



MERRA Newsletter – Autumn 2022

<https://scottslanding.org>

MERRA's 53rd Annual General Meeting.

You are warmly invited to attend the 53rd Annual General Meeting of the Mahurangi East Residents and Ratepayers Association to be held at Scott Homestead on Sunday 1 May at 10.30 am.

The agenda will be posted on the MERRA website (above). Any additional nominations for committee membership 2022-3 should be with the MERRA secretary a week prior to the meeting. Please note that due to Covid there will be no post-meeting Council-sponsored refreshments this year. We encourage you to wear a mask. Please do not attend if you feel unwell or may have had recent Covid exposure.



MERRA Membership – Update of membership details and request for 2022-3 subscriptions:

The new committee will be in touch with you following the AGM seeking your membership renewal and an update to your contact details and privacy preferences. If you are not on the current mailing list or wish to 'beat the rush' you can sign up at: <https://scottslanding.org/merra/>

We sincerely thank those members who generously include a donation with their annual subs. These donations support MERRA's community events and projects to the benefit of the community.

Condolences. It is with great sadness that we report the recent passing of two former MERRA office holders.

Denis Willers passed away on the 5th October last year. Denis was a long-standing MERRA secretary and an active committee member for many years. He was a caring and tireless worker for our community and is remembered fondly.

Bruce Scoggins passed away on the 18th March this year. Bruce was a past MERRA Chairperson and continued as a co-opted committee member while co-chairing the Warkworth Area Liaison Group. We acknowledge Bruce's contribution to MERRA and particularly to the wider Warkworth area.

Our heartfelt best wishes go to Denis and Bruce's loved ones.

Projects:

Coastal and Foreshore Matters: MERRA have met with Council coastal team members several times...

1. To seek appropriate caveats on their 'Areas Susceptible to Coastal Erosion' mapping now on-line via Council GeoMaps. In light of inaccurate press coverage and local concern MERRA is pleased to advise that a caveat drafted by MERRA has been added to the mapping. It reads...

*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.*

We urge members to reference this wording should the ASCIE mapping raise issues for you when it comes to sale, valuation, consenting, insurance etc.

2. To seek collaboration with Council on offering guidelines and support for landowners wishing to stabilise/protect their foreshores and prevent erosion and sedimentation. We also proposed a trial; working on a group project where multiple properties could combine their requirements into a single consent application. However council felt unable to accommodate or support this. We have left the offers open, hopeful that the pending changes to the resource management act may allow us to revisit this in future.



3. MERRA has also met with Council's Healthy Waters team and has been successful in having the final gravel section of Ridge Rd selected as a pilot project to reduce sediment entering the harbour. Hopefully the days of slippages and the silt off the road surface being washed directly into the harbour during rain will soon be a thing of the past.

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Fibre to door - Ultra Fast Broadband: HAS FINALLY ARRIVED after many years of MERRA lobbying and incremental improvement. Please contact your telecoms supplier to be connected. We advise being home to oversee the installation. There may be some delay so we recommend contacting them early. You can check your address using the Chorus Broadband Checker.

<https://www.chorus.co.nz/tools-support/broadband-tools/broadband-checker>

Pest Control: MERRA intends to be predator free by 2023; a challenge especially with lockdowns, bait supply constraints and a change of protocol from DOC. MERRA is actively working with Council, DOC, iwi and other local groups to ensure a pest free Scotts Landing. We appreciate the on-going work of Mark Croft and the many residents who look after bait and trap runs.

Native Planting on *YOUR* private property: MERRA is hopefully now in the final stages of a successful bid for inclusion in Council's *Mahurangi Land Restoration Project*. The principal purpose of this is to establish planting areas to beautify the landscape, calm overland water flow, stabilise coastal margins and minimise sediment flowing into the harbour. Landowners who responded to MERRA's initial request should obtain native seedlings ***funded by council*** to plant on their property. Each property will be 'surveyed' and allocated suitable plant types and numbers for the area. A plan is being drawn up for each property by qualified people. Each property will be revisited to check plantings, progress etc. We hope that other land-owners will be keen to opt in in future as we anticipate the project will be on-going.

Please check our website for updates or contact us from our contacts page.

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

Feedback to the Draft Regional Parks Management Plan: MERRA has submitted on the draft Management Plan. The submission is on the MERRA website. We will be attending the hearing to reinforce our perspectives and would welcome any further feedback.

Defibrillator Access. MERRA funded and installed the defibrillator and night time sensor lighting at the Charles St bus shelter a few years ago and ran courses on its use.

During a recent event residents reported some delay in accessing the defibrillator.

Instructions (see on the cabinet itself and also the MERRA website)

- To obtain the lock code for the defibrillator, call 111.
- State you require ambulance and also ask for the lock code for the defibrillator at cabinet number 204 or corner Charles St and Ridge Rd. (The cabinet number 204 is on the cabinet).
- The operator will provide the lock code for the cabinet.
- Please ensure that you take time with the code and enter **C** first as this clears the lock.

- Enter the lock code and turn the handle DOWNWARDS to open the cabinet and access the defibrillator. (We have added an arrow on the cabinet to show handle turn direction)
- The defibrillator has instructional pictures and will take you through the steps for use by voice instructions.

Scott Point seawall rebuild and Historical Trail benches. The MERRA Committee are pleased to advise that the council expects to let a contract in April or May for the construction of a new stone seawall around Scott Point. This will have good outcomes for harbour water quality especially when coupled with the healthy waters road run-off initiative (above). This project will also re-establish the eroded land around the carpark. It will include some tree work and parking delineation for vehicles with trailers. MERRA has negotiated for another of our historical trail benches to be installed on the seaward edge as part of the project. Another is to be installed in Ngaio Bay on Parks land. Council is providing concrete pads for both benches. We remind you that two benches (with QR codes for historical commentary) are ready to be used at the Mahurangi Heads Cemetery and at the Community Garden (Young St).



See you at the AGM 1 May
Warmest regards
The MERRA Committee April 2002