

Media Release
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Brett Mason Appointed as Director of the Museum of Wellington City & Sea

The Wellington Museum Trust's chief executive, John Gilberthorpe, announced today the appointment of Brett Mason as the director of the Museum of Wellington City & Sea.

Mr Mason, who has been a performance artist, has had extensive experience in arts administration and publishing having held a number of positions in Wellington's cultural sector, including management roles with signature events on New Zealand's arts calendar.

After completing his studies in publishing, he assisted in the marketing of the New Zealand International Arts Festival for three festivals, was the marketing manager for Chamber Music New Zealand, and worked at the New Zealand International Film Festival before joining the Wellington Museums Trust in 2001.

He was originally appointed to the position of joint marketing manager for the Museum and Capital E. However, after doing the combined role for two years he moved to the Museum fulltime as the marketing and public programmes Manager.

In April of this year he was appointed acting director of the museum on the retirement of Paul Thompson.

Mr Gilberthorpe said: "As the marketing and public programmes manager Brett was instrumental in developing the highly successful winter public programme season and he conceived and curated the exhibition *Innocents Abroad – Touring the Pacific through a colonial lens* for the 2006 New Zealand International Arts Festival. This innovative and unique installation of Burton Bros photographs from 1884 of Fiji, Samoa and Tonga was developed in collaboration with the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. After a critically acclaimed season at the museum the exhibition is touring nine venues nationwide.

"Brett has already proved himself an asset to the Trust as we fulfil our role as leaders in the cultural development of Wellington by maintaining and enhancing its status as New Zealand's ultimate arts and heritage city," Mr Gilberthorpe said.

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