

Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting of the Mahurangi East Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc. held 10.30 am Sunday 02nd May 2021 at Scott House

Present:

Chairman: Peter Seers
Treasurer: Susan Jelichich
Secretary: Heather Mackay

Attending:

39 Residents, Ratepayers and MERRA committee members

Chairman Peter Seers welcomed all to the meeting and went through the housekeeping required for a meeting hosted in Scott House. Apologies as received and from the meeting.

Apologies:

Mona Townson	Dave & Heather Sidders	Janine Peters & Nigel Varcoe
Greg & Geraldine Kasper	Nick and Jan Burberry -King	John Taylor
Jim & Sue Cleland	Ingrid & Matthew Buchanan	Michael Drewer
Roger & Mara Harvey	Craig & Christine Maskell	Gerard Merrick

The Chair introduced Kaipara ki Mahurangi Minister of Parliament Chris Penk to the meeting and invited him to speak. He congratulated the meeting on having an active and engaged community which helps to get things done in the area. Chris acknowledged Beth Houlbrooke as being a great asset to our Local Board for which there are similar geographical boundaries. He introduced himself personally and as a 2nd term opposition MP. A lawyer immediately prior to entering Parliament he is the shadow Attorney General and the opposition spokesperson for Veteran Affairs and for Courts. He is most passionate about being a local MP and has a good working relationship with the local Labour list MP. For local issues he is aware of communication – mobile/internet and transport concerns. From the floor it was raised that we are not well served for ambulances and the Government should be funding the ambulance service so that we can trust their immediate availability. Hill Street and the Matakana – Sandspit link road which impact accessibility greatly. Chris replied that the motorway, link road and Hill Street would be actioned in that sequence. The transport forum is a good alliance of organisations helpful in getting the ‘complete’ picture.

The Chair thanked Chris Penk for speaking at the meeting and his interest in local issues.

The Chair introduced Beth Houlbrooke from the Rodney Local Board and thanked her for being accessible, attending MERRA committee meetings and invited her to speak. Beth said that Central and Local Government personnel are representing the same group of people thanks to the boundary changes. Hill Street does not fit well with the current priorities (safety, freight connections, climate change, walking and cycling) so difficult to get traction with this project which realistically will be actioned late 2022/3 dependant on funding. Council has (almost) acquired the additional land for the Mahurangi Regional Park it is not anticipated there will be public access before June/July of this year. Larissa Cherie will have a community meeting about access when the purchase has been completed. Mahurangi (East) Land Restoration (MELR) project was launched in mid-April. The local board has been working in many areas – healthy harbours and waterways, forestry ambassador programme, restore East Rodney project which is networked pest control, Hauraki Gulf - Marine protection and water quality has resulted in the sealing of the Ti Point Road. Ridge Road is not

dissimilar to the Ti Point Road with run-off entering the harbour. A new look at an old project the unsealed roads improvement program where instead of sealing all problem roads looking at what needs to happen to improve them and trying to appropriately source funding to make that happen.

Minutes of the 51st AGM 2020.

The Chair moved that the minutes of the 2020 AGM posted on the website (www.scottslanding.org) were a true and accurate record of the meeting. Peter Seers / Colin Harvey Carried

Chairperson's Report: Peter Seers

Mahurangi East Residents and Ratepayers Association Chairpersons report for the year ended 31st March 2021.

INTRODUCTION

This has been an unusual and testing year due to covid restrictions. Over the past year the MERRA Committee have worked hard to keep our community well informed through our website, newsletters and communications through our Neighbourhood Support network.

MERRA COMMITTEE

Your MERRA Committee hold bi-monthly meetings to manage portfolios and to further projects considered important to our community. I will give a brief update on these portfolios. MERRA committee members support each other, and our community and we divide tasks between us all. The following report is testament to their continuing hard work.

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

Broadband

Commencing this report on any other portfolio would be remiss of me based on the change that this will make to our way of life here. Our thanks go to Stuart Windross for personally championing the installation of our Broadband service. This has been a project of Stuarts for the 8 years I have been here. It appears to be at last coming to completion. Thanks Stuart.

