

A short history of CMB

Creativity has always been a hallmark of vibrant and cohesive communities and as communities grow, so does the need to create opportunities and outlets for self-expression and enjoyment through the arts. Traditionally, performing arts in Mercury Bay have been channelled through festivals and amateur local productions, or through the informal entertainment scene, with guest performers appearing in cafes, clubs and bars (modern day travelling troubadours!). Additionally, The Whitianga Music Society under the stewardship of concert pianist Diana Morcom, for many years brought performers of a more classical nature to the Bay, in the form of intimate house concerts and recitals where in many cases Diana's grand piano was utilised to great advantage. However, at the time of the winding down of WMS in 2011 and with the inevitable sense of cultural loss, an idea was generated that the performing arts in particular might be better served if there were an umbrella organisation which could co-ordinate and facilitate events on a wider and more diverse scale, bringing exciting new performance and workshop opportunities to the local community. A committed group of community members realised this idea in the form of Creative Mercury Bay Trust.

The Trust became a legal entity in July 2012, with 5 foundation trustees ably supported by 3 professional advisors (contributing legal, financial and arts management skills), additional committee members and 2 valued patrons (Diana and Toby Morcom). All past and current CMB members are passionate advocates of the arts and all have brought, or bring, individual but complementary skills to the team. All are volunteers who contribute tirelessly to realising the vision of building a sustainable and vibrant performing arts platform for the region.

The official CMB launch at Salt (Whitianga) in April 2013 was literally heralded by trumpets, as the King's College (Auckland) student jazz band 'The Burtones' was invited across not only to mentor the local area school's burgeoning band, but also to provide music for the occasion. At the same time CMB inaugurated an annual programme of events aimed at exposing the community to a wide genre of performing and visual¹ arts (including drama, music, dance, film-making, story-telling & mime), with opportunities for quality learning and participation through workshops and exhibitions, and with events targeted to the widest constituency of age groups. In its first year of operation, CMB was able to bring performers and mentors of national and international standing to the Bay, as well as supporting local talent and utilising local and regional expertise.

CMB's policy is very much to support and grow the arts from within by providing foundations for this growth and collaborating with other local arts organisations to maximise community resources. CMB also works in close co-operation with the local school as a means of reaching young people, and is very much committed to engaging with stakeholders and the community, whom we view as our partners, to ensure relevance and appeal. In this way we hope to enrich and enliven our community and build an enduring legacy for the arts in the region.

¹ CMB will cover those visual arts, such as film-making, that do not already come under the compass of Mercury Bay Art Escape (MBAE). Our intention is to work collaboratively and co-operatively with the iconic MBAE (and all other arts groups) to ensure the needs of our community are well served on all fronts.

Creative Mercury Bay Trustees

- Jan Wright – Chair and Coordinator
- Loretta Guthrie - Secretary and Treasurer
- Lynette Hendrikse – Marketing and Communications
- Lisa Gifford – Dance advisor

Committee members

- Kate Palmano – Funding
- Judy Evans – Sponsorship and Publicity
- Athena Yiannoutsos
- Josh Thompson – IT and Lighting technician
- Malcolm Cooper - Operations
- Len Salt – Sound technician

Advisors

- Alan Henry – Legal Advisor
- Linda Pye – Accountant
- Hillary Falconer – Arts Management Advisor

Patrons

- Diana and Toby Morcom

Profiles of trustees, committee and advisors

Trustees



Jan Wright – Chair and Coordinator

Jan's passion for the arts and music specifically has led to her involvement with choral singing since 2000. Throughout this time she has informally facilitated both performing and visual arts and opportunities within Mercury Bay for community members of all ages, firmly believing in the transformative qualities of participation in the arts, regardless of whether that participation is as a member of the audience, as performer/artists, or one of the enabling technicians. She sees the formation of Creative Mercury Bay as a coming of age of arts collaboration in Mercury Bay and the Peninsula, and an opportunity to better provide for the expansion of local arts participation and appreciation. Jan believes that inclusivity, collaboration and co-operation within any community, big or small, is the fastest route to enablement, wellbeing and social "glue" and contributes to Creative Mercury Bay with those qualities in clear focus. Jan holds a MA in Arts Management (Hons) with Whitecliffe College of Arts and Design.



Loretta Guthrie – Treasurer and Secretary

Loretta moved to Whitianga in 2006 following six years of extensive overseas travel. She admits to having “not a creative bone in her body!” so when the opportunity to join CMB as Treasurer presented itself, Loretta saw this as the perfect chance to get involved with a community-based venture that held an interest for her, and in a role where she could utilise her extensive and varied administration experience.

Loretta feels privileged to contribute to CMB, and now also holds the role of Secretary. “To get the chance to work alongside creative people who are passionate about Mercury Bay and the arts is very inspiring”

she says. She is enjoying the challenge of helping to establish CMB as an integral part of our special and unique community.



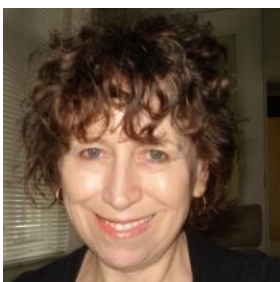
Lynette Hendrikse – Marketing and Communication

Lynette has always been involved in the creative design and the marketing industry, beginning her art career with a four year stint studying Fine Art, majoring in photography and etching. Her marketing career began at the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town South Africa where she headed up the creative team for seven years. She worked on award winning ad campaigns and permanent exhibits at this international tourist attraction.

