



Mercury Bay Flyer

December 2025

Editor: Wally Pendray

021 907 782

email: pendrayw@gmail.com



Flying Activity:

Club Captain John Vanderwee advises Landing Competitions going ahead this Saturday 6 December at Whitianga Aerodrome so standby for an additional briefing sheet to be sent out by email. Meantime get those practice landings in before the weather changes and stops those sorties happening.



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The power trenches have been refilled and the Notam has been cancelled as we go to print.

A number of our Whitianga Coffee Flyers-drinkers were seen earlier in November sampling Pauanui brews while fine weather prevailed.



Coro Club Cafe & Venue Summer hours

7 days per week 28 Dec -18 Jan 8 am to 3pm

New Years Day will be OPEN

for coffee and cabinet food from 8 am until the kitchen Opens at 9 am



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18 January '26

onwards Wednesday to Sunday 8 am to 3pm





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MBAC Committee 2025-26

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

New Hangar purchase/rentals

----- MBAC **Hangar rental/ enquires**

Ordinary Executive Members – Alan Coubray, Graeme Spurdle, Steve Chilcott,

Notices from committee:



New electrical connections are underway, as seen on the photos, with extensive trenching on the runway side of the new hangars.

Security gate for the new hangars has been installed and electrical connections to operate it should be completed in the next couple of weeks.



Alan has arrived back in Whitianga with the framework for the construction of the new pumphouse building which will house the runway irrigation pump.





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Presidents Report

Things are ramping up at the club as the weather improves, along with the extra evening daylight hours.

The Whiti flyers WhatsApp group is working very well with good communications coming through on social events and trips away. Great to see six club aircraft at Pauanui for coffee along with 12 members recently.

If you would like more warnings re social and flying activities, along with the occasional piece of must have advice, please contact Club Captain John Vanderwee and he will include you.

There is a huge amount of work going on around the club at the moment installing power upgrades and cabling for power to the new hangar blocks and irrigation plant. There will be some inconvenience while this work is carried out over the next few weeks so please take extra care around the hangars and taxiways, and check Notam's.

The irrigation pipes will be going in this week along both sides of 04/22 so any help will be gratefully received. Please contact Evan if you are available to help. Weather permitting, we may hire a scissor lift for hangar owners to clean their gutters out and de moss the south side of some of them. Some gutters are seriously full and please remember that it is the owner's responsibility to clean them, not the club's. Please no ladders.

With the needed irrigation going in, it is a good time to also put power through to the new hangars. The club can easily cover the cost of these projects in the medium term, but with both projects happening together, club finances could be stretched in the short term. On advice, the committee is in the process of negotiating a loan, basically an overdraft at mortgage rates. The loan amount is well within the 5% of club assets, as allowed by the constitution, without getting AGM approval.

We have received valuations on the hangars in A block that are owned by the club. These hangars will be offered to the current occupiers at the lower of the received valuations. Should the offer not be taken up, rent will be adjusted to market rates. Occupiers to expect notification soon.

Helicopter pilots note. There have been some very good examples of some pretty shabby airmanship by some helicopter pilots here recently. All aircraft, including helicopters, are required to follow non controlled airfield arrival and departure procedures and those laid down by the airfield owner (the club). To help, we have introduced helicopter arrival procedures from the NW for your convenience and for those who don't feel up to using standard procedures. Just because Whitianga is uncontrolled and seems like a sleepy hollow at times, it doesn't mean you can treat it like a rural paddock, sadly those days are gone.



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We recently had several helicopters parked overnight along the no parking sign on taxiway D, blocking the taxiway, not helpful. We will shortly be promulgating overnight helicopter parking on the grass to the NW of hangar block E. In the meantime, please read the signs and charts.