Fire Team

MERRA thanks Bill Townson for his many years of service to the fire trailer team. Bill has been an active member of MERRA team over the last 100 years. Bill proved very difficult to replace, but with Ken Jordan now residing in the area and Kens rural fire history, he is the perfect candidate to continue this excellent work. Welcome Ken. The fire team meets regularly to extinguish fires and seeks volunteers to attend as we cannot plan who will be here in the event of a fire so we all need to be able to assist. Our fire team is NOT the replacement for calling 111, however I suggest you also call us as we will first to your fire. Please ensure that you print out the list of fire contacts from our website when you get home. Thanks, Bill, for your many years of dedication and service to our community.

Local Historical (Walking) Trail and Seating in Public Spaces

This has been a project for a few years and our intent is that people can walk our wonderful peninsula and rest on our seats. We have manufactured four of these bench seats with additional materials for a further two held. These seats match the Scotts Landing sign and the bus shelter, incorporating Corten steel ends featuring the distinctive 'telltale' logo. The first two seats are installed at the historic cemetery and the community garden in Young St. Locals and visitors to each bench can access the relevant historical commentary on their device by scanning the QR code and reading about the history of the area as it relates to the particular view in front of them.

Animal Pest Control

MERRA's animal pests control programme is coordinated by Mark Croft involving a collective of dedicated people who diligently maintain bait stations and trap lines across the peninsula. MERRA thanks all the volunteers involved in this programme for their superb efforts. Our stated goal is still to be predator free by 2023.

Our programme has seen over one hundred animal pests dispatched since the last AGM via the trap lines including 60 rats, 13 mice, 6 Possums (four at the border), 14 stoats, 3 weasels and a smattering of rabbits and hedgehogs.

MERRA maintains a strong animal pest programme along the northern border targeting possums particularly but also rats and mustelids. Special thanks go out to Kevin Riley and Steve Moore who constantly monitor our activity there on a weekly basis. Very few possums make it past the border and those that do don't get to live long so we are still relatively possum free.

Our rabbit population appears to be benefitting from reductions in other predatory species. MERRA owns two live rabbit traps and will loan these traps and also traps for feral cats and magpies to all member residents at no charge for a four-week period.

MERRA encourages all residents to use the Pest Reporting page on the MERRA website to tell us about sightings or other events concerning animal pests so we can be well informed of things going on. If you want to join the effort to make our part of paradise animal pest free or book a trap, use the contact us page via the MERRA website. A little effort by everyone is all it takes. There is a considerable amount of information on our website about our trapping program and I encourage you to view this.

If you want to join the effort to make our part of paradise animal pest free, please contact us via the MERRA website. A little effort by everyone is all it takes.

Plant Pest Control

Each year we undertake projects on council reserves, public spaces and walkways. MERRA supports residents to control or eliminate plant pests and can provide chemicals, guidance and support. We acknowledge the help, support and guidance from Larissa Cherrie our resident Auckland Council Park Ranger, and MERRA volunteers who assist with the clearing

of plant pests, mainly escapees from residential gardens. THANK YOU to Chris Russell and his volunteers.

We remind Scotts Landing residents the importance of all of us doing our bit to control plant pests on our own properties and surrounding areas like reserves and berms etc.

We are always looking for good keen people to help even if only from time to time to make this goal a reality and target a working session with the Ranger and volunteers the last Friday of each month.

Roading and Walkways

MERRA has been in recent contact with Auckland Transport on a number of matters with limited success. We continue contact and occasionally have the odd win. our recent requests have been answered with the placement of several additional “50” speed limit signs to bring drivers awareness to the speed limits in our residential area.

This may be news to you, there is a Slip on Ridge Road above Baileys Cottage driveway. MERRA understands that the last section of Ridge Road will be sealed as part of this reconstruction work, along with the carpark area and marked parking spaces with disabled parking allocation as well. This is also beneficial in that it will reduce sediment runoff into the Mahurangi. This work will also result in the reconstruction of the cliff-side drains above this slip to avoid further damage.

