

Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting of the Mahurangi East Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc. held 10.30 am Sunday 01 May 2022 at Scott House

Present:

Acting Chair: Stuart Windross
Treasurer: Susan Jelichich
Secretary: Heather Mackay

Attending:

28 Residents, Ratepayers and MERRA committee members

Acting Chair Stuart Windross welcomed all to the meeting including invited guests Johnathon Green from NX2 motorway project, Beth Houlbrooke from the Rodney Local Board and Greg Sayers from Auckland Council. Stuart mentioned that he was acting as Chair for Peter Seers away visiting family and covered both Covid meeting protocols and expressed hope that this meeting may be the recommencing of covid cancelled community events. He noted with sadness the passing of Dennis Willers and Bruce Scoggins in the past year. He acknowledged their contribution to MERRA and the community and offered condolences to their families.

Apologies as received and from the meeting.

Apologies:

Mona Townson	Dayle and Dennis Bygrave	Suzette Eastmond
Barry Mein	Peter and Derryn Seers	Mark Croft
Clarissa Gould-Thorpe	Joy Paxton	Bruce Trethewey
Mara Harvey	Gerrard Merrick	Jude Nye

The Chair introduced Johnathon Green who has a Key Relationships manager role with the NX2 Puhoi to Warkworth motorway project to the meeting and invited him to speak. Johnathon spoke of his upbringing in the area and previous involvement in an unsuccessful tender for this project. Since joining Fletcher-Acciona he was an environmental manager for 3.5 years prior to moving into Key Relationships. He outlined the delivery stages and said there are at least 166 work completion tests for greater than 1200 construction packages. Johnathon gave an update for the status of the project stating that delays are mostly because of supply issues. We were shown video of the project flyover from February 2022, he said the March flyover was looking sad due to the very heavy rainfall that the region was subject to in March. He advised of motorway switching projects as tasks near completion and showed video of an asphaltting machine that can cover a wide span and operate continuously at slow walking pace delivering more consistent product. Questions from the floor included whether the extension to Wellsford would go ahead and he replied that land purchases are taking place for this to happen. The Chair thanked Johnathon for his presentation which was well presented and received.

The Chair introduced Beth Houlbrooke from the Rodney Local Board and thanked her for being accessible, showing interest in MERRA committee meetings and invited her to speak. Beth said that MERRA has had a successful year making progress with the seating project and the sea-wall refurbishment at Scotts Landing. She advised of Local Board work on the Parks Management Plan to be released in June 2022. This is a stocktake of all park and reserve areas not under the control of DOC or Regional Parks and will determine the future use of all green and open spaces in the area.

Beth acknowledged MERRA's written submission to the Regional Parks Act saying feedback is being deliberated on currently. We confirmed that MERRA intends to make a verbal submission. The Annual Budget is also happening now. The Local Board is approached by Government Agencies when they need local knowledge for Infrastructure projects, They collaborate with the supporting growth alliance who are responsible for doing the business cases for large infrastructure projects such as the Southern Interchange, Warkworth Park and Ride, Western Connector, Sandspit Road and the wider link road. An interesting task for the Local Board is the approval of new road names. Detailed design is happening for the Hill St intersection. The Transport hub project is close to completion and the Local Board has completed 22 footpath projects across Rodney with about 10 more to be approved at the next business meeting.

The Chair thanked Beth for this update and because of time constraints we agreed to hold questions until after Greg Sayers had addressed the meeting.

Greg Sayers spoke briefly of Council issues - proposed changes to rates for climate change and rubbish collection and others changes such as 3 waters reform and Sandspit Road which will impact all residents. He said that he has met with all the mayoral candidates and given them the same spiel and a pack of documents showing management of the region and issues specific to our area. Greg also spoke of requesting the introduction of an Independent Services and Performance Auditor funded by our rates to be a watchdog on Auckland Council spending as suggested when the Supercity was founded.