In 2004 Lynette immigrated to New Zealand as she was offered a position at a Manukau communications company where she worked on Sir Barry Curtis’ final mayoral campaign as well as the local Manukau business newspaper. She then accepted a position as the Marketing Communications Manager for Hafele New Zealand, an international furniture and architectural fitting company where she spent just seven years running the marketing department and design studio, managing all marketing communication channels as well as mentoring and training graphic designers.

Lisa Gifford – Dance Advocate

Committee



Kate Palmano – Committee - Funding

Kate has lived in Mercury Bay since 2008 and is currently a Whitianga-based consultant scientist working largely with the NZ dairy industry. Kate has worked extensively in academia as a researcher/lecturer in pure and applied biochemistry, holding positions in Canada, UK and in NZ, but has

more recently worked in industry as a senior scientist in dairy science and nutrition at Fonterra. In her role as a parent, Kate has been involved in various school committees and community groups and through both her professional and non-professional capacities is well experienced in project innovation, project management and networking. From her career in science research, Kate is also well versed in funding applications. She is currently a member of the Mercury Bay Community Choir, is a volunteer at the Mercury Bay Museum, and has a keen interest in music and the performing arts, notably opera and theatre.

Judy Evans – Committee – Publicity, Sponsorship Coordination and Mercury Bay Area School Liaison

Judy has lived in Mercury Bay since 1999 and joined CMB as a committee member in 2013. She is a secondary school teacher at MBAS, specialising in international languages and English, and is also Arts Coordinator for the whole school. In addition Judy farms beef cattle and lavender on her small holding near Whitianga. Her interests include singing, languages (Japanese and Spanish), visual arts and garden design. She lived in Japan for 11 years and still considers Kyoto to be her second home. In CMB Judy assists in liaising with our sponsors and keeping the local media informed of CMB's activities.

Athena Yiannoutsos – Committee

Josh Thomson – Committee



Len Salt – Sound technician



Malcolm Cooper – Operations

Malcolm is Creative Mercury Bay's operations man. He co-ordinates and contributes to the significant feats of transforming an unlikely venue into a worthy performance space. With a background in small business management, largely within the service industry, Malcolm has years of experience in the logistics of event planning, management and negotiation,

and his love of the arts has drawn him to contribute these and his many others skills to Creative Mercury Bay.

Advisors

Hilary Falconer – Arts Management Advisor

Chief executive of Hamilton based regional community arts trust Arts Waikata from 2002-2008 and member of the Hamilton Community Arts Council (now Creative Hamilton) from 1997-2002, Hilary has extensive experience in the support and development of arts organisations including funding, strategic planning, project and event management, marketing, local authority liaison and lobbying at both local and national levels. She has also been a committee member and practitioner in a wide variety of arts groups throughout the country since 1970, believing that a creative community is a healthy community and that creativity should be encouraged and fostered as a vital requirement for surviving in a challenging and changing world.

Linda Pye – Accountant



Alan Henry – Legal Advisor

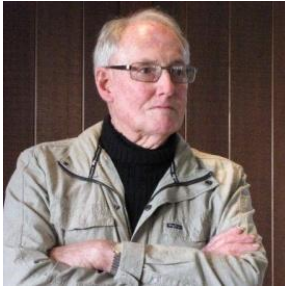
Patrons



Diana Morcom – Patron

Diana, outstanding pianist and teacher, began learning piano at the age of 6 with Mary Nathan in Auckland. She won many competitions and prizes and at the age of 20 was awarded a NZ Government bursary for overseas study in England with Frederick Jackson at the Royal Academy, and in Vienna with Frau Professor Viola Thern at the Vienna Conservatorium. On her return to NZ she played with various orchestras, gave solo recitals, broadcasts and chamber music concerts, besides teaching and touring. In 1963 Diana married sheep farmer, Toby Morcom, and moved to Whitianga, and spent the next few years raising a family. During this time, music took a back seat, but gradually she returned to playing several concerts each year, both solo and in the field of chamber music and accompanying. For four years, Diana accompanied the Mercury Bay Community Choir and over the last few summers she has performed solo recitals for the Mercury Bay Art Escape. She has recently decided to indulge in one of her favourite pastimes – playing piano duets with fellow pianist Daniel Jones from Te Aroha.

Almost single-handedly, Diana and Toby arranged and co-ordinated Whitianga Music Society concerts for many years, bringing classical and jazz performances to Mercury Bay. She enthusiastically supports the endeavours of the newly formed Creative Mercury Bay in providing quality performances, concerts and entertainment of music, drama, dance and theatre for the enjoyment of the people of this district.



Toby Morcom – Patron

Toby, a sheep and cattle farmer at Cook's Beach, has been continuously involved in community work including the Whenuakite School Committee; the Lions Club of Whitianga where he served as secretary, president, zone chairman and deputy district governor; the Whitianga Harbour Committee; the Cook's Beach Reserves Management Group; the Mercury Bay Boating Club; the Thames Hospital Board; the Mercury Bay

Community Fund and the Whitianga Marina Committee.

Married to pianist Diana, who until recently ran the Whitianga Music Society, and supporting her in her professional work, he has over the years become immersed in the musical life of the area, and is keen to help with the success and growth of the new Creative Mercury Bay venture.