



Mercury Bay Flyer

March 2026

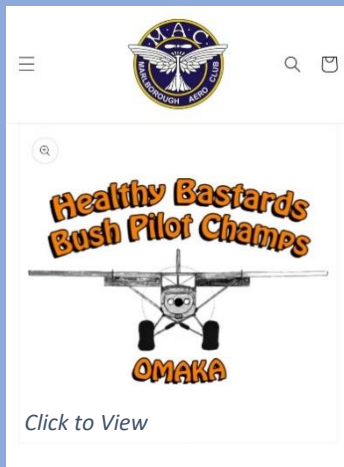
Editor: Wally Pendray

021 907 782 email: pendrayw@gmail.com



Flying Activity:

I was one of a number of aircraft who flew south to Blenheim/Omaka for the Healthy Bastards Bush Pilot Champs. One from Ardmore, Whitianga, Waihi and Tauranga converged on Turangi initially then Taihape, Feilding, Koputaroa, Port Gore for our camping overnight of 10 aircraft. This was a camping flying trip for 4 of us as well as the competitors from Masterton who also overnighted at Port Gore.



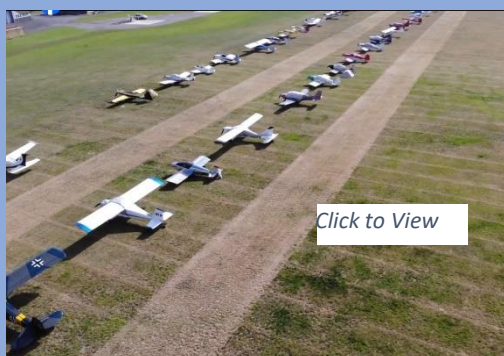
Departing next day for Nopera then Omaka had everyone camping beside/under the Bristol Freighter and ready for action on the Saturday Champ's day.



The SAA Sport Avex 26 February with beautiful MBAC aircraft were



was also held successfully in Masterton 6-8 conditions as the picture below left shows. A few also seen to be on display there too.



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The Turangi Aero Club Fly in on 15 February was unfortunately cancelled as the next adverse weather event passed through New Zealand

Peter McVinnie, Alan Coubray & Keith Skilling flew Tiger Moth's South to Napier Art Deco Week 19-22 February and had an enjoyable time but had strong winds for their arrival in Napier. This caused runway delays while wing walkers were called to

manage the aircraft after landing.

They ran a number of flights from the Aero Club at Napier airport, for the local community while on display for the duration of the Art Deco Weekend.



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Mercury Bay Flyer

Coro Club Cafe & Venue



<https://www.coro.club/>

Hours

Opening hours Wednesday
to Sunday 9 am till 2pm



Serving all day brunch, cabinet food and daily lunch Specials

Contact: 021 0800 2970

Email: hello@coro.club



Notices from committee:

The wetter than normal summer has certainly kept our runway green but also increased the bird activities all over the aerodrome so keeping your landing lights and strobes burning brightly is the best defence against a bird strike while these conditions exist.

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 \$25 per use.



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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.

President's Report

Thanks to all of our members who turned up to our SGM or sent a proxy to approve our new constitution. It's a dry subject but had to be done so thank you all, one of the biggest turnouts for a GM in many years.

A big thanks also to Mike Norton and Evan Wheeler who put in a huge effort to get it completed and legally checked in time to meet the 5th of April deadline for filing. I saw at least 48 emails on the subject and I'm sure that there were many more! Well done.

Improvements are moving ahead well, apart from the planned irrigation held up once again with council delays. Thankfully the wet summer has helped alleviate any issues. Power will shortly be available in the new hangar blocks and the security gate has been repaired after being damaged by a club member. We have a contractor and quote for gutter cleaning and moss removal of all hangars and work will commence on this soon.

Over stayers in the club carpark have been a problem and offenders spoken to. A local towing company is getting signs made that will hopefully help fix this issue.

