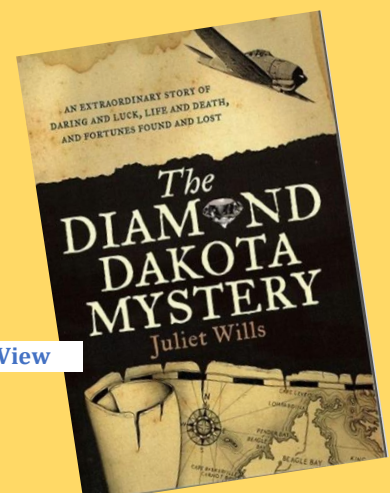


Stop Press:

Headgear and shirts - available from Bruce Turner 021 388 343



(Sizes available Polo Shirts \$38 – (2XL, XL, L, M) Caps \$20



[Click to View](#)

Good books for rainy days beat flying in the murk...click picture for preview

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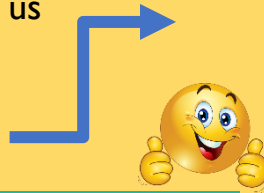
Sierra echo echo
Yankee oscar uniform
November echo xray tango
Mike oscar november tango hotel

Happy Spring Season



Low surface pressure for Whitianga

while the Nor' westerly was upon us



Will get you here if the road works put you off the drive....

President's Report

Warmer weather and plenty of rain has meant great spring growth and the airfield is looking magnificent, thanks to Murray, Wally, Steve and Graeme for the almost continual mowing, and Evan for the Cape Daisy spraying and everything else.

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We are in the process of getting the gutters cleaned on the hangars, as previously advised, and we will do all of the new hangars and spray the moss and growth on the southern sides where necessary. This will be charged to individual hangar owners.

The security gate by hangar rows D and E has been assembled and will be fitted shortly.

Regrettably we have had to remove the auto gyro autorotation area from the airfield landing chart on advice from CAA.

The airfield house has finally been leased to a long term tenant. This has been long and expensive process to bring it up to the new healthy homes standard but worth the effort. Thanks to Evan who led this process.

Another plea to all pilots to please avoid backtracking on the runway and to use taxiway Delta. We have spent a lot of money and time to get the runway up to it's current standard and we are trying to protect our asset. Good progress is being made towards getting the irrigation system up and running prior to summer, to protect this investment.

On Saturday a group of six aircraft and friends visited several privately owned airstrips around south Auckland giving everyone a great experience and all pilots a good night's sleep afterwards. There are some great functions coming up at the club including a competition day on the 6th December followed by a BBQ and a Warbirds ' barnstorming' flying day just prior to New year....

Watch this space.

Cheers Keith

More pictures of our fine looking grass runway looking along 04 toward Buffaloe Beach plus the load of bales being collected from the aerodrome.



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Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
22 nd October 2025	12:30-17:00	10	Mid Fuselage Section, Fuel Tank Prep, Fuel Pump Assembly



Two weeks in One Log

Due to illness, there was no log written last week, however there was still a build. Today's log is a combination of last week and this week.

Mid Fuselage Section

Cameron and Casey have teamed up with Graham to fit the upper firewall to the mid fuselage section. Once they had test fitted the firewall, they then removed it, added pro seal to the mounting surface and then riveted it in place. This section needs to be sealed to ensure no fumes enter the cockpit from the engine bay.

Fuel Pump Assembly

Cameron and Jim have been sorting out the aluminium tubes that will become fuel line that connects the fuel filter to the fuel pumps. This requires the tube to have the ends flared, fittings attached and bent to the same shape as shown in the manual.

Fuel Tank Preparation

Out the front of the workshop the students have sourced the components for the fuel tank and started the process of de burring all the holes and edges in preparation of assembly. This task must be done so that all parts are ready to go as once we start assembling with the pro seal, we can't stop.

Landing Gear Fairing

Liam and Kane are back fitting nut plates to the landing gear fairings. This task has been worked on while Alan has been available to assist them. Each day we get one step closer to the gear going on the fuselage and the tail cone getting attached as well.

It's Senior Prize Giving Next Week, So There Won't be a Build. We are Planning on Keeping a Group of Students Working Through to the End of the Year. So Keep an Eye out for More Logs!

Mercury Bay Area School
Whitianga - Mercury Bay - The Coromandel Peninsula - New Zealand
Te Kura o Te Whangamata-a Hei

1/2



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Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log