Questions were fielded about the roading to and lack of mobility parking outside the toilet block at the Landing. MERRA has requested a mobility impaired parking space close to the toilets previously but even as required by Council it has not happened. It is not known if either the resealing project or the seawall refurbishment will result in improvements to the parking area at the Landing.

The illegal parking on the left-hand side of the road was also raised making the road very narrow and dangerous. Beth said that if you call (09 355553) for AT enforcement you may get tickets issued if there is an officer in the area. Greg warned that Auckland Council finances having nearly a billion dollar deficit may cause a deferment of projects. The 'fixing' of the undulations on Sandspit Road being an example of same and will be in the next financial year commencing 1/7/22.

The Chair thanked both Greg and Beth and wished them well in the upcoming elections.

Minutes of the 52nd AGM 2020.

The Chair moved that the minutes of the 2021 AGM posted on the website (www.scottslanding.org) were a true and accurate record of the meeting. Stuart Windross / Colin Harvey Carried

Chairperson's Report: Peter Seers

Mahurangi East Residents and Ratepayers Association Chairpersons report for the year ended 31st March 2022.

Introduction

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

Recent Passings

Sadly, we lost two long term residents and past MERRA members over the past year. Denis Willers was a long serving past secretary of MERRA and introduced many concepts to MERRA which continue today. Bruce Scoggins was a previous Chair and long term secondee to MERRA whose work extended also beyond our peninsula. On behalf of MERRA and our community I extend our appreciation for their commitment to our community and our heartfelt condolences to their families and loved ones.

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

Our thanks go to Stuart Windross for personally championing the installation of our Broadband service. This has been a project of Stuarts for 8 years. It has now been installed and is available to all residents. Thanks Stuart.

Fire Team

MERRA thanks Ken Jordan for his management of the fire trailer team over the past year. The fire team meets regularly to practice 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 arrive first to your fire. Please ensure that you print out the list of fire contacts from our website when you get home. Thanks, Ken, for your service to our community.

Local Historical (Walking) Trail and Seating in Public Spaces.

This has been a project for several years and our intent is that residents and visitors alike can walk our wonderful peninsula and rest on the benches and using the QR code access an online history related to the view in front of them. We have manufactured six of these bench seats for installation. These seats match the Scotts Landing sign and the bus shelter, incorporating corten steel ends featuring the distinctive 'telldail' logo. The first two seats are installed at the historic cemetery and the community garden in Young St. A further two are scheduled to be installed at the Point and in Ngaio Bay in conjunction with Council

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 peninsular. 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 97 trapped animal pests dispatched since the last AGM via the trap lines including 64 rats, 4 mice, 4 Possums, 17 stoats, 7 weasels and a smattering of other species. Based on

the bait uptake, we also calculate that over a thousand rodents had their last meal at one of MERRA's bait stations during the year.

MERRA's work on DOC land (Mahurangi Scenic Reserve, Casnell Island and Burton Wells) encountered a strong head wind during the year with work having to stop since November 2021 while DOC takes us through a lengthy process of reapplying to work on their land. We hope to resume this programme in the coming months.

MERRA has all but moved its tracking of animal pest results onto the TrapNZ network which ties our results into the national predator free effort.

MERRA maintains a strong animal pest programme along the northern border targeting possums 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 do not get to live long so we are still relatively possum free.

Our rabbit population is benefitting from reductions in other predatory species. MERRA owns two live rabbit traps and will loan these traps and 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.

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, target a working session with the Ranger, and volunteers the last Friday of each month. If you are interested, please use the contact us page via the MERRA website

Roading and Walkways

MERRA continues to contact with Auckland Transport on various matters with limited success. We occasionally have the odd win with some additional signage and minor repairs being undertaken this year.

