

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.

Tina Kelly (Visitor Experience Director)

Growing up in Saanich, Tina spent long hours on the beaches of Cordova Bay. She often accompanied her father on sports fishing trips with the anticipation of encountering marine mammals. Tina pursued her love of marine life and graduated with a BSc in Biology, from the University of Victoria; her undergraduate coursework included a summer studying at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre. Following her graduation, she moved on to help with research projects in Canada, the United States and Australia. These projects included researching the current taxonomic standing of marine invertebrates, studying Dall's porpoise in the San Juan Islands, interning for a manatee conservation program and monitoring Humpback whale migration in the South Pacific.

Tina learned early on that in a tough job market volunteer work was an integral part of career development. What started as a work experience necessity quickly turned into a passion for volunteerism. Her volunteer history includes a seabird sanctuary in Florida, a wildlife sanctuary in New Zealand, and many years in the Natural History Collections at the Royal BC Museum. Tina is a self-professed museum, nature and marine enthusiast who truly believes that life is about having new experiences and continued learning rather than material possessions.

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Our Ocean Lives Here

Paula Romagosa (Aquarist)

Paula was born and raised in Quito, Ecuador. She moved to Canada in 1999 to study at the University of Victoria, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Biology. Paula completed her school work terms at the Victoria Bug Zoo as a tour guide and animal caretaker. After University, she returned to Ecuador for six months for an internship at a local zoo, where she trained in animal enrichment and husbandry, and as a veterinary assistant. Upon her return to Victoria in 2004, Paula started working as a teaching assistant to Dr. Bill Austin at the Sidney Marine Ecology Centre. At age 23, she was promoted to Marine Educator and was responsible for all of the Centre's animals, life support systems, marine education, staff training and more. She aided several research projects on Sponges of the North East Pacific while working with Dr. Austin. When the Marine Ecology Centre closed its doors in 2009, Paula was quickly recruited as an Aquarist at the new Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre. She is passionate about animal care and sharing her knowledge with volunteers and visitors.

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 Ocean 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 Benchler 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.