

# BACKGROUND



## Spokespeople Biographies

### Angus Matthews (Executive Director)

Angus has 35 years of experience in the aquarium, tourism and education sectors. After graduating from the United World College of the Atlantic in the UK, he started work as a killer whale trainer at Victoria's Sealand of the Pacific in the early 70's. At the age of 24 he became the manager of Sealand and, after over 13 years with the Oak Bay Marine Group, rose to the position of Assistant General Manager. From 1983 to 1990, he was General Manager of Marineland of Canada in Niagara Falls, Ontario. He returned to Victoria with his family in 1990 to serve at Lester B. Pearson College as Director of Development and, later, as Director of Administration and Finance. After leaving Pearson College in 2004 to return to the private sector, he worked as an operations' consultant in the tourist industry. Angus joined the fledgling New Marine Centre project as Executive Director in 2006. He shares a great passion for the ocean, education and the future of Sidney as a regional hub for environmental tourism.

### Linda Funk (Education Director)

Linda brings a diversity of experience to her role as educator. Her interest in marine life and oceans, particularly with whales, was sparked early in her childhood after family vacations to BC and the Vancouver Aquarium. After completing a BSc – Co-Op – Biology from the University of Victoria in 1995, she went to work as a naturalist for Seacoast Expeditions, a whale-watching company based in Victoria. She discovered her passion for sharing nature and science with others and had jobs in the off-seasons as a Naturalist at both Goldstream Provincial Park and with Panterra Ecological and Cultural Training Society in Sidney. In 2000 she completed her Post-Degree Professional Program at UVic and became a certified science teacher, teaching for one year in Qualicum Beach before moving to Victoria to raise her family. While raising her two daughters, Linda worked as a teacher in School District #62 (Sooke) and as a Classroom Workshop Facilitator with Let's Talk Science, a non-profit group promoting science education. Linda was hired in March 2009 to begin planning and implementing the public educational experience at the SODC. Linda believes in the power of informal educational venues, like parks, aquariums and science centres, to create memorable experiences that can excite students who may feel disconnected from their classroom lessons. She designs her programs with the premise that we can all be scientists and that learning should be fun and interactive for all ages. She is looking forward to getting her hands wet showing visitors the wonders of the oceans.

-More-

*Our Ocean Lives Here*

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**Peter B. Lloyd FCA** (Board Chair, New Marine Centre Society)

Having grown up in England and after a 2-year stint in Nairobi, Kenya, Peter and his wife, Gwen, emigrated to Vancouver. From then on their lives seemed to always revolve around water. They became keen boaters, first sail and later power. When they moved to Vancouver Island, it was first to Shawnigan Lake. Their three children, Christopher, Alison & Penelope, all learned to swim there. Later, with some good friends, they built a house in Puerto Rico, which they owned for many years.

Peter reports preferring the swimming in the warm Caribbean sea! It is no surprise, then, that he is enthusiastic to see our Marine Discovery Centre come to fruition. Currently, Peter and Gwen live in Sidney/North Saanich and all their children, as well as three young grandchildren, are currently in Victoria. In his professional career Peter was a partner in several accounting firms on Vancouver Island, both local and national. He has been the Chair of the Board of Queen Margaret's School, Chair of the Board of Camosun College and the Treasurer of the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority. Currently, he is a Lay Bencher of the Law Society of BC. Although retired from fulltime work, he consults on Governance and Strategic Planning.

**Dr. Verena Tunnicliffe** (Board Member, New Marine Centre Society)

Verena Tunnicliffe is a Professor of Marine Biology at the University of Victoria where she holds a Canada Research Chair in Deep Oceans. Her research programs focus on life in extreme environments such as low oxygen, high currents, hot vents and subsea volcanoes. She has made over 120-manned submersible dives, developed deep-sea remotely operated technologies, and led or joined over 50 deep-sea exploration missions around the world. Discoveries range from over 60 new species to novel subsea communities – some at our Sidney doorstep. She is also Director of the VENUS Project: the Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea. This cabled observatory is the first in the world to link both researchers and the public to the ocean through arrays of instruments on the seafloor. An important part of Verena's work is to connect the Canadian public to its oceans through outreach and public education. Research and developments of her laboratory, students and the VENUS Team are frequent media topics. In particular, deep-sea visuals are highly compelling and her images have appeared in books, magazines, and visual media around the world.