

President's Report

Mercury Bay Aero Club AGM – Sunday 24 May, 2026

It is my pleasure to present this President's Report for the past year.

The Club is currently in a very strong position, with a significant amount of work being undertaken to improve both our assets and facilities. We are fortunate to have an excellent committee that puts in an enormous amount of work behind the scenes, supported by numerous volunteers who generously give their time and expertise. On behalf of the club, I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved for their continued commitment and support.

A major focus this year has been infrastructure improvements. The new irrigation system is now ready for installation, and we are currently awaiting Council's installation of the control valve, which is now well overdue. Final compliance approval has recently been obtained. The project also requires the installation of three-phase power and we are currently awaiting PowerCo to install this and a new 200-amp plinth for this upgrade. This will save the club from the very substantial cost of installing a new transformer and this same power supply will also service the new hangars, with the aero Club covering the cost of power to the hangars.

Another important improvement has been the new concrete work on Taxiway Delta. Flooding during wet periods has been preventing access from the hangars to the runway, and this work will now resolve that issue. Once Delta is completed, construction will commence on a new concrete taxiway for the A Block hangars.

To ensure these projects could be completed before winter, the club established a BNZ loan facility of up to \$500,000. This facility is at a very favourable interest rate and interest is only charged on the amount drawn down. At present, the club has drawn down approximately \$90,000. This will be repaid through the sale of existing hangars owned by the club. We have recently sold three hangars, with negotiations currently underway on a further three. These are the original A Block hangars that were constructed by the current owners and, after twenty years rent-free occupation, have reverted back to Aero Club ownership under the terms of the original agreement.

The Aero Club house required significant upgrading during the year. This work has now been completed, and the property now has long-term tenants.

Flight training continues in MBB and C152 BUD. However, we currently only have two instructors, and attracting additional instructors remains an important priority for the club.

We continue to be fortunate to have a very capable and hardworking committee. Sadly, Damien Barakat resigned during the year for personal reasons. Damien brought valuable skills and enthusiasm to the committee, and it was refreshing to have a young, qualified professional involved. We hope to see him return in the future. He will be replaced by Rob Llewellyn, who has recently purchased a hangar and a Cessna 172 and has already become very active within the club. We are very pleased to welcome Rob onto the Committee.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the excellent work of Mike Norton and Evan Wheeler in completing the new club constitution and for their excellent support and work throughout the

year. As well as doing a lot of unheralded mowing and maintenance work around the Airfield, I would like to also thank Wally Pendray particularly for putting together the club's excellent monthly newsletter.

We owe particular thanks to Bruce Turner for his tireless work as Treasurer, particularly after our previous Administrator resigned at very short notice. Bruce puts in a tremendous number of hours on the club's behalf. Thank you Bruce.

I remind members that there is a WhatsApp group for active members who enjoy club functions and flights away. Our Club Captain, John Vanderwee, has organised some excellent club get-togethers and flights away. The last being a trip to Matamata for a BBQ in mid-May where nine aircraft from MBAC took part. If you are not on the WhatsApp group and would like to participate more, please contact John.

Finally, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed my time as President. I have been very well supported by an extremely functional and dedicated team, which has made the role both rewarding and enjoyable.

I now hand the role back to Evan Wheeler, who I know will continue the excellent work and progress currently underway at the club.

Thank you for all your support.

Keith Skilling

President Mercury Bay Aero Club