



**Community Newsletter from the Committee of the Mahurangi East Residents
& Ratepayers Association (MERRA)**

December 2024

www.scottslanding.org



As 2024 draws to a close, the MERRA Committee thanks you for your support during the year, and wishes you and your family a happy and safe festive season.

Can you help out?

MERRA is on the lookout for people who are keen to help out and supplement the skills that we have available on the Committee, and to step into roles once the current committee members decide to move on. We are particularly keen to find someone interested in the Treasurer's role, who can shadow Debbie Mickelborough for the remainder of this Committee term. Please contact merra.treasurer@gmail.com to discuss this further.

We would also love to hear from anyone with website development skills who might have time to assist us in maintaining our website at scottslanding.org. You can contact us on merra.web@gmail.com.

Constitution review update



A MERRA subcommittee is working on a review of our constitution, to comply with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. This will address the issues outlined in our September newsletter. Once this work is complete we expect to issue a draft for members to review early next year, with a view to adopting the new constitution ahead of our next AGM.

Roads and Walkways



MERRA has continued to liaise with Auckland Transport and Auckland Council over the need to maintain our roads and walkways, and we are pleased to note the progress that has been made over the last few months. A number of potholes have been fixed on Ridge Road, and the slips that developed near Fergusson House and opposite the Ngaio Bay access road were promptly attended to. More recently, rip rap stabilisation work has been undertaken on the banks where these slips occurred.

The surface on the Cardiac Bypass walkway (the steep track between Ridge Road and Young Street, via the Duke Street paper road) has also been cleaned up. Thanks to Heather Mackay for cleaning up the handrail on this track.

We are still looking for volunteers to help keep our tracks and walkways in good condition. If you are able to join the team (on a regular basis or just on occasions) please get in touch via email at merra.events@gmail.com – we would love to hear from you.

Community Garden



The Community Garden team have been hard at work this year and the garden at 13 Young Street is looking great as a result. The team has recently added some “ready to pick” signs to encourage visitors to the garden to help themselves to the produce there.

The Community Garden motto is “give a little – take a little”, so if you would like to help out at the garden, contact Dorothy Andersen (021 391550) or Karen Windross (021 2559177).

Community Facebook Group



The Scotts Landing community Facebook group is now up and running, and many in the community have become members. The group is ideal for keeping in touch with others in Scotts Landing to let people know about an upcoming event, locate a missing pet, arrange a lift, or just share a piece of news or a photo with the community. This helps to keep our community connected, so that we can look out for each other and help our neighbours when needed.

You can join up by searching Scotts Landing on Facebook.

Labour Weekend Weed Blitz



The Labour weekend weed blitz was a great success, with the skip completely full of pest weeds by Sunday evening. Thanks to all of you who took advantage of the opportunity to root out your weeds. The MERRA Committee has decided to make this a regular event, and we will arrange for a skip to be in place on Easter and Labour weekends in 2025. Thanks to Northland Waste for supporting this initiative, and to Chris and Helen Russell for allowing us to park the skip at their property on Charles Street.

In the meantime, please help us to control the spread of pest weeds by removing and disposing of any that you find on your property, especially Wild Ginger, Woolly Nightshade (tobacco plant) monkey apple, cotoneaster, Chinese privet, tradescantia, moth plant, gorse, jasmine, and bush lawyer. Its also a good time to de-head arum lillies and agapanthas to prevent them spreading.

For information on what these species look like, and how best to dispose of them, check out the plant pest information on the MERRA website ([link here](#)), or the Auckland Council site [here](#). For more advice, give Chris Russell a call on 027 4933881.

Rodney Emergency Readiness and Response Plan

The Rodney Local Board has recently adopted an Emergency Readiness and Response Plan for the Rodney area. The plan was developed with Auckland Emergency Management, and provides people in the Rodney area with advice and information about:

- local hazards
- preparing for emergencies
- responding during emergencies.

To read the plan and learn what you and your family should do in an emergency, check out the [Rodney Local Plan page](#) on the Auckland Council website.

The MERRA Community Response Group (CRG) is currently reviewing our local Scotts Landing Emergency Response Plan, and we will have more detail on this in the new year.

Mahurangi Regatta



The 2025 Mahurangi Regatta will be held on Saturday 25 January, with prizegiving and entertainment at Scott Point from 7.00pm. Please note that there will **not** be a park and ride and shuttle service operating to the prizegiving this year.

We expect there will be a need for local volunteers to assist with setup and takedown of the site before and after the event, so if you would like to help out, please contact us via email at merra.events@gmail.com.

Save the Date

Saturday 25 January 2025 – Mahurangi Regatta – prizegiving and entertainment at Scott Point from 7.00pm. (NO park and ride and shuttle service operating to the prizegiving this year).

Sunday 2 March 2025 – MERRA Picnic, Scott House 12 noon

3 - 7 March 2025 – Auckland Council Inorganic Rubbish Collection (bookings essential - [online here](#))

Sunday 4 May 2025 – MERRA Annual General Meeting, Scott House 10.30 am