

# LEIGH RAG

**JULY 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](mailto:enderbys@xtra.co.nz)**

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

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## **Leigh & Districts Ex Services & Community Club**

As we go to press we are having some really cold weather. The clubs' combined mid-winter Christmas on Saturday will bring back memories of other cold Christmases for those of us who originated in the northern hemisphere. It's always good to check on your neighbours or friends to make sure they are nice and warm, especially if we have power cuts.

When I left for my trip, Alice Murman was going to rejuvenate the planter boxes outside the shops and so I mentioned her in the last Leigh Rag, but I now understand that things changed and Arthur Gundy got the project finished by buying plants and cleaning up the planters. Thanks also to one of our advertisers, Liberty Park for their help with the plants too. Thank you one and all, they look so much better. I'm looking forward to those Poor Knight's Lily flowers.

Please be aware that the bridge on the coastal walkway between Cotterell Street and Kowhai Terrace is still unsafe and should not be used, the rest of the walkway is in good condition.

It was good to see in the Mahurangi Matters that someone has come up with a simple solution to the Hill St dilemma, let's hope the Council acts on it.

The next club meeting will be on Sunday 6th August at 4pm I hope to see you there.

*Lucy Harris, President*

## Obituary

**ISAAC Mike.** Auchterarder 1951 - Leigh 2017.

Husband of Maggie, my love and best friend, who took excellent care of me right through. Father of Robert and Kathryn and grandfather of Michael Isaac Sealey, each of whom gave me much joy. Peter's brother - here's tae us, wha's like us? I had a wonderful time on the planet and a privileged life; my work in geology fascinated me. Some true friends enriched my life and I thank them. No sadness. There was no funeral, at my request.



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# Leigh Business Community

The past month has been busy with committee members involved in numerous events and projects. The Mid-Winter Swim held at Matheson Bay and organised by Jan Scott was a great success and the Leigh Tennis Club made a little money on the day.

The information stall held at Matakana promoted Leigh, was voted as the best and included the new Leigh Business Community banner plus live turtles and tortoises supplied by Ti Point Reptile Park. It was well attended by Auckland Tourism groups and hotel concierges. Another may be held in spring.

The new website is well underway now and ready for its first tweaks. It won't go live however until completed, so is a good time for local businesses for change text and photographs.

Financial business members were advised that they could add their business information to the services section of the Facebook page or forward their details to be included. Anyone can take a look at our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/Leighbythesea/](http://www.facebook.com/Leighbythesea/) which is slowly gaining followers.

Costs had been received for printing 20,000 copies of the new brochure. As well as a large map it includes local business advertising and is widely distributed to i-sites.

Brick Bay Sculpture Trail offered to give local businesses a free guided tour and this is planned to be held in spring.

The coffee cart at Matheson Bay has been renamed Sylvia's and is hoping to start up again in September. I understand they have been trying out recipes so they can offer everyone all sorts of yummy food. We all look forward to sampling this!

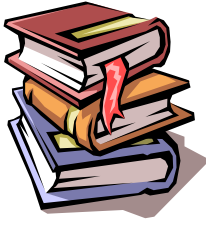
It is time for our AGM which will be held at 6.30pm Wednesday, 16 August in the new Courtyard Conference room at Leigh Central. A delicious curry and rice meal will be available but BYO drinks. More details will be emailed to members. Many of the present committee members will continue to be involved but there may be a few changes and positions available if anyone would like to join us.

*Jenny Enderby*

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

[secretary@leighbythesea.co.nz](mailto:secretary@leighbythesea.co.nz)

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# LEIGH VOLUNTEER LIBRARY

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Rain, rain and more rain . . . makes great reading weather! We have some fabulous new books that should appeal to all sorts of readers thanks to a donation from Leigh Ex-Services and Community Club .

New non-fiction books include Rescue Pilot by John Funnell who is one of the pioneers of NZ Helicopter Search and Rescue, Island Nurses by Leonie Howie and Adele Robertson who live and work as nurses/midwives on Great Barrier Island and Close But No Cigar by Stephen Purvis which is a true story of prison life in Castro's Cuba.

We have some new action/thrillers by John Grisham, Dennis Lehane, Jo Nesbo and Ben Sanders, latest novels by New Zealand Authors Sarah Quigley, Danielle Hawkins and Catherine Chidgey, and Apple Tree Yard by Louise Doughty that has been serialized on TV recently.

For children we have the latest David Walliams plus The Dragon Defenders by James Russell that had an excellent review in the Canvas magazine. There are a few new picture books with How To Babysit A Grandad a personal favourite. Finally, if you're keen to revisit the 70s, Carly Simon's memoir Boys In The Trees is a blast from the past. Enjoy!

*Tracey Lawton*



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## Editorial

These days everything revolves around growth. Bean counters and economists thrive on the word. For small communities around New Zealand including Leigh, growth is divisive. Many who have always lived here or moved here for the quiet life don't want growth. Others involved in businesses want increased tourists to increase turnover. Population growth in Auckland is happening rapidly and unfortunately infrastructure provided by government and local government struggles to keep up.