Ridge Rd unsealed runoff pilot project

For the past 5 years MERRA have been trying to have the slip repaired and the unsealed part of the road made safer. We proposed to the Healthy Waters team that the unsealed road be used as a Pilot project to reduce sediment runoff into the harbour, and we have been successful in this. We await the start of this innovative project which will realign the road and mitigate sediment runoff by rectifying

the poor surface and drainage. We expect to be involved in sampling and review of the changes and will report progress on our website.

Areas Susceptible to Coastal Erosion Mapping

Council's online publication of this mapping caused resident concern and was subject to alarmist press coverage mentioning inundation and insurance/valuation risks in areas like ours. After reviewing the underlying report and ascertaining the potential for significant local inaccuracies in the initial mapping, MERRA met with the Council Coastal Team and was successful in getting the following caveat attached to the mapping. We urge residents to use and share it, as necessary.

*This ASCIE mapping should **not** be used for the assessment of the erosion susceptibility of individual properties. As a 'first-pass' assessment it may include significant inaccuracies at localised levels. Assessment of individual properties (e.g., for consenting, valuation, and insurance purposes) should be based on a site-specific (Level C) geotechnical assessment prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced practitioner.*

A proposal that MERRA work with the coastal team on guidelines for coastal landowners that would support and enable more cost-effective and consistent foreshore protection and erosion control (involving a pilot project with a group of interested landowners) was less successful. We are keen to keep this offer open as changes to the RMA occur.

Scott Point Seawall Rebuild

The seawall is being rebuilt to reduce runoff and erosion. There will be a new formed seawall constructed to replace the existing failing tipped rock structure. One of our heritage trail benches has been approved for installation in a prominent position at the southern end which will enjoy wide views of the harbour. There will be a fence structure to provide safety which was a requirement of the permit, but we hope this will be like the fence on the jetty. Merra has provided input into this project, and we expect to have delineated trailer parking on the eastern side. We have also asked for a disability park as requested by a local resident.

Security Cameras

Thanks to the support of the community through your generous donations, MERRA has successfully purchased and installed a sophisticated number plate recognition camera which is now operational and will be supported by other more basic cameras. Spark have provided MERRA with a commercial fixed wireless modem. We propose a scattering of cameras that will discourage the kinds of thefts that plagued us recently. Thanks to Stuart Windross, Craig Maskell and Simon Gould-Thorpe for their work on this project. Should you have a need to access legitimate information which may be caught on camera contact Stuart Windross in the first instance.

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 for new

residents (Covid permitting), to communicating with residents and providing information and assistance to those in need.

Unfortunately, due to covid restrictions we have not been able to host our annual BBQ or New Resident morning teas this past year, we hope to be able to hold these again this coming year

Community Response Group

MERRA thanks Auckland Emergency Management for providing a storage container for the storage of our emergency equipment and radios. We continue our weekly Civil Defense radio checks with our radio which is now portable and can be operated anywhere on mains power or vehicle battery.

Website

MERRA website continues to be a source of information for residents and visitors of matters concerning the peninsula, plus upcoming, and recently staged events. There is also a treasure trove of information relating to the history of Scotts Landing, updated continuously as new information comes 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 Bench located at the cemetery and I encourage anyone who has not visited to do so. We obtained approval from the trust to install signage at the cemetery in keeping with our Scotts Landing design. This signage was installed last year.

Boat Watch

We have an active boat watch group operating in the Mahurangi which is strongly supported by the Police. This group helps ensure boats, boaties, properties and residents are safe around our area and tracks suspicious activity.

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. Suzette Eastmond and Colin Harvey are heading our planting initiative which will provide council funded native plants for residents to plant on private land. Their application appears to have been successful with the final property inspections being undertaken and around 2,000 plants will be provided this year to residents. We plan for this to be an ongoing project over the coming 4-5 years and suggest that anyone wanting more information email us via our "contact us" link on our website www.scottslanding.org

There are several non-MERRA events and gatherings I wish to mention.

