



MERRA Newsletter – Spring, 2021

Your Scotts Landing News

MERRA website = <https://scottslanding.org>

Thefts and burglaries: You may have received a Neighbourhood Support email regarding recent thefts and the arrest of a prolific offender after a brilliant community roadblock (see <https://scottslanding.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/MERRA-letter-for-police-re-thefts-1.pdf>).

We urge all residents to be vigilant and report and photograph any suspicious vehicles and ensure police have details of any thefts. If you need assistance please contact your neighbourhood support coordinator or a member of the MERRA committee. Please be aware that the Mazda Bounty ute Rego: APH661 is only one vehicle of interest, the offender has apparently since been sighted in a grey/beige Toyota hatchback/people mover driven by a woman; Rego similar to **MQL389**.

We encourage that you report any theft or attempt to the local police (and your NS coordinator) as these reports ensure that police are aware of the extent of the offending and this supports your neighbours and our community.

Emergency: call 111

Call 111 and ask for Police when:

- someone is badly injured or in danger
- there's a serious risk to life or property
- **a crime is being committed and the offenders are still there or have just left**
- you've come across a major public inconvenience, such as trees blocking a highway
- **any of these things are happening now or have just happened.**

If you can't decide if it's a real emergency and you're still worried, call 111 and ask us. We'll help you work out what to do.

An emergency TXT service for people with hearing or speech difficulties is available if you have difficulty hearing or talking on the phone. You can register now for the [111 TXT service](#).

Non-emergency

The 105 non-emergency number is for things that have already happened and don't need urgent Police assistance.

105 is a nationwide, 24/ 7 service that's available via phone (105) and online (105.police.govt.nz).

Reporting online

We encourage you to go online to 105.police.govt.nz to:

- Report any situation that doesn't require immediate Police or Emergency Services attendance
- Request an update on a report already made or add to an existing report.

Number Plate Recognition Camera and signage:

MERRA is working to purchase and instal a sophisticated Number Plate Recognition camera that will capture and record the details of all vehicles entering and departing our neighbourhood. This means that should we have a theft or burglary we will be able to download time-relevant data and provide the police with vehicle photograph and registration details.

This will be a high capability piece of kit with initial costings (using local expertise to instal and monitor) coming in around \$4,000. We have a location at the entry to the peninsula which has power and security and will not be evident to vandals. We will likely install further "dummy" cameras to take the focus off the real one.

We know that our community is keen to support and contribute to this, please make your payment by direct credit into the **MERRA bank account 02-0480-0033353-00** using your "**surname**" and "**camera**" as references. Just \$50 per property would see this camera installed possibly before Christmas. **MERRA** has reinstated roadside Video Surveillance Warning signs as a precursor to installing the above camera.

If you wish to contribute towards this worthwhile project, please make payment as above or contact MERRA treasurer at merra.treasurer@gmail.com

Fibre to door Broadband: After 7 years of MERRA lobbying (with mixed success) we finally have fast fibre broadband connections coming available. Residential (50k zone) properties north of approximately Charles St have fibre available for connection now. While providers are yet to advise their customers as promised (probably due to Covid), you can contact them to arrange your installation. It is expected that residents south of Charles St will have installation available from November. You can check your address by Googling Chorus Broadband Checker.

Coastal Erosion Mapping Concerns: Auckland Council has published an online map of the Auckland Region that models potential areas of erosion and land instability as a consequence of future sea level rise and coastal erosion. Many Scotts Landing properties were shown as potentially adversely affected. MERRA was concerned about the misleading and inaccurate nature of press coverage (eg wrongly suggesting that parts of Scotts Landing would become an island!) and commentary about negative insurance and valuation impacts. There was also concern from residents for their future safety. MERRA critiqued the report thoroughly using local expertise and met with Ross Roberts (lead author) who agreed to include the following caveat (Drafted by MERRA) as an attachment to the maps.

"This ASCIE mapping should not be used for the assessment of the erosion susceptibility of individual properties. As a 'first-pass' assessment it may include significant inaccuracies at localised levels. Assessment of individual properties (e.g. for consenting, valuation and insurance purposes) should be based on a site-specific (Level C) geotechnical assessment prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced practitioner"

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



MERRA will be advising the real estate and valuers institutes, local realtors and the Insurance Council of this important caveat.

Historical Trail: We hope you have tried out the first two benches and their QR coded links giving some history of the area. Bench 1 is in the Mahurangi Heads Cemetery (up the stairs alongside the new MERRA - installed sign beyond the 50k signs) and Bench 2 is in the Community Garden in Young St. Four further benches are ready. We have Council agreement to instal one at Scott Point and another in Ngaio Bay. We look forward to installing these in collaboration with Council post lockdown and working with them on the historical commentary linked to each. We would appreciate your feedback on the two in place already.

Neighbourhood Support: What an awesome community working together to apprehend the thief wreaking havoc in our area. Thanks to all our community for your updates and contact including reports through our NS coordinators.

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 intend to be predator free by 2023, however this is a difficult task with lockdowns and constant changes. 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 Fishing Competition:

The 2021 winter lockdown level 3 Fishing Competition was held 21st September 2021 as a single tide, land based competition adhering to all lockdown rules. James Moroney won the competition with his snapper caught after trying several spots. Well done James and thanks to all involved. James earned a ‘pot of gold’ for his winning snapper. Thanks to all involved in this fun activity to distract us from lockdowns.

MERRA Membership - New or Renewal Memberships – It’s not too late.

Our annual membership runs from 1st April 2021 through to 31st March 2022 so if you need to renew or would like to join up you still have time to become a member for the current financial year.

We are all looking forward to summer and have our fingers crossed that we will be able to host the very successful Annual Community BBQ, so make sure you’re a financial member and enjoy a superb lunch on **MERRA** and a good old catch up with neighbours.

Our **MERRA** membership fee is \$12.00 per property which can be paid by direct credit into the **MERRA** bank account 02-0480-0033353-00. As **MERRA** is responsible for the many projects undertaken for the benefit of the community any donations will also be most welcome. If you would like a receipt for you membership or donation please email Susan Jelichich on merra.treasurer@gmail.com Please check our above website for projects.