

**Minutes of the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Mahurangi East Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc. held 10.30 am Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Scott House**

**Present:**

Chairman: Stuart Windross  
Treasurer: Susan Jelichich  
Secretary: Heather Mackay

**In Attendance:**

40 residents, ratepayers and MERRA committee members

Local Board member: Beth Houlbrooke

Chairman Stuart Windross welcomed all to the meeting and requested further apologies

**Apologies:**

Colin Harvey	Nick and Jan Burberry King	Nick Dibley
Clarissa Gould- Thorpe	Garth and Dot Lamb	Councillor Greg Sayers

**The Chair asked Mark Croft to introduce our guest speakers Gill and Kevin Adshead trustees of the Forest Bridge Trust.** They outlined the growth of the trust which began in 2006 with the conversion of some of their farmland on the Kaipara back to native bush and home now to kiwi. Pest control to rid property of possums, rats, stoats which meant they were able to release kiwi in 2013/4/5. Kiwi need about 10,000 hectares to have a self-sustaining population which was the reason why the trust was formed also to provide support for farmers who genuinely wanted to improve the health of the land and harbours. Aim is to have a green corridor from coast to coast, fenced riparian margins, fenced natural bush areas and efficient pest control approximately 95000 hectares resulting from collaboration with landowners. The Trust has trained over 460 people in pest control and has 3 paid pest control advisers who visit landowners and give advice. The trust will help and advise Mahurangi East to become pest free (if that is our goal) by assisting with a strategy, workshop and advice.

Mark Croft thanked Gill and Kevin and said he hoped the area would have a long and successful association with the Forest Bridge Trust.

**Address by Elected Council Representatives**

**Local Board Representative Beth Houlbrooke** was welcomed by the chair and invited to update residents on the work of the Local Board. Beth said that it was good to see the impact that the Forest Bridge Trust is having in the community as it is supported by the Local Board. The Local Board has cut back on smaller community grants which are largely environmental and had decided to put \$250,000 into riparian fencing and planting with widespread community support the Local Board goal of 5000 square metres is now 30000 square metres in this financial year. The Point Wells and Omaha pest control programs have just been funded by the Local Board.

The focus of her talk was about the Rodney Local Boards proposed targeted rate for Rodney to replace the current interim transport levy which has an end date of 30 June 2018. The regional fuel tax is not designed to fund the projects that the Local Board wants to spend the targeted rate on sealing roads and building footpaths. Over 1000 submissions and two additional fuel taxes to take into consideration before voting on this rate. Questions from the floor were about the ring-fencing of the rate, the obligations of Council to keep to their commitments in the area and for how long the rate would be applied were answered. A straw poll of residents was against the implementation of this rate.

Gerrard Merrick spoke of the volume of roadside rubbish and unmown berm edges to which Beth replied that as with all areas that are not being correctly maintained it needs to be logged at Council. If they are not addressed, then forward to the Local Body.

The Chair thanked Beth for her update and attendance.

#### **Minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> AGM 2017.**

The Chair moved that the minutes of the 2017 AGM posted on the website ([www.scottslanding.org](http://www.scottslanding.org)) were taken as read.

Dennis Willers / Mark Croft

Carried

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

##### **Committee Meetings:**

The committee has met bi-monthly throughout the year focussed as always on projects and events of benefit to our local community. As chair I have been well supported by committee members, and of course by Heather Mackay as Secretary and Susan Jelichich as Treasurer.

##### **Events:**

Sticking with tradition the MERRA committee has successfully held the annual BBQ, the New Year's Day cricket match, and the annual clean up over the past year. I would like to sincerely thank the committee members who took the lead for each event and of course to you as residents for your attendance and support.

##### **Newsletters:**

The committee has continued its quarterly newsletters to residents with access via the MERRA website ([www.scottslanding.org](http://www.scottslanding.org)). We value keeping you informed and appreciate those who run off a hard copy for neighbours without internet access.

##### **Projects:**

The committee once again has been busy with a multitude of projects...

**Scotts Landing Sign:** managed by me and complete except for a permanent backing to the lettering, this project has been well documented in newsletters as a tale of two halves. Fantastic local support and generosity of time and materials has contrasted with delays and frustrations particularly in dealing with Auckland Transport. Never the less we now have a striking sign marking the entrance to our rural and coastal settlement; one that references both local Maori and European history and the Mahurangi's strong maritime tradition. A fuller background statement is on the MERRA website including permanent acknowledgement of members of the sign working group, donors of expertise and materials, and working bee members. Particular thanks go to Alan Seelye and Jude Nye for spearheading the design, David Legg for being my right-hand man, the Local Board for its \$2000 grant, and to everyone who contributed, donned work boots and hi-viz, or offered encouragement and appreciation.