A reminder that annual bulk landing fees are available at Whitianga. Currently a MBAC club member can purchase one (\$50) that applies for the pilot only regardless of aircraft registration and there is also one available for the aircraft registration (\$100) regardless of who is flying. These are very reasonable rates provided as a service to club members and general aviation pilots. Extra charges apply for commercial operations and training. There are agreements available so we ask that commercial operations not be carried out on our bulk flying arrangements.

We are expecting a visit, Monday 2nd until the 4th of March, from a Tiger Moth group so expect to see some extra vintage activity in the circuit.

Keith

The **MBAC website** allows you to view this newsletter on the link now being provided to members.

[CLICK to View](#)



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Daylight saving has a month to go! Let's get out there in our flying machines!

Next Executive Meeting – 27 March 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 members are Rod Fogarty and Mike Penny. Please welcome them into our world when you see them pre-flying or refuelling the aircraft or chatting to others at the Coro Club.



Mercury Bay Model Club

How to Fuel Proof Balsa planes

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How to: Fuel Proofing - Why, When & How - Balsa plane Building

Stop Press



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

Flying Events

Whitianga - Tiger Moth Club Northern Safari arrives 2 March - Departs 4 March

Monday 2 March 2026 Whitianga: There are options aplenty for the day - boating, resting, or for the more adventurous a jaunt around the Coromandel Peninsula and across to Great Barrier for lunch or down the coast to Pauanui and Waihi Beach for lunch.

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Kubota Billfish Classic 2026

Mercury Bay

March 11-14, 2026

Prize List (so far)...

