



MERRA Newsletter – September, 2020

Your Scotts Landing News

MERRA promotes a sense of community through events, and managing projects that enhance our peninsula. Membership has its advantages. Please check our website for further information. To join, the Annual Membership is **\$12.00** per property. <https://scottslanding.org/>

Welcome to Spring under lockdown. Most planned events must be postponed until we are at level 1. Please check our website for updates on activities

Neighbourhood Support: Welcome to Clarissa Gould-Thorpe to the MERRA committee managing the Neighbourhood Support (NS) portfolio. The NS team is the first contact most people have with MERRA and our personal contact channel with our community. NS maintains a phone contact tree and works closely with our Citizens Response Group (CRG) to ensure effective communication in any time of need. Your NS person is your local contact for any support required; important information for example Medical needs or skills; a conduit for services from or to the community; and is our local knowledge store.

Masks: A massive thanks to two wonderful residents Jan and Sandra for providing us with an initial supply of masks. THANK YOU from your neighbours.

Pest Control: MERRA has Plant and Animal pest eradication programmes operated under the auspices of Auckland Council Biosecurity and with the support of our local ranger. MERRA undertakes its work with due consideration to the health and safety of our volunteers executing the program as well as considering the residents, pets, the public and the environment. MERRA uses a mix of traps and toxins targeting plant and animal pests that threaten the fauna and flora on the peninsular.

MERRA is also aware that many residents undertake their own pest programmes and want to ensure that those who do, understand the importance of using best practice to mitigate unintended consequences of their actions, particularly when using toxins. As well as advising residents using toxins to keep them in specially designed bait stations targeting the animal pest they are trying to control, MERRA would also like to remind residents that it offers a consultative service to review practices for both **Plant and Animal pests**. Anyone wanting to chat about animal or plant pest management on their property should contact us via the MERRA website contact page <https://scottslanding.org/contact/>

MERRA are actively working with other local groups to ensure a pest free Scotts Landing. Please check our website for updates or contact us from our contacts page.

Fishing Competition: (Replaces the previous annual cricket match)

2020 Spring Fishing Competition to be announced shortly...

All fishing activity must be based at or launched from Scotts Landing.

Prizegiving and BBQ at Scott House **Details TBA.**

Competition entry fee: \$10 or a bottle of wine or something you would like to receive.

Scott House: Open again after MERRA Committee consulted with the Auckland Council - There is still the earthquake risk presented by the chimneys, so please avoid the areas around the chimneys. Auckland Council have informed MERRA that they have been able to triple the renovation budget for Scott House and they expect to work closely with MERRA through the urgent repairs required and earthquake strengthening processes.

Waste by Rail: MERRA has presented their submission to the council and will present to the hearing through our representatives Stuart Windross and Barry Mein late this year.

Seating in the community and MERRA Heritage trail: MERRA has designed and obtained the materials to construct 6 community seats to be placed in the community. These seats will be erected in agreed locations (agreed by locals, local authority and MERRA). The first of these will be erected in the coming weeks at the Cemetery. Each seat will have a unique QR code which may be scanned with a mobile device and will provide commentary on the area viewed from the seat. After erecting the first seat in the cemetery we will outline our proposition for the future seats and will be in contact with those affected by or close to the proposed future seats. Our aim is to provide a guided instructional walk around our peninsula for residents and visitors to enjoy the environment and learn of the heritage.

Other things MERRA volunteers have worked hard on - you may have noticed...

- Ngaio Bay beautification, planting and plant pest reduction. This is ongoing, what a wonderful enhancement made by this group of volunteers supported by our ranger.
- Fibre Broadband coming early next year! (we are cautiously excited).

Power: There were several power surges and outages during Winter. You are reminded that when there is a brown out (lights flicker), to turn off anything that operates on a motor as they may burn out. We recommend turning off power at your switchboard. Items include sewerage systems, water pumps, fridges, freezers & air conditioners etc.

Rubbish: Reminder to residents (and their guests) to dispose of their waste in council approved bags or bins. We've noticed incidents of bags being left in common collection sites (such as at the top of Williams Street), bagged and tidy, but not in prescribed bags. Also, please ensure the council bags are left high enough to prevent animals from accessing them and tearing them open.

Upcoming Merra events:

- Spring Fishing Competition - details to be provided shortly.
- Annual neighbourhood rubbish clean-up - 8th November 9am at Charles St Bus shelter. We clean foreshore and roading areas and seek volunteers to attend please.
- Annual MERRA BBQ at Scott House 7th March 2021
- MERRA 2021 AGM 9th May 2021

Special thanks to all those residents who have made a financial contribution to MERRA via the annual subscription of \$12.00 per property and in some cases included a donation with their subscription. Your contribution assists MERRA to bring community events and enhancements to the Scotts Landing area for the enjoyment of the residents and our visitors. Please check our website for items of interest as we update this regularly with topical information.

Should you have a worthy project for MERRA, please contact use via our website <https://scottslanding.org/>