



Mercury Bay Flyer

Aug 2026

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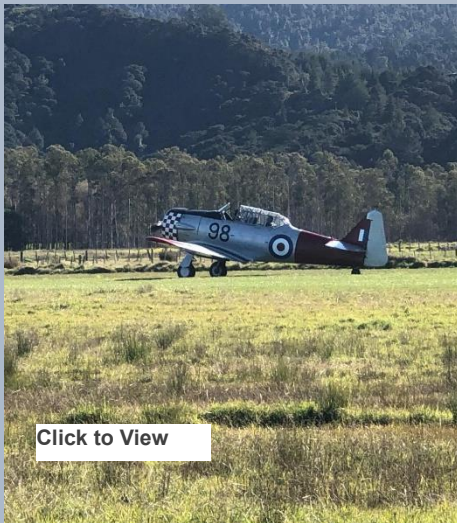
Flying Activity:



Jae had a birthday while we had a fine and calm winters day so we celebrated his 12 th birthday in the air. He did have to forgo his piano lesson though to have this alternative fun.



This chopper will be based at the airport Rotorwork hangar until 20th August. It's Shamus here from Cooks Beach. Have you ever thought of giving helicopter flying a go, birthday present, bucket list, possible career path or just for fun.



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Should you be keen call me 027(CHARTER)2427837 or better still flick me a text..

Harvard fun was also being had while the fine weather was with us and 98 got us out with cameras but alas too late to capture the Harvard on takeoff.



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Helicopters are increasingly active around our 'drome but good to see they all enjoy the Coro Club coffee and eatery.



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Whiti coffee group outing has fun at Pauanui and the group appears to be growing with 5 aircraft now appearing out of the sky



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Coro Club Cafe & Venue



021 0800 2970

Email: hello@coro.club

Coro Club Café has been enjoying good winter weather flyers over the settled month of July

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Wednesday to Friday 8 am – 2 pm

Weekends 9am to 2pm

Remember to phone ahead if flying in for meals

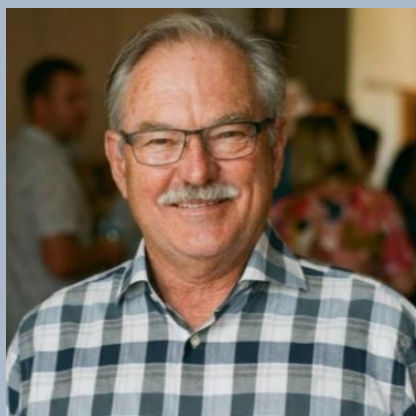
Notices from committee

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.



Bereavements

Warren Charles Thorne SLY, .



(Serv No. H83244, Aircraftman, RNZAF)

Peacefully (surrounded by family) at Thames Hospital, on Friday 26th June, 2026; aged 77 years. Beloved husband of Jeweline, father of Mercedes, Richard, and Phillip. Granddad, RSA Airman, Hydraulic Engineer, IT Consultant, dedicated Rotarian of 45 years and widely recognised for his dedicated community service.

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A celebration of Warren's life was held in the Grahamstown Chapel, 102 Kirkwood Street, Thames, on Thursday 2nd July, at 11am followed by private cremation.

Judy Johnston, wife of Chris Johnstone, one of our longtime members, has died with a sudden and unexpected death. [Judith JOHNSTONE Obituary](#)

MBAC Committee 2026/27

President	Evan Wheeler	021 924 807	hangar requests
Vice President	Keith Skilling	021 333 767	
Secretary	Mike Norton	021 667 866	
Treasurer	Bruce Turner	021 388 343	 Casual Hangar requests
Club Captain	John Vanderwee	021 185 2409	



Ordinary Executive Members – Alan Coubray, Graeme Spurdle, Steve Chilcott, Rob Llewellyn

John Gemmell has installed replacement windsocks this month so has certainly brightened up our aerodrome again for winter.



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Next Executive Meeting - Friday 4 September 26 at 0930hrs

Presidents Corner July 2026.

What a great run of weather we have enjoyed over the past two months providing some perfect days for flying. In saying that, we have had some good rain at weekly intervals which has kept the ground well sodden requiring closure of taxiway delta at times.

Couple of things to report this month is that the electricity supply to hangar blocks C,D and E has seen all the cable work completed. We are still awaiting Powerco to upgrade the power plinth and supply to us at the roadside. This is beyond our control but we have been told it is imminent. Their 10 to 12 week time frame is to be laughed at however we expect it shortly.

