Mercury Bay Flyer

November 2026

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Flying Activity:

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A large group of our **Whiti Flyers** enjoyed great Spring weather to fly coastal to Opotiki for their lunch BBQ on Sunday 25th October so I hope they didn't eat them out of house and home!

Our Thames Coffee Flyers were disappointed to have flown to Thames for their early coffee and found the café shut due to no electrity at the Café. Walking back to their aircraft it was noticed the traffic along the highway was on a stop-go light due to the work being done on the powerlines nearby. So that made Coro Club the café of choice that day.

The **Whiti Fritters** has now been scheduled for Sunday 8 November so make sure you have gas in your tanks to get here for the delicious foodie - fly day.

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The **Tiger Moth Club of New Zealand** held their annual Taumurunui gathering over the weekend of 15th-17 October, another very successful fly-in. On the Friday, the Club sponsored a valuable seminar on Tiger Moth operations with the emphasis on engineering and safety, attended by over thirty members. Strong southerlies were forecast that prevented some members attending but Ace and Kevin Paulson braved the conditions in Tiger ZK-BEC and it took them two hours from Ardmore to TM, Ace happy that they got up to 50kts ground speed once! As they neared TM they

had to climb 500ft and he said that it felt like the temperature dropped to -10°C! Pete McVinnie and Jeannie sensibly went by road while Rob and Martina Llewellyn flew in the comfort of their Cessna 172. Keith and Bobbie bravely followed up on Saturday morning in RV7, WOS, when the weather had settled down.

Bad weather in the south prevented Alan, Kim and Martin from attending.

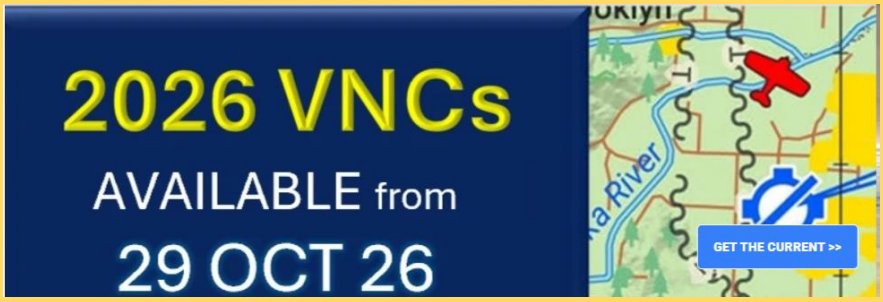
The Saturday event went very well with nine Tigers and another thirty plus visiting aircraft attending, and all of the competitions were completed by 1430. As usual, a great prize giving and excellent dinner was held at the Taumurunui golf club on Saturday evening.

Sunday saw magnificent weather with numerous joy rides up to the mountains that looked wonderful with the last of the winter snow still present, before most departed after a very successful weekend.

Highlight for me was seeing so many younger pilots, four of them under thirty, flying these magnificent old machines, it bodes well for the future.

Keith Skilling

New VNCs are due out from 29 October 26



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Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries and a diet Coke?

Notices from committee:

MBAC Committee 2025/6

President	Keith Skilling	021 333 767	
Vice President	Evan Wheeler	021 924 807	Hangar purchase/ Rentals
Secretary	Mike Norton	021 667 866	
Treasurer	Bruce Turner	021 388 343	Casual Hangar rentals
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.

Baleage has been carried out in late October bringing a new look to our aerodrome.

The MBAC website allows you to view the newsletter so click on the picture to view the latest copy.

Daylight saving is here! The new flying season is underway!

Next Executive Meeting – Friday 6 November 26

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

Mercury Bay Model Club

The Mercury Bay Model show was held in the Whitianga Town Hall during October so was a great display of many of our modeler's trains and planes as shown above.

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 Sam Astin Martin, Mike Gerbic and Mike Bell have signed up this month so please welcome them into our world in Mercury Bay next time you see them at the Coro Club or nearby on the 'drome.

Nearby Event

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!!

Flying Events

Coming Events

- **Dargaville Aero Club Saturday Lunch.** Every Saturday from 12:30 pm.
- **Whangarei Flying Club Sunday Lunch.** Hangar 10 burgers every Sunday lunchtime.
- **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 around 10 am. You might even get a biscuit or the occasional fresh baked scone! Call in on your way to Dargaville for lunch.

Mercury Bay Flyer

Families of those involved in the plane build program are invited to enjoy a day at the **Mercury Bay Aero Club.**

Meet the mentors and members.

There will be planes on display and the opportunity to experience a flight over our amazing area, courtesy of our generous members.

Coro Club Cafe open for coffee etc and a BBQ for those involved. 10:00 am start.

Enjoy the end of school year 2026 and the MBAS students flying the MBAC RV 12 and other Club aircraft at Whitianga Aerodrome.

