Mercury Bay Flyer

October 2026

Editor: Wally Pendray
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Flying Activity:

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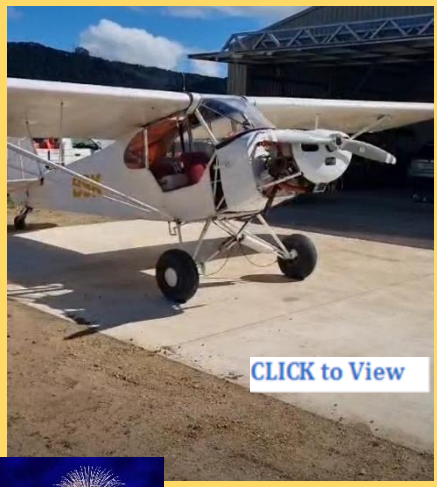
The Battle of Britain 86th Birthday Celebrations at Thames Airfield was well attended and managed to be seen in conditions that suggested raincoats but the threatening weather didn't interrupt the event and allowed the RNZAF formation flight to pass overhead at the completion of the commemoration display.

Graeme Spurdle and Alan Coubray have finally got Piper Cub ZK BSK back in the air again after Mitch Pascoe regrettably decided to let go of his prized Cub



Saki on completion of CPL flight test September 23rd with CAA Testing Officer Peter Obersneider, congratulating Saki on a job well done in trying gusty wind conditions on the day!

Congratulations Saki

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Our coffee group is growing with the arrival of good blue sky flying days and here is the lastest gathering of 7 at Pauanui.

Club Captain John Vanderwee has put a plan together for Whiti Fritters 24 October 2026 and hoping for fine weather to enable fly ins to enjoy our hospitality so we will publish on Whitianga Aerodrome when we see suitable weather approaching

Coro Club Cafe & Venue

Coro Club Café Team are back on duty to help you celebrate the days getting longer, dryer and warmer…Please call ahead if flying in for food and beverages. 021 0800 2970 **Menu** https://www.coro.club/menu/

Notices from committee:

MBAC Committee 2025/6

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
Club Captain	John Vanderwee	021 185 2409

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

MBAC Hangar Rental Contact Bruce Turner 021 388 343

The club has a Toyota Corolla available for visiting pilots who would like to get around Whitianga. The car is parked 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..

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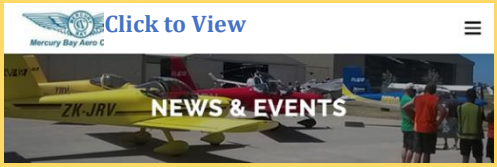
Taxiway leveling has been carried out this month with the dryer weather allowing the soil to be evenly spread ready for grass seed sowing when the leveling is completed. Certainly adding value to the taxiway appearance and smoothing wheel transfer on to the concrete.

The final drain clearing has also been carried out by the highway windsock and looking real good too.



The MBAC website allows you to view the pictures within the newsletter in larger sizes if you are not receiving them on your tablet. Remember to check your *browser* view if you are unable to download the newsletter on your tablet.

Daylight saving has arrived Sunday 27 September 2026!

The new flying season is underway!

Next Executive Meeting – Friday 9 October at 1000hrs -

Whitianga Aerodrome is now on Facebook so check out the recent happenings! CLICK to View

Please Support Our Sponsors:

Whitianga Waterways – www.whitiangawaterways.co.nz

Gallagher Insurance – jenni.hellyer@ajg.co.nz

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

New Members

New members have not called in yet but wait for next month so best you all keep chatting over a coffee at the Coro Club.