PC electrical have been providing their services to hangar owners for actual hangar fit out work and have completed such to a number of hangars now so they are ready to go live once the supply is provided by powerco. Hangar owners are responsible for this work and need to discuss needs with Paul at PC Electrical in Whiitianga.

The big job now completed is the taxiway Delta. Concrete access is now available to all hangars so we do ask that you avoid driving on the grass areas during this wet season and only use the concrete taxiway now provided. Driving vehicles across the grass is causing rutting and in short, a mess. The pile of top soil left from taxiway excavation will be used to level off the area of grass as much as we can and then the rest removed to another area. If any club member wants some topsoil, please let me know and we can load your trailer up for you with the tractor.

Once the area is levelled off, we will be installing some dewatering drainage to improve ground conditions.

Runway irrigation work is still to be done over next two months. According to NIWA and Ken Ring, we may well be needing irrigation this summer. Currently awaiting the TCDC to install the supply valve over by the pumphouse at the cross runway.

The pumphouse is almost finished being lined with ply and will have the pump machinery installed shortly. Following this will be the laying of underground supply line alongside runway 04/22.

Wally has written of the passing of club members Warren Sly and Judy Johnston over this past month. On behalf of the club, I pass on our sincere condolences to both Jeweline and Chris and families for their most unexpected loss.

That's it for this month. If you happen to be in town on a Friday evening around 5.00, feel welcome to drop by the deck at the coro club with a BYO drink and a chat for an hour.

Especially as the weather starts to turn up the temperature.

Regards,

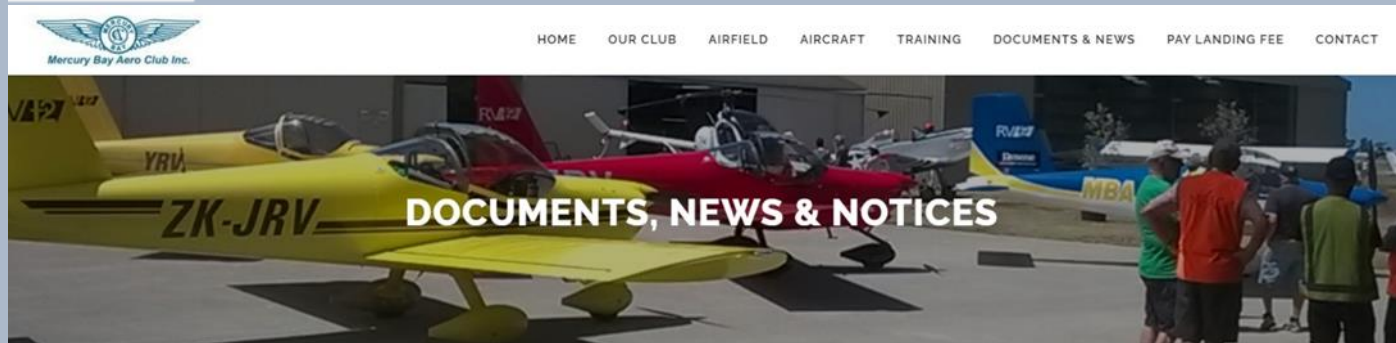
Evan Wheeler

President.

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Daylight saving is now only two months away! Clocks go forward Sunday 27 September 2026

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



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Whitianga Waterways – www.whitiangawaterways.co.nz

Gallagher Insurance – www.ajg.co.nz or bill.beard@ajg.co.nz

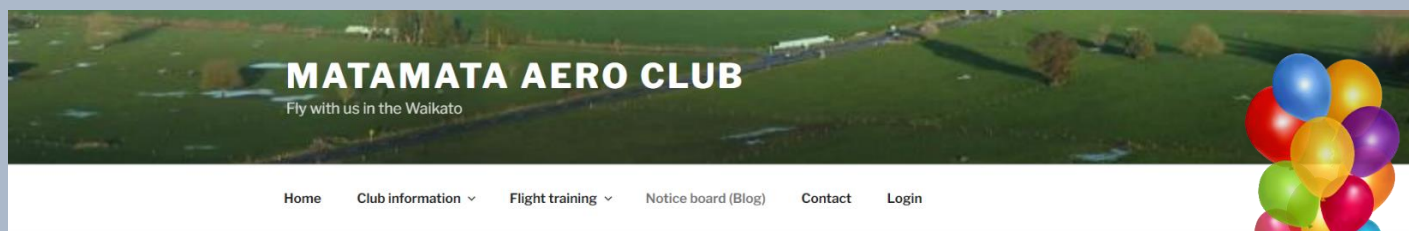
Hart & Associates Ltd – Chartered Accounts – www.hartal.co.nz

New Members

New members are waiting for the rains to stop so that they can fly out to see the wonderful Mercury Bay and sign up.