**Ngaio Bay clean up:** The major thrust for MERRA's Plant Pest team has been fortnightly volunteer working bees to clear a jungle of invasive species and replant the Ngaio Bay reserve in partnership with Council. The area is beginning to show the benefit of all the hard work by Heather Mackay and Alan Seelye, Susan Beer, Colin Harvey, Mark Croft, Chris Russell and others. Unfortunately, the recent poisoning of large macrocarpas on the foreshore delivered both an eyesore and a future threat to safety and land stability. MERRA will work with Council, the volunteers, and nearby residents to seek a positive resolution. As per the newsletter Chris Russell does a great job supporting residents with advice and materials for weed control.

**Little Library:** Initiated, actioned and monitored by Susan Beer this project has proved very much appreciated and well used.

**Noticeboard/bus shelter:** A current project is the enhancement of the noticeboard to offer better shelter both for children awaiting the school bus and for the noticeboard itself. This will tie in with future plans to develop an historical trail with improved signage and documentation of local points of interest.

**Ultrafast broadband (UFB) for Scotts Landing:** The long-term work we have done with Chorus to improve broadband service will culminate in direct fibre connection being available for all Scotts Landing properties before 2022. Connection south of 310 Ridge Rd will be free. This reversal of previous positions flows from MERRA's success in getting fibre to the Charles St cabinet and subsequent extensive lobbying for similarly improved services north of 107 Ridge Road. More information is available on the MERRA website.

**Website transition and re-platform:** John Waugh whose dedicated work over many years has been the backbone of the MERRA website has stepped back from that role. Mark Croft has worked with John to ensure a smooth transition, developing a new look website operating on a new platform and host with much of the original content integrated or successfully transferred. Mark Topping has assisted with editing historical material. I have acknowledged Mark Croft's work above but it is fitting to acknowledge John Waugh's huge contribution of countless hours, exceptional patience and extensive research and writing. (A presentation will be made to John on behalf of the community).

**Community Response Group:** MERRA's CRG has helped 'encourage' Auckland Council to rethink its relationship with Community Response Groups. Council has stepped back from its initial intention to cut ties with local groups in terms of training and funding. Peter Seers (our CRG coordinator) has taken a lead in this, bringing together 11 East Rodney CRGs to pilot a coordinating structure that allows Council to liaise with and assist local groups more effectively. Peter will update you on CRG matters at the close of the meeting and his GRG group will host a light lunch for you.

**Neighbourhood Support:** Led by Susan Beer and her team of street coordinators the Neighbourhood Support Group continues its good work in promoting security and connectedness in the area. This year there have been major incidents on the peninsula.

Two garages were broken into, one in May and the other in Nov. Significant gear was taken. (Boat and Trailer at one place and a LUV- Mule at another as well as an assortment of builder's and garden tools. Then more recently a Jet Ski stolen from a garage in March. Some of these events happened during the day which would indicate whoever has been watching the properties and the movements of the residents. The waterfront has been much quieter this year with one dinghy stolen from Schoolhouse Bay in Dec. A launch in Ngaio Bay was broken into the night of Jan 1 and used as a party venue with all food and liquor taken leaving a mess behind. The Police did catch a suspect from the fingerprints.

Boatwatch which was started over a year ago has made a difference with the presence of the Maritime Police patrolling the area occasionally. Incidents are down from 2016. Mark Topping will be taking over the coordination of the Boatwatch group.

One of the most disturbing incident to happen this year has been the poisoning of three Macrocarpa trees on the Ngaio Bay Reserve in front of #19 and #43 Ridge Rd. They have drill holes around the trunks and were noticed turning brown the end of Feb. This makes a future hazardous situation not only for the people using the beach and volunteers working to replant the area but for land stability and the environment.

NS will be working with the CRG to fine tune the procedures in an emergency event with the St. Coordinators being an important part of the communication network. There are 7 new residents this year which brings the total new residents since 2015 to 38.

**Fire Party:** Led by Bill Townson, the fire party meets monthly to practise deployment of the fire trailer and getting the pump and fire hose operational in a matter of minutes. Having proven a saviour in the past, the trailer provides a first response pending the arrival of the fire service. In the event of a fire dial 111 first then contact a member of the fire party. If you haven't got a copy handy, download a copy of MERRA's emergency numbers from the "Information->Essentials" pages on the website.