Flying Events

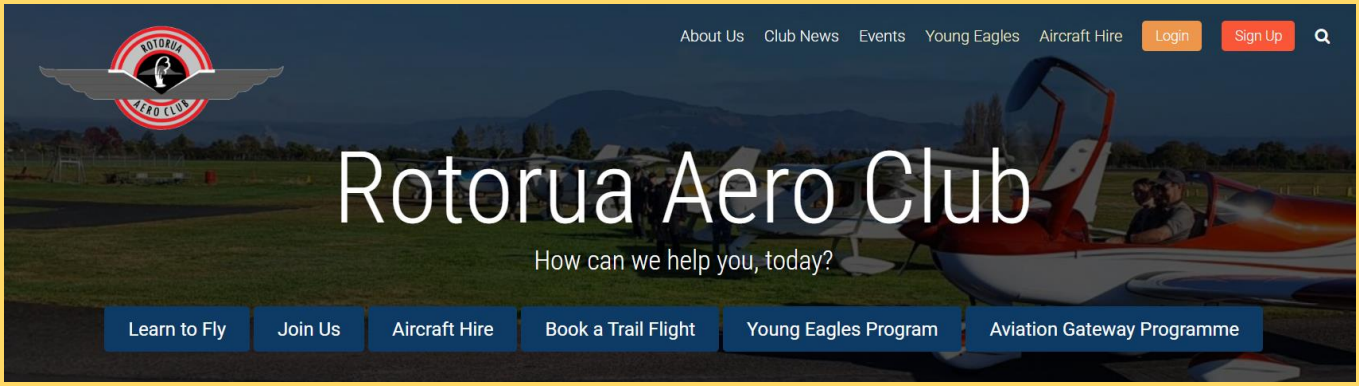
This is a good list of the must do s this flying season

- **Dargaville Aero Club Saturday Lunch.** Every Saturday from 12:30 pm. **The catered lunches are back on! Now $15.**

- **Whangarei Flying Club Sunday Lunch.** Penny burgers every Sunday $7 Contact Rusty 021 1738942 **Penny burgers are now back on!**

- **Rodney Aero Club Saturday Morning Cuppa and Coffee.** The RAC will have the clubrooms open and the jug on for a Cuppa or Coffee every Saturday morning. You might even get a biscuit or the occasional scone! Call in on your way to Dargaville lunch.

Rotorua Aero Club Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have our club day, the club opens its doors to anyone and everyone who would like to come along and join in the activities of the day. We are based at the Southern Hangar, beside River Rats Rafting company.



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Opotiki Aero Club BBQ 10 October 26 - Lunch Terry 0274771835

Come and join our Delightful Madness at our **11th ANNUAL Steampunk Festival** Run over 4 days from the 12-15th of November. We offer Fun, Entertainment, Competitions, Dancing, Prancing, Gears and Gadgetry. A great opportunity to unleash your creative side and GET AMONGST IT!! Bring the family, there's fun for everyone!!

Mercury Bay Model Club

Click to View

Ken Gibson is readying his railway set for the upcoming Whitianga Model Show at the Town Hall 3 & 4 October.

Click to View

A recent trip through Sydney had me admiring the Hobby Co railway model in action in their display window

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https://www.hobbyco.com.au/pages/model-trains

Click to View

Hobby Co Railway

Light hearted comments to keep you going until daylight saving gets you flying again.

Operator: 911, what's your emergency?
Man: A guy just got hit by a car, I need an ambulance.
Operator: What's your location?
Man: I'm on Eucalyptus street.
Operator: Can you spell that for me?
Man: (long awkward pause)
Operator: Sir? Are you there?
Man: I'm gonna drag him over to Pine street and call right back.

9 OUT OF 10 HUSBANDS AGREED THAT THEIR WIVES ARE ALWAYS RIGHT.

THE 10TH HUSBAND HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE THE STUDY WAS CONDUCTED.

Stop Press

Headgear and shirts - available from

Bruce Turner 021388 343

Shirts: $38 Polo & T Shirts $25 Caps $25
(Sizes available T Shirts (2XL, XL, L, M)

A book detailing NZ pilot Bryan McCook's aviation career from Fiji, Australia, Papua New Guinea, St Croix USVI, Puerto Rico, Singapore and SE Asia

BARRIER AIR Chief Pilot

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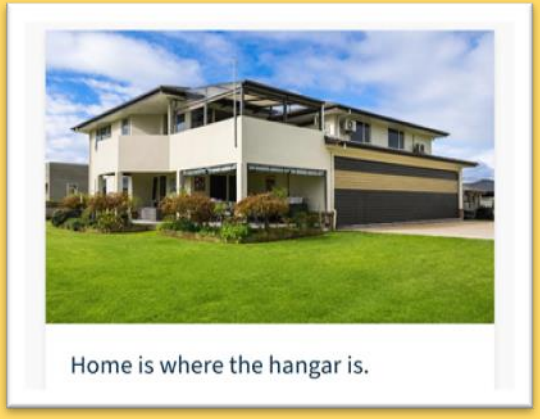
Happy Spring Season

Sierra echo echo
Yankee oscar uniform
November echo xray tango
Mike oscar november tango hotel

For Sale on our aerodrome airpark



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

Click to View

Presidents Corner

With daylight saving arriving on Sunday, another summer is just about upon us. In between the windy and rainy days there has been some good flying weather.

