

LEIGH RAG

JUNE 2017

Leigh Rag is supported by the Leigh Community and compiled and edited by Tony Enderby, 19 Albert St, Leigh, Ph 422 6127. Please submit contributions before the 15th of each month. **Leave copy in the box at the Leigh General Store or email to enderbys@xtra.co.nz**

Please Note: The Editor of the RAG does not take any responsibility for the contents of items supplied.

**Newsletter for Leigh, Matheson Bay, Whangateau, Pakiri
Sponsored by Leigh & Districts Ex Services and Community Club,
Leigh Fisheries and the Leigh General Store**

View the Leigh Rag online

home page of www.leighbythesea.co.nz



Love Leigh Peg (Guest Editor)

I've been asked to write the editorial for this month's Leigh Rag but it's such a challenge to write about one's own fabulous life and yet appear to remain humble. I will do my best.

A few months ago I was a lonely clothes peg, discarded on a dusty garage floor. My hero, (Davy Crockett), saw me languishing there and offered to buy me and give the proceeds to Leigh School. This was duly done and then Davy posted on the Love Leigh facebook page, offering my

services or company to anyone who needed Peg in their lives, in return for a donation to the school. It has just snowballed from there and is an excellent indication of what a lovely, supportive and quirky community Leigh is. The school is trying to raise \$7000 to repaint the school pool and I am thrilled to announce that so far I have been instrumental in raising over \$800!

I've been out on the Marine Lab dive boats and at the laboratory, walked dogs, snuggled cats, been a sous chef, gone landscape gardening, delivered a stirring unionist speech to a bunch of pegs (who may have gone on strike afterwards but that wasn't my fault!). I've been paddle-boarding, to ballet and yoga. I cheered on the Barbarians against the Lions and completed charity work. I have attended a wedding and a party which I glammed up for and arrived in a beautiful new gift box, a Matariki dawn ceremony and glammed up for a party . . . next month I am off to both Adelaide and Sydney. Some people don't feel able to host me themselves, so they just make a donation direct to the school.

If you have a use for a talented Peg in your life, please email my personal assistant Melissa - communications@leigh.school.nz or ring 021522648 to book in a visit. I look forward to visiting you soon!

Leigh & District Ex-Services & Community Club

Leigh in the winter is just as good as Leigh in the summer, these beautiful sunny days are marvellous. The Ex-Services, Bowling Club and Business Community combined Mid-Winter Christmas Party is on Saturday 15 July, so do come along and bring a dish for the pot luck dinner. Someone will be there to heat dishes and run the kitchen so we can have a hot meal. The party starts at 5pm with dinner at 7pm.

Steve and the team have done a fantastic job of repairing the walkway and putting in drains so that washouts won't happen again in future storms, it really is an all weather path now. I'm sure that you have noticed that the planters outside the General Store have been tidied up and given new plants, thanks to Alice Murman. We are so lucky to have such great people in Leigh, thank you.

Don't forget, on Friday evenings there is social drinks at the Bowling Club, with an opportunity to buy raffle tickets. All the money raised from the raffles goes back into the community when we give out our grants, so it's all in a good cause and you may win some lamb or steak which comes from the Matakana Butcher.

Kahu is at the club on Fridays providing fish suppers if you don't want to cook so come along and be social!

The next club meeting will be on Sunday 2 July at 4pm. We have Tim Armitage coming to give a talk on Socotra, an island in the Arabian Sea and part of Yemen. The island is very isolated and a third of its plant life is unique. It has been described as "the most alien-looking place on Earth."

It's delightful to be back in Leigh after my trip and I'm looking forward to getting into the garden.

Lucy Harris, President

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Leigh Business Community

At our May committee meeting a short list of logo designs was discussed and since then the final design of our Leigh business logo (see on left) has been approved. It is nice and bright, inviting and has plenty of energy.

Quotes are now to be obtained for the new brochure which will be printed after the AGM. Any new businesses should make contact to be included in the brochure which is widely distributed to i-sites. We will print extra this time, to cope with the high demand, and to have enough to last two years.

A slide show showing ideas for the upgrading of the website was played at the meeting and members later added sticky notes with more ideas. A meeting was held with a website design company and plans for the upgrade have started.

