

Mercury Bay Aero Club

September 2016



Flying Activity:

August has treated us generally well after the July month's rainfall made us all mouldy while we waited for improvement to arrive. Many were lucky enough to escape to sunnier climes like USA, Alaska, Australia, Fiji and myself to Mt Ruapehu while the sun was out and no winds (at Mt Ruapehu- while it was hosing down in Whiti and blowing a South Easterly gale!) *My life as an earthling is hitting home this year as previously I was above cloud with sunglasses on and not suffering cabin fever like I have this year!*



Jim's planned Awakeri Rail Adventure took flight on Saturday 20th at the tail end of a week's fine patch of weather. The staged launch party was well prepared and unbelievably 5 aircraft arrived at Whakatane circuit one after the other to be photographed by the Whakatane Beacon's pre-warned photographer that MBAC was arriving in force! A great welcome followed by a top adventure on the rails-sun out but boy was that Sou' Easter cool! See photos on Stop Press at the end of the news.

Subscriptions Due:

Bruce says "thank you" all for your prompt payments received to date and a timely reminder for those whose emails quickly disappear off the current screen of your iPads/tablets/phones and get overlooked - like me!

Departure Lounge Café

The Cafe currently closed until Labour weekend holidays. Rumour has a change in the wind and maybe an earlier opening so I will track this and report further.

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

Notices from committee:

The proposal for 6 new hangars is in active phase by the committee and those who have registered interest and have put names on the wait list will be contacted shortly to move the project to the next level. Exciting stuff, eh?

New wearable lifejackets have now been purchased for MBA and we would like to remind you that these should be worn when on overwater flights such as Great Barrier, Ardmore, North Shore, Dargaville, Whangarei etc. Now in the cockpit of ZK MBA and better than undoing the pouch models which have also now been brought back into service with recent testing and refurbishment.

All help with runway threshold displacement for wet conditions and lengthening for DC3 operations has been greatly appreciated by the committee and so a BIG Thank You to Aeromodellers, committee members, MBAC members for this hands on work. "Many hands make light work"

New members:

Martin Little and Max Thomas have joined our club so Welcome to the MBAC. Pity about the weather but the days are lengthening so flying weather is almost here again!

Stories from members:

Lotsa activity for a long wet winter! "Stargazers" evenings were well supported during the cool fine days/evenings that were the scheduled MBAC nights of Saturday 13th followed by a smaller group on Sunday 14th.



Alistair was a font of knowledge and could have kept us out in the cold for a lot longer as his enthusiasm was contagious. After a warming hot chocolate under the stars while looking at the Southern Cross, Big Dipper and a great view of Saturn from his telescope, we were encouraged inside for another adventure. What a "rock hound" he is!

Other news from around the circuit

<http://www.aviationnews.co.nz/other/calendar/>
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?shva=1#inbox/14f47dc109843a10?projector=1>

Next Executive Meeting Saturday 10 September 2015 at 0930hrs.
Dinner and drinks venue on Friday evening 9 September (TBC).

Venue: Waharoa Airfield (Jaggers Road)
Date: 10th & 11th September 2016
Briefing: 0915hrs Start at 0945hrs
Contacts: Brian Borland 0272000661
Roger Gibbs 021422744
Entry fee: \$10

BBQ & COLD DRINKS
Good parking
Toilet on site

Two Classes to be flown:
Classic - Static & Flying Judged
Intermediate- Flying only judged
All NZMAA members & their models welcome but bring out your Pups and Eindeckers if you have them, as a 100 year commemorative tribute to the airman and aircraft that served during the First World War
Details and a guide to the rules and flight requirements can be found on the NZMAA Scale page to get practicing

Spring Opener R/C Scale Meeting
Open to all fixed wing prop or jet civilian & military aircraft

Daylight saving begins **Sunday 27 September 16**....will you and your aircraft be ready to fly?

Please Support Our Sponsors:

- **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

ENJOY and safe flying this Spring everyone!!



Dear members

As you are aware, we have commenced a 5 yr planning process to determine what are our important goals to fulfil, now and in the near future

Our club is in a very advantageous position. Thanks to the good work and decision making of past members and committees we have a freehold facility debt free and a positive cash flow. Be assured the executive will do everything in my power to maintain this position. We want to be sure that our development plans are discussed with all members and everyone has the opportunity to submit their ideas and participate in this planning process.

Your executive is tasked with running the club in the best interest of our members. We all take this seriously.

