



Mercury Bay Flyer

June 2026



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Flying Activity:



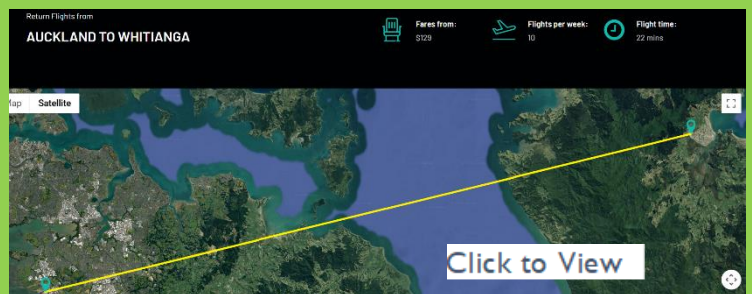
A nine aircraft sortie flew to Matamata recently to enjoy a BBQ lunch and a coffee while chatting to club members and watching the parachuting nearby.



Matamata Aero Club BBQ Lunch

Barrier Air continues to supply a very well patronised service between Auckland Airport and Whitianga and its great to see this service being used by so many people. Check their reduced schedule here through to end of October 😊 It will vary somewhat throughout winter so be sure to check for any variations to their flights.

June brings us up to that month of Winter that has some still wishing for the long days of summer. We have had such a beautiful settled Autumn in May to been able to fly in - that it's always a little unsettling to see the dark clouds and rain return to our winterless north of the Coromandel Peninsula.



Congratulations 🙌 to Saki Mosen who passed her SE instrument rating!! Bravo. We all enjoyed a few celebratory drinks with her on the Friday Deck after this announcement came in.

Another coffee run to the right shows the recent fine weather flight to Thames.



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Coro Club Café & Venue



Specials Daily



Contact: Phone 021 0800 2970 or

Hello@coro.club

Phone ahead to see what delights are on offer each day



Hours Wednesday to Saturday **8:00 am - 2pm ; Sunday 9am - 2pm** Closed Monday & Tuesdays
Serving all day brunch, cabinet food and daily lunch Specials

Notices from committee:

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 - Hangarage enquiries too
Club Captain	John Vanderwee	021 185 2409
Ordinary Executive Members – Alan Coubray, Graeme Spurdle, Steve Chilcott, Robert Llewellyn.		

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Taxiway D has been NOTAM'ed closed while works are underway for drainage and concreting the taxiway so that it remains usable during the wet winter months.



A bit of moss spraying on the refuelling apron will brighten up the concrete again over the next couple of months.

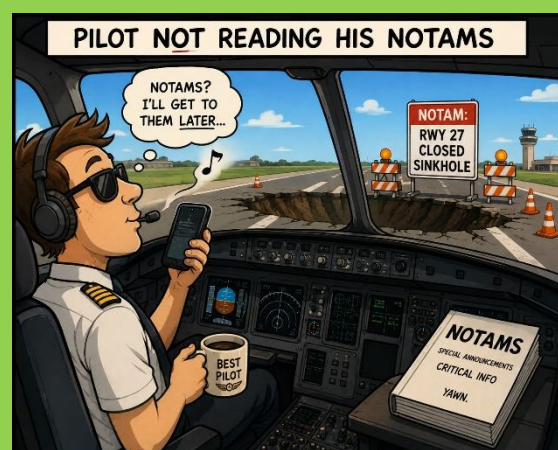
The AGM on 24 May was well attended with 28 members being present at the AGM and reelection of officers of the MBAC. This was followed by a very successful sausage sizzle and drinks afterwards to review the path forward with the accompanying photos of the works in progress



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.



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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.

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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.

