



## MERRA Autumn Newsletter – March, 2017

### **Broadband**

The news isn't good for residents north of 107 Ridge Rd. Our area has been omitted from the next Rural Broadband funding round while Snells Beach and Algies Bay (who already enjoy quite respectable broadband speeds) have been included. This despite high levels of assurances we would be included in this grouping.

MERRA's Stuart Windross has done an extraordinary job in pushing the case for our inclusion in the latest funding round as well as exploring other options to at least bring speed parity to all residents at Scotts Landing. Despite this setback, the work continues to get further improvements and we have already lodged a challenge to the decision to leave Scotts Landing out of this round.

### **Neighbourhood Support**

Following on from our security alert email in early January, we are pleased to say that there have been no further reports of theft.

Most of the incidents in December and early January were marine related either on the foreshore or on moored boats.

The message continues to be to keep an eye out for suspicious persons or activity and to report it through to Police and to Susan Beer.

Maritime and Warkworth police invited local neighbourhood support reps to meet onboard 'Deodar' on 28<sup>th</sup> February to involve Mahurangi Harbour residents in their boat watch programme.

On a more positive note, coming this year will be the '**Little Library**' which we hope to incorporate into a revamp of the noticeboard on the corner of Ridge Rd and Charles St. A small bench seat is also part of the plan. The library is a simple exchange idea where you 'take a book and leave a book' so our community can share the latest novel, magazine or 'how-to' manual

### **Community Response Group**

Auckland Council's Civil Defence plan appears to be changing after recent announcements were made with regard to the level of support our group might expect in the future. Local Civil Response Groups have been advised not to expect any assistance by way of funding or equipment to maintain their effectiveness in the event of disaster.

Council appears to have slashed its investment in emergency preparedness favoring a small web/mobile dependent centralised approach to emergency management.

MERRA is investigating the extent of these changes before deciding on the best course of action to be prepared for our own local emergency.

Please contact Peter Seers [peter@seers.me](mailto: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).

### **Defibrillator**

Our community now has a defibrillator in the district however due to security issues on the positioning of it, we have yet to install and commission it. Watch for further information on the use of this device and possibly a training session for those interested.

### **Fire Team**

Scotts landing survived another summer without incident at a time when the risk of fire was very high and the consequences of fire in the headlines at home and abroad. We can never take the risk of fire in our area too lightly. We are a heavily bush clad community and a fire has the potential to be devastating to many of our residents.

Please do not contemplate outdoor fires of any kind during this dry period and be vigilant of any visitor's activity on the beaches. (Gas BBQs are OK)

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

### **Animal Pest Control**

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.

### **Plant Pests**

Auckland City will provide ongoing advice, direction and assistance in a project to 'restore' the vegetation at Ngaio Bay Reserve.

We intend to have a keen group of Scotts Landing local volunteers to adopt this project. Our plan is to have a working session every couple of weeks - weather and season permitting. Stage one is to remove or control the invasive weeds. So that Auckland City can provide assistance we are restricted to weekdays.

The Ngaio Bay group will meet Thursday (fortnightly) at Ngaio Bay Boat Ramp starting at 8.30am for 2-3hrs. The first meeting will be Thursday March 16th. Sprays and paste will be provided but bring tools that may be useful and gloves.

To participate, please contact Heather (425 6684) hopefully regularly but even occasionally will help.

Speaking of weeds, a 'Weed Amnesty' will be held courtesy of the Local Board on Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Warkworth Showgrounds where you can dispose of problem weeds on your property free-of-charge. They will accept pest weeds like pampas grass, Agapanthus, Woolly Nightshade, Monkey Apple Tree, Ginger, Wattles, Phoenix Palms, Privets and Arundo grass etc. Non-pest green waste (prunings, grass clippings, etc.) won't be accepted.

### **Scotts Landing Sign**

Work progresses on the sign to mark the entrance to the settlement of Scotts Landing. With Auckland Transport's agreement, it will be located just past the S bends on Ridge Rd near the old wool shed on the left hand side of the road and just prior to the 50km sign.

As per the previous invitation, a working group of interested residents is well underway with design and planning for the sign now that funding is available from the Local Board.

It is hoped that the sign will be erected sometime towards the middle of the year.

## Web Site

Our website [www.scottslanding.org](http://www.scottslanding.org) goes from strength to strength. Visitor numbers are at an all time high and we attract visits not only from locals but nationally and internationally as well. All this due to the hard work and dedication of John Waugh.

Keep abreast of goings on at Scotts Landing by visiting the website often.

## Annual Cricket Match

The weather gods smiled on us this year and our annual cricket match was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. Approximately 50 players and supporters attended at the MCG and a great afternoon ensued.



## **Upcoming Events**

Now is the time to put the following events in your diary:-

**Annual BBQ at Scott House** – 12 noon, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at midday.

**Ngaio Bay Reserve Working Group** – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 8:30am

**MERRA Annual General Meeting at Scott House** – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 (separate notice with details to follow)

*This year's guest speaker is Adrian Feasey who is an eco-advisor working for Auckland Council and will offer an independent view on the merits of solar power. For those interested after the AGM, Adrian will also conduct a workshop and go into solar power in more detail.*

Everyone is welcome at these events.