



Mercury Bay Flyer

July 2026

Editor: Wally Pendray
021 907 782 email: pendrayw@gmail.com



Flying Activity:



A group of Whangarei Aero Club pilots flew into Whitianga recently to pop over and look at the MBAS RV12 under construction in the nearby hangar. This was followed up with them purchasing the current RV 12 due for completion this year.

With the thought of Night Flying at Tauranga Airport during a patch of fine weather I was unable to capture any Whiti Flyers enthusiasm for the event so flew south to enjoy night circuits

in their
CI52 with

instructor Olivia. Bill Penman from Tauranga also joined me and Bill came First and me Second since the event had been cancelled due lack of interest, unbeknown to us. A beautiful clear evening with about a 5 kt southerly aloft gave us a magnificent view of the Tauranga and Mount Maunganui environs.



[CLICK to View](#)



Another event popped up at Rotorua so I decided to wing it southwards on their Sunday BBQ day to enjoy the fly in with a few owners from Mt Maunganui, Whakatane, Matamata and North Shore. While our ED weather permitted unobstructed tracking to Rotorua their flights were weather obstructed to the west of the Waihi Gap and didn't allow traffic through from those wintry areas.

[CLICK to View](#)

Meanwhile Rob Llewellyn flew over the fog to Te Kowhai for their AOPA fly in but ended up coffee sipping in Raglan with

his group due adverse weather at Te Kowhai.



Coro Club Café & Venue 021 0800 2970



Hours **Monday to Friday**

8:00 – 2.00pm

Weekends 9am - 2.00pm

Serving all day brunch,

cabinet food and daily lunch Specials



Notices from committee



A few pictures of the new concrete taxiways after they were laid and completed in June.

These and the works in progress can be viewed on Whitianga Aerodrome Facebook page



John Gemmel has also been up on the ladder rearranging the covers and lighting system after the MBAS Beauty and the Beast event departed. With a quick spruce up of the overhead fabric in the Whiti laundromat it is looking like Spring cleaning began

before the shortest day this year!



Mercury Bay Flyer



A bit of Wet N Forget has been sprayed around our white fence lines and runway threshold markers recently so should be bright enough to repaint come Spring time.



Next Executive Meeting - Friday
24 July 1000 hrs

MBAC Committee 2026-27

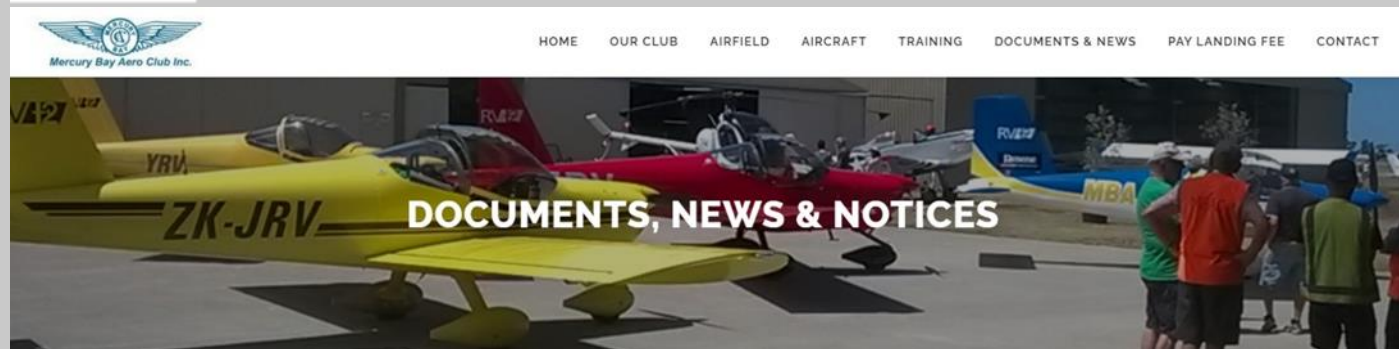
President	Evan Wheeler	021 924 807
Vice President	Keith Skilling	021 333 767
Secretary	Mike Norton	021 667 866
Treasurer	Bruce Turner	021 388 343 – Hangar enquiries
Club Captain	John Vanderwee	021 185 2409
Ordinary Executive Members – Alan Coubray, Graeme Spurdle, Steve Chilcott, Rob Llewellyn		

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 Flyer

[CLICK to View](#)



The MBAC website allows you to view the pictures within the newsletter in larger sizes on your PC

Daylight saving is now only three months away! Clocks go forward Sunday **27 September 2026.... get that winter maintenance done so you are ready to fly when our longer days return**

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



[Whitianga Aerodrome](#) is now on Facebook so check out the recent happenings.... and future events!