Welcome back to NZ to those who have been enjoying warmer climes and enjoying different flavored beer.

Congratulations to Saki Mosen who recently passed her IFR rating and then to top that off, qualified as a CPL pilot on Wednesday 23 rd September. A super effort Saki and job well done. I am not sure how many women have completed flight training at Whitianga and passed CPL's over the years. I trust the jump seat on the airbus is regularly booked when you are transiting between cities.

Also, great news to see Piper cub BSK lineup on 04 this morning and takeoff for the first time in 8 years. Alan Coubray and Graeme Spurdle `managed to get a deal with the previous owner to take her out of hibernation in the club hangar where she has been gathering mold and dust over these past years. No doubt we will see her in the air often and understand she will be available for hire in due course.

On the business front, wiring in the C, D and E block hangars is complete and ready to be connected to the power supply. The next and nearly final step is for Powerco to upgrade our roadside supply plinth to 200 kVA, with work scheduled for Sunday, 27 September. PC Electrical can then energise the supply

lines. This project has been challenging we were initially told the club would have to pay an exorbitant amount for a new transformer.
However, we secured a 200 kVA upgrade that will provide everyone with a basic power supply.

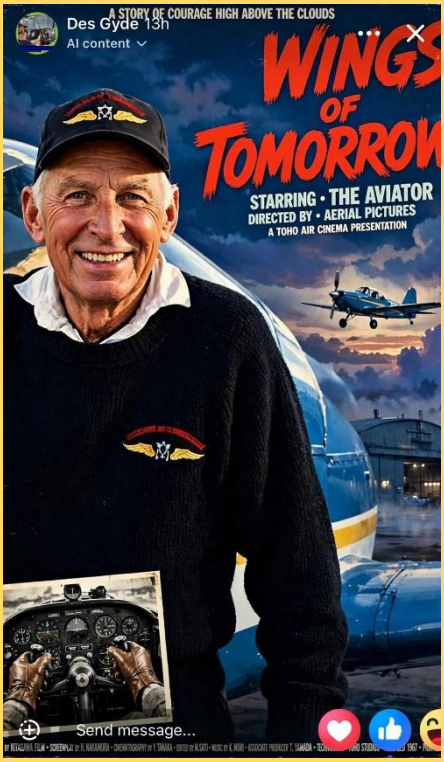
Concrete taxi ways to all hangars now complete. Now that the weather is clearing, we are spreading the topsoil that resulted from the taxiway excavation. The plan is to level off grass areas alongside the taxi way enough for rainwater to run off into the drain. That work is should be completed in the next few days then seeded so we can get some grass up and growing before summer. Please do not drive over this area until we advise it is ready for use. There is concrete access to all hangars now without the need to drive across these worked areas.

Next job on the list is the irrigation system. TCDC have installed the pipework and valve control on the waterline adjacent to the pump shed at the cross runway. The pump and pipework will be installed over next few weeks along with supply line alongside 04/22. A one million litre holding bladder will be placed on the pad beside the pump shed.

That's about it for this month.

Evan Wheeler

Des Gyde in colour



A bit of fine weather mowing has Steve tidying up the airpark

Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust
RV12 Project Log

Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
16th September 2026	12:30-17:00	9	Canopy, Wing Assembly, Moving Fuselage to the Paint Booth, Engine Cowls

A busy Little Workshop
Today was one of those busy days at the workshop where there were multiple small jobs happening all over the place, we also had a large group of visitors that had flown in that came to look at our project including the owner of our 2nd built RV-12 ZK-ERV. It was great to see so many people coming in and having a look at what we are doing.
Some of the jobs that were happening today included:

Sam and Kane sourcing all the hardware to attach the canopy to the frame.

Wilfred working with Douglas to make a profile/template of the base of the wing for painting purposes.

Liam and Jan fitting the lights and lenses to the wing that has just been painted.

Steve working with Wilfred and Liam on the fitting of the upper and lower engine fairings.

A team effort to move the fuselage from the back workshop to the front workshop, then to gently move the fuselage into the paint booth so it can be undercoated.

Goodbye to Jan
Today was the last day for Jan, a German international student. He has made a great contribution to the plane build and we wish him well for the future.
We are now taking a three week break for exams and school holidays.

Thanks for following!

Mercury Bay Area School

1/2

Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust
RV12 Project Log

Mercury Bay Area School

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