

MERCURY BAY ART ESCAPE

OPEN ART STUDIOS

2026 TRAIL GUIDE

VISIT OVER 50 ARTISTS FROM
PAUANUI TO WHANGAPOUA

OPEN STUDIOS:

Saturday, Sunday and Monday

7–9 March and 14–16 March 2026, 10am – 4pm

20TH ANNIVERSARY



www.mercurybayartescape.com



2026 MERCURY BAY ART ESCAPE - 20TH ANNIVERSARY

In 2006, the ideas and initiative of two local artists, Betty Collings and Dave Fowell established the first open art studio weekends which has evolved into the popular annual event that is today's Mercury Bay Art Escape. In 2026 we celebrate our 20th anniversary and give appreciation for the hard work, dedication and commitment of Trustees and artists, past and present over the last 20 years.

Our local business community has backed Art Escape for 20 years with sponsorship, donations and support. See the local sponsors listed in this guide and give them your support.

Art Escape 2026 builds on 20 years of successful open studios and this year showcases over 50 talented local artists. The art has evolved over the years into a range of exciting and eclectic mediums including oil painting, printmaking, weaving, glasswork, iron sculpture, clay artistry, photography, wood, jewellery, mosaics and mixed media.

Mercury Bay Art Escape acknowledges the patronage of Michael Smither CNZM, and the renowned Samoan artist Fatu Feu'u ONZM.



GALA OPENING NIGHT

6pm Friday 6th March
Hot Waves Café & Gallery,
Hot Water Beach

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DICK FRIZZELL

Dick Frizzell is one of New Zealand's most well-known and celebrated artists. With his remarkable repertoire he has created some of our country's most iconic art. Tapping the New Zealand psyche, he draws on our landscapes, Kiwiana, Māori art, abstract and mixes high art with popular culture.

Tickets available from December 2025 at Hot Waves Café, Hot Water Beach,

Or online at :
www.mercurybayartescape.com

Or email:
admin@mercurybayartescape.com

The Gala Opening features music, food and drink, the opportunity to meet with artists and view and purchase showcase art.

 mercurybayartescape.com

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OPEN 3 DAYS EACH WEEKEND!

This year, artist studios will be open
for three days each weekend
— Saturday, Sunday, Monday —

LOOK OUT FOR THE OFFICIAL BLUE ART ESCAPE FLAG

Finding our artists is easy — just look
for the official Mercury Bay Art Escape
flags marking each studio.

See local maps at the back of the guide.

VISIT OUR ARTISTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Many artists can be visited by
appointment throughout the year.

See our website for details:

www.mercurybayartescape.com/artist



2025 MBAE Scholarship: Isobel Warwood

MBAE SCHOLARSHIP

To inspire and encourage young local artists, MBAE sponsors an annual scholarship for a Year 12 student from Mercury Bay Area School. This offers a unique opportunity for the student to work and learn from Art Escape mentors, exhibit their work at the Art Escape Showcase and receive art supplies.

STUDENT EXHIBITION

In further support of art in the local community, MBAE organises an annual exhibition of art by Mercury Bay Area School art students at Hot Waves Café, Hot Water Beach in December. See social media and the website for exact dates.



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Mobile: 027 733 9955

Email: lea.jurkovich@bayleys.co.nz

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1

Nora Grieve **NEW**

Painting

1 Mount Avenue
Pauanui
021 033 9941
johnnoragrieve@gmail.com



2

Logan Humphrey **NEW**

Metal Sculpture

Pauanui Information Centre
23 Centreway, Pauanui
020 4138 4544
rustic_soul@outlook.com
www.rusticsoul.nz

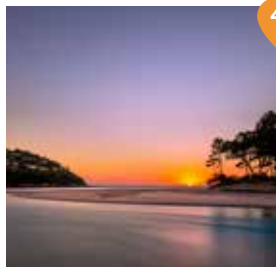


3

Sam Dixon **NEW**

Painting & Drawing

Pauanui Information Centre
23 Centreway
Pauanui
027 504 1086
sdixon17062@gmail.com



