



MERRA Newsletter – December, 2016

Welcome to Summer..!

Broadband

We have circulated residents north of the Charles Street green box about their fibre connection options. Quotes have been actioned, and once these are received by residents, they will have a good idea of potential costs to connect to the fibre running past their front gate. It will then be up to individual homeowners to make their own decisions.



Meanwhile, we continue to wait for the outcome of the Rural Broadband initiative to progress.

Annual Cleanup day

A big thank you to all the residents who showed up on November 13th to help make Scotts Landing beautiful again. A big haul of rubbish was collected. Thank you to Auckland Council for disposing of the rubbish as part of their regular collection. Thanks also to David Legg for coordinating the event and for he and Jude Nye for hosting a shared lunch at their home.

Neighbourhood Support

'Tis the season to be watchful, especially of your land stored water toys. Ideally, these should be secured and away from waterways or view. Boaties are encouraged to keep a look out for each other's craft and to report any suspicious activity on or nearby.

More people, boats and vehicles will be around and most just going about enjoying the amenity. Let's just be vigilant for the exception who might be looking to take off with your stuff.

Community Response Group

Please contact Peter Seers peter@seers.me or 021 37 38 35 or 09 425 5286 if you are interested in finding out more about your local CRG (Citizen's Response Group).

Cell Phone Coverage

Our survey of residents told us that cell phone coverage is not as bad as we thought with poor signal strength isolated to small pockets of the peninsula. As such, we don't really have sufficient ammunition to take a case to the telcos for improvement.

One tip did come out of the survey and that is for Vodafone customers who have low/no signal, a device called 'Sure Signal' may boost your ability to use your phone. Here is a link to online information. <http://www.vodafone.co.nz/mobile/3g-sure-signal/>

Defibrillator

Auckland Council have agreed to fund a defibrillator for Scotts Landing. We are in discussions with Auckland Council on positioning and operating instructions. Watch out for more news and possibly a training session for those interested. A big thank you to Penny Webster for making this happen and to Auckland Council for funding it.

Fire Team

If you are unsure of your ability to light a fire, check out the Auckland Council web site and type in your address.

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/LICENCESREGULATIONS/RURALFIRE/Pages/aucklandrural.aspx>

In general, summer is the time to watch any fire very carefully and to act quickly if it gets out of control. Here is a link to the 'Fire instructions' which can be found on the MERRA website: <http://www.scottslanding.org/fire> . Please bookmark that link in your device and / or download and print off the instructions for use in the event of a fire. It would be wise to have these instructions on hand and close to the phone in case you need them in a hurry.

Our first line of fire defence is the MERRA fire team, who train regularly to be the first responder to small local fires in the period before the Fire Brigade arrives. Please ensure you call 111 first, before calling local fire team members!

If you want to join the MERRA fire team and learn how to use our first response equipment please contact Bill Townson (425-6121 or bimon@xtra.co.nz). The volunteer team trains for an hour every second month, so not much impact on your time.

Animal Pest Control

Spring and summer sees a natural increase in animal pests. The breeding season and an abundance of food can make animal pest numbers swell. If you have seen or trapped or killed an animal pest, please report it on the MERRA web site.

In the interim, you will see MERRA's band of volunteers out and about in December dropping more poison into the traps located through the community.

If you would like to talk to us about an animal pest issue at your place, please call Mark on 425-4919 or 021 632 240 or drop into 88 Ridge Road.

New Street Sign

We are happy to report that Auckland Council Local Board have given MERRA a grant to help fund a new sign marking the entrance to the settlement of Scotts Landing.

A meeting to discuss the positioning and design of the sign will be held at 117 Ridge Road at 9:30am on Sunday December 4th. There are two ways you can contribute. At the meeting (RSVP to windross@xtra.co.nz) or in writing to merrasecretary@gmail.com .

Visit by Stephen Town

Stephen Town, Chief Executive Office for Auckland City came and visited us in early November to discuss a range of topics from the rating differential for our area to the future of rural Auckland in an urban dominated Council. We were very pleased with the meeting and felt that both Stephen Town and the Committee left with a better understanding of the topics discussed.

Upcoming Events

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to put the following events in your diary:-

- + **Annual Cricket Match** at the MCG (Mahurangi Cricket Ground) – Sunday 1st January, 2017, at 2pm, weather permitting. Check the MERRA website and noticeboard on the day for a weather cancellation notice.
- + **Annual BBQ at Scott House** – Sunday 5th March, 2017
- + **MERRA Annual General Meeting at Scott House** – Sunday 30th April, 2017

That information also is available at: http://www.scottslanding.org/upcoming_events/

Everyone is welcome at these events.

Season's Greetings

The MERRA Committee wishes all of our residents and their families a happy and safe holiday season.