**Roading, walkways and toilets:** We are advised retaining work should be starting within days near 449 Ridge Road. If you notice the traffic lights are not working correctly (as seems to happen frequently) please report it as a safety hazard on \*555.

We are monitoring track and reserve maintenance which seems to reset to zero after each change of jurisdiction or contractor. We will follow up with Council accordingly.

MERRA is stepping up attempts to get some action on the toilets at Scott Point that have now been closed for over a year. It is inexplicable that Council as both the proprietor and regulatory body is so slow at effecting this repair. Meanwhile the cost to ratepayers of hiring poorly maintained and often disgusting portaloos continues!

**Animal Pest Control:** Coordinated and supported by Mark Croft MERRA volunteers continue with their programme of laying bait for possum and rodent control across the peninsular. Further to the recent newsletter and the guest speakers today we are looking forward to building our partnership with the Forest Bridge Trust and their assistance with

enhancing our trapping and baiting programme. We are excited about updating our pest control strategy to reflect the best practice they promote.  
Our sincere thanks go to Kevin and Gill for their generous support.

**Historic Cemetery:** We are liaising with Presbyterian Church to better maintain the historic Mahurangi Heads cemetery on the site of the historic local church destroyed by Cyclone Bola in 1988. We wish the church luck with its heritage grant application and trust that we can initiate a thorough clean-up that can be followed by more regular maintenance perhaps involving community input.

**We invite all of you to assist MERRA in its various projects... if you are not already doing so and are able to help out on projects such as the Ngaio Bay or cemetery, pest control, fire party, construction, CRG or Neighbourhood Support please do let us know. We would love to have you join us.**

**Finally, I would like to thank once again all the committee and the many many residents who have supported MERRA over the past year. We appreciate your support and input (and of course your subscriptions/donations that we endeavour to spend frugally and wisely).**

Acceptance of the Chairperson's Report      Mona Townson/Peter Speers      Carried

Mark Croft thanked the Chairman for his leadership and support on behalf of the committee and the residents and ratepayers, approved by acclamation.

The Chairman asked the Treasurer Susan Jelichich to present the audited financial accounts.

#### **MAHURANGI EAST RESIDENT AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

Financial Report for the year ended 31 March 2018

<b>Income</b>		2018	2017
	Donations	842	
	Interest	160	183
	Subscriptions	1068	1726
	Sundry	55	0
		<b>2125</b>	<b>1909</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
	Advertising	194	
	Barbecue / Catering	293	611
	Depreciation	180	159
	Fire Trailer Maintenance	161	
	Maintenance		46
	Pest Control	0	0
	Subscriptions	166	
	Sundry Expenses	37	142
	Website	645	
		<b>1675</b>	<b>958</b>
	Operating Profit	450	951
	Council and Community Grant	2000	

	Net Profit	<b>2450</b>	<b>951</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>			
	Value of MERRA as at March 2017	9455	8505
	Current Year Earnings	2450	950
	New Value	<b>11905</b>	<b>9455</b>
	Represented By		
	Bank Accounts	9002	10095
	Fixed Assets	2544	1360
	Less prepay Website Renewal	593	
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>12139</b>	<b>11455</b>
	Liabilities – 2019 Subs / Bus Shelter Funds	234	2000
	<b>Net Equity of MERRA</b>	<b>11905</b>	<b>9455</b>

### Auditors Report

I have carried out an Audit of the financial results of MERRA for the year ended March 2018.

This included a spot checks of the Receipts and Payments records for the year, I am satisfied accurate records have been maintained; the Xero Accounting system works well. Depreciation as ever continues an inexact tool to accurately measure the amount of wear and tear of the Assets yet the written down value of the fixed assets of MERRA I consider correct.

The format of these Accounts meets the criteria of MERRA to give an informative picture of the year's activities.

Roger Harvey  
28<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Accept Financial Report

Chair

Carried

### Subscriptions 2017/2018

Not addressed

### Election of Officers

As nominations matched the number of available positions the following are elected with affirmation for 2018/2019 with ability to co-opt as required.

Chairperson	Mark Croft
Honorary Secretary	Heather Mackay
Honorary Treasurer	Susan Jelich

MERRA Executive Committee

Stuart Windross

Anna Friend

George Ireland

David Legg

Chris Russell

Peter Seers

**General Business**

Nil

The meeting closed at 11.51am