New Members

New member Alex Kelsey has joined our club and is converting to fixed wing right here in Whitianga as we go to print. Welcome aboard our MBAC and we hope you don't need your pair of Red Bands to enjoy our soft surfaces over winter Alex.



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

©2026 NZ Warbirds Assoc Inc

All Rights Reserved

7

Mercury Bay Flyer

Flying Events

AOPA NZ – Haast Winter Fly-in 17-19 July 2026



[Click to View](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Sunday is BBQ-Burger day!

Come along to our hangar any Sunday after about 12:00pm to catch up with our club members and have a chat about anything including aircraft.

The Club's famous **Burgers** are only \$10.00 and are served around 12:30pm. We also serve a variety of delicious home-made cakes crafted by Sheryl.

We run a members' cash prize draw at our Sunday event. Join the club and you could be in it to win it!

Subject to weather it is also an ideal time to try your hand at flying on of our aircraft. Why not come up one Sunday and give it a go?

Everyone is welcome to come along. See you there.



Bruce Turner has new caps & polos available

021 388 343 \$20 per cap and polo shirts \$38

[Click to View](#)



Mercury Bay Flyer

Mercury Bay Model Club

Gary has been enjoying winter on Whitianga Aerodrome and mowing their grass so he can get his aircraft out of his workshop occasionally.



[Click to View](#)



Mercury Bay Model Show has been postponed due to Whitianga Town

Hall renovations

EVENT INFO

Postponed

Event Date July 04, 2026 - 10:00am to 4:00pm

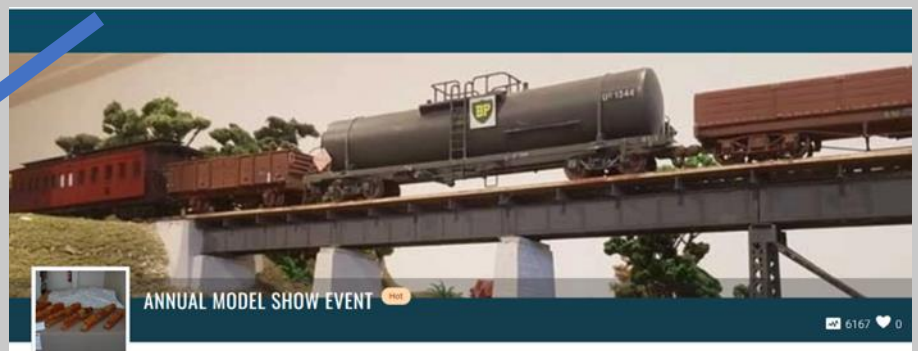
End Date July 05, 2026

Whitianga Town Hall
24 Monk Street, Whitianga

Age All ages

Tickets Priced from \$3
Additional fees may apply

Organiser Website [Mercury Bay Model](#)
[Railway Club](#)



[Click to View](#)

PRESIDENTS CORNER JUNE 2026

Mercury Bay Flyer

Welcome to winter. I am writing this after a year's break while Keith sat in the chair and did a grand job. Thanks to all who were able to make it to the AGM. Welcome to new committee member Rob Llewellyn. The rest of the team have been happy to stay on board so thank you all.

While we are feeling the effects of a strong southerly wind chill from the snow in the south,

Keith and Bobby are boarding a ship in the UK bound for New York; Peter and Donna McVinnie are in Budapest about to begin their river cruise to Amsterdam; Steve and Saki are enjoying the sun in Osaka; Peter and Lynn Walton are living on lobster up Nova Scotia way; and many others are avoiding the cold by heading somewhere warm at this time of year.

Happy camping to all of you.

It has been a busy few weeks at the airfield, as anyone driving past will have seen, with plenty happening behind the scenes.