Gate Prize Kubota M7-132 Tractor

Hokitika Wildfoods Festival

**A great spot to enjoy all those wild food
delights**

14 March 26



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Warbirds on Parade 2026

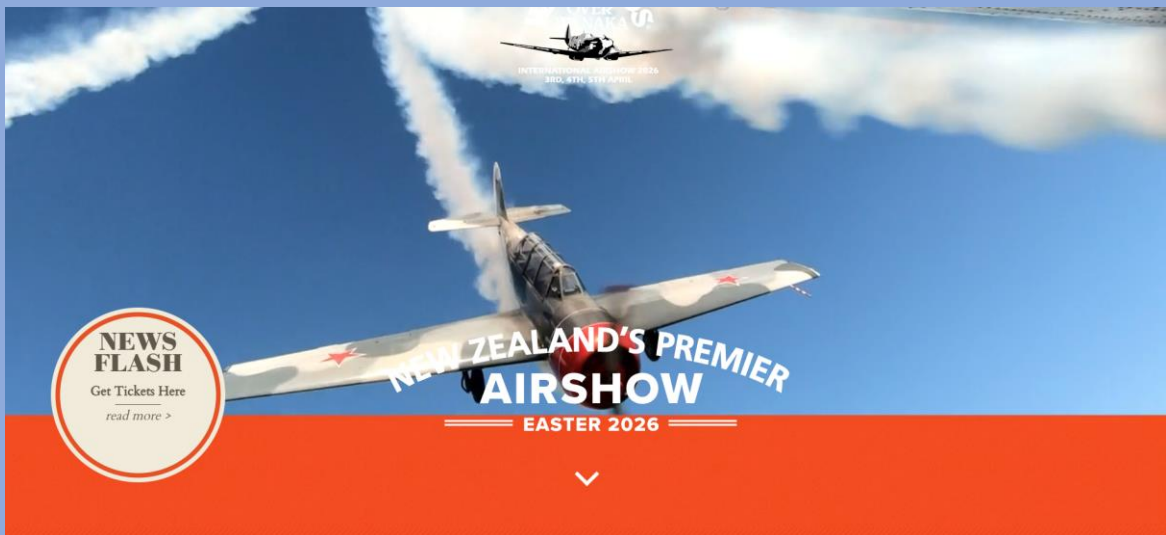
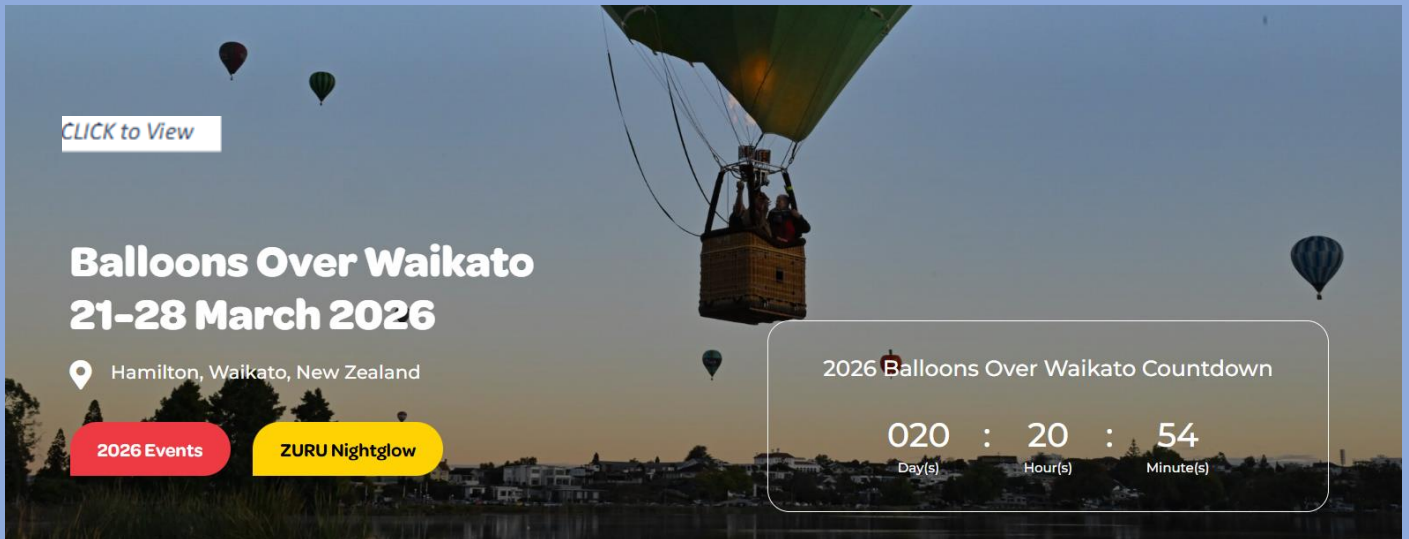
Ardmore Airport Sunday 15 March 2026

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March 15th 2026 – Ardmore Airport, Auckland, New Zealand .

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Warbirds over Wanaka Easter 26 3, 4, 5 April 2026

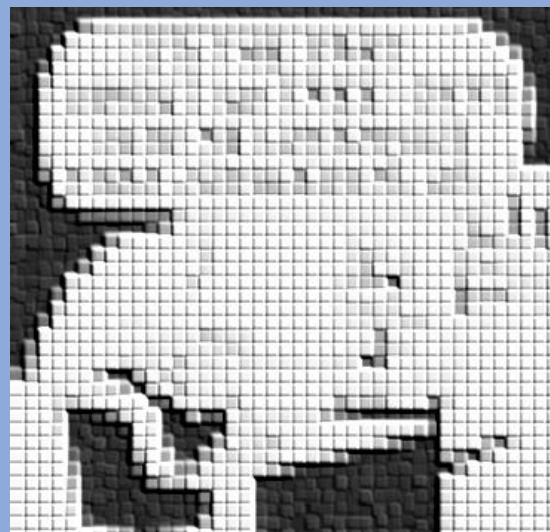
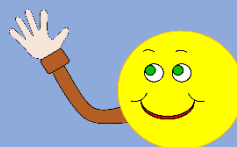


Healthy Bastards 26 -

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A group of pilots from Whitianga and beyond headed out on the Healthy Bastards 26. After the competition ended, at a very green Omaka, 4 aircraft continued onwards to explore the outer Marlborough region where wind caused an overflight of Tira Ora but allowed a landing at D'Urville Island then onwards to be successfully flown.

