

## **Minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Mahurangi East Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc. held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am at Scott House**

### **Present:**

Chairman: Stuart Windross

Secretary: Colin Harvey

Treasurer: Mark Croft

### **In attendance:**

40 residents, ratepayers and members of the MERRA committee

Local board member Greg Sayers

### **Apologies:**

Mark Topping                      Roger and Mara Harvey                      Tony and Carol Smith

Mari Ann Moss                      Bruce Trethewey                      Beth Houbrooke

Linda and John Pinder                      Denis and Daylene Bygrave                      Penny Webster

### **Address by Richard Didsbury**

Richard Didsbury of Brick Bay Sculpture park and Matakana Market gave an interesting address in which he explained his passion for seeing sensible development in the Warkworth area which he contrasted with several Auckland City developments (including Sylvia Park Megamall) that he has been involved with. He gave his views on the Super City issue that he sees an inevitable – given the ever increasing growth of Auckland City and has concerns that careful planning is essential if errors due to over-enthusiastic expansion are to be avoided. As part of a committee looking at alternative harbours for Auckland City he considered that although the Mahurangi was listed as an option he thought it highly unlikely that it would even receive a second look because infrastructure costs would be totally prohibitive.

### **Minutes of the Previous AGM**

As the minutes had been on the website for the past 12 months without comment, the meeting approved the minutes as a correct record

### **Chairperson's Report: Stuart Windross**

1. Stuart welcomed the members and the elected local representative Greg Sayers and acknowledged the support and hard work of the committee and during the past year and their part in the significant benefits achieved for the area.
2. He also acknowledged the work of those members of the committee who we have lost during the year. Particularly Mark Iles our treasurer who sadly passed away on 27 August. Also Denis Willers who we co-opted back for part of 2015 and Geoff Johnston who resigned prior to his move to Sandspit late last year. Their contribution was recognised by acclamation.

3. Stuart thanked Peter Seers (Civil Defence Coordinator) for agreeing to co-opt onto the committee and to Mark Croft for offering to take over as acting treasurer and his subsequent work in amalgamating the MERRA financial and membership databases.
4. Those who have supported the community in various associated ways were thanked including: work on the MERRA website (by the stalwart John Waugh), fire party (Murray Smith), Neighbourhood Support, Civil Defence (Stuart acknowledged the contribution of Jan and Brian Fanning as well as their wasp control work), Pest weed and animal control, Annual Rubbish Clean-up (13 September organised by Rob Munro), and many other selfless contributions. Stuart invited members to be in touch if able to assist in any way with any of the above (or other) areas.
5. Stuart recapped on the infrastructural improvements achieved by MERRA over the past year including:
  - a. The intensive tree trimming and electrical upgrade that MERRA initiated with Vector that was completed early this term and has proved beneficial with noticeably improved resilience of supply and the 4 new fuses used effectively to more quickly isolate faults to one sector.
  - b. Intensive and on-going work with Chorus resulting in a direct fibre connection from Algies Bay to the Charles St cabinet (estimated >\$1m) and a 7 fold increase in broadband speeds south of 109 Ridge Road. Those who have opted for VDSL upgrades have had a 20 fold increase in speeds. We continue to liaise with Chorus who advise that there is plenty of VDSL capacity in the cabinet (currently 60% utilisation of ports with 10-14 days required to add more if required). 24 residents north of 109 Ridge have registered interest in direct fibre connection and should expect an indication of costs shortly. Working with Penny Webster, Jim Quinn (Ak Council), MBIE, Mark Mitchell and Amy Adams we have agreement that Scotts Landing will be considered with Snells and Algies (priority #6/16) when Auckland Council's case for Rural Broadband Initiative spend is considered by Government for RBI round 2.
  - c. MERRA has persisted in its dialogue with Auckland Transport, Ak Council Parks, and contractors Treescape and Downer in delivering the recent road upgrades resealing (and minor extension beyond 23 Ridge Rd), "rediscovery" and clearance/repair of the many local walking tracks and reserve areas that had been lost and abandoned in transition to Auckland Council. While pleased with work done there are still a number of outstanding matters. MERRA will need to ensure they stay on the Council's radar.
6. Animal Pest Control from Mark Croft:
  - a. MERRA established 2 new bait runs this year to form a 'chemical barrier' from coast to coast just prior to the 's' bend on Ridge Rd
  - b. MERRA bolstered its stock of Timms traps this year. These can be deployed at residents properties where possums may be active
  - c. MERRA continues to enjoy the support of Auckland Council bio security office at Wenderholm.
  - d. Very little possum activity in the last 12 months - the animal pests issues are mainly rabbit related and of course, the ongoing war on rodents and mustelids.
  - e. MERRA made a submission to Auckland Council's 10 years pest management plan which is currently under review.