Flying Events



AOPANZ now has this link <https://aopa.nz/flight-planning/> available for all pilot's flight planning

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Happy Winter Season



Mercury Bay Model Club

MERCURY BAY MODEL RAILWAY CLUB PRESENTS

Annual Model Show

3rd & 4th October
Whitianga Town Hall, Monk St



Trains | Planes | Cars | Trucks | Boats | Lego
Dolls | Houses | Raffle!

Children \$3 | Adults \$6 | Family \$15
10am-4pm (Sat) and 10am-3pm (Sun)

Proudly Supported by:



Ken Gibson's latest projects are progressing well since the display at the Whitianga Model Show at the Town Hall has been deferred till October due renovation works at the Town Hall. As you can see he is not allowing winter weather to interrupt his plans.

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Stop Press

New Headgear and shirts now available from Bruce Turner 027-388-343

Shirts \$38 Polo & Caps \$20



Miscellaneous Section



Titan T51 ¾ scale kit aircraft for sale located at Thames Aerodrome.

Engine Vitara 2.7 L V6. Gun Ports, clam shell gear doors, jettisonable canopy

Has yet to fly.

Call 021 772 351 to arrange inspection



History of Whitianga Airfield



Trying to turn around without letting the tail touch.

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I have recently watched this DVD on Eiffel and then read his history including aviation research so click the DVD to read

[Click to View](#)



Later career



Eiffel in 1910

After his retirement from the Compagnie des Etablissements Eiffel, Eiffel went on to do important work in meteorology and aerodynamics.^[37] Eiffel's interest in these areas was a consequence of the problems he had encountered with the effects of wind forces on the structures he had built.

His first aerodynamic experiments, investigating the air resistance of surfaces, were carried out by dropping the surface to be investigated together with a measuring apparatus down a vertical cable stretched between the second level of the Eiffel Tower and the ground. Using this Eiffel definitely established that the air resistance of a body was very closely related to the square of the airspeed. He then built a laboratory on the Champ de Mars at the foot of the tower in 1905, building his first wind tunnel there in 1909. The wind tunnel was used to investigate the characteristics of the airfoil sections used by the early pioneers of aviation such as the Wright Brothers, Gabriel Voisin and Louis Blériot. Eiffel established that the lift produced by an airfoil was the result of a reduction of air pressure above the wing rather than an increase of pressure acting on the under surface. Following complaints about noise from people living nearby, he moved his experiments to a new establishment at Autouil in 1912. Here, it was possible to build a larger wind tunnel, and Eiffel began to make tests using scale models of aircraft designs.^[38]

In 1913, Eiffel was awarded the Samuel P. Langley Medal for Aerodromics by the Smithsonian Institution. In his speech at the presentation of the medal, Alexander Graham Bell said:^[39]

...his writings upon the resistance of the air have already become classical. His researches, published in 1907 and 1911, on the resistance of the air in connection with aviation, are especially valuable. They have given engineers the data for designing and constructing flying machines upon sound, scientific principles



Gustave Eiffel in 1923, shortly before his death

Eiffel had meteorological measuring equipment placed on the tower in 1889, and also built a weather station at his house in Sèvres. Between



Home is where the hangar is.

7 Yankee Lane, Whitianga

By Negotiation

4 3 2

Properties For Sale on our Airpark



\$1,095,000

5 Bravo Place, Whitianga

4 2 3 212m2 800m2



View floor plan



Watch video

[Click to View](#)



Sometimes it DOES take a Rocket Scientist!! (true story)..

Scientists at Rolls Royce built a gun specifically to launch dead chickens at the windshields of airliners and military jets all travelling at maximum velocity.

The idea is to simulate the frequent incidents of collisions with airborne fowl to test the strength of the windshields.

American engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the Windshields of their new high speed trains.

Arrangements were made, and a gun was sent to the American engineers.

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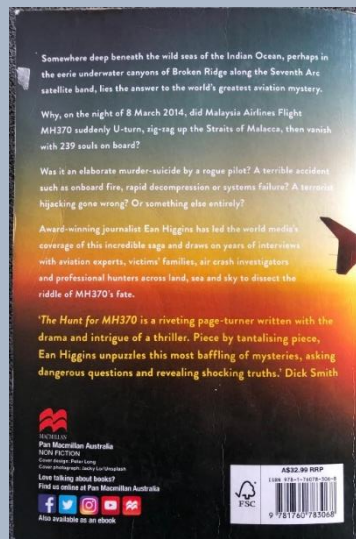
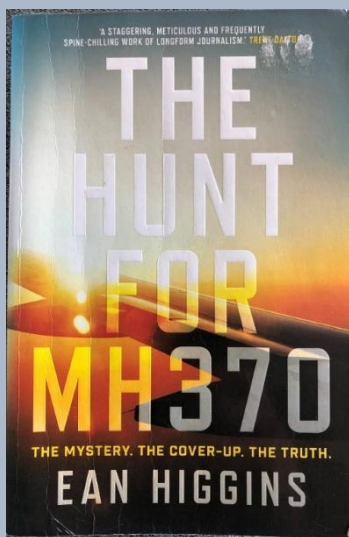
When the gun was fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken shot out of the barrel, crashed into the shatterproof shield, smashed it to smithereens, blasted through the control console, snapped the engineer's back-rest in two and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin like an arrow shot from a bow..

The horrified Yanks sent Rolls Royce the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the designs of the windshield and begged the British scientists for suggestions.

You're going to love this.....

Rolls Royce responded with a one-line memo:

"Defrost the Bloody chicken."



Winter weather can still be enjoyed even if the weather keeps us grounded and here is a really good book to keep you reading

[Click to View](#)

An airline passenger approaches a stewardess and asks why his flight is being delayed.

"Its all right", she says "Its just that the pilot didn't like the sound of one of the engines was making – its taken us a while to find another pilot"

I wouldn't say he's a reckless pilot but he never checks the railway timetables before he flies through the tunnels.



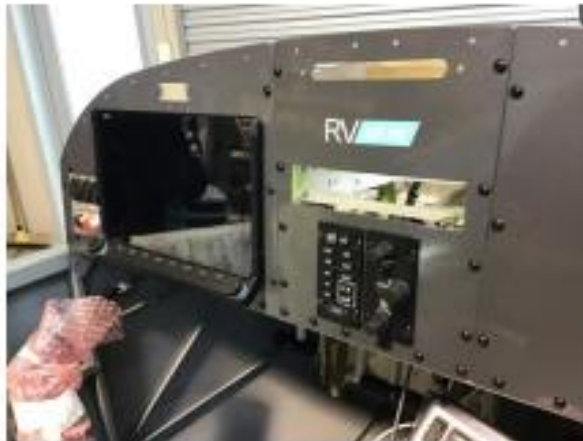
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Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log



Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
29 th July 2026	12:30-17:00	7	Engine Cows, Paint Prep, Propellor and Pitot Setting, Avionics



Cockpit Area

Ashlee is back working with Cameron in the cockpit area. Today they are starting to fit the flight display and starting to plug in many of the components that are behind the instrument panel. We are double checking the wiring to ensure the second screen can be easily fitted when needed. The cockpit area is really coming together well. Sam and Jan have also been working in this area fitting the control panel that operates the autopilot, these are located in centre of the instrument panel.

Engine Cows

Marley and Wilfred have been busy with the dremel today trimming the engine cowl to the appropriate size, Marley was also cutting out some of the vents on the upper cowl. Another job today was to source some of the fibreglass ducts that need to be prepared and fitted to the cowl.



Paint Preparation

Sam and Noah have been assisting Douglas out the front of the workshop with the paint prep. During the week Douglas undercoated the wheel fairings, today the students helped him wet sand them back to get them all smooth and ready to get a topcoat applied.

Propellor and Spinner Set up

Reuben is working with Dan and Graham to set up the propellor spinner so that the pitot tube can be run though the centre and everything will be centralised. It's a tricky process where accuracy is crucial.

Thanks for Following!



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Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust RV12 Project Log

