



Mercury Bay Flyer

May 2026

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Flying Activity:



Beauty and the Beast is playing at our aerodrome hangar this month so just click the picture to the right and see what space is available for you to attend this



great performance by the students at Mercury Bay Performing Arts Trust



This ANZAC Day, take a moment to reflect on the history of Hamilton Airport.

After the war, the airport whenua became a resting ground for RNZAF aircraft that had done their job. Rows of planes, no longer flying, were brought here and gradually dismantled, piece by piece. At its peak, more than 400 Kittyhawks, Corsairs and other aircraft lined up in rows across the site.



I was also waiting for a sufficient patch of fine weather to launch south to Kenepuru Sounds to visit my friends Mike and Lynley who run a very scenic lodge there, well attended by New Zealanders and International visitors.



With our very wet summer season this year I needed to wait until end of April to have this opportunity presented. Beautiful conditions prevailed to allow me into Taumaranui, Nopera, Tira Ora, Havelock, Paraparaumu, Turangi before returning to Whitianga. Anyone wishing to fly to [Hopewell Lodge](#) needs to contact the farmer who operates the land as farm and airstrip so permission is always required to ensure stock are off the airstrip. Contact the editor above for contact details if you would like information on the Lodge and landings on the airstrip.

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CORO CLUB CAFE & Venue



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Contact Phone 021 0800 2970 or [Hello@coro.club](mailto>Hello@coro.club)

Specials Phone ahead to see what delights are on offer each day

Hours Wednesday to **Saturday 8:00am - 2pm**

Sunday 9am - 2pm

Closed Monday & Tuesdays

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 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.

MERCURY BAY AERO CLUB INC NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held in the Main Hangar
2pm Saturday **24 May 26**

Sunday

The AGM is to be held 2pm on ~~Sunday~~ 24 May 26 in the Main Hangar behind the Coro Club Café & Venue.

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Aerodrome Works



The work around the hangar complex has been going on continuously and this newsletter shows the work that is



detailed in the President's report.

Cyclone Vaianu caused a few more problems on the Coromandel with a bit of

wind and rain but our grass is remaining green and long requiring plenty of extra mowing this year.



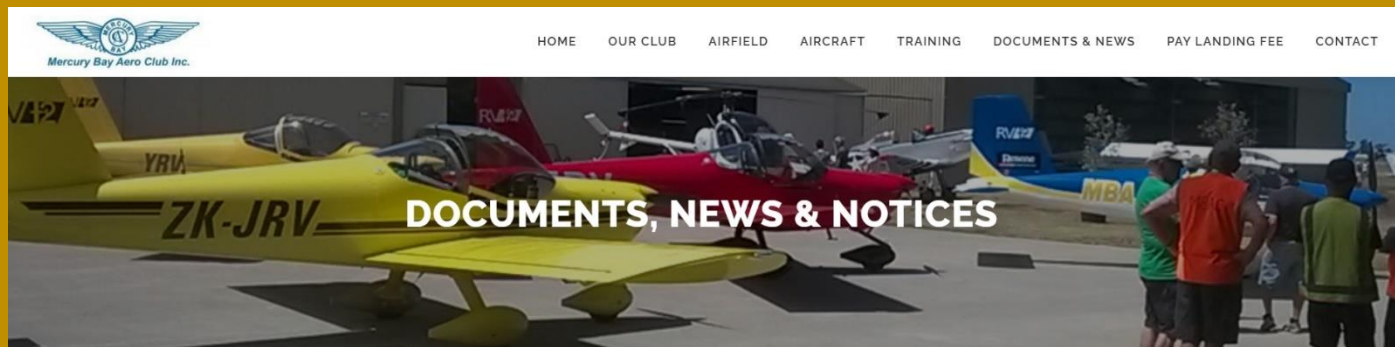
The sea birds have been having a relaxed time around

Whitianga on our 'drome and elsewhere.



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The MBAC website allows you to view the pictures within the newsletter in larger sizes if you are not receiving them on your tablet.

Daylight saving - gone for another year!



