



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

May 2025

www.scottslanding.org

Draft Constitution Available for Comment



The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 requires MERRA to re-register as an incorporated society no later than 30 April 2026 or it will cease to exist as a legally recognised entity. A resolution to re-register was approved at the MERRA AGM on 4 May 2025.

Re-registration also requires MERRA to adopt a Constitution to replace its current Rules. The MERRA Committee has spent significant time and effort drafting a constitution that meets the requirements of the new Act, and which updates MERRA's processes to meet its current needs. We have developed the Draft to a point that we are now able to share it with the wider membership.

[Click here for a copy of the Draft](#). We encourage MERRA members to take a look and provide us with any feedback so that we are able to formally approve it as soon as possible. Please send any comments to merrasecretary@gmail.com no later than 4 June 2025 to allow the Committee to consider them.

We are aiming to hold a special general meeting in July to approve the Constitution, which will then allow us to lodge our application for re-registration well ahead of the 2026 deadline. Formal notice of that meeting will be issued once we have considered members' feedback.

2025 MERRA AGM



The 56th MERRA Annual General Meeting was held at Scott House on Sunday 4 May 2025. The meeting included a guest presentation from Paul Steinkamp of Kawau Volunteer Coastguard, and update from Ken Jordan on the local Scotts Landing fire team activities, and a talk from Joy Paxton on how to recognise, remove and dispose of moth plant (see details below).

The meeting minutes will be posted to our website (www.scottslanding.org) as soon as they are available. In the meantime, you can read the [Chair's annual report](#) and the 2024/25 [Financial Report](#). The meeting also resolved to re-register MERRA as an incorporated society as required under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

It was agreed that membership subscriptions should remain at \$20 per property for the 2025/26 year. A subscription notice will be issued shortly with details on how to make your payment.

The following Committee members were also elected 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 still on the lookout for a Treasurer for 2025/26. If you think you can assist, please email merrasecretary@gmail.com

The meeting concluded with morning tea - thanks to Helen Russell for organising this.

Help Stamp Out Moth Plant



Joy Paxton gave our recent AGM a useful insight into the need for us to be on the lookout for moth plant, which is a highly invasive pest plant, has been recently found on new sites at Scotts Landing, choking mature native trees.

What is moth plant?

[Moth plant](#) (*Araujia hortorum*) is a woody vine that can grow up to 10 metres high, has sticky white sap, smothers native vegetation, and produces large choko-like seed pods (see links below and photo above).

How does it grow and spread?

Moth plant is a fast-growing perennial vine, which grows in three main stages: a. individual seedlings, (up to 30 cm); b. flowering mature vines spreading along the ground, choking mature native trees; and c. fruiting vines (multiple large pods) found on mature trees. The pods contain thousands of parachute-like seeds which are spread by the wind when pods ripen and burst. Pods have been also seen floating in the tide.

How can the spread be controlled?

- Individual plant removal plant by plant by hand; pulling young seedlings as soon as discovered.
- Pulling out plants and root systems carefully when soil is soft.
- Cutting and removing pods, tracing vine back to source, cutting and removing the vine.

Seasons and stages are important indicators for identification and control. Seedlings grow and vines spread year-round, and flower from December to March. Pods form from March to May.

How to dispose of the plants and pods?

Carefully bag the plant material, and seal bags ready for disposal. Auckland Council recommends sending moth plant to landfill.

What is MERRA doing to control the spread?

The MERRA Environmental Team is asking ratepayers and residents to **advise us if you notice or suspect Moth Plant on your property or on a nearby vacant property**, or if you need support to identify, remove or dispose of plants. Please email us at merra.events@gmail.com.

MERRA will monitor Moth Plant notifications and investigate to see if there is a need for more community help and support and update our community. Please act soon, as mature pods are often the easiest to spot and can be seen now (April-May) before fully ripening and bursting.

More details are available in the following links:

[Tiaki Tamaki Makaurau - Conservation Auckland site](#)

[Northland Regional Council site](#)

Rubbish Reminder



A reminder our rubbish collection service will be changing in September, and new 120 litre wheelie bins will be delivered to all households from 30 June. For more details on the new arrangements, visit the [Auckland Council website](#).

If you want a larger (240 litre) or smaller (80 litre) bin, or if you want to you use rubbish bags instead, you need to request this before 18 May 2025.

- To choose a larger (240 litre) or smaller (80 litre) bin, [click here](#)
- To request bags instead of a bin, email ruralrefusebags@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz by 18 May 2025