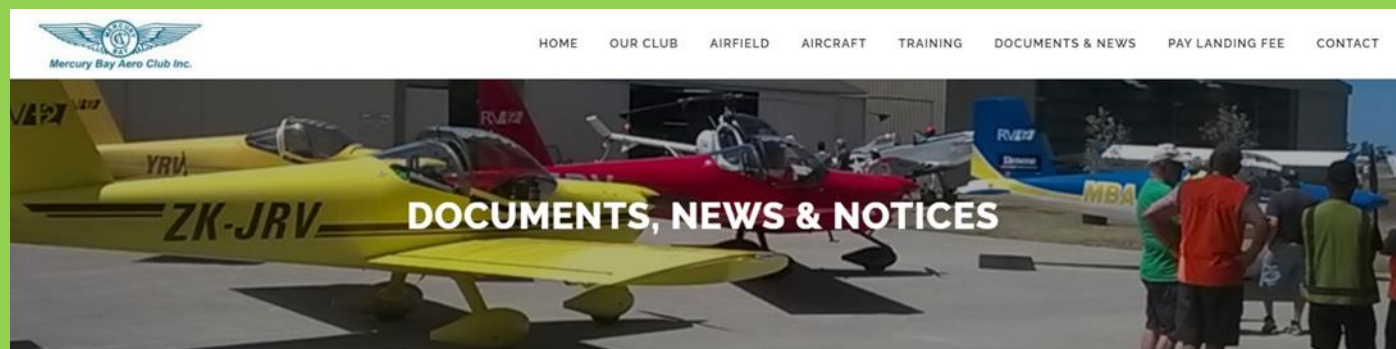
Finally, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed my time as President. I have been very well supported by an extremely functional and dedicated team, which has made the role both rewarding and enjoyable.

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

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

Winter is upon us! But the weather is still Ok if we pick a path between the weather !

Next Executive Meeting - Friday 19th June at 10am.

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



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New Members

New members are wintering out of the club this month so we just have to keep on flying ourselves until the weather brightens up again on the bright side and entices them out of winter mode and back into our world.



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Mercury Bay Model Club



Dynam RC Pitts Model 12 Onboard footage

George Fletcher had fun recently as he suggests below

Strapped a camera to the top wing of an RC plane this morning. I'm very happy to do my flying standing on the ground 😊.

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Stop Press



New Headgear and shirts now available from Bruce Turner 021 388 343

\$20 per cap and polo shirts \$38

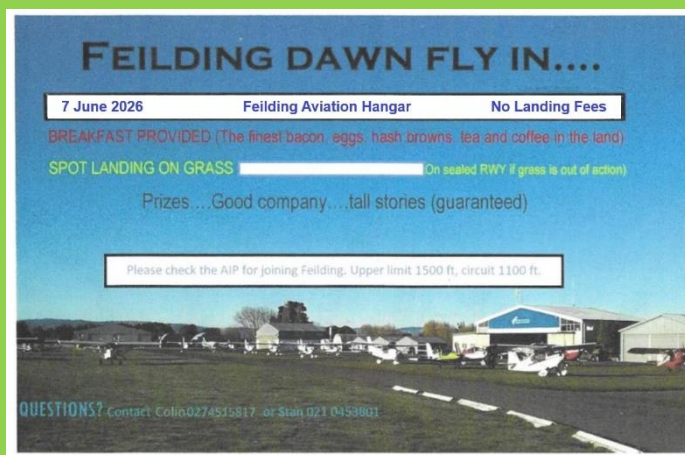
Feilding Fly In

Sunday 7 June 26 - **early**

Questions to Colin 027 451 5817

..... Or Stan 021 045 3801

See Facebook



Dargaville Aero Club

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Click FB Picture

Dargaville Aero Club Saturday lunch



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Raglan any day lunch Check **NOTAM's** as the airfield can often be closed as the recent Surfing Event showed



Sunday BBQ Day 12:00 at Whangarei Airport



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For Sale on our aerodrome airpark

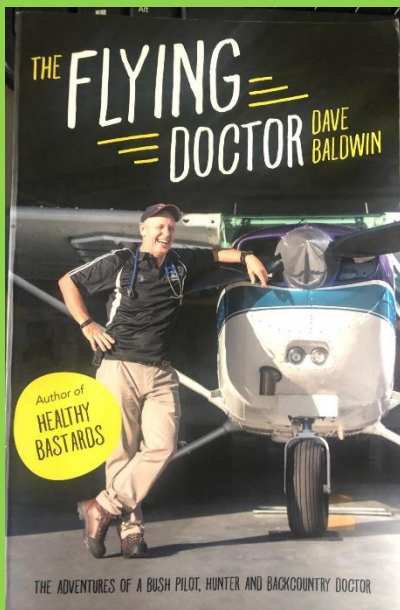


Home is where the hangar is.