From the time when Auckland Mayor Sir Dove-Meyer Robinson advocated for a light rapid rail network and was knocked back by government of the day, the problem has only increased. Motorways were deferred and the region seemed to be working a decade behind the actual need. This hasn't changed. Our local tourist gem, Goat Island, has struggled to cope with visitors. Because of crowding there visitors have spread to Matheson Bay. Every nice beach around our area is being discovered and more and more visitors are to be expected as Auckland's population increases.

One thing that has controlled visitors is the Hill Street intersection. Problems there have brought a drop in visitors to Goat Island. The Hill Street traffic problem stems from the same problem with overcrowding, infrastructure failure.

Auckland's traffic woes are our problem too. It almost seems that the powers that be have adopted the "if you do nothing, then you won't do anything wrong" attitude.

We need to see our national and local elected representatives working together with those unelected agencies such as Auckland Transport, and New Zealand Transport Agency to improve what we have. Hopefully the rhetoric that we hear prior to a national election actually becomes action after this next one.

I'm not holding my breath. *Tony E*

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# MATHESON BAY NEWS

Can't believe it's July already, but it sure feels like winter.

The Mid-Winter swim at Matheson Bay was well attended and even more hardy souls than last year braved the chilly water. The coffee truck was welcome although it was difficult to get to it with all the divers' gear spread out in front.

The drains are coping well with the heavy rain we have been having, thanks in part to the sterling effort of two teams who have been clearing agapanthus. These pretty, but noxious plants have taken off and are a menace growing in the drains and lifting the tar seal. Much has been removed in Spray Crescent and an attack has been made in Kendale and the beach end of Grand View. If you find small plants coming up near your property it would be great if you could dig them out as they are a lot easier to remove when small. Ongoing monthly weed bees will hopefully get on top of them as long as people dead head them if they grow them on their properties.

The annual Matheson Bay Neighbourhood Pot Luck Dinner was a great success although competing with the ABs and Lions last test match reduced the numbers somewhat. The table settings and organisation was great so a big thank you to the committee and helpers.

Continuing work on the bush track is on hold until Council gets back to the organisers.

Well keep warm and get in some good books while the cold weather takes hold.

*Louise van Campfort*

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## LEIGH TENNIS CLUB

Still a few sunny days allowing the keen to get out for the odd hit. I am sure when we get through the worst of winter we will see good numbers attending the club days and a few more social games.

Next Sunday (the 23rd) we have Kaipara Flats Tennis Club visiting for a social game. All welcome to attend and support, members are requested to bring a plate for a shared lunch, start time is 11.30. We will make up a format on the day dependant on player attendance. Also On this day the raffle will be drawn for the goodies on display at Leigh Eats, there are still some tickets left - \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and the prize includes some great stuff. The money will go towards the remediation of the driveway and some decent signage.

Going forward we are formulating a calendar of events for the coming spring/summer season and the following year including club champs, an open tournament in the summer and home and away trips with other clubs. We are open to all other suggestions too!

A few of the committee members who did such an amazing job getting the club up and running again and in such good shape are keen to step down now that its operational, so there will be some room for some fresh blood for anyone who is keen to get involved. Please come on Sunday, the turnout for the Pakiri visit was awesome and made for a great day. Here's hoping for some similar great weather. Membership forms for the club are available at Leigh Eats or through Marie Dominique at LJ Hookers. We have a few new members from some newbies to the community and the future looks bright.

*Cheers Wax*

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# Forest and Bird COMMUNITY COAST CARE GROUP

Many thanks to all those who helped with the planting over the last month. We completed our planting area along the new cliff top track, planted some in the bush at the Totara St extension where the group has removed much of the jasmine, and a few more around the felled pine at the Leigh Harbour entrance.

An Auckland Council ranger who visited today to view our work was full of praise for the community's commitment to restoring Leigh's natural environment.

Congratulations to Trish and Arthur Gundy who were given community awards for their outstanding contribution to the Leigh Coast Care Group. Both attend every working bee they can, never refuse a request for help, and are key members of our group. They are also heavily involved in other local conservation groups apart from ours, and were guests at the Rodney Local Board presentation of awards a couple of weeks ago. Well

done Mr and Mrs Gundy!

*Neil Sutherland*



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# LEIGH SCHOOL

The school Board of Trustees are excited to announce that the school has received an \$8000 donation towards the school pool repairs!

The Board have been working with Matheson Bay resident Glenn Dalton, who has considerable experience installing and repairing pools, on deciding the best approach to fix the school pool. Instead of repainting, Glenn has recommended that we tile and plaster the pool which will provide a higher quality and longer-term solution (the plaster has a 25 year warranty). To help make this happen Glenn has raised \$8000 from some very generous donors and is aiming to raise another \$4000 to cover the costs of the plastering. We are very grateful for Glenn's generous help as this will mean that the pool should be able to be fixed and ready in time for summer!