Waste by Rail

MERRA lodged our objection last year then presented our substantial submission to the independent commissioners for the resource consent hearing in December 2020. The hearing closed and the decision has been deferred but we expect to hear shortly. You are invited to read the issue which is posted on the MERRA website.

Neighbourhood Support

Thanks to Clarissa Gould-Thorpe who has managed the role of Neighbourhood Support Coordinator this past year, and the wonderful group of dedicated Street Coordinators managing the MERRA communication tree and keeping all residents in contact with each other. This is a very important part of MERRAs connection to our community from providing an annual welcome morning tea to new residents, to communicating with residents and providing information and assistance to those in need.

We remind residents to be vigilant with parcels and post. There have been indications that porch pirates are operating in our area. These are people following the postie and collecting your parcels. Please notify the police and NS and please record number plates with a photo if possible.

Scott House

MERRA thanks Auckland Council for the use of Scott House today, as it is about to be closed for earthquake strengthening and remedial works which will start in a week or two. This is the reason our AGM was brought forward to today. Please keep away from the chimneys until after this work is completed.

Community Response Group

MERRA and Auckland Council have worked together (sometimes not seeing eye to eye) and have resolved that Parks will supply our MERRA CRG with a storage container at Ferguson House for the storage of our emergency equipment and radios. In the meantime, we have maintained our weekly radio checks and are working with Mahurangi West on an idea of a local radio network in the event of an emergency.

Website

The website continues to be a source of information for residents and visitors of matters concerning the peninsular, plus upcoming and recently staged events. There is also a treasure trove of information relating to the history of Scotts Landing, updated again this year as new information came to hand. Among other updates, Pandemic articles were added to ensure that information was available to residents in one location. Thanks to Lindsay Crocker for maintaining this on our behalf.

Mahurangi Cemetery

MERRA has representation on the trust that owns the cemetery which gives us an interest and a voice there. We have a Heritage Trail Seat located at the cemetery and I encourage anyone who has not visited to do so. We have obtained approval from the trust to install signage at the cemetery in keeping with our Scotts Landing design. This signage should be installed this year.

Honorary Scotts Landing Harbourmaster

This role has been disestablished by Auckland Council. All contact now must be to Auckland Harbourmaster.

Boat Watch

We have an active boat watch group operating all around our peninsula. This group helps ensure boats and boaties are safe around our area.

Mahurangi East Land Restoration project

This is a Mahurangi river wide project and MERRA have a team attending meetings and supporting our area. This is a project to enhance the waterway and will provide funding and support to remedy waterfront erosion, runoff and planting projects.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of our current committee for their efforts and support through the past year.

My thanks to our Secretary Heather Mackay, Treasurer Susan Jelich, and committee members Mark Croft, Stuart Windross, Chris Russell, Lindsay Crocker, Clarissa Gould-Thorpe, Colin Harvey and David Legg, and also to our co-opted members Barry Mein, George Ireland and Craig Maskell who were co-opted to support us with their skills during the year.

Events

Scotts Landing has a strong and connected community making it a wonderful place to live. There are many local events and if you wish to know more, please use our contact us page on our website.

Fishing Competition

Covid upset our plans for the inaugural MERRA Scotts Landing Fishing Competition however informal and unofficial competitions were run through the "Beer O'clock" group and was entirely land based and Lockdown compliant. Entry was by donation and the prize was the winners name engraved on the trophy. Please check the Website details of our next competition to be held this spring.

MERRA Annual BBQ

Covid upset our plans for our popular annual MERRA BBQ which we were sadly forced to cancel this year. This is a very popular event for Scotts Landing and we look forward to next year's BBQ.

MERRA Annual local Rubbish drive

Each year we walk the waterfront and roads collecting rubbish. Next year this will be held just after Easter weekend 2022.

There are several other events and gatherings I wish to mention.