- Te Kapa Sailing regatta this is an annual regatta held over summer each year. Thanks to Jon Whisker and Linda Trainer for re-establishing this old event... It is now a hard-fought competition and a fixture on our calendars.
- Young St Community Garden – an active gardening group meet weekly to ensure the community garden is thriving. Intended for residents to help themselves and should you wish to volunteer we meet for a couple of hours in favourable weather on Monday mornings.

My special thanks to Mark Croft who has left the committee but is still heading our pest control and is strongly involved in our community activities. Mark has provided years of support and guidance to

MERRA as Chair and a committee member. We have this gift to represent appreciation for his past and ongoing service to the community.

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

Scott House

MERRA thanks Auckland Council for the use of Scott House today

Chairs Report moved to be accepted by Stuart Windross / Heather Mackay

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

MAHURANGI EAST RESIDENT AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

MERRA Financial Report 31 March 2022

The financial accounts for the year ending March 2022 have been prepared by Susan Jelichich and are summarised in the following manner:

Statement of Account

Total income of \$6,705.86

- Donations of \$5,580.00 - of which \$3,688.00 was for the Security Camera and \$1,892.00 for general donations which is still an increase of \$427.00 on last year
- Interest \$21.86 – decrease of \$14.18 on last year
- Subscriptions \$1,104 – 92 membership subscriptions received down by 12 on last year
- Sponsorship or Council Community Grants - NIL

The total operation expenses were: \$2,037.28

- Catering \$185.50 - Reimbursement of AGM / CRG luncheon May 2021
- Depreciation \$744.32
- Fire Trailer & Equipment \$259.58 – New fire hose and fittings
- General Expenses – \$44.00 costs for gift to resident as appreciation for work done over many years
- Plant & Pest Control - \$213.27 Markers, Flagging Tape, Hardware
- Repairs & Maintenance \$34.32 – Fastenings for Security Camera
- Subscriptions \$165.60- Annual renewal for Xero Software
- Website Expenses \$390.69 - Domain Name, Licence and Hosting

Net Surplus \$4,668.58

Balance Sheet

Net Assets: 21,254 - Represented by

- Bank Account combined Balance Total - \$12,732.22 - 00 Acct \$5, 224.54 and Saving Acct \$7,507.68
- Prepayments: \$119 - one year remaining of 5 Year Website Domain Name Renewal
- Fixed Assets: \$8,793 - additions of Security Camera

Total Liabilities: \$390

- MERRA 2022-2023 Subscriptions received in advance - \$224
- Accrual of \$166 to be rolled back 1st of April

Total Equity \$21,254

Auditors Report

I have completed an examination of the accounting records of Merra for the year ended 31 March 2022.

I believe the Statement of Accounts reflecting an operating profit of \$4,669 and the Balance Sheet net Assets of \$21,254 correctly records and reflects the financial results of the organisation for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Roger Harvey

April 2022

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

Subscriptions 2022/23

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

	Susan Jelich /Colin Harvey	Carried
Accept Financial Report	Susan Jelich /Colin Harvey	Carried

It was suggested from the floor that MERRA budget for the next 4-5 years and ensure that future subscription levels will cover budgeted items.

The Chair sincerely thanked Susan Jelich for her contribution to MERRA over several years as Treasurer.

General Business

Bill Townson mentioned that MERRA should investigate the installation of a community wide alarm system.

Election of Officers 2022/23

Susan Jelich (Treasurer) and David Legg have resigned their positions and were sincerely thanked for their efforts and contribution to MERRA.

Nominations matched available positions the following being elected with affirmation for 2022/2023 with ability to co-opt as required.

Chairperson	Peter Seers
Honorary Treasurer	(Vacant Position)
Honorary Secretary	Heather Mackay

MERRA Executive Committee

Stuart Windross	Clarissa Gould-Thorpe
Lindsay Crocker	Colin Harvey
Chris Russell	Suzette Eastmond
Annie Bradley	

The meeting closed at 12.20 pm.