MERCURY BAY ART ESCAPE

OPEN ART STUDIOS

2027 TRAIL GUIDE

VISIT OVER 50 ARTISTS FROM PAUANUI TO OTAPAURAU

OPEN STUDIOS:
6–7 March and 13–14 March 2027

BAYLEYS

www.mercurybayartescape.com








2027 MERCURY BAY ART ESCAPE

Mercury Bay Art Escape is an annual open studios event showcasing art across the Eastern Coromandel Peninsula.

A highlight on the creative calendar, over two weekends in March local artists, including some recognised nationally and internationally, open their studios to the public. This offers a unique opportunity to engage with our artists, explore studios and workshops, and buy art.

The eclectic diversity and talent of the artists is displayed through mediums such as oil painting, printmaking, photography, ceramics, glasswork, weaving, sculpture, ironwork, jewellery, clay artistry, woodwork and mixed media.

Sponsors and supporters in the local community have contributed to the success of Art Escape over the many years. Our sponsors are listed in this guide, please give them your support.

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

During Art Escape 2027, we look forward to welcoming you to visit and celebrate our artists across the Eastern Coromandel Peninsula.

mercurybayartescape.com

facebook.com/mercurybayartescape

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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. Exhibition runs 12th December – End of February.

MBAE AWARDS

To inspire and encourage young local artists, MBAE sponsors an annual award for year 12 and 13 students from Mercury Bay Area School.

This offers a unique opportunity for these students to learn from Art Escape mentors and be supported in their art. The students exhibit their work with our artists at the Art Escape Showcase exhibition. During the year, MBAE artists offer workshops such as printmaking and glass art to MBAS students.



Bayleys is proud to support the Mercury Bay Art Escape.

We spend our days in homes across this region, and art is so often what brings personality, creativity and life to the spaces within them - it's easy to see why an event like this means so much to us.

Welcome to this year's Art Escape, and thank you to the artists, organisers and volunteers who've put in the hours to make it one worth exploring. Enjoy discovering the studios, meeting the artists and taking home a little inspiration of your own.

coromandel.bayleys.co.nz

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GALA OPENING NIGHT

6pm Friday 5th March | Hot Waves Café & Gallery, Hot Water Beach

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – PEATA LARKIN









Peata Larkin (Te Arawa, Tūhourangi, Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Tūwharetoa) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Tāmaki Makaurau. Her practice explores the intersections of whakapapa, mātauranga Māori, Western Abstraction, memory, and place through painting, light, architecture and sculptural installations. Drawing on Ancestral symbolism of raranga, tāniko, and tukutuku, Larkin creates immersive works that consider how Indigenous knowledge can be carried forward through contemporary art.

Across gallery exhibitions, collaborative projects and public commissions, her work reflects an ongoing commitment to creating spaces for connection, contemplation, and cultural continuity. Recent projects include 'Rauhea' 7mtr x 4mtr sculpture in the Red Square, Tauranga, 'Ka mau, ka ora', a sculptural installation commissioned for the 2026 Aotearoa Art Fair sculpture trail and Pekerangi, on the exterior of New Zealand International Convention Centre (2016-2026), one of the largest ceramic artworks in Australasia, spanning over 105mtrs by 38mtrs high, 3,360 square metres in total; Public artworks that extend her exploration of light, pattern, and architecture as vessels for ancestral narratives and collective memory.

Larkin's work is held in major public and private collections throughout Aotearoa and internationally. She continues to develop ambitious projects that honour Māoritanga while engaging in conversations about identity, belonging, and our relationships with each other and the environments we inhabit.

Tickets available from December 2026 at Hot Waves Café, Hot Water Beach

Or online at :
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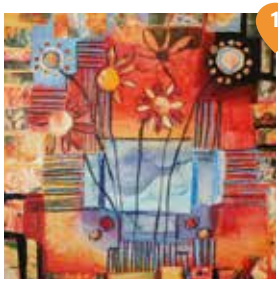
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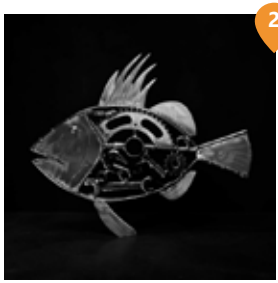
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Nora Grieve
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1 Mount Avenue
Pauanui
021 033 9941
johnnoragrieve@gmail.com



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



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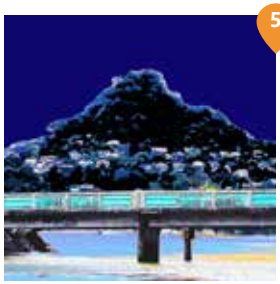
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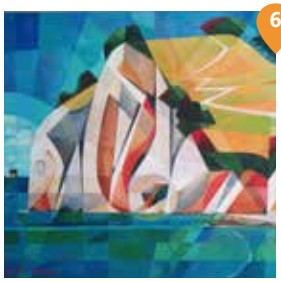