Click to view

This is a good list of the must do s this flying season
https://www.flyingnz.co.nz/events-competitions/calendar-1

There is NO Whitianga Summer Concert - January 2027

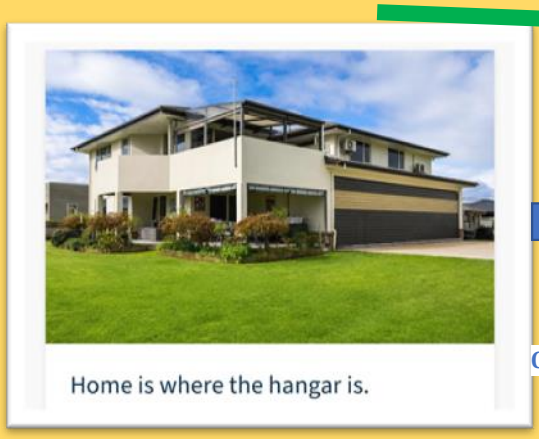
Stop Press:

Headgear and shirts - available from Bruce Turner 021 388 343

(Sizes available Polo Shirts $38 – (2XL, XL, L, M) Caps $20

For Sale on our aerodrome airpark

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



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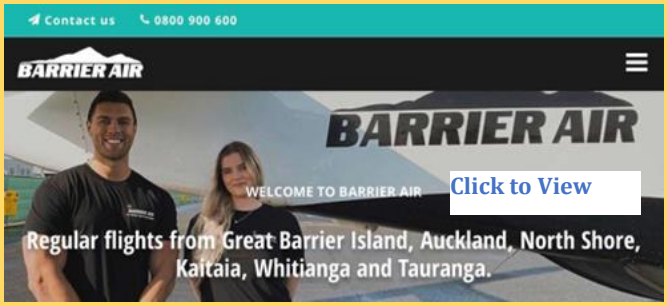

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Will get you here if the road works put you off the drive….

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

Happy Spring Season

Sandy Landing

Veteran flyer Evan Wheeler, 72, made a hasty landing on a Matakana Island beach after part of his single propeller snapped off.

A thousand event-free hours he aimed to clock
Then Evan Wheeler received an in-flight shock
Flying to Whitianga he was forced to stop
A piece suddenly came off his wooden prop
The whole plane immediately began to shake

A very quick decision this pilot had to make
He kept icy calm and looked all around
For safe ways to get his plane to ground
Waihi Airport was five minutes - too distant
A decision was needed - taken in an instant
Within one minute he thought he could reach
The sands of a nearby Matakana Island beach
His emergency landing went just as planned
As he coaxed his aircraft over smooth sand
Landing the plane was a very big relief
His piloting skills almost beyond belief.

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David Hopkins

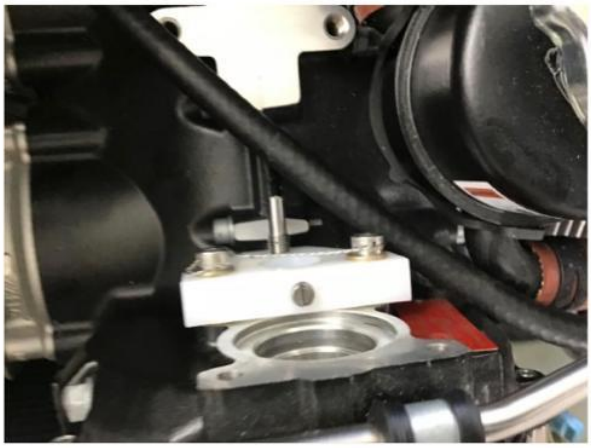
Mercury Bay Flyer

Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust
RV12 Project Log

Date	Hours	No. of students	Job reference
14th October 2026	12:30-17:00	6	Canopy, Gap Sealing, Paint Preparation,

The Paint Job!!
It's been three weeks since we were last at the build, however one of our mentors Douglas has been a very busy man painting the RV-12 fuselage. We can't thank Douglas enough for the time and effort he has put into this task, it really is a credit to his skill and workmanship. Of course, this is all made possible by the generous support of Resene's paint. We reckon it looks awesome!
The job however is no where near complete. The students had the task of carefully moving the fuselage out of the paint booth so work could resume in the engine bay and cockpit. Once the fuselage was moved out, the flaperons were hung up to receive a coat of paint during the week.

Putting the Power on!
Another milestone was met today in the way of connecting the battery and checking through some of the systems. Once we found the key (then realising that we didn't need them) we went through some basic functions.



Lock Wiring the Pitot Tube
Liam has been up the front of the Rv-12 today fitting the pitot tube that runs through the centre of the propellor. Once fitted he need to find the safety wire and lock it off so that it can not come undone.

Cockpit Construction
In the back workshop, John and Jim have been working with Sam and Kane to complete the fixing of the canopy to the canopy frame. At the end of this task, it will be ready to attach the fuselage.
We are getting very close to putting the aircraft together, most of the components are painted and ready to be re fitted.

More next week.

Mercury Bay Area School
Whitianga - Mercury Bay - The Coromandel Peninsula - New Zealand
Te Kura o Te Whanganui-a Hei

Mercury Bay Student Aviation Trust
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