



Community Newsletter from the Committee of the Mahurangi East Residents & Ratepayers Association (MERRA)

July 2025

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Meeting to approve new MERRA Constitution



As part of the requirements to re-register as an incorporated society, MERRA needs to adopt a new Constitution to replace its current Rules. A draft constitution was published in May for members to review, and following some minor amendments the MERRA Committee has now finalised the draft to the point where it is ready for formal adoption.

A Special General Meeting to adopt the new Constitution will be held at 5:00pm on Friday 11 July 2025, at Rosedale, 9 Charles Street, followed by BYO drinks and nibbles. [Click here](#) for a copy of the proposed Constitution.

If you have any comments on the Constitution that you wish to be considered at the meeting, please email these to merrasecretary@gmail.com no later than **4 July 2025** so that they can be circulated to members in advance.

2025/26 MERRA Committee

The recent MERRA Annual General Meeting elected the following Committee members for the 2025/26 year:

- Barry Mein (Chair)
- Heather Mackay (Secretary)
- Chris Bradley
- Mike Brooker
- Craig Maskill
- Emily Raffills
- Michele Revell
- Chris Russell

We are pleased to report that Debbie Mickelborough has agreed to be co-opted back on to the Committee as Treasurer.

The Committee had its first meeting of the year on 8 June, and will be meeting bi-monthly during the year. We aim to prepare a newsletter after each meeting to update the community on the matters that we have been discussed.

Subscriptions Reminder



A big thanks to those who have already paid their MERRA subscription for the 2025/26 year, and to those who have also generously made a donation.

To renew your membership, or to join if you are not already a member, please make your payment direct to our bank account (Mahurangi East Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc; account number: 02-0480-0033353-000 - BNZ Warkworth). Please include your street address as a reference. As always, we appreciate any additional amount that you may wish to donate.

The annual subscription is just \$20 per household. Subscriptions and donations enable MERRA to continue its work to support our Scott's Landing community through activities such as fire and emergency response, animal and plant pest control, and community advocacy. Financial members also benefit from free entry to the annual MERRA picnic.

Security Camera Update



Thanks to Stuart Windross and Blake and the team from Image Analytics Pacific Ltd who have spent a significant amount of time recently fixing bugs in MERRA's security camera system, returning it to full operation.

The system records all vehicles entering and exiting the settlement and can store up to 100,000 high definition images with decoded plate numbers. In the event of an incident we can download and view/search images for vehicles of interest for referral to the police.

In the event of a theft or burglary, first notify the police and then email merra.events@gmail.com with details that may help identify possible vehicles of interest (particularly approximate timings).

Mahurangi Harbour Pollution Concerns



In response to recent concerns about sewage overflows and effluent disposal from boats into the Mahurangi Harbour, MERRA has written to Mayor Wayne Brown and Watercare Chairperson Geoff Hunt to express our concern at the lack of enforcement and the need for urgent action to protect the water quality of our harbour.

We pointed out what we see as an unacceptable contradiction. On the one hand, residents are required to have their septic systems professionally inspected every 6 months, a provision which is rigorously enforced. But on the other hand, we are witnessing increasing instances of untreated sewage being disposed into the Mahurangi River and Harbour from both live-aboard boaties and from overflows in Watercare's own system at Warkworth.

MERRA strongly believes that the Council must hold itself, Watercare and live-aboard boaties to the same standards it enforces insistently for our land-based residents. We have therefore formally requested that:

- The Council enforces fair mechanisms for monitoring and compliance of both live-aboard and land-based sewage systems.
- Council/Watercare hold themselves to the same standards as private sewage systems and take action to halt sewage outfalls into the Mahurangi immediately.
- The Council undertakes regular tests of water quality in the Mahurangi Harbour and notifies the community of any risks to swimming, fishing or other recreational use of the Harbour.

A reply has been received from Watercare Chair Geoff Hunt, who advises that the Warkworth north-west growth servicing pipeline - which will make the biggest difference in terms of reducing overflows to the Mahurangi River - is currently in the design phase and will be completed in 2028. In the meantime, short-term improvements are being implemented, including:

- work to replace three sections of pipe on Elizabeth Street with a larger pipe. This is due to be operational by mid-August and is expected to significantly reduce overflows;
- installing retention tanks at the water treatment plant to capture backwash generated during the treatment process;
- additional signage at Scotts Landing and Dawson's Creek to advise the public of water quality issues. This will be installed in the next two weeks.