



# Mercury Bay Flyer

April 2026

Editor: Wally Pendray

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## Flying Activity:



The annual Tiger Moth Club of NZ rally passed through Whitianga again this year and spent a couple of days socialising with our aviators here. Their departure was captured by a group of keen local children from a nearby young children's day group.

Another group of our pilots were called to fly to Turangi

on a Sport Cruiser Group initiation lunch stop, since the fine weather at the time suited this. A couple of non Sport Cruisers also heard about the lunch so took flight as well. This included MBAC member Beat Mathis in RV 12 – MBB who was in Whitianga visiting from Switzerland. He also took in the MBAS RV 12 build while he was in town.



Hiding behind a hangar was another fly in visitor looking very smart. WKK has been repainted and on sold!

Wet weather at the end of March has caused many problems again on the Coromandel, as seen to

the right, with Coro Club Café closed. Flooding of roads and rivers has again interrupted the flow of residents and visitors to Whitianga. The aerodrome has stood up well to the weather event though.



A Coffee Club mishap occurred on a fine and sunny day recently when this aircraft snapped its undercarriage leg off as it was taxiing in for the taxiway at the cross runways at Whitianga. Recovery was promptly undertaken and placed in its hangar while new undercarriage legs have been ordered. Both pilots uninjured.



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## Coro Club Café & Venue - Flight Club Ball Room

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## 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 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 to gain access to the car via a lockbox holding the keys. Cost of \$20 per use.

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## President's Corner

Work by your committee continues apace and thanks to them all for their dedication and work that continues to make the Whitianga airfield the wonderful asset that it is today. I include Wally your editor in that as not only does he produce this great newsletter, he is also often seen mowing, trimming, painting and generally being extremely helpful around the airfield. Thank you, Wally.

Our Constitution has finally been lodged and accepted, great work by Mike Norton and Evan Wheeler, and with thanks to the large number of members that turned up to ratify it. The social activities afterwards far out lasted the five-minute meeting.

We are currently in negotiations with the occupiers of some of our A block hangars to sell and this will hopefully give the club some very helpful finance to continue the current and future upgrades. There are currently some members who wish to buy hangars, so if you're in the market, please let Evan Wheeler know, he has a list of prospective buyers.

Lots of work around hangar blocks C, D and E as power is being fitted to those hangars. Please take care around there as there are many electricians at work and parked vehicles. This work requires empty hangars so please help out and be patient if you find your taxiway temporarily blocked.

We are sad to accept Lydia Turners resignation from her admin position. She has worked many years diligently for the club, we thank her very much and wish her well for the future.

Please read the accompanying note that I have stolen from the AOPA newsletter regarding ADSB. We have incidents of both members and visitors turning them off for various reasons, but they are a safety feature and benefit us all.

We've had some great local flying recently and it was nice to get a visit and partake in the Tiger Moth camp along with several members from the MBAC. Pete McVinnie has written a great article about that included in this newsletter.

Next week sees me off to Warbirds over Wanaka again, I've never missed a show, and I hope to see many of you down there.

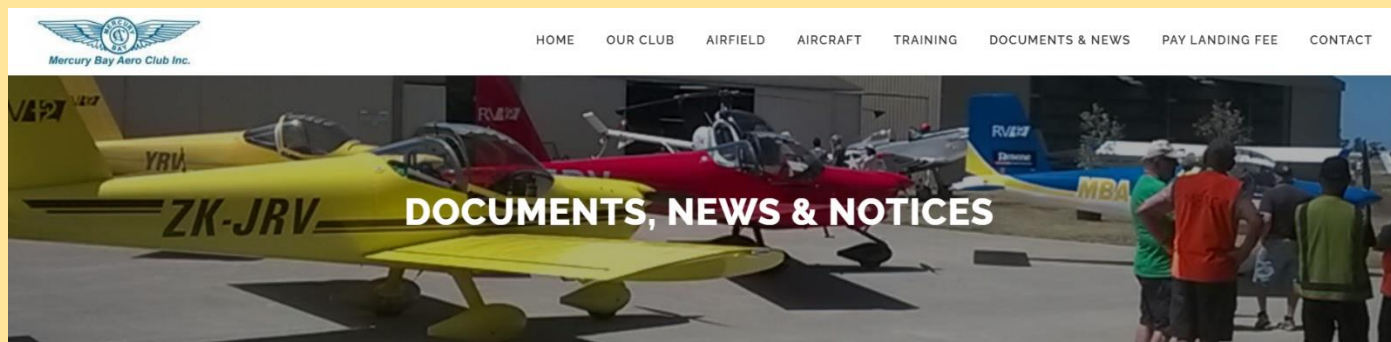
Cheers Keith

You may recall that AOPA NZ managed to get a huge subsidy on the purchase of the ADSB equipment. This is just a reminder to all members: It is incumbent upon all pilots to keep it switched on for their safety and other aircraft around them. ADS-B is great technology - let's embrace it.

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The **MBAC** website now allows you to see the latest newsletter online by clicking this link.

*Daylight saving finishes 5 April 26 at 3 am!*



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

**Next Executive Meeting - Friday 24 April 2025 at 1000 am**

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## New Members

New member Cameron Lindsay has joined the MBAC this month so welcome into our world of Mercury Bay Cameron and enjoy Coro Club coffee, food, relaxation, chatter, along with all the aviation scene we have here.