An exhibit at Matakana to promote the area was held on 30 May and Leigh business members set up a table to promote Leigh to invited guests that included hotel concierges, info centre staff and the tourism trade.

For further information about joining our friendly group of local businesses please contact Jan Scott 09 422 6681 or email

secretary@leighbythesea.co.nz

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100 years ago- June 1917

It had been a wet year with heavy rainfall closing roads and bridges. Although there was no recording of the weather in Warkworth district, it was estimated that 80-100 inches of rain had fallen in the year to May. In Auckland city, 80-90 inches were recorded and "if there's anything the district can beat the city in, it's rainfall." The Roads Board reported that slips between Whangateau and Leigh had been cleared enough to allow ordinary traffic through; and several slips cleared between Pakiri and Leigh. Work would be completed during summer.

Farm life was increasingly difficult: extra costs and fewer young men. Farmers and orchardists continued to protest about the butterfat levy and orchard tax. The butterfat levy was 'another tax' in disguise under the War Regulations, the Minister of Agriculture had 'his hand in their pockets'. Whereas a man on a salary of £250 was untaxed, a farmer earning the same from butterfat was charged £20. At a meeting held in the library the Fruitgrowers' Assn decided to form a separate association of those who paid the orchard tax to add to the names nationally to

lobby the government for the payment of the fruit cases.

After two months at sea, John Greenwood and Norm Stirling had arrived at Devonport near Plymouth, England on 10 June. Two of John's cousins, Joseph Elliot Greenwood (26th rft) and AEJ (Bert) Greenwood (27 rft) embarked as members of the Wellington Infantry Regiment on Maunganui and Tahiti on 12 and 13 June 1917, respectively.

Sheryl Corbett
Rodney and Otamatea Times, June 1917; www.archway.archives.govt.nz



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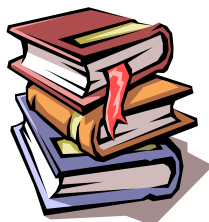
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Kia Ora Leigh Community

The Leigh Library had it's AGM on Tuesday, 13 June. There have been a couple of major changes with Dorothy Cooper standing down as Librarian after ten years of service and Chairperson Ruth Thomas moving to Wellington. They have both worked tirelessly for the Leigh Community Library and we wish Ruth well in Wellington and will continue to rely on Dorothy's experience and knowledge. Sheryl Corbett has taken over as the Chairperson and Tracey Lawton is the new Librarian. Wendy Stephens and Jenny Stewart have joined the committee and we also have some new volunteers.

Libraries play a vital role in communities. Not only do members get free access to books and puzzles, but a library is also a place where people can come for a chat, share ideas and make new friends.

As a child in a small town, the library was one of my favourite haunts. The librarian knew me by name and I loved to wander the shelves, taking my time to choose my books. I would lose myself in stories and other peoples lives. In this time of growing fear and intolerance, books can be a window in to a different culture or religion and offer a new perspective.

The Leigh Library has a fabulous selection of books and friendly volunteers on the desk who look forward to seeing you!

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MATHESON BAY NEWS

Thank you to Peter Spence for keeping you all informed whilst I was away enjoying spring in the Cotswolds.

A healthy number of people attended the Matheson Bay Neighbourhood Association AGM and the report presented on the Kohuroa stream track upgrade was very encouraging. What had started out by Lydia Smith as a 'weed bee' last year, is now a full scale upgrade of the track protecting the Kauri trees and the great biodiversity. A grant by the Rodney Local Board and acknowledgement by Auckland Council that the area is of value and should be preserved has been well received by MBNA and volunteers.

Following from this, regular 'weed bees' are to be held to rid the bay of agapanthus in drains and on verges. The first of these will be held on 1 and 2nd July and volunteers are asked to come armed with spades and grubbers. Morning tea will be provided and these have previously made the effort well worthwhile. Volunteers will be notified of the streets to be weeded by email or if you are not on the database and would like to help please phone Secretary Peter Spence on 021 404 529.

The beach is definitely in winter mode with grassed areas now chained off and few campervans staying. The Auckland Council campervan trial has finished and there is no word as yet to what if anything will be in place for next year.

Another date to diary is the Matheson Bay Pot Luck Dinner to be held on Saturday, 8 July at 6.00pm at the Leigh Hall. An email will be sent out by Peter Spence closer to the date.

