



Mercury Bay Flyer

January 2018

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Flying Activity:

Well flying this year has been given a boost due to the extended period of settled flyable weather. We have seen many flyers tying down in Whitianga for longer stays than just quick visit to the Cafe before the next segment to be flown. This has been great activity to observe and so many aviators seeing our well marked out Aircraft Parking Bays have utilised them correctly. This greatly enhances the access to the fuel pumps and also allows taxing traffic to come and go from the MBAC hangars while fuelling takes place.



Our own resident pilots have also made the most of the weather by calling in at other ports along the peninsula. A memorial service by the Rex Denise family at the farm strip at Waikawau was attended by four MBAC pilots on a fine sunny afternoon on Boxing Day - after the morning Coromandel storm abated! I am sure he would have been pleased to see his family gathering under the Puriri tree to spread his ashes.

A pre New Year fly in to Whananaki was well attended with 6 flying machines choosing the fine weather pattern to head north. This is one of my favourites as the north coastline is spectacular on a sunny day. It was an airstrip crawl for me and I took every opportunity to visit places that I only get to occasionally. Martin Farrand loaned me his Postie bike to explore the near regions of Whananaki and this certainly fuelled my interest for needing more time up there.

MBA has taken many on Trial Flights gaining a number of new members. This is reflected in more instruction taking place and so increasing MBA hours to 23 hrs in December.

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Departure Lounge Cafe



Be sure to check Mercury Bay Aero Club on Facebook along with Departure Lounge Cafe so that you stay up to date with Alfred's hours and Menu changes as this is a recent upgrade to the MBAC information link.

“NEW” Cabinet food freshly baked Pies sausage rolls and savoury scones to enjoy with your coffee or tea.

New Hours 0830-1700 daily and now closed Mondays each week unless Monday is a Public Holiday, when he will stay Open.

Notices from committee:

Renewal of Aircraft Parking areas has been achieved making more defined parking areas clearly marked for visiting pilots. This is really influencing pilots decisions to park well. Thank you all.

The second airfield haylage cut was achieved just before Christmas as the growth has been strong this season. All cleaned up and a sparkling aerodrome was achieved for Christmas. Only trouble now is – where is the runway? Good guidance is provided by the newly painted Threshold markers at each end of the runway. Thank you Martin.

There is a need to remind pilots when making bookings to include Destination or flight intentions & name of passenger. As more utilisation can be expected, it increases the need to know where the aircraft is at any given time as a lot of ground can be covered in 1 hour of sightseeing or cross country flying.

Please enter your destination. This is not obligatory and you can leave this blank if you are intending to do a bit of combined smuggling on the OT. [Continue](#)

However, if you have nothing to hide we would appreciate this information to enable us to build up a mapgraph of popular destinations and traffic patterns. Thank you for your time.

You can enter an airport code, a town or city or a postcode.

Destination

Booking Notes

[Continue](#)

Example of enhanced Booking detail

MBAC committee are awaiting a start on the deck verandah which has been protracted due to shortage of the required skilled help. The before the Christmas holiday break was not achieved. A temporary shade cloth one is about to go up for Open Day until our builder has time to get on to this work.



Looking good for the Summer season

TCDC District Plan Variation 2 is still before the committee in the review process. More negotiation required by both parties was the outcome with more meetings end of January 18.

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Whitianga Christmas Parade 9 December saw MBA towed through the Whitianga streets (minus wings!) along with Phil Hart's Morgan and aircraft model firmly attached displaying MBAC and the MBAS build Trust to all. A good result and float numbers up this year with ours looking good. Thanks Jim and Peter for helping the process along and to Tony, Alan, Phil and the team for Loading and securing the aircraft on and off the trailer. Dale from AliPro allowed us the use of his low loader trailer which was wide enough for the wheeltrack of the RV12. Thank you Dale.



Mercury Bay Aero Club is now on Facebook so check out the recent happenings.....

Flight Club Ball Room



Amy can be contacted via phone (021 899 634), email amy@flightclubballroom.co.nz or via her webpage www.flightclubballroom.co.nz

Her wedding season has begun so aircraft rehangaring will now occur on a more regular basis. Normally this will have MBA relocated to the FlyStark hangar if space permits there and a note will be put in the Booking system advising this. As the hangar needs authorised entry the contact person when this occurs will be put on the Booking advice.

New Members

Steve Franks, recently joined the ranks of flying membership at the MBAC so is ready to have fun in the sun in Whitianga in the RV12. Please welcome him into our world when you next see them at the Aerodrome.

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Airfield Maintenance & Building

Look how close the Airpark is to our new canal now!

Makes you want to live on an Airpark, eh?



New Hangar Sites:



These are still a works in progress...but just look at these works! 5 now occupied and the new grass is coming along well for the taxiway from hangar to the runway.



Flying Events

<http://www.aviationnews.co.nz/other/calendar/> This is a good list of the must do s this summer flying season.

Whitianga - Open Day 6 January 18 CANCELLED DUE WEATHER INTERVENTION

Healthy Bastards Omaka 3 February bring your plane and tent and have fun checking out the strips heading south - 2 starters Wally 021 907782

Hokitika Wildfood Festival 10 March fly south to check out the mountain oysters and huhu bugs – 5 starters Wally 021 907782

Warbirds over Wanaka 30 March - Jim, Alan & Keith are ready to celebrate 30 years of this event
Jim 021 823532

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Mercury Bay Model Club

Wayne is still at it as projects just keep rolling out of that aircraft factory nearby. One being reassembled at present is the one which took a flight of its own during its flight from the back of Phil Hart's Morgan Transporter/ launcher, on the way to the Christmas Parade. All repairable I am told.



Only photos on hand for this newsletter are the Open Day models I was to have put on display along with the modellers. My recently completed 1930's fuel Bowser looking good in red and yellow. Taken a few years longer than anticipated! And the 1930's flyer to have been in the background of the modellers display area.



Whitianga Aviation Events

Open Day MBAC + Warbirds 6 January 2018 CANCELLED DUE WEATHER



Check out your MBAC website www.mbac.co.nz and

now....Facebook

The 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 – whoopee! Let's get into the air! Weather has been unbelievably settled.

Next Executive Meeting Friday 12 January 2018 at 1700hrs

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Whitianga Waterways – www.whitiangawaterways.co.nz

Avsure Insurance – www.avsure.co.nz

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

FlyStark.com – We can take you there

Mercury Bay Flyer

Stop Press

PLB FOR SALE x



3

Description;

GME

PLB

MT410G

Expired battery.

Will require sending to Auckland for refurbishment (approx \$230).

– Contact Martin 022 6592742 or 07 86605914

Airfield access section for sale in Yankee place. Andre Mayo 021 2019483