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021 034 8776
k.hill@xtra.co.nz
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027 369 3607
souzieart@gmail.com



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Jean McCann
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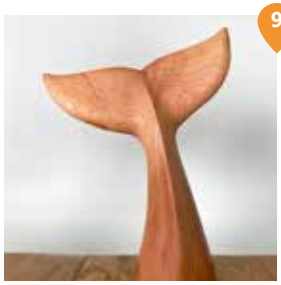
228 Main Rd
Tairua
021 897 204
jean.mccann@xtra.co.nz



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



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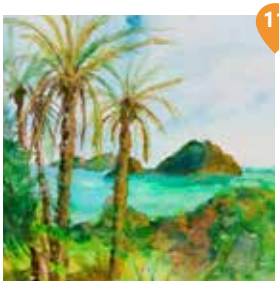
Tim Aldrich
Woodcarver

39 Hornsea Road
Tairua
022 048 8592
aldricht193@gmail.com



Sue Foster
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12 Kauri Place
Tairua
021 106 3952
suziefoster999@gmail.com



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Sarah Gordon
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Charlene Scott NEW
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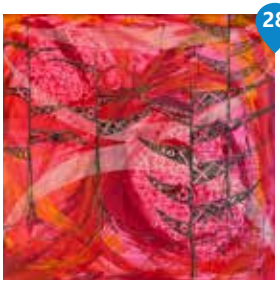
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Rita Deavoll

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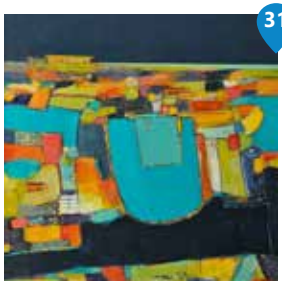
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www.sallysamins.com



Tony Coombe NEW
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seamerchant74@gmail.com



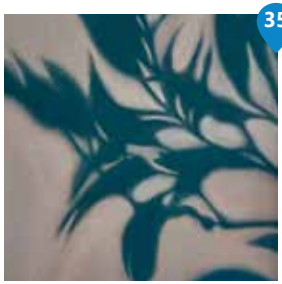
Tossie Lockhart NEW
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021 078 4216
tossie112@hotmail.com



Bella David NEW
Painting & Prints

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Catherine David NEW
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Hot Water Beach
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ctdavid@gmail.com

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SHOWCASE EXHIBITION

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Venue for Opening Gala, Friday 5 March 2026 and Showcase Exhibition



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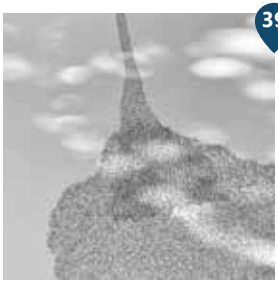
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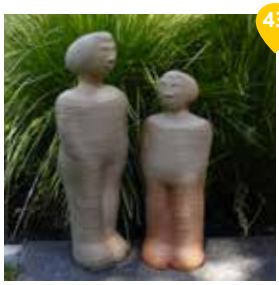
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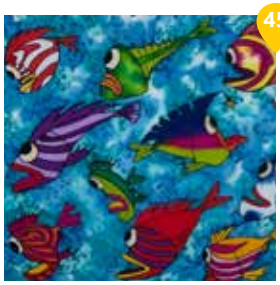
Ian Webster
Sculpture

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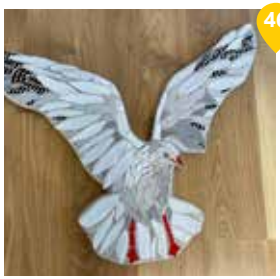
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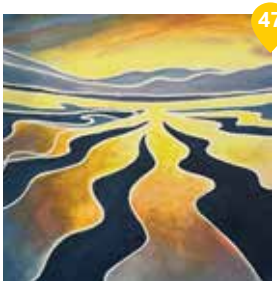
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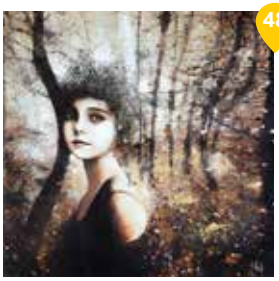
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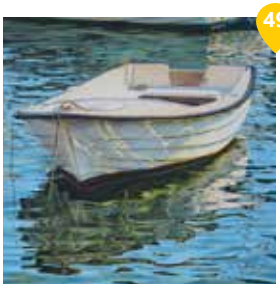
Warwick Lidgard
Painting