4

Paul Schrader **NEW**

Photography

68B Vista Paku
Pauanui
027 498 8016
creativeimagesbypaulcschrader@gmail.com
www.creativeimagesbypaulcschrader.space



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5

Kate Hill

Painting, Print & Mixed Media

45a Main Road
Tairua
021 034 8776
k.hill@xtra.co.nz
www.artfindnz.co.nz



6

Souzie Speerstra

Painting

47 Rewa Rewa Valley Rd
Tairua
027 369 3607
souzieart@gmail.com



7

Susan Dunster

Painting & Printmaking

217 Main Rd
Tairua
027 638 7695
susan_dunster@xtra.co.nz



8

Jean McCann

Painting

242 Main Rd
Tairua
021 897 204
jean.mccann@xtra.co.nz

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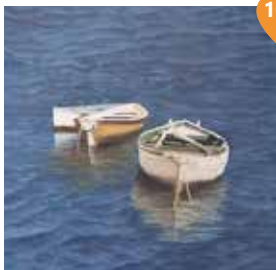
9

Jessie Macaw

Painting



242 Main Rd
Tairua
021 121 0385
jessie@doodlingpainter.com
www.doodlingpainter.com



10

Jennifer Panther

Painting



2 Hapenui Rd
Tairua
021 101 7100
jenniferpantherart@gmail.com
www.jenniferpantherart.com



11

Debbie Emslie

Watercolour Painting & Printmaking



4 Pacific Drive
Tairua
021 181 2355
debbiemsie@gmail.com
www.debbieemsie.com



12

Michael Harrison

Painting & Mixed Media



238 Paku Drive
Tairua
021 132 5027
michaelharrisonartist@gmail.com

**Proud to host and display a stunning gallery of art by the Mercury Bay Art Escape Members.**

Nestled along the heart of the iconic Coromandel coastline, our cafe is a sweet little oasis, tucked away within native New Zealand flora and fauna.

Hot Waves Cafe is the perfect spot to take a break and reset. Stop by and enjoy our fabulous menu, check out our beautiful display of local art and gifts, and enjoy this little piece of paradise at Hot Water Beach.



13

Penny Vergeest **NEW**

Pottery

1134 Purangi Rd
Ferry Landing
021 509 249
hello@thepotteryshed.co.nz
www.thepotteryshed.co.nz

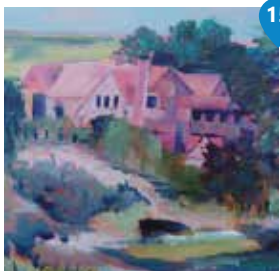


14

Sarah Gordon

Painting & Oil pastels

18 Panorama Avenue
Ferry Landing
027 606 7173
sjgordondesign@gmail.com
www.sarahgordonart.com

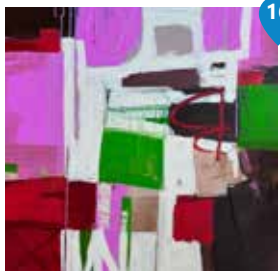


15

Kay de Blaauw

Painting & Printmaking

28 Riverview Rd
Cooks Beach
027 599 0098
kaydeblaauwart@yahoo.co.nz

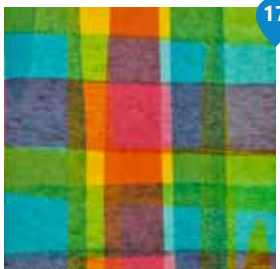


16

Jane Martin

Painting

149 Captain Cook Rd
Cooks Beach
021 239 1909
nzjane@gmail.com



17

Sharon Graham

Painting

9 Admiral Drive
Cooks Beach
021 959 740
shas.graham@gmail.com





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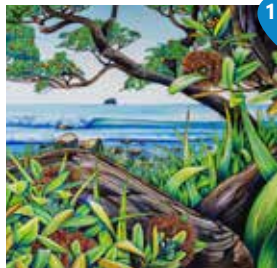
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18