But the Summer weather is still prevailing on our aerodrome....allowing our pilots to complete many of their autumn missions

Next Executive Meeting – Sunday 24 May 2026 at 1000hrs

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 member Alex Kelsey has joined us this month so please welcome him into our world when you see him fly in or enjoy the delicious food and coffee at the Coro Club.

Mercury Bay Model Club

George has been at it once again and a few of the modellers have braved the cooler mornings lately and launched into a calm morning sky.



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Barrier Air Schedule Whitianga - Auckland – 1 May -8 June 26

Flights across the network have been scaled back due to the current fuel crisis and aircraft maintenance

Wednesday 9:30 am

Friday 4:30 pm

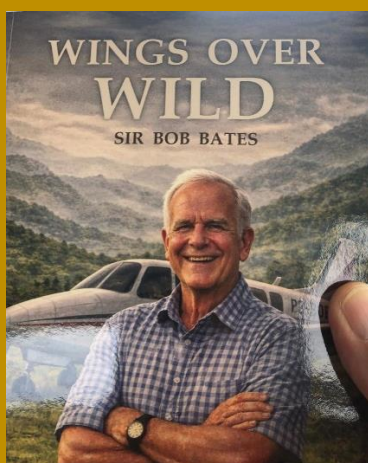
Sunday 4:30 pm

Whitianga - Auckland 8 June – October 26

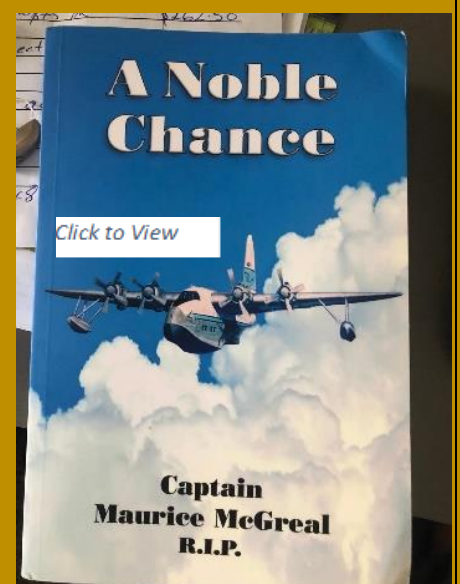
Friday 4:30 pm

Sunday 4:30 pm

Books for U



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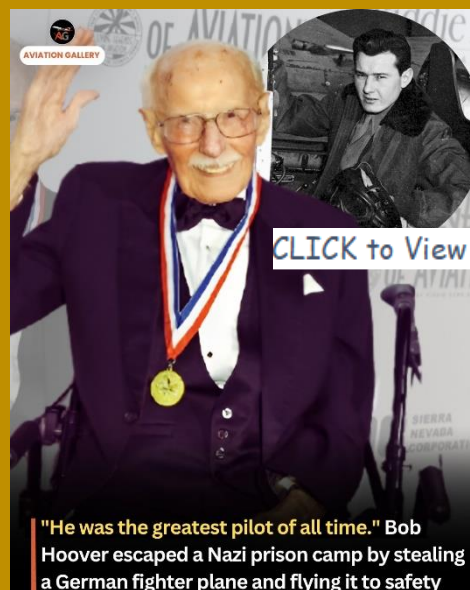
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Stop Press

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



A recent flight to Tauranga allowed me to wander through the Tauranga Aero Club facility and see how well set up they are for training and hangaring their aircraft. Not only that but I also spied an interesting Notice on their Notice Board that I thought might attract a few flyers down there and into their world.



I can arrange a basic overnight bed on field for anyone interested in checking out the night lights of Tauranga.



10th June Night circuits



LIVIU AVIONICS
and
INSTRUMENTS

For aircraft avionics and
instrument equipment needs;

Liviu
AVIONICS & INSTRUMENTS

Contact Liviu on 021-048-7055 or (09) 268-1199 or (09) 296-2354

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President's Report

Can I make another plea to "PLEASE READ NOTAMS". During the recent rain we have had aircraft stuck on taxiway D while it has been closed by notam. This is very unhelpful to the volunteers who try to keep the airfield in good shape and have to spend time repairing the damage caused. We are working on drainage around the hangar areas but in the meantime, if it has rained, please take a quick look at where the best areas are for taxiing. If D is closed there are still some high areas suitable for runway access until the new drainage and concrete is in place.