Because of the strategic importance of our airport, we also have a responsibility to our Mercury Bay community to allow provision for commercial air services operation.

Our planning process is to ensure this is carried out in a way not to adversely effect our members.

Our club is in good heart.

Our StarGazers event last Saturday and Sunday was a great success. The miracle of Clear sky. We all came away with more questions than answers.

When you look out there across thousands of light years you realise we are insignificant players in the scheme of things.

We will be having a dinner celebration at the Lost Spring to cast off winter. This will be a great nights entertainment. Will keep you posted.

MBA is exceeding expected flying hours and our \$1000 for 10 hours flying has been a great success and will continue over summer.

Our modellers will be revving up as the weather improves. We have the possibility of a jet day this summer.

We had our first planning meeting last Saturday. It was well attended and everyone agreed with the direction we are taking.

Our current priorities are as follows:

1. Drainage.

Recent heavy rain has caused extensive flooding on and around the airfield requiring us to move the threshold, reducing our main runway from the cross runway to Bill Beard's house.

We have had productive talks with council who have agreed to put a task force together this week to work with us to investigate the drainage needs for the airfield and surrounding lands, check the existing infrastructure, repair what they can and design and install new systems as required. We can then evaluate and design our runway drainage to suit, ensuring continuous use in all season. To facilitate this, we have appointed our new member John Knappett <knappettjohn@gmail.com> (retired civil engineer) to head this development team. Until the stormwater systems are sorted, runway improvements will be ineffective. Any members with drainage or civil engineering experience will be most welcome to join this group. Please contact John

2. Runway Improvements.

With increased air movements, it is getting harder to maintain a serviceable runway. The reading and fertiliser applied last season, took well. In spite of this we are having trouble maintaining a good surface. Our team monitor the runway daily and move the markers to suit. Action is needed.

Two options are being considered.

Firstly a plastic surface reinforcement called PERFO.

The PERFO system is the most widely and successfully used solution across Europe and beyond for the reinforcement of grass areas on airfields, including runways, taxiways and parking areas. It can be applied in stages like LEGO. The panels are played out on the runway and rolled into the soil. The grass grows through it so we can run the mower over it. We can even have a white centre line.

Secondly, a Sealed runway.

This is a very expensive but permanent solution. Plans for a 100 bed hotel in Whitianga seem imminent with the need for larger aircraft carrying tourist groups. BECA (who have done most major runways in NZ) will give us a proposal for the design and build of a sealed runway. Once we know the cost and logistics, the feasibility and timing can be evaluated along with funding support from key stake holders in tourism.

3 Hangars.

Two options are on the table

T Hangars. Our first block of 6 T Hangars should be ready for Christmas with a second block of 6 to be built on demand. You buy the hangar and only pay ground rent. Evan Wheeler <evan.allround@xtra.co.nz> is project manager. Please contact him for details.

Full size hangars. These are larger with electric folding doors Alan Coubray <alan@howick.co.nz> is the project manager. Please contact him for details.

4. Club Rooms.

The Executive appreciate the tolerance of members coping with our loss of club rooms due to the formation of the Cafe.

Having the income from the Cafe and Ballroom has been an important part of financial recovery but has been an inconvenience to many members.

We are proposing the redevelopment of the flight office used by Fly Stark as a two story

building. This will include additional office space along the frontage to the carpark for Sunair and others.

Plan is to build our new club rooms on top. We will draw up concept plans and circulate everyone.

I would like a member with Architectural or building experience to head up the project. Please contact me if you can help out.

TCDC are now very cooperative and willing to help with our developments. We are working with them to resolve many outstanding issues.

Club room complex Sewage and Stormwater connection

TCDC and Harold Abrahamson have agreed to allow us to reconnect to the sewage system and roading stormwater system without penalty charges. We are working through the details to finalise easement agreements etc and ongoing charges. So far it is looking probable that we can achieve this with minimal fuss thanks to Harold's generous offer.

Access road

We are obtaining the easement documents to determine the agreement and maintenance responsibilities for the road as we are keen to get it resealed or concreted for summer.

The Cafe will be under new management this summer. We will update you.

Remember, if we can all do a little, we can achieve a lot. It is important we stay as a voluntary organisation. If we have to empty staff, it is a complete game changer bringing the full weight of the new Health and Safety legislation down on us.

We look forward to a great summers flying and social activity.

Warren Sly