Ginney Deavoll

Painting

2 Lois Lane
Hahei
022 065 4717
ginneydeavoll@gmail.com
www.ginneydeavoll.com



19

Rita Deavoll NEW

Sculpture

2 Lois Lane
Hahei
021 105 7013
d.deavoll@xtra.co.nz

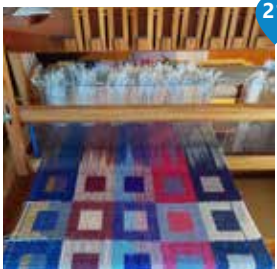


20

Jeff Lockhart NEW

Painting, Printmaking & Sculpture

29 Pa Rd
Hahei
020 4163 5512
jeff.g.lockhart@gmail.com
www.lockhart.co.nz



21

Carroll DePape

Weaving

33 Grierson Close
Hahei
027 601 1988
carroll.depape@gmail.com



22

Caroline Courtney NEW

Painting & Ceramic Sculpture

30 Grierson Close
Hahei
027 575 8557
carolinecourtney@xtra.co.nz



23

Betty Collings

Ceramics

OPEN WHEN FLAG IS OUT

17 Patricia Place
Hahei
07 866 3043
2b@bettycollings.com



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Barry Hishon

Artisan Blacksmith & Fibre Creations

47 Grange Rd
Hahei
027 478 8940
barrysforge.hahei@gmail.com

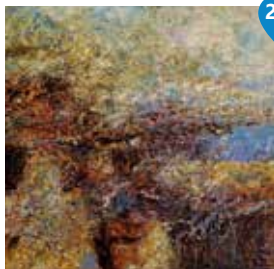


25

Annie Smits Sandano

Painting, Ceramics & Printmaking

400 Lees Rd
Hahei
021 022 32714
anniesandano@gmail.com
www.anniesmitssandano.com



26

Jane Parson

Painting & Printmaking

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Sally Samins

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www.sallysamins.com



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Hot Waves Café & Gallery SHOWCASE EXHIBITION

8 Pye Place, Hot Water Beach
07-866 3887
harpersinhotty@gmail.com

*Venue for Opening Gala, Friday 6 March 2026
and Showcase Exhibition*



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THE ARTIST'S STUDIO.**

29



Alan & Julia Rhodes

Pottery



1369 State Highway 25
Whenuakite
027 685 7712
027 427 1393
ajpotterz@yahoo.co.nz

30



Paula McNeill

Mixed Media & Printmaking



The Whitehouse
2321A Highway 25 Tairua-Whitianga
Coroglen
027 650 7247
paula.mcneill@xtra.co.nz
www.whitehousecollectables.com

31



Verena Tagmann

Painting & Printmaking



The Whitehouse
2321A Highway 25 Tairua-Whitianga
Coroglen
021 810 813
v.tagmann@gmail.com
www.artfindnz.co.nz

32



Claire Bryers

Pottery



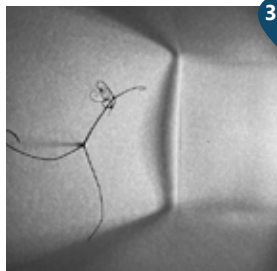
2843b Tairua Whitianga Rd
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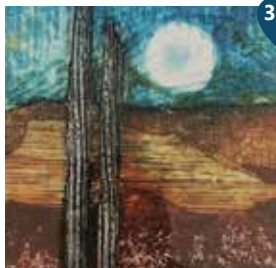


33

Karen Macaw **NEW**

Black and White Photography & Drawing

3 Romeo Place
Whitianga
027 802 9384
info@karenmacaw.com
www.karenmacaw.com



34

Caroline Peacocke **NEW**

Painting & Printmaking

GJ Gardner Show Home
279 Kupe Drive
Whitianga
021 521 886
caroline@coppermesh.co.nz



35

Helena James

Raranga Weaver

GJ Gardner Show Home
279 Kupe Drive
Whitianga
027 936 6835
helenaranga5@gmail.com