## Mercury Bay Model Club

George has loaded these and more on the Whitianga Aerodrome Facebook site to show you what the calm conditions have allowed this month

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## Stop Press

New Headgear T shirts & shirts now available from Bruce Turner 021-388 343

## CHICKEN WINGS®

BY MICHAEL AND STEFAN STRASSER



Our summer activities are getting fewer ... now its Autumn



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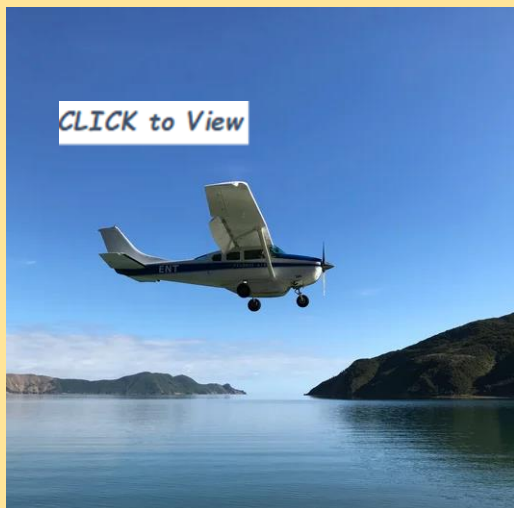


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Avionic inspections for airplanes in Whitianga I could offer options: either I can drive to Whitianga to meet the airplanes, or if the airplanes want to fly they can come to Ardmore at the Warbirds Hangar No.1 (where I have my workshop as well), or I can drive to meet the airplanes either in North Shore, or in Parakai (with Bryn), or even in Kaipara Flats airfields. — my ads-b testing gear for the two years transponder inspection works in any hangar as well, rainy days, doesn't matter. LiviU.

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===== EASTER 2026 =====

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## Tiger Moth Club of NZ Summer Rally 2026

Another successful Tiger Camp (Tiger Moth Safari) was completed early March, arriving at Kaipara Flats for the annual Tiger Moth Club competitions and AGM. The safari started in Omaka, visiting Foxpine, Hawera for an overnight, and facing 40kt winds departing the following day! It then headed to Te Kuiti, and on to Whitianga for a two-night stopover. Three local Tiger Moths (Alan Coubray ATM, Ace Edwards BEC and myself BFF) plus Club Vice President Keith Skilling in his C180 and Rob Llewellyn in his C172 joined the Safari at Whitianga, electing not to head south due the strong winds forecast.

It was then off to Northland, via an orbit of the Sky Tower, up the East Coast, a landing at Mata Valley strip in challenging crosswinds (just south of Whangarei), and on to Whananaki (again with a brisk crosswind) for a BBQ lunch. We then headed up to Kerikeri via The Hole in The Rock and Bay of Islands.

[CLICK to View](#)



The following day it was a trip up and around the spectacular Northland coast, rounding North Cape, Capes Reinga and Maria Van Diemen, and back down 90 Mile Beach. Some more game Tigers, without long range tanks, landed on seal at Kaitiāia to refuel then headed back to Kerikeri. I am fortunate to have the extra tank to pump up to the top tank, so proceeded straight back to KK, a two and a half hour flight. We were blessed with blue skies and no wind, which made for superb flying conditions.

The following day, the bulk of the aircraft went to Kaipara Flats, landing at Kaikohe and Dargaville, and down the Kaipara Harbour circling the amazing Gibbs Farm statues at VRP Red Horn. Alan and I decided to go northwest to Ahipara at the bottom of 90 Mile Beach, then down the West Coast exploring the three Northland Harbours (Herekino, Whangapé and Hokianga) and then down the Kaipara Harbour to Red Horn, then over the hill to Kaipara Flats, which had been beautifully prepared for our weekend. It was an awesome 150 minute trip, again in breathless conditions with blue skies, bringing to an end the annual Safari.

There was an excellent turn out at Kaipara Flats, with 14 Tiger Moths, one Jackaroo and one Chipmunk, plus numerous support aircraft, and another great day delivered perfect conditions for the competitions on Saturday.



Sunday we all headed our various ways, with 6 Tigers heading for Whitianga. Club President, John Baynes, came the farthest from Gore in his Tiger BMY. BFF went very well with no issues, and logged 15:10 flying hours, leaving me somewhat exhausted! I am looking forward to next year's safari, which commences at Taieri in February to celebrate Otago Aero Club centenary, then ending at Rangitāta Island for the Club competitions and AGM.

Regards, Pete McV

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## Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log



Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
18 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	12:30-17:00	8	Wheel Fairings, Fuel Tank, Wiring, Vertical Stabiliser Fitting



### Vertical Stabiliser Fitting

Liam has been working with Tony to fit the rudder to the vertical stabiliser and then fit the whole assembly to the fuselage. The vertical stabiliser is secured with a total of 12 bolts, 8 at the rear and 4 in the front.

### Engine Control Unit Fitting

This week we have Marley, Noah and Ashlee working with Cameron to mount some of the engine control units. One of these is the main engine computer and the other is a monitoring device. Ashlee learnt that an issue that may occur with the engine will result in an orange light if something requires attention or a red warning that something needs immediate attention, the control unit also speaks to the pilot through their head set to alert them of any issues. The fuse box was also fitted into the engine bay today as well.



### Front Gear Fairing

Toby and Wilfred have been working with Alan on the fairing that goes over the front landing gear leg. This is a tricky task as it requires piano hinges fitted inside the fairing that requires a locking wire pushed through the hinge to secure the fairing in place.

### New Student Wednesday

Today we welcome two new students to the team, Marley and Noah. They come to us with an interest in both aviation and making things. We welcome them to the team and wish them well. We will be looking at getting some more students in the coming weeks.

Thanks for following our progress!



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