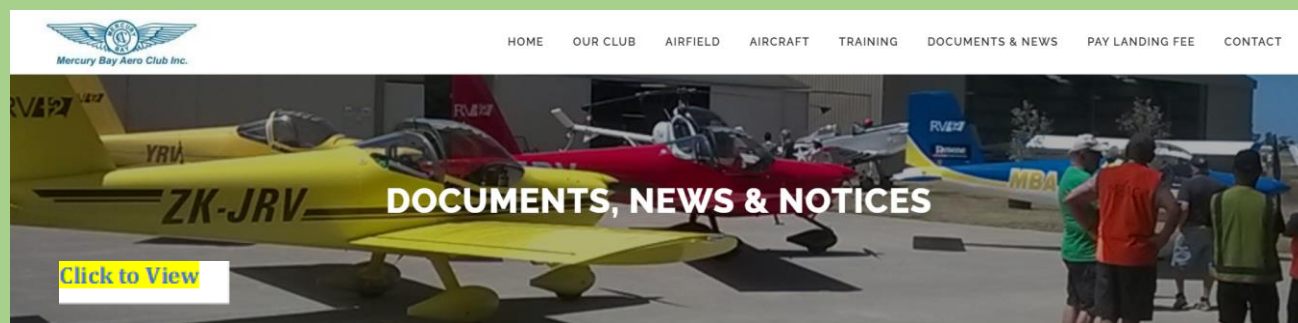
Our new security gate from Abrahamsons drive is now operational. Hangar owners will soon receive instructions on how to open it. The gate code will be strictly for hangar owners and operated by cell phone only.

A huge amount of work has been put into the new constitution, as required by law, by Mike Norton and Evan Wheeler so a big thank you to you both. This will have to be approved by a special AGM, probably before Christmas, we need a party!

Competitions next Saturday the 6th, it will be fun.

Cheers Keith

Happy Summer Season



Next Executive Meeting – Friday 19th December 2025 1000am

[Whitianga Aerodrome](#) is on [Facebook](#)

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Let's get out there in our flying machines while we have this great summer weather!



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Please Support Our Sponsors:

Whitianga Waterways – www.whitiangawaterways.co.nz

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

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



Mercury Bay Model Club



Recent activity on our modellers area of our 'drome has seen the fine weather, light wind activity stepped up while our good weather has got these pilots early out of bed and ready for action.



New Members

New member Kevin Potter has joined our Club so welcome aboard Kevin and hope you enjoy our Whitianga Aerodrome and Mercury Bay environment.





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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.

30 December Whananaki Fly IN

Contact Martin Farrand 021 933 804 if interested as there are specific procedures to be adhered to for this location

Whananaki Airstrip: Private airstrip 68 miles north of West Auckland at 53°59' 30.5" S 174° 27' 8". To find it fly into the Whananaki estuary entrance at low altitude and turn left at the shore, and you'll be on short final for runway 20 for the airfield which runs between the road and the harbour shore. Unconfirmed Google Earth measurements show it as 500m long aligned 02/20 at 6ft. Contact Martin Farrand Ph 021 933 804



Whananaki Airstrip from the north. [Tony Lloyd photo]



Whananaki Circuit... due to noise sensitivities, follow circuit above an Touch-and-Goes



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Athol & Betty SOWRY
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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.

SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY 2026
Whanganui Vintage Weekend—Wellington Anniversary

**WANGANUI AERO CLUB
AERO DAY**

Open 9am — 4pm
Kids—\$5, Adults \$15, cost Govt \$10
Jagrides, Scenic flights, Static exhibits, Airshow displays & more!
Improved Parking, Facilities and Food!
See more on wanganuiaeroday.co.nz

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

**Whitianga Summer Concert – Monday 26
January 26 Cancelled**

Healthy Bastards
BUSH PILOTS COMPETITION

7 Feb 2026
Omaka Airfield, Marlborough, NZ

Click to View

Marlborough Aero Club

7th Feb 2026 ...

greenstone ENTERTAINMENT

DATES ANNOUNCEMENT

TAUPŌ / SAT 24 JAN
TAUPŌ AMPHITHEATRE
WHITIANGA / MON 26 JAN
SHERIFF BLOCK ARENA
WANGANUI / SAT 31 JAN
THREE PINE OUTDOOR ARENA

GREENSTONE ENTERTAINMENT.CO.NZ



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Be there for Fun in the Sun and take your tent



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Havelock Mussel Festival

Can advise on airstrips nearby

021 907 782



Stop Press

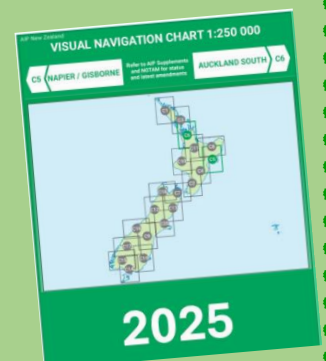


Headgear and polo shirts - available from Bruce Turner 021 388 343

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



New VNCs are here [Click to View](#)