36

Kate Beauchamp

Photography

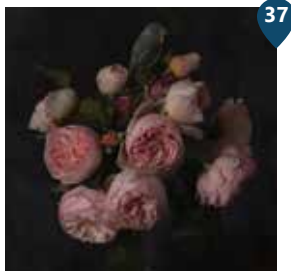
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Whitianga
027 467 1602
shaz.mckenzie@xtra.co.nz



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Peter Augustin

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Whitianga
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augustingallery@augustin-muller.com



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23 School Road
Whitianga
Margaret Gibson
027 6351615
margib7@gmail.com



40

Mark & Sandra Hosking

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Whitianga Art Gallery

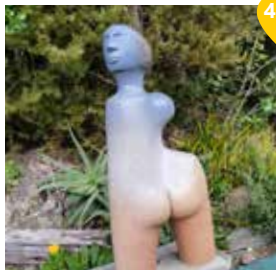
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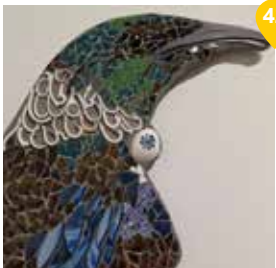
41

Ian Webster

Sculpture



325 Kuaotunu Wharekaho Rd
Kuaotunu
07 866 5344
claystudio325@gmail.com



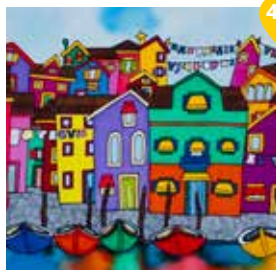
42

Annemieke Kregting

Upcycled Mosaic



114 Kuaotunu Wharekaho Rd
Kuaotunu
027 600 6959
mieke.kreg@gmail.com



43

Gaylene Lonergan

Silk Painting



11 Ohinau Drive
Opito Bay
021 0256 8638
gaylenelonerganart@gmail.com



44

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027 2832 932

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Vanessa Graham

Ceramics

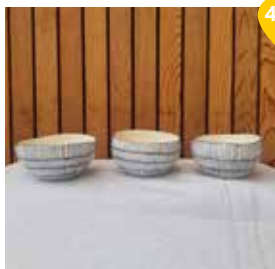


538 Te Rerenga Kuaotunu Rd

Otapaurau

021 506 995

scruffyvanessa@hotmail.com



47

Liz Klein

Ceramics



538 Te Rerenga Kuaotunu Rd

Otapaurau

021 117 4576

lizbruce09@gmail.com

www.littlekina.com



48

Donna McKelvey

Photography/Printmaking & Painting



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Whangapoua

022 3534 277

donnaemck@ps.gen.nz



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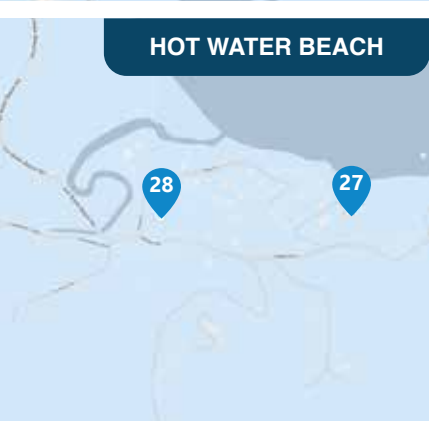
FERRY LANDING / FLAXMILL BAY / COOKS BEACH



