

4th September, 2026

Dear Club Member(s)

Nominations for Officers and Committee of the club closed at 4pm on August 28th

* Please note: In accordance with the new constitution, and the agreed rules of transition, as passed at last year's AGM, three committee members are not up for re-election, and will retain their positions for the 2026-27 year. The constitution allows for a total of 6 committee members, **including** the President and Vice president.

Three (3) additional committee members are required. The voting form, information about the candidates and voting instructions are available if you click on this link [here](#)

Family memberships with 2 adult members can return 2 voting forms (one each), individual Senior memberships can return one vote, as can each of life or honorary members. Juniors are not eligible to vote.

If you don't want to click on the link, or don't have a printer, voting forms are available from the office in the club between 9am-4pm on weekdays. Voting closes at 4pm on Friday September 26th.

As per the constitution, the voting paper is to be enclosed in a sealed envelope AND MUST HAVE your name as the voter printed clearly on the outside of the flap of the envelope. Failure to follow these instructions will result in your vote becoming invalid

We have a voting box here in the office during office hours, or at the bar after 3pm if you would like to personally put your voting paper/s in.

Voting papers can also be mailed to PO Box 150, Whitianga 3542

Alternatively, correctly filled in voting papers may be scanned and emailed to manager@mbgfc.co.nz prior to 1600hrs on 25.09.2026. The name of the voter must be clearly stated within the email so as to ensure there is no confusion as to who is casting the vote.

Thanks,
Alan

MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB INC
VOTING PAPER 2026-27
COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

CANDIDATES:

NOTE: These positions/people are not up for re-election as specified in our Constitution:

Patron:	will be	John Neighbours
President:	will be	Doug Ray
Vice President:	will be	Tim Hennessey
One Committee	will be	Diana Andrews

These positions/people are who we are voting for this year. Committee members (3)

Committee Members (3 more required)

Drew Edwards
Mark Franklin
Isreal Fussell
Colleen Jaques
Lisa-Marie Yeeles

To be eligible to vote a member **MUST BE FINANCIAL.**

The voter must strike out the name of any candidate for whom the voter **DOES NOT** wish to vote for.

THREE (3) committee members are required.

YOU MUST STRIKE OUT AT LEAST TWO (2) NAMES FOR COMMITTEE.

As per the constitution, the voting paper is to be enclosed in a sealed envelope **AND MUST HAVE** your **full** name as the voter **printed clearly** on the outside of the flap of the envelope.

Please return your voting paper to: (or drop into the fishing club)
Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Inc
PO Box 150, Whitianga 3510

on or before 1600hrs, Friday 25th September 2026

Alternatively, correctly filled in voting papers may be scanned and emailed to manager@mbgfc.co.nz prior to 1600hrs on 25.09.2026. The name of the voter must be clearly stated within the email so as to ensure there is no confusion as to who is casting the vote.

Failure to follow **ANY OF** these instructions will result in your vote becoming invalid.



Drew Edwards **Nominated by:** Lisa Marie Yeeles **Seconded by:** Maria Edwards

I am a 58-year-old local businessman. My wife Maria and I moved back to Whitianga 18 months ago for family reasons. My family has had property in Whitianga since 1965, originally as a holiday home but have been living here for 30 years.

After leaving the Navy I drove charter boats in the Mediterranean and Asia, Whitianga and Northland.

I First joined the club in 1984, while living in Whitianga served on the committee around 1997.

I have also served on the committee of the Whangaroa club when I worked at King Fish Lodge.

I consider myself to be a knowledgeable and experienced fisher person.

Our business has provided a lot of sponsorship to the club. I think that the club has of late been through a bad patch. As a regular in the Club, I know what other members talk about and think, and I would love to be a part of a team to bring the club back to its former glory.



Mark Franklin **Nominated by:** Rachelle Proctor **Seconded by:** Scott Farrell

I am a very enthusiastic fisherman, enjoying both offshore and inshore fishing.

I have served on the Committee for the past five years. I am also a Weighmaster and the Convenor of several tournaments, including the Trailer Boat Tournament, No Bait Tournament, Offshore Classic and Snapper Tournament. I also organised and convened the 100yr Centennial Fishing Competition February 2025. I enjoy organising these events, working with sponsors and helping promote fishing within the club while continuing the club's long and proud fishing history.