One hangar house with taxiway/aerodrome access the other with taxiway access directly from backyard



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The Flying Doctor Book

From the author of Healthy Bastards, the man known as the "Flying Doctor" is back. This time with his misadventures, escapades and high jinks from a life of medicine, aviation and hunting.

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Well-known for his eccentric personality and unmistakably "Kiwi" turn of phrase, Dave's story is highly entertaining as it is truly unique.

I have just finished this after having it on my shelf for a while. Top reading now that the days are shorter. WP

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This is the astounding true story of one of the last female special operations agents in France to get out alive after its liberation in WWII. Lived in NZ after the war finished...see editor name.

Another good read for those winter days and I thoroughly enjoyed it.
WP

Whiti Frita's are in standby mode for fine weather to enable fly ins to enjoy our hospitality so we will publish on Whitianga Aerodrome when we see suitable weather approaching



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GCH Aviation is seeking an experienced Helicopter Pilot - IFR desirable. To support the West Coast Rescue Helicopter operation based in Greymouth. If you have a passion for emergency services, professionalism, and teamwork, we'd love to hear from you.



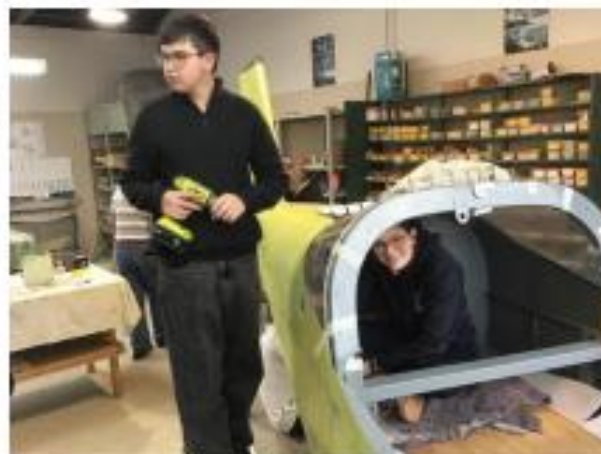
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Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log



Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
27 th May 2026	12:30-17:00	8	Paint Booth, Tail Cone Fairing, Engine Cooling System, Rivet Filling, Rear Canopy



Paint Booth

Early on Wednesday we had a visit from the Resene Paints representative to go through our product and make a list of the consumables that we will need to paint the aircraft. While the students were away an electrician installed L.E.D lights in the booth which have made the inside nice and bright for painting. The filtration box was mounted to the wall of the booth and secured in place. Kasia and Sam were put in charge of fitting chicken wire to the front and rear of our main extractor fan. A pulley system was set up so our door to the booth can be raised and lowered easily.

Engine Cooling System

John has been working with Marley and Wilfred on the engine cooling system. Their task was to refit the water-cooling radiator and the oil cooler to the engine and start fitting the appropriate hoses to the correct locations. This involves cutting some hoses to the desired length to fit.

Rear Canopy

Jan, Kasia and Liam all spent time on the rear canopy with Jim. The task today was to ensure that it is sitting in the right place and mounting it into that position with cleco's.

Tail Cone Fairing

Reuben was on the tail cone with Dan. This task is quite fiddly to get the fairing in exactly the right position so that controls etc are clear and free.

Rivet Filling

Today's filling location was the underside of the tail cone, not anybody's favourite place to be filling rivets all day.



Thanks for Following!



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Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log