7. MERRA has twice formally queried delays and more recently made a submission in support of the Governments Hauraki Gulf Recreational Fishing Park proposal along the lines canvassed in the newsletters.
8. MERRA has written to the Minister of Treaty Settlements seeking clarification and consultation about the Mahurangi East Scenic Reserve (behind Scott House) potentially being included in a treaty settlement package.
9. MERRA proposes holding a mid-winter social gathering, another welcome for new residents and some neighbourhood presentations on interest topics. The first is solar electrical installations... a show of hands indicated interest in proceeding with this.
10. Finally Stuart announced he was stepping down as Chair at the meeting in line with an agreement when he accepted nomination last year that we should share the responsibility around.

Stuart also sincerely thanked Janette Iles for all her hard work in plant pest control over the period of more than twenty years on the peninsula.

### **Neighborhood Support and Civil Defence**

Susan Beer and Peter Seers gave a comprehensive update on the years activities. Susan stated that the number of permanent residents has increased from around 30% two years ago to almost 50% in 2016.

### **Plant Pests**

Janette Iles gave a summary of her work during the year and stressed the need for individual residents to take greater control of their properties and adjoining land if it unoccupied. The trend is for Council to do less and place the responsibility back on residents.

### **Harbourmaster**

There was no report from Jim Farnell who was not present at the meeting.

### **Elected Representative Report**

Greg Sayers thanked the Chairman for the invitation to speak and spoke about the difficulties and problems of trying to get adequate support from the Councillors in Auckland. He urged the committee to continue pressuring the Council to ensure that MERRA gets its fair share of the rates that are paid.

### **Financial Report**

Mark Croft presented audited accounts for the 2015-6 year (audited by Roger Harvey) and stated that the intention is to have a list of assets with annual depreciation taken into accounts so that MERRA can plan for replacement and renewal of assets.

MAHURANGI EAST RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION  
**Financial report for the year ended 31 March 2016**

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
	Subscriptions	1,292.00	890.00
	Interest	179.00	259.00
	Raffle/Donations	45.00	45.00
	Sundry	19.00	-
		<b>1,535.00</b>	<b>1,194.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
	Maintenance Civil Defence Gear	381.00	82.00
	Barbecue - Net after meat sales	368.00	471.00
	Barbecue Gas	-	36.00
	Sundry Exp Gifts	248.00	-
	Pest Control	188.00	-
	Fire trailer maintenance	46.00	-
		<b>1,231.00</b>	<b>589.00</b>
	Cash Surplus This Year	304.00	605.00
	Current Year write off of assets	288.00	288.00
	<b>Net surplus added to value of MERRA</b>	<b>16.00</b>	<b>317.00</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>			
	Value of MERRA as at end of prior Year	8,509.00	8,192.00
	Add net income above	16.00	317.00
	New value of MERRA	8,525.00	8,509.00
	<b>Represented by</b>		
	Bank Accounts	7,006.00	7,164.00
	Other Assets (see Assets below)	1,519.00	1,807.00

	Liabilities	-	462.00
	<b>Net Equity of MERRA</b>	<b>8,525.00</b>	<b>8,509.00</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>ASSETS - depreciation 2016 year</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Write Off</b>
	Fire Trailer	1,000.00	134.00
	Community Notice Board	200.00	26.00
	2 Folding Gazebos	100.00	45.00
	5KVA Stanley Generator	591.00	66.00
	Road Trailer	204.00	17.00
		<b>2,095.00</b>	<b>288.00</b>

#### **Auditors report**

I have carried out an examination of the computerised records together with the Bank Statements and supporting documentation. I am satisfied that accurate records of the receipts and payments of MERRA for the year ended 31 March 2016 have been maintained.

Roger Harvey  
17th April, 2016

#### **Subscriptions**

Mark C proposed that the annual subscriptions be raised from \$10 per household to \$12.

This motion was seconded by Colin Harvey and approved by acclamation.

#### **Election of Officers:**

Stuart Windross announced his intention to step down as Chairman and proposed that Mark Croft be elected to the role. Mark agreed to the nomination which was proposed and seconded from the floor. Mark was unanimously elected.

Colin Harvey agreed to continue as secretary. He was nominated seconded and elected.

Mark Croft stood down as Treasurer but Susan Jelich agreed to stand and was nominated seconded and elected.

Seven residents agree to be nominated for the committee. They were proposed and seconded and elected. The seven are:

Susan Beer

David Legg

Heather Mackay

Chris Russell

Peter Seers

Mark Topping

Stuart Windross

The meeting closed at 12.03pm