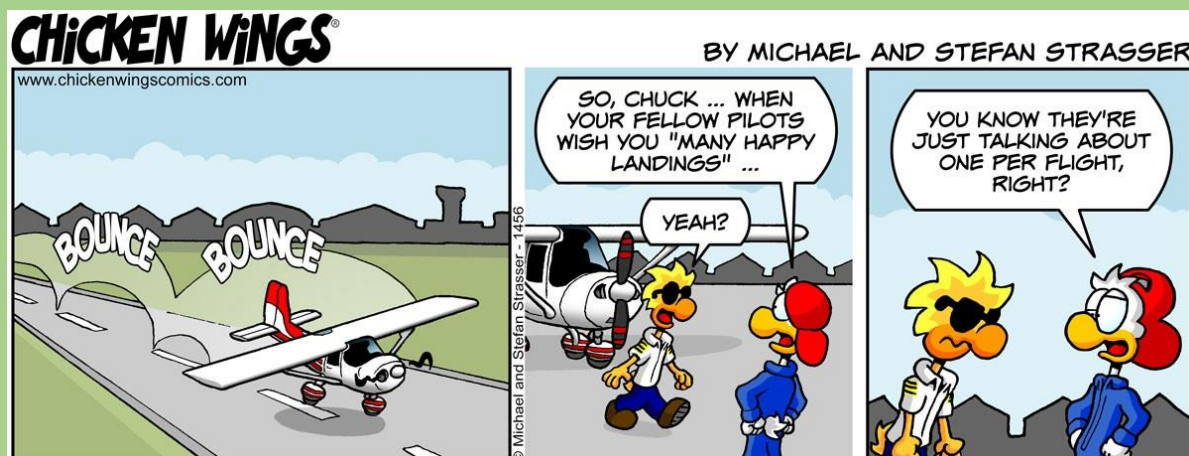
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Merry Christmas



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[Zulu Time](#) Zulu Time is the international standardized time in aviation (not only in aviation) and is the same no matter where on the globe you happen to be. Obviously if you fly a plane through several time zones you can't have everybody constantly do the math or all the pilots would be as confused as Chuck all the time. Weather information, flight plans, tower information, everything runs of Zulu time in aviation. And quite frankly, if you fly a plane from LA to Frankfurt, who cares what the local time in Idaho is, right?!

The name "Zulu Time" was chosen because a) it sounds cool and b) pilots like to come up with abbreviations and terms that nobody else understands.



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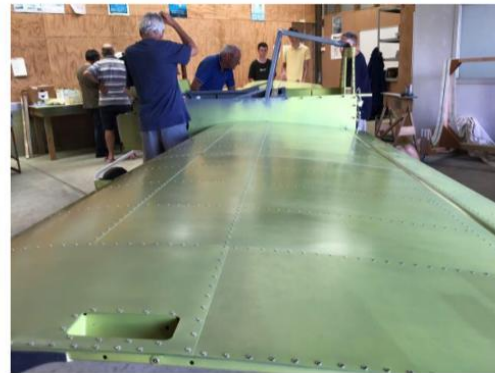
1 of 2



Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log



Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
26th November 2025	12:30-17:00	5	Moving Mid Fuselage Section, Test Fitting Wings



The Wings are on!

Today the plan was to get the wings fitted to the mid fuselage section. Before this could happen, a few little tasks needed to be sorted.

Firstly, Cameron and Euan had to finish up a couple of tasks on the landing gear and ensure that the brake lines were all running nice and neatly without rubbing on any corners.

While they were out the back doing this, the students at the front of the workshop were getting the wings placed on each side of the room.

The Mid fuselage section was then wheeled around to the front of the workshop where there was a group effort to get the wings test fitted.

The wings are held in with two pins and today it took a little bit of manipulating to get them to fit correctly. This task kept us busy for a good portion of the afternoon.

Take a look at the photos to see today's progress, this is another big step for our build. It's the closest it has been to looking like an actual aircraft.

Thanks for following our progress.





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