Waiari Way
191 Bluff Road, Rings Beach
021166 0286
w.lidgard@icloud.com
www.warwicklidgard.art



Nick Fedaeff
Painting

137 Rangiora Crescent
Matarangi
021 046 2170
nickfedaeff@gmail.com
www.nickfedaeff.art



Shirley Cresswell
Painting

148 Harbour Drive
Matarangi
027 2832 932
artist@shirleycresswell.com
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Vanessa Graham
Ceramics

538 Te Rerenga Kuaotunu Rd
Otapaurau
021 506 995
scruffyvanessa@hotmail.com

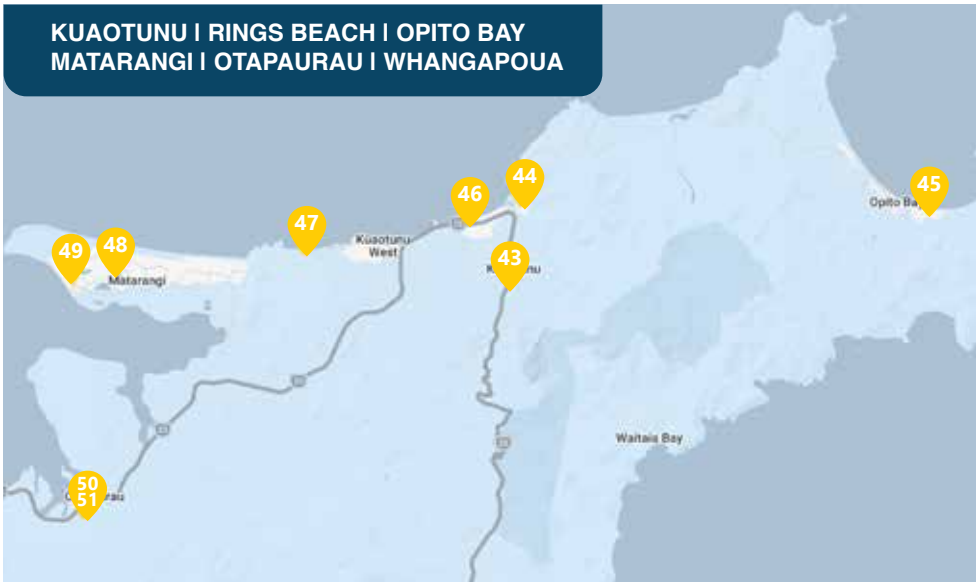


Liz Klein
Ceramics

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Ferry Landing



OUR PATRONS

Mercury Bay Art Escape is proud to acknowledge the support and contributions of our three distinguished patrons, whose passion and commitment have helped shape our creative community.

Michael Smither CNZM

One of New Zealand's leading contemporary artists, Michael is an Ōtama resident and foundation member of Mercury Bay Art Escape. Appointed our first Patron Artist in 2015, he continues to champion the arts in our region.

Fatu Feu'u ONZM

Renowned Samoan artist Fatu Feu'u is an influential leader in the Pacific arts movement and an internationally recognised artist. In 2022, he received the prestigious Arts Foundation Icon Award for his lifetime contribution to the arts.

Betty Collings – Founding Artist

Alongside Dave Fowell, Betty Collings established the first open studio weekends in 2006, creating the foundations for today's Mercury Bay Art Escape. We continue to celebrate her vision and the lasting legacy she helped create, which laid the foundations for 20 years of Mercury Bay Art Escape, proudly celebrated in 2025.

MTC
Mercury Twin Cinemas

We are a family owned and operated independent cinema playing a wide selection of movies to suit the whole whānau.

Come and sit in air-conditioned comfort and enjoy our large screens with digital projection and Dolby surround sound. Enjoy a glass of beer or wine or indulge in the reasonably priced snacks from the candy bar.

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KUAOTUNU BAY
LODGE



Offering luxury boutique accommodation, take in the view from the minute you step through the door.

A choice of three relaxing rooms, and a seperate studio, choose from;
a queen with ensuite, a super king with ensuite or a twin king single with private bathroom.
Relax on your private deck while taking in the spectacular seaviews.

Studio accommodation boasts privacy with a private entrance, private deck with seaviews.
The Studio has a queen bed and is self catering. Breakfast is included.

Take the 25 minute walk from Kuaotunu Bay Lodge to the heart of Kuaotunu Village. Visit the iconic Lukes Kitchen to enjoy local music, pizza and your choice of local craft beers or a glass of wine.






Kuaotunu Bay Lodge kuaotunubaylodge

8 Kuaotunu Wharekaho Road, Kuaotunu | info@kuaotunubay.co.nz | www.kuaotunubay.co.nz | 0273 224 514

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GB Guthrie Bowron Whitianga inspiration starts here.

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