I suggest that the "Go preflight" app is by far the best to check all things current in aviation. It only takes a few seconds to check current NOTAMS, weather and forecasts for every airfield in NZ.

We regularly get phone calls from visitors asking about conditions and procedures at NZWT. This is commendable and helpful to all of us. Steve Chilcott has written an excellent information page for operations at NZWT on our website so it is well worth a look and a great place to refer visiting pilots to.

[Click to View](#)

Work is almost completed for installation of electrical cabling to hangar blocks C, D and E. The final stage is the upgrade of the power supply to the airfield. PC electrical is planning to have this worked finished within the next month. With cabling installed to the hangars, owners can now decide and proceed with installation of LED lights and power points. There is a limit of 16 amps per hangar.

TCDC contractors are about to install the valve/switchgear equipment adjacent to the new pump shed at the cross runway this week. This will provide the treated wastewater supply for our irrigation system.

Excessive rainfall has necessitated the closing of taxiway delta over recent months. We are about to solve this problem installing surface drainage and a concrete strip from E block hangars to Charlie. This will provide 365 day access from runway to hangars for fixed wing movements.

Hangar moss spraying and washing has been completed.

The gun club team have undertaken some duck culling on the airfield and will continue this work a time allows. In the awaiti swamp having a canadian club preparing for duck cull Saturday.

"That's all for this month,I'll see you all at the AGM."

Cheers Keith

Welcome to Whitianga Airfield

This page has been created to point out some of the features of Whitianga Airfield and will hopefully give you all the information you need before you visit us. Over the last few years extensive upgrading works have been carried out and the volume of traffic using the airfield has increased significantly. We are also positioned just to the north of the town centre so please fly consistently and avoid flying over the town. We ask that you familiarise yourself with the latest Landing Plate and the notes it contains but will further expand on those notes below.

General Operating Rules

All pilots using Whitianga airfield are expected to comply with all appropriate NZ CAA rules. The airfield is uncontrolled and standard operating procedures and radio calls are expected from all pilots.

Any charts within this document are for guidance only and not for navigation, please consult the current charts.

Weather

Whitianga can be subject to conditions of low cloud and drizzle with a moist NE flow and you can generally expect these conditions with the passage of a front. There is a webcam on the "corolutive.nz" website that will give you a good indication of the current cloud conditions. Significantly different cloud and weather conditions can be found on either side of the peninsular. Be aware that the conditions can change quite quickly. You can also expect conditions of low cloud and drizzle when a depression passes down the east of the country.

AOPA webcams NNI also has the Corolutive webcam image but check the date and time as this site tends not to be updated regularly.



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Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log



Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
22 nd April 2026	12:30-17:00	8	Wiring, Engine Fairings, Wheel Fairings, Rudder Set Up



Aircraft Wiring

Cameron and Ashlee are back onto the wiring today, one of the tasks today was to find all the earths from the wiring loom and attach them to a central spot on the bottom of the fuse box. Ashlee also fitted a heat shield between the engine block and the coil packs, this reduces the amount of heat that the coil packs are exposed to. Ashlee also had rerun the crankshaft position sensor wires as per the instructions in the manual.

Wheel Fairing

This week Marley is continuing his work shaping and cutting the wheel fairings down to the appropriate lines. Once he gets close to the line, he then uses sandpaper and a sanding block to finish it off. Marley has been working with Steve today. The other part that was getting some attention today was the front gear leg fairing, this was getting some filler applied to remove some of the holes and marks left over from manufacture.



Engine Fairing

Toby and Noah are out the front working with Graham on the fiberglass engine cowls. This task is quite similar to the wheel fairings except on a much larger scale. The amount of material that needs to be removed is quite considerable and care must be taken to achieve straight lines.

Rivet Filling

Kane and Reuben have been working with Douglas to continue progress on filling wing rivets. This task becomes increasingly important as we get closer to painting the aircraft.

Thanks for Following our Progress



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