Hopefully the lovely autumn weather we are having will continue for a few more weeks.

Louise van Campfort

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LEIGH TENNIS CLUB

We welcomed our Pakiri friends for a fun day of tennis on our courts last weekend and we were really lucky with the weather! We did pass on the trophy which we will challenge again in Spring.

We will join forces with Pakiri to play against the Kaipara Flats Tennis Club whom we will be welcoming next month on Sunday 23 July.

The Leigh Tennis Club had a sausage sizzle at the Matheson Bay Mid-Winter Swim last Sunday to start our fundraising efforts towards a sign for the Club and the concreting of the steep access to our courts.

We will also have a raffle of donated goods with tickets available at Leigh Eats. The draw will be on the 23 July at the Tennis Club, at the end of the School holidays. Tickets will be \$2 and the raffle prize will be there to view. We thank you all in advance for your support.

Club days are Sundays from 3.30pm throughout the winter. All welcome!

Anyone wishing to join should pick up an enrolment form from Leigh Eats or Hookers Real Estate and if you have any questions or queries please email leightennisclubinc@gmail.com

Marie-Dominique Lennan for the Leigh Tennis Club



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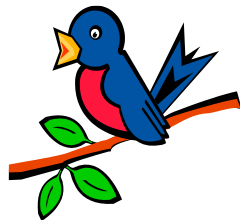


Forest and Bird COMMUNITY COAST CARE GROUP

Who is that lurking in the bushes? The Department of Conservation has done an amazing job working through all the local areas of bush for which they are responsible. They are removing all pest plants - mothplant, pampas, locquats, agapanthus, acmena, jasmine, honeysuckle, Madiera vine etc and doing a very thorough job. Given that we now have three active environment groups in our little village, it is great to feel we have the Department of Conservation as our active partners.

We were delighted to receive a grant from Leigh Community and Ex Services Club. Already we have bought some new hand tools. Also delighted to hear that the Matheson Bay group is to have weed removal working bees, and is also targeting the removal of agapanthus. Fantastic.

Thanks to Auckland Council for supplying 300 plants for our coastal areas. Thanks also to



those who have offered to help plant them. Most will be infill planting on the walkway between Kyle St and Wonderview Road. Once they're in we'll hibernate for a couple of months until the ground dries out a bit.

Neil Sutherland

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LEIGH FISHING CONTEST

This year the fishing competition raised \$60,000 for the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust and made donations to the Leigh School and the Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade.

A huge thank you to those who stepped up and helped out on the day.

The weather was awesome and the best day weather wise since the contest's inception.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, of course without them the outcome of the day would be completely different. Our principal ones are Surtees, Hirepool, Honda Marine, Navstation Garmin, TVNZ1, Top Catch. There were many others, too many to list, but many thanks to them as they were all greatly appreciated.

The winner of the boat was John Ellis with a 1.89kg snapper.



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Leigh Mid-Winter Swim at Matheson Bay 2017

An enthusiastic group of locals turned out for our annual Leigh Mid-Winter Swim. Over 30 swimmers braved the 16.2 degree clear water and there was lots of laughter throughout. The day started off rainy but by swim time, the sun was shining so a perfect day!

The new Sylvia's Coffee Cart was there to support us and the Leigh Tennis Club put on a sausage sizzle.

We had a larger number of spectators this year so thank you to the locals for supporting this event.

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Kia ora koutou,

Well we are still waiting to get into our lovely new classrooms, with some delays occurring due to weather affecting building and painting. The water tanks arrived this week so we are looking forward to collecting a lot more water now. This should mean that we shouldn't have to buy water in summer and can

hopefully water the school vegetable garden. The deck is currently in progress. We now anticipate moving in over the July school holidays.

We've been enjoying a week long celebration of Matariki including our new kapa haka tutor teaching us an original waiata on Monday, followed by a shared lunch and arts and crafts with Pakiri School. Tuesday was Matariki themed Te Reo with Lili. Wednesday we had Fleur Coleman from Mahurangi Library in to make Maori bread with the tamariki (assisted by chef Tess Ngakuru), compose poetry with the older kids and make a Matariki Star mobile with the junior classes. We'll finish the week with a performance of the new Matariki songs for parents at our Friday assembly.