One of our major challenges in recent years, now that the hangars have been built, has been accessing the runway after heavy or prolonged rain, when the ground quickly turns muddy.

The committee has wanted to concrete these areas for some time, but other priority projects meant we were not previously in a financial position to do so. However, the recent sale of four A Block hangars to club members has allowed us to bring the work forward and get it done. Special thanks to those club members for their support in purchasing these hangars.

We have constructed concrete taxiway Delta from the E Block hangars back to access Bravo, about 300 metres, and back along the A block hangars for another 100 metres, together with two access ways to threshold 04. This now provides year-round access to all hangars and taxiways leading to the runways. Work will now continue on levelling the topsoil over the existing grass areas. Underground drainage will then be installed to improve dewatering after heavy rain. We just need to wait for the soil to dry before moving it around again.

Now that the concrete is usable, please use it for all vehicle movements during winter, as you can access any hangar from the concrete. Between now and spring, the grass areas will be unusable while soil is being spread, and grass will not begin growing properly until spring.

It will then need two to three months to mature before it can be used. Please bear with us; once everything is back in use, the inconvenience will soon be forgotten.

Power supply to the C, D, and E Block hangars is almost complete. PC Electrical has nearly finished the underground wiring and the new power upgrade needed to supply electricity to the airfield. We are still waiting for Powerco to complete the upgrade by replacing the supply plinth by the main hangar. They are running months behind, and unfortunately there is nothing we can do about it.

The power upgrade is also needed for the irrigation system, which is about to be installed.

The small pumphouse by the cross runways at Delta is now wired, but we are waiting for TCDC to install the supply valve system beside the pump shed. A working bee will be held soon to install the underground pipework for the irrigation system. This will take a couple of days.

Mercury Bay Flyer

The committee recently arranged for a contractor to chemwash all the hangars and clean the gutters, and the airfield is looking good as a result. The club will cover the cost this time, but in future we expect to invoice hangar owners, as this is normally their responsibility.

Coro Club Café owners Dave and Lucy decided to move on from the business as of 31 May. The committee recognizes the café as a great asset and attraction for the airfield and has supported the existing staff in keeping it open. Sam has taken over ownership and reopened for business as usual on 10 June. Fernando remains as chef, although she will take a six-week break in July to visit home in Brazil. Nick is back from Sweden to help Sam look after the café during that period before moving to Auckland. Please support the café when you can. Thanks Dave for your efforts over the past few years. Welcome aboard Sam and all the best for your new venture.

A quick thank you to the work team who put in the hours keeping the grass cut and the edges tidy. It is a big effort, and we now have one of the best aero club-owned airfields in New Zealand. Wearing another hat as President of the Unlicensed Airfield Association of NZ, I am very aware of the challenges around the country with council-owned aerodromes and operating private strips in some districts. We are very thankful in Whitianga for the work done by our predecessors in setting up the foundations of an operation that has grown into what we have today.

In closing, just a reminder about our circuit procedures: if vacating via the downwind, please remain at 1,000 ft AGL to avoid aircraft that have joined overhead and are approaching to join the downwind. This rule applies within two miles of the airfield. We had a recent situation where conflict occurred and generated a little paperwork involving an air transport operation but all sorted.

If you happen to be in town on a Friday evening, we generally meet at 5.00pm on the deck at the café for a convivial hour and half of chin wag and byo libations and planning any flying activities for the weekend if something is on around the traps.

Also just like to mention some sad news on Warren Sly who many will know as he was our President for three years back in 2017. Warren suffered a severe stroke/hemorrhage last weekend and is in special care at Thames hospital as I write this report. Special thoughts go out to Jeweline and family at this difficult time.

Enough from me this month.

Evan Wheeler

President



Phillip Sly

19h · 🌐

We will be having a celebration of the life of Warren Sly (Dad) as follows:

Funeral service will be held at Twentyman's in Thames on Thursday 2nd July at 11.00 am (9am Queensland time) and will also be livestreamed for those unable to attend.