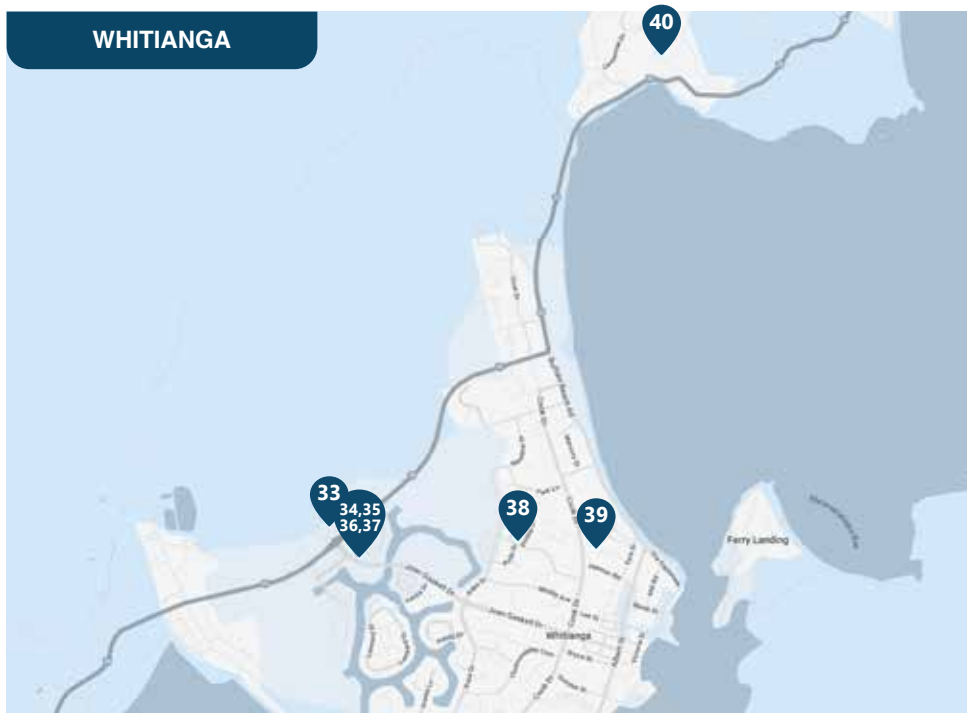
HAHEI



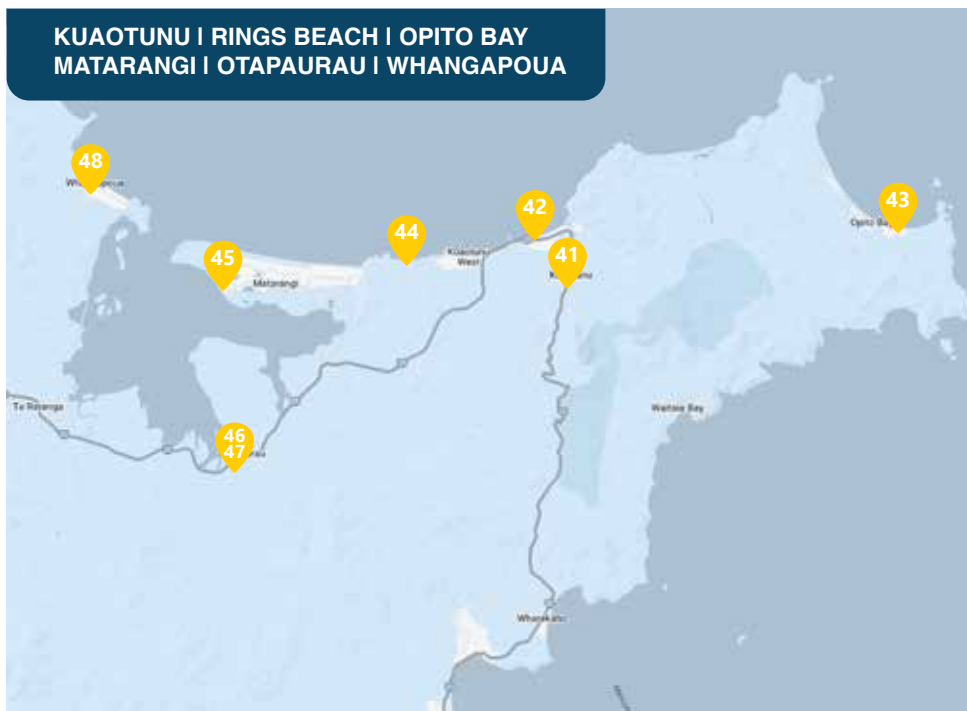
HOT WATER BEACH



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