



MERRA Newsletter – Autumn, 2021

Your Scotts Landing News

MERRA promotes a sense of community through events, and managing projects that enhance your peninsula. <https://scottslanding.org/contact/>

AGM - 2nd May 2021. Scott House. Please see AGM invitation in your mailbox or email.

Neighbourhood Support: Clarissa Gould-Thorpe is the MERRA committee member 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.

Please be aware that there are “Porch Pirates” operating in our area. They follow the postie and collect items left on your doorstep. Please notify any suspicious behaviour (111 & NS).

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, Larissa. 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. We now have rabbit traps available for use. 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.

<https://scottslanding.org/contact/>

Annual MERRA BBQ: March 2021 BBQ was cancelled due to covid this year as it was not possible to ensure the safety of attendees with the Auckland community cases that we experienced at that time. We look forward to sharing your company at the next BBQ in March 2022.

Annual MERRA Fishing Competition:

The 2021 Spring Fishing Competition will be held Oct or Nov 2021. Details to be announced in our next newsletter.

Annual MERRA Neighbourhood Rubbish Clean-up – after Christmas 2021. Details to be announced in our next newsletter.

Scott House: will be closed between mid May and mid July for remedial works and earthquake strengthening works on the chimneys, which is why our AGM has been brought forward to 2nd May 2021. Please note this date as a “Must attend”.

Waste by Rail: MERRA has presented our submission to the council and to the independent hearing through our representatives Stuart Windross and Barry Mein. We will update our website when the outcome is notified.

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. The first of these were erected at the Cemetery (Ridge Rd on left past Sail sign) and community Garden (Young St). Each seat has a unique QR code which may be scanned with a mobile device and will provide commentary on the area viewed from the seat. Please see website for the proposed future seats locations. 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.

Road signage. MERRA met with council traffic engineers and we have obtained additional 50 Km/h signage on Ridge Rd and continue to campaign for better traffic management.

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 – Commencing May. Thanks to Stuart Windross for his perseverance on this project, it looks like we may all be connected by winter.
- Mahurangi East Land Restoration Project, this is in its early stages and aims to restrict sediment entering the Mahurangi. MERRA has representation on this and will update activities on our website and through future newsletters.

New Merra Fire Chief has our own fire trailer and equipment to handle most local fires. We welcome Ken Jordan who replaced Bill Townson's many years of excellent service. Many thanks, Bill. We practice every other month and are able to have water pointed at a fire within 15 minutes of the call going out. This does NOT replace you calling 111, however call us as well. Our plan is to reduce or delay a fire until the fire brigade arrive. Our fire trailer has attended to several local fires over the past few years and has successfully saved property. Thanks to all the eager volunteers. MERRA Fire contacts:

<https://scottslanding.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Fire-Team-Update-November-2019.pdf>

Honorary Harbourmaster The Auckland Council has disestablished this local position. Please now contact Auckland harbourmaster on 09 362 0397 harbourmaster@at.govt.nz.

Te Kapa laser sailing regatta: 2022 season commences November 2021. Simple rules, your laser must cost under \$1,000. Come along for a fun day with neighbours.

Residents wishing to become more involved with MERRA or our activities which are designed to make our area more enjoyable, please make contact through our website.

<https://scottslanding.org/contact/>

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.

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