As well as the above, over the past year, I have been working behind the scenes to help improve the clubrooms and make them a place we can all be proud of. I have been an integral part of getting our new trophy cabinet made and installed, which is a great addition to the club and provides a fitting place to showcase the achievements and history of our members.

We have a great club with 100 years of history and huge potential. I believe there is a real opportunity to continue improving the clubrooms, updating their look and making the best use of the space. I am keen to be part of that process and contribute wherever I can.

The clubrooms are a real focal point in Mercury Bay and have a great atmosphere. I always encourage people to visit, join the club and enjoy what we have to offer.

I would like to continue working as a Committee member, contributing my time, experience and enthusiasm, continuing to build strong relationships with our sponsors and working with them to support and promote the club, and helping to keep the club moving in the right fishing direction.



Isreal Fussell Nominated by: Caroline Franklin Seconded by: Bruce McCluskey

Fishing has always been a big part of my life, and I enjoy pretty much every category of fishing – from chasing marlin and tuna offshore, through to snapper, kingfish, softbaiting, and simply getting out on the water with family and mates. For me, fishing is as much about the people, stories and friendships as it is about what ends up on the scales.

I'm currently a Weighmaster for the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club and also a Committee Member, with much of my focus being around club events, member involvement and finding new ways to bring people together. I enjoy being involved behind the scenes and helping create events that give members another reason to come down and enjoy the Club.

Outside the Club, I run Lifestyle Home Designs, but more importantly I'm husband to Sarah and Dad to Ella and Liam. Many of you will already know Ella, our wonderful Bar Manager, so the Club has certainly become a family affair for us.

My dream is to see Mercury Bay continue to be not only the fishing club with the best members, but a Club that becomes a real focal point for Whitianga and the wider community.

Part of that vision is to modernise the Club physically, improving the look and feel of the building and making better use of the spaces we have. I'd like to see a Club that looks inviting from the outside, works well inside, and is somewhere members, families, locals and visitors genuinely want to spend time.

We have a fantastic Club, a proud history and huge potential. I'd love to have the opportunity to continue on the Committee, build on what we already have, and help shape an even stronger Club for the future.



Colleen Jaques **Nominated by:** Drew Edwards **Seconded by:** Lisa Marie Yeeles

Our family have been regular holiday makers in Whitianga for over 30 years and recently my husband, Damian, and I decided to build a house on the waterways and retire here. We have been residents for 5 years, the best decision we ever made.

I have been a member of the MBGFC for over 20 years and enjoy the Thursday night activities and fishing events. I have volunteered in setting up the back area for fishing tournaments, was involved with the crafting of the new constitution (including typing the new document) and helped with the 2025 Yearbook.

My long career (25 years as a Primary School teacher, 13 years as a Principal, 8 years as an Education Consultant in the Middle East, and since retiring, 3 years as Manager of the NZ Timber Museum) has helped me develop many skills. These skills include strong people skills, management ability and financial management acumen, all of which would be very useful as a Fishing Club Committee Member.

I would love to see the fishing club continue to develop into a thriving, busy venue for the many members with "fishing" as the core value.



Lisa-Marie Yeeles **Nominated by:** Drew Edwards **Seconded by:** Debbie Buddle

I have been an avid angler for over 50 years, with a keen interest in both ocean and freshwater fishing. However, my true passion lies in gamefishing. I joined the MBGFC in 2017 to connect with local, like-minded fishers and to join family members who belong to the club. Over the past few years, I have actively participated in numerous tournaments. I also helped organize and run the Ladies' Tournament for two years, which allowed me to build strong friendships and get to know many of our members.

I want to join the committee to help strengthen our local fishing community and give back to the club that has given me so many great experiences. I am particularly interested in increasing youth participation, improving tournament organization, and enhancing member

communication. Focusing on these areas will make our club even more vibrant, inclusive, and engaged.

With a background in project management, administration, business. I bring strong skills in organization, communication, and sharp attention to detail.

I can actively contribute by helping to organize club events and tournaments, assisting with social media and outreach to attract new members. Supporting fundraising efforts to bring fresh energy and resources to the club.

Other Information Outside of fishing, I enjoy spending time with my two beautiful dogs, Mack and Shyloh, and indulging my lifelong obsession with the ocean. I am excited about the possibility of contributing to the future of MBGFC and look forward to the opportunity to work with the committee.