Many of you will already know about our Peg Fundraiser (especially since she was invited to edit the Leigh Rag this month!), she has currently raised \$800 and we need \$7000 total to repaint the school pool, which unfortunately isn't covered in our Ministry funding. So we still have a long way to go...if you would like a turn or to make a donation, or know a friend who would (they don't have to live in Leigh!), then please contact Melissa (details on front page).

Nga mihi, Melissa & Leigh School

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Whangateau News

Monday, 12 June was the quarterly hall committee meeting. The committee manages the hall and domain. These meetings are open to the public. 7pm at the hall.

The monthly Community Markets are on the second Tuesday of the month from 9am to 12pm. Come along for a friendly get-together. There'll be tea and coffee, and plenty of buying, selling, and swapping.

On Friday 23 June, bring a plate along to the hall for a mid-winter potluck. This community event will have live music provided by the Jade River Ukes! Free and open to all. 5:30pm.

Monday, 26 June is our monthly club night. First half floor singers, and we'll be entertained by Connor and Swigger of the Thirsty Dog Folk Club in the second half. \$5, doors open at 6:45.

Janine Abarbanel

<http://whangateau.co.nz/whangateau-resident-and-ratepayers-inc-social-event/>

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Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

After the brigade had their busiest January to April (43 callouts), May saw them attend just one incident, a medical call to Leigh Wharf. Less callouts mean brigade members are called away from their jobs less and the community don't have an extra problem in their lives, be it fire, medical and motor accident to deal with.

The highlight of the month was the 50-year celebrations for one of Leigh brigade's original members, Robbie Torkington. Robbie's wife Sharon, family members, locals, current and past brigade members and members of other fire brigades came to celebrate with him. Everyone enjoyed a good night and a get together with some past members catching up with those they served with. Fifty years is a long time and the community thanks Robbie for those years given and to Sharon for supporting him

Brigade members are working hard on training with five members getting ready for an Emergency Driver Course. Paul Smith has followed up on his first aid and first responder course and now completed a recruit fire fighter course at Auckland Training Centre. Congratulations to Paul who is now a fully operational firefighter, boosting our numbers following Bob Boyes' retirement after 10 years.

Members of the brigade attended Leigh School and went through a Firewise programme. It was great to see how knowledgeable the children were with many already knowing to "get low, get out and stay out" in the event of a house fire. Most knew about smoke detectors and not to put ashes into anything other than a metal bucket to dispose of them.

Smoke detectors really do save lives and it would be great to see every house in Leigh having at least one working smoke detector. Anyone wanting information about smoke detectors should contact any member of the brigade.

We now have the long winter to get through but the team are still training and hoping the siren will stay silent for a little longer.

*SFF Tony Enderby
Brigade Secretary*

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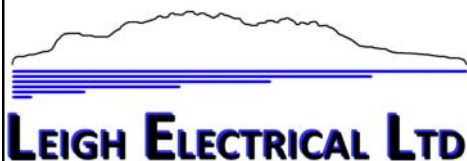
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Well it's finally finished

The upgrade to the Wonderview to Kyle Street is complete, thanks to a grant from the local board and lots of effort by many volunteers, local contractors and suppliers. Rochford Landscaping supplied machinery and Middleton Transport carted most of the 45 tonnes of metal. Hynds Pipes supplied culvert pipes and Leigh Builders arrived with three guys after a washout. (All the above at no charge) ITM discounted the timber and council managed to find enough money to buy timber for the little bridge.

So it's been a great local effort all round and you can now walk from Wonderview to Kyle Street without getting your feet wet.

Many thanks to those who participated including the Kells family for granting access for machinery and metal, and all those involved in the hard graft barrowing metal, building the bridge, and supplying the morning tea etc.

I'm sure your efforts will be appreciated by the community and visitors for many years to come.

Steve, Leigh Community Club



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Good Sort of the Month

Our GOOD SORT this month is **Steve Mantle**, nominated by Tricia Gundy who wrote.....“He has organised the planting and improvement to the Gateway to Leigh. A huge amount of organising got the Leigh Markets up and running. He also arranged for the upgrade to the Coastal Walkway from the Wonderview end, and he has been the one to deal with council when anything needs doing in Leigh. A great member of the community” . . . The *Leigh Community Church* agrees and thanks Steve for his amazing contribution to our community with some home-baking.