- Te Kapa Sailing regatta this is an annual regatta held over summer each year. Thanks to Jon Wisker and Linda Trainer for re-establishing this old event... It is now a hard-fought competition and a fixture on our calendars.
- Beer & Wine o'clock happens every Friday at 5pm and is a way of finishing the week with good company.
- Young St Community garden
- For any events, please contact us on our contacts page on our website.

merra.chair@gmail.com

<https://scottslanding.org/>

Chairs Report moved to be accepted by Peter Seers Seconded by Barry Mein

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

Financial Report prepared and presented by Susan Jelichich.

MAHURANGI EAST RESIDENT AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Financial Report for the year ended 31 March 2020

Income		2021	2020
	Donations	1465	1094
	Interest	36	125
	Subscriptions	1248	1068
	Sundry/Sales - Events	90	367
	Sponsorship	200	100
	Council and Community Grants	550	250
	Less Cost of Sales (Community Signage)		(47)
		3589	2957
Expenditure			
	Printing/Stationery	0	11
	Barbecue / Catering	24	706
	Depreciation	316	316
	Fire Trailer Maintenance	65	0
	Maintenance	40	40
	Pest Control	198	0
	Subscriptions	194	165
	Sundry Expenses	(2)	20
	Website	460	299
	Neighbourhood Support	596	0
	Operating Expenses	1890	1558
	Net Profit	1699	1399
Balance Sheet			
	Value of MERRA as at March 31st	14886	13487
	Current Year Earnings	1699	1399
	New Value	16585	14886
	Represented By		
	Bank Accounts	10842	10478
	Fixed Assets	5684	4215
	Less prepay Website Renewal	237	356
	Total Assets	16762	15048
	Liabilities – Revenue received in advance	177	162
	Net Equity of MERRA	16585	14886

Auditors Report

REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF MERRA

I have completed an examination of the records of MERRA for the year ending 31st March 2021. My congratulations to the committee on another excellent year. I believe the statement of accounts reflecting the operating profit of \$1699.19 and a balance sheet net asset of \$16585.07 correctly record and reflects the financial results of the organisation for the year ending 31st March 2021.

Roger Harvey
25 April 2021

Once again, thanks to Roger Harvey for auditing the accounts.

Subscriptions 2020/2021

MERRA Treasurer Susan Jelich recommended that the current subscription (\$12) be retained.

	Susan Jelich /Peter Seers	Carried
Accept Financial Report	Susan Jelich /Peter Seers	Carried

General Business

Bill Townson mentioned a lack of Kereru in his immediate neighbourhood consensus was that this was not the case for other parts of the community.

Attention was brought to the increased slumping in areas of Ridge Road. It was suggested that residents lodge areas of concern with Auckland Council and copy to Beth Houlbrooke.

Jan Fanning said that the sides of the roads have not been very well looked after for the last year or so. In her opinion it is not being done often enough. Susan Beer called AT directly and was given a case number and it was mown within a short period of time. Council will provide support if not resident's or infirm owners but within the 50km speed zone the berm is the responsibility of the residents.

Beth Houlbrooke said that both Auckland Council and Auckland Transport have an area on their website where you can report issues – contact us- report an issue- you upload a form and get a reference so that it can be tracked. If dissatisfied forward to Beth who will follow up.

Election of Officers

Nominations matched available positions the following being elected with affirmation for 2021/2022 with ability to co-opt as required.

Chairperson	Peter Seers
Honorary Treasurer	Susan Jelich
Honorary Secretary	Heather Mackay

MERRA Executive Committee

Stuart Windross	Clarissa Gould-Thorpe
Lindsay Crocker	Colin Harvey
David Legg	Suzette Eastmond
Chris Russell	

The meeting sincerely thanked Mark Croft for his contribution to the MERRA committee over the past several years but will be seconded for his wonderful work with pest control.

Bill Townson was presented with a framed drawing of his property done by Roger Harvey as recognition from the community for his many years of service. He has held most of the roles on the MERRA committee and has lobbied widely for our community. He was one of the initiators of the original Scotts Landing jetty and has recently retired after many years being responsible for the fire team. The chair thanked Bill for his dedicated commitment to the community.

The meeting closed at 11.53 am.