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Point of interest...

Online Drone Training Courses

Fully-online courses and examinations to help you learn the drone rules in NZ, for all personal and commercial drone flights - from photography to agriculture! Complete the course at your pace, at your place.



Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust - Weather Station

Whitianga Weather Station Compliments of the Westpac Helicopter Rescue Trust
<http://whiti.arht.org.nz:8080/index.php>



Copy this to your phone home screen and you will have Whitianga conditions readily available. Couple this with the Windy APP web cam and you have all the local conditions here in Mercury Bay.

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when you ask an aircraft mechanic to repair your gas stove



MBAS Feb 26



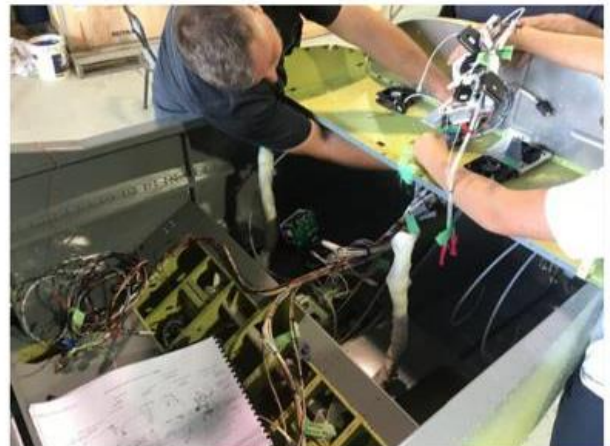
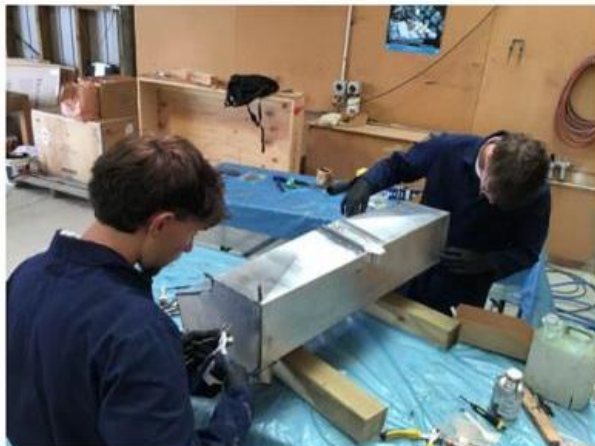
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Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log



Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
25 th February 2026	12:30-17:00	6	Fuel Tank, Wiring Installation, Antenna Fitting, Landing Gear Boots, Landing Gear Fairings.



Fuel Tank Construction

Last week saw the fuel tank getting built, we realised that we could in fact get it over half built and then restart next week. This has been fantastic as it took much longer than we anticipated for several reasons. This week Reuben and Kane are back with Douglas and Dan to carry on their work from last week. This week the students know have a good feel for what they are doing. Making it a much smoother process.

Wiring Installation

Cameron is back to work with Ashlee to run the wiring loom through the fuselage. This week Ashlee is learning to use crimping pliers and learning the ins and out of how to fit terminals the right way. She is also learning the importance of running the wiring loom in the correct places to ensure the loom does not rub on any aluminium components of the aircraft. Unfortunately, the manual is not as precise as it could be when showing/ explaining where the wiring loom runs.

Antenna Installation

Sam was seen out the front of the workshop lying on his back fitting the aircrafts communications antenna. This is a simple task that requires the antenna to be attached to the under side of the fuselage using studs and nuts.

Fitting Landing Gear Boots

Sam and Wilfred are fitting the landing gear boots that they have been making on previous builds. The job is as simple as finding the correct screws and fitting them to the fuselage.



More Next Week!!



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Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log