Do you know of a special person in the Leigh area who deserves acknowledgement? Please write in a few words their good deed or thoughtfulness, including their name, address and phone number and drop it into the Leigh General Store in an envelope marked “Good Sort” or email the Editor at enderbys@xtra.co.nz. The person considered most deserving will receive home baking courtesy of Leigh Community Church.

LEIGH RAG

**ADVERTISEMENT
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Email rae_peggys@xtra.co.nz

Leigh Church services

All denominations and visitors are most
welcome to join with us each

Sunday at 11 am.

There is also a
prayer meeting
every Sunday
at 10.30am.

All welcome.



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Email: rodneymautotrim@gmail.com

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Forest & Bird Community Coast Care Group - a community initiative to remove pest plants from the district. Contact Neil Sutherland Ph 422 6001

Leigh & Districts Ex Services & Community Club - meets 4pm, 1st Sunday in month at Leigh Bowling Club. For more info Ph President Lucy Harris on 422 6620.

Leigh Badminton Club, friendly games plus table tennis, gear/tuition avail. Meet Weds 7pm, Leigh Hall, April-Nov Ph Paul Williams 425 9877, Dennis Humphrey 422 6625.

Leigh Bowling Club Inc. - to foster fellowship and the game of bowls. New members welcome. Contact Pres Biscuit McLean, 0275904829 or Sec Dave Johnson 422 6560

Leigh Business Community - meets 3rd Wednesday of month. Contact Jan Scott Ph 422 6681 or email secretary@leighbythesea.co.nz Web: www.leighbythesea.co.nz

Leigh Cards 500 - 1-3.30pm, Leigh Bowling Club, all welcome, \$3.00

Leigh Cemetery Trust - Contact Secretary - Joyce McCormick, Ph 422 6893

Leigh Community Preschool Ph 422 6516 www.leighpreschool.co.nz

Leigh Girl Guides & Brownies - Fay Bradnam Ph 422 6038

Leigh Hall - Bookings/enquiries contact Bernie Middleton 422 6384 or 021396194

Leigh Harbour Valley Society Ph 422 6880 www.leighharbourvalleysociety.org.nz

Leigh Library - Open Tuesday 4-6pm, Wednesday 2-4pm, and Saturday 9.30-12 noon. Contact Librarian Dorothy Cooper on Ph 422 6689.

Leigh School - Ph 422 6031 www.leigh.school.nz

Leigh Tennis Club - Phone Geoff 422 6624.

Leigh Walking Group - meets on Mondays at 9.30 am for interesting walks throughout the Rodney, Kaipara and Auckland regions. Contact Hugh McKergow 422 6219.

Leigh Women's Bowling Club meet Tues, Oct-April, for friendly bowls. New members very welcome.

Ph Olive Gravatt 422 6273 or 425 6682 Wendy Brooks Ph 422 7963.

Matheson Bay Neighbourhood Assn. Secretary Peter Spence, Ph 021 404 529 or email: mathesonbayassn@gmail.com

Pakiri Community Landcare Group Ph Frankie 021 688 997 or email

nick@nickmolloy.co.nz

Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc. (TOSSI) www.tossi.org.nz Secretary James Ross 09 422 6760

Whangateau Folk Club - www.whangateau.co.nz

Whangateau Neighbourhood Support Elizabeth Foster Ph 422 6291 / 027 428 8931

Whangateau Residents & Ratepayers Assn (Inc.) meets 7.30pm, 2nd Tuesday of month at Whangateau Hall. Ph Elizabeth Foster 422 6291 or Hugh McKergow 4226219

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRANTS

JP - Fay Bradnam Ph 422 6038

JP & Wedding Celebrant - Dr John Peebles Ph 422 6775 or 021 974 247

JP & Marriage & Funeral Celebrant - Barrie Mason Ph 422 6293 or 021 683 747

OTHER

Graffiti Coordinator—Lionel Anderson Mobile 021 795 306 Ph 09 443 0501

FACEBOOK

Love Leigh www.facebook.com/groups/LoveLeigh/

Leighbythesea www.facebook.com/pages/Leighbythesea/251994924849626

Leigh Historical Photographs NZ www.facebook.com/groups/739949979454558/

If your group or club does not appear above, please advise the Editor.