



Mercury Bay Flyer

February 26

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Flying Activity:



Flying has been rather erratic during December with rain and wind interrupting flying. Our recent rainstorm brought the wettest storm to Whitianga that has been seen since Bruce Turner was last kayaking along the drains in 2010.

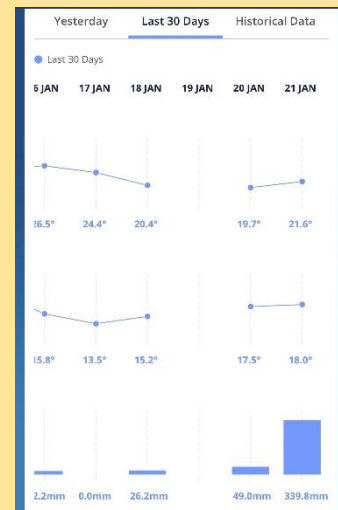


Steve Williams also managed to attract attention with his paddle board but the lads were disappointed that all this great lake disappeared overnight.



Our aerodrome has been tidied up beautifully since the last hay making exercise eliminated most of the long grass but care now needs to be taken to ensure the threshold marker boards are observed delineating the landing runway strip on runway 04/22 and runway 16/34

Anniversary Weekend was a quiet affair this year due to the storm damage causing both floods, road closures and requests to only travel if urgently required as most roads on the Coromandel suffered slips requiring enormous amount of work to restore safe transport links.



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Coro Club Café & Venue



Phone

021 08002970

Hello@coro.club.

Specials

Phone ahead to see
what delights are on
offer



Serving all day brunch, cabinet food and daily
lunch Specials

Notices from committee:

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 - Hangarage enquiries
Club Captain	John Vanderwee	021 185 2409

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



The committee and members of the MBAC send our condolences and sympathy to our member Allen (AJ) Kearney, for the loss of his grandson in the recent tragedy in Mt Maunganui.



Haymaking has been recently carried out on our aerodrome so the appearance of the aerodrome from the air, is that of an all over paddock/runway. Please ensure take-offs and landings are achieved by lining up between the **White** threshold markers and landings

are carried out over the **White** Threshold markers as these define the current runway in use.



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Hangar guttering was also recently cleaned out by Evan Wheeler and John Vanderwee to improve the drainage and eliminate grass and weed growth. Just in time for our big wet patch that flooded the aerodrome for 2 ½ days.

The NOTAM closed Whitianga Aerodrome for that period of time but the drainage worked well and the aerodrome was up and running again on 23rd January 26.

The rain ghost was seen during the storm wandering around the aerodrome.



Hangar Owners

If you own or use one of the newer hangars, ie B block and newer, it has come to our attention that the pedestrian door hinges are steel with steel pins, and with our proximity to the ocean, and a lack of regular lubrication, the hinges can seize then shear off the pin and or the knuckle (the bit that the pin pivots in).

As they are welded to the door and door frame they cannot be pulled apart after installation and greased.

To minimise the chance of a problem, regularly drown the hinges with CRC/WD40 or similar, while repeatedly opening and closing the door.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER.

That was a lot of rain, nearly a half a metre in 24 hours, and we got away with no damage that we can credit to the recent drainage work that has been carried out at the airfield. We have had some criticism of the long grass in the drains recently, but this prevented any erosion within the drains that has happened in the past, they all worked very well and remain in good condition.

Surprisingly, the runway was serviceable within thirty-six hours of the rain stopping as we moved the runway marker boards to the crown of the strip, the driest part. The new security gate was turned off as the water rose almost over the motor and around the hangars and surprised us all that it was still working again when the flood waters receded.

The same can't be said for the taxiways and areas between the hangars which remained waterlogged and unusable for a few days afterwards. Fixing this will be a priority over the summer.

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A huge thanks to all the volunteers who turned out during and after the rain to help where necessary. This is what makes our club the success that it is.

We have lots of great flying coming up as the weather improves with a large contingent from MBAC flying to Masterton for the annual SAA meeting. We also look forward to hosting the Tiger Moth club as they pass through Whitianga in March on their annual Safari.

Enjoy it while we can.

Keith

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Whitianga Aerodrome Showing the recent rainfall & flooding

Daylight saving finishes 5 April 26 at 3am!

Let's get out there in our flying machines before the changes come in!

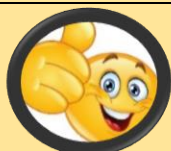
Next Executive Meeting - Friday 27 February 2026 at 10:00am

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



New Members

New members Rod Fogarty and Mike Penny have joined the MBAC so welcome them aboard when next you see them at Coro Club or roaming around our aerodrome.

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Mercury Bay Model Club



Fine days between the storms got the modellers out to enjoy their fun zone before the floods.



Largest Radio-Controlled Concorde

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/17hs5uiYG/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

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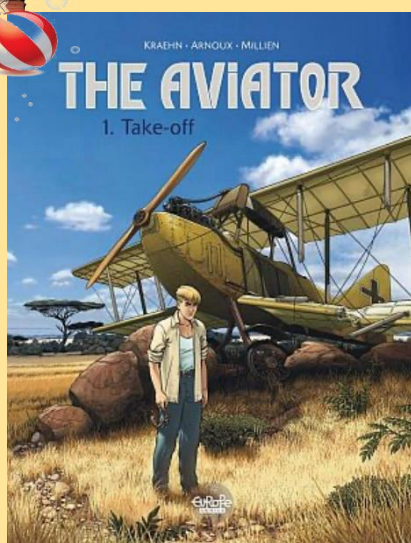
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Stop Press

Headgear, shirts now available from Bruce Turner 021-388 343....



Our summer is here so make the most of it



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SAANZ AGM and fly in to Masterton, next week, 6/7/8/February 26. Weather looking good as well.

Healthy Bastards Omaka 7 February 26



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ART Deco Napier

Thursday 19 – Sunday 22 February 2026



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Whitianga - Tiger Moth Club Northern

Safari arrives 2 March - Departs 4 March

Monday 2 March 2026 Whitianga: There are options aplenty for the day - boating, resting, or for the more adventurous a jaunt around the Coromandel Peninsula and across to Great Barrier for lunch or down the coast to Pauanui and Waihi Beach for lunch.

Balloons Over Waikato 21-28 March 2026

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Crosscheck – Checklists Have a look as these great reminders

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Warbirds Over Wanaka 3,4,5th April 2026

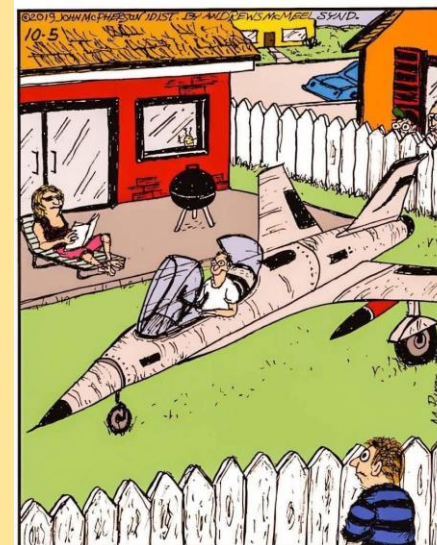
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This is now ON LINE as the link wasn't available last month

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Waihi Beach Aerodrome and Surf Shack Café - flood pictures January 26

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After 23 years of carefully sneaking single pieces out of the office, Frank at last had his own stealth fighter.