<https://www.twentymans.co.nz/>

Recent Deaths

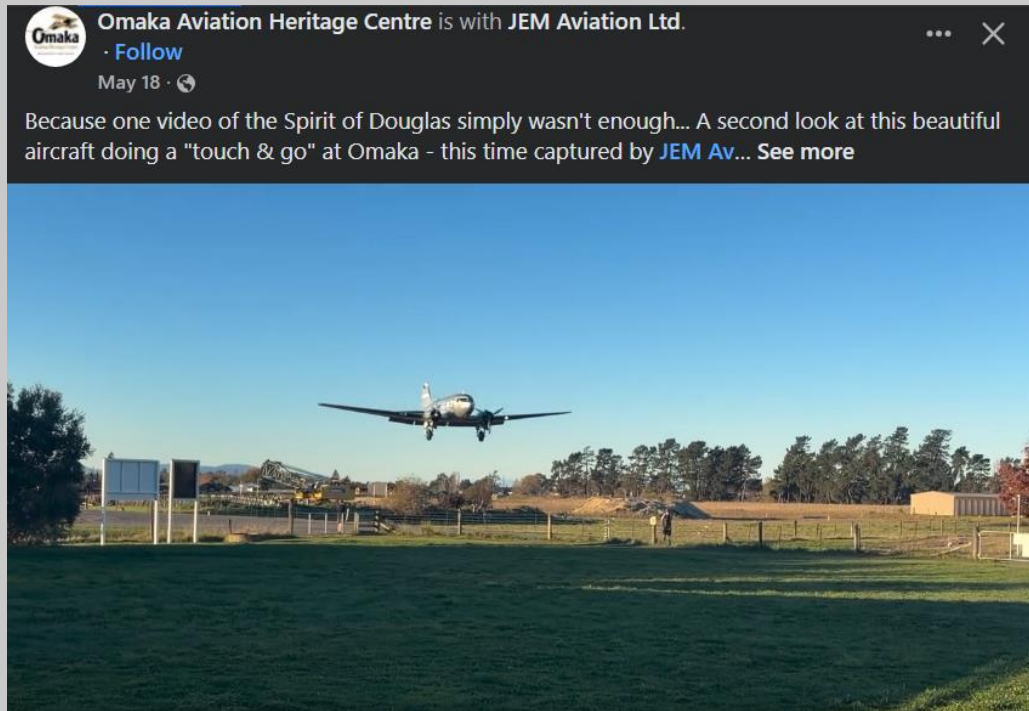
Sly - Warren Charles Thorne (-)

Monday, 14th February 1949 - Friday, 26th June 2026

Funeral: Thursday, 2nd July 2026 11:00 am

Venue: The Grahamstown Chapel
102 Kirkwood Street, Thames

Mercury Bay Flyer



[Click to View](#)

Hangar House for Sale Whitianga Aerodrome



[Click to View](#)

House with on Aerodrome access



[Click to View](#)

Graeme Wilton has hangar T Hangar C5 for rent at Whitianga Aerodrome.

Big enough for a C182 or similar so contact Graeme Wilton 029 419 2371

Mercury Bay Flyer



Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log



Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
24 th June 2026	12:30-17:00	6	Paint Prep, Propellor Hub, Engine Cowls, Rear Canopy



A Disrupted Day Due To Weather

With a heavy rain warning in place for Whitianga, it turned into a disrupted build day. Many students live in the flood zone, so they had to make their way home early. By 3pm only four students remained at the build.

The Paint Process

Out the front of the workshop Douglas and Kane are hanging parts in the paint booth, sanding fibreglass wheel fairings and rubbing down the fuel tank ready for primer. During the week we may see the first coat of primer going onto the bits in the booth.

Propellor Fitting/ Spinner Fitting

The parts to start the fitting of the propellor have been sourced and Graham, Dan and Reuben have been given the task of starting the fitment. The first task is to fit the backing plate and the hub so that we can start to figure out the fitting of the nose cone. Eventually, nut plates will be fitted to the backing plate.

Rear Canopy

Now that the rear canopy has been test fitted, its need trimming in a straight line so that the cockpit and rear canopy meet nicely. This task is achieved by carefully sanding back to a line. He also scalloped out the area that needs to clear the fuel filler.

Sam has been working with Steve on the horizontal stabiliser counterbalance, this required extra work due to a service bulletin that was issued. Sam also and built the oil inspection flap that will fit to the engine cowl.



Thanks for Following our Progress!



Mercury Bay Flyer



Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log