However we still need to keep fundraising as with this option we still need to sandblast the pool first, then tile around the waterline, paint the outside edges and lip of the pool, upgrade the filter, get a new chlorine system, replace the drain grating, repair the sunshade and finally refill the pool with water.

The school is very grateful for Love Leigh Peg's ongoing contributions to the pool project - now over \$2000! The funds raised by Peg will be essential to completing the job. Well done Leigh community, thanks for getting in behind this project and for

your continuing support to the school.

The overall cost of the project is now obviously considerably more than the original \$7000 target for repainting the pool, but the final product will be far superior and ensure the preservation of this valuable resource for the school and community.

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*Julie & the Leigh School BOT*



### Story behind the photo ....

Sheryl and I were going to pull out some moth vine down by the Leigh Cemetery the other day and called for volunteers. Who should turn up but Peg, stripped and ready to go. She scuttled up the vine and aggressively removed several pods. When she tried to move them to the bag she found them too much to lift. However not to be beaten, she put on her abs belt for support, and by rolling the pods from the side, successfully pushed them to the pile. What an amazing asset for the community she is, and so incredibly strong for such a slip of a thing. Thanks Peg.

*Neil and Sheryl*

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## HISTORY

The Leigh coast is popular for recreational boating but in the early days these waterways were the highways for boats before roads made access to coastal communities easier. Quite a few early ships succumbed to storms and ended up on the bottom around the coast. As a diver I have located and dived on some of these wrecks but many are long gone leaving no trace.

The first record of a ship into Leigh Harbour (Omaha Cove) was a missionary boat bringing Henry Williams. Once settlement began, ship building along the coast became a major industry. The first unofficial record of a shipwreck is that of a small schooner which went ashore between Goat Island and Pakiri probably in the 1850s or 1860s. The NZ Shipwreck book records a schooner named *Good Intent* lost at Matakana but no other information.

Events such as the Leigh Show had visitors transported by ship. These coastal steamers travelled up and down the coastal river. One, the *Rotoiti*, went ashore on the Pakiri River mouth and was wrecked. Her remains can be seen south of the river mouth on extreme low tides.

Probably the most famous wreck was the *Niagara*. She hit a mine off the Mokohinau Islands, laid by the German raider *Orion* in 1940. The story of the recovery of the gold she carried makes interesting reading. A brick wall pointing to the wreck was built on the rocks between Goat Is and Pakiri and the remains of it are still there.

Leigh's last wreck was probably the fishing boat *South Wind* which came off her moorings in 1997 and hit rocks in Leigh Harbour. What's left of her can be seen on the north side of the harbour.

*Tony Enderby*



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July club will be hosted by John Hayday. Floor singers in the first half. Doors open for sign up at 6:45pm.

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# Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

June saw brigade members back to normal after the quiet May month. There were 9 callouts in June, a vegetation fire in Matakana which was a controlled burn, a cat cage on fire at Point Wells which luckily didn't catch the house and the cat was not at home at the time, motor vehicle accidents at Matakana and Omaha and first response medical calls to Ti Point, Whangateau, Matheson Bay and Leigh (2). This busy period has continued into July.

The amalgamation from Fire Service to Fire and Emergency New Zealand which now encompasses all fire fighting agencies has happened. From our point of view there is no change and we will continue to do what we have always done.

The brigade has been supplied with a brand new portable pump which is pleasing. Hopefully this will be in line with other equipment coming as part of the FENZ transition and we will be better equipped than ever to face emergencies and deal with them.

The number of deaths due to fires has increased in New Zealand recently. Most were avoidable had working smoke detectors been installed. 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.

Training is harder now with cold wet nights on us but there is always something that needs a little practice on and its inside the station on the worst of the nights.

*SFF Tony Enderby  
Brigade Secretary*

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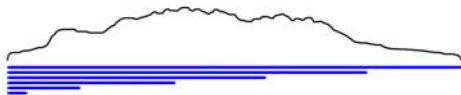
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# FOREST & BIRD TALK

7.30pm Thursday 20 July

Totara Park retirement hall, Melwood Drive, Warkworth

We will hear from NZ Premium Whitebait's chief guru, Paul Decker. He will explain how he has learned to breed whitebait in captivity which is in turn relieving pressure on the wild catch. What Paul doesn't know about our freshwater fish species isn't worth knowing!

You will be interested in hearing Paul's story and learning how he is re-introducing whitebait species into our local rivers. There may be a giant kokopu to look at - but no fritters!



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AGENT RECOGNITION AWARDS 2015/16

PREMIER Silver

Angela Wain



OFFICE RECOGNITION AWARDS 2015/16

PREMIER Silver

## Good Sort of the Month

This month's GOOD SORT is a humble gentleman who works quietly behind the scenes in our community. He continues to maintain for the fishermen the petrol pump and water line at the wharf, sometimes entailing a trip into the hills to fix! At the Leigh Bowling Club since retiring from 20 years as Greenkeeper he continues to mentor the new Man and puts in many hours of his time around the club keeping things running smoothly. You are a star **Ron Perry** and the *Leigh Community Church* were delighted to bake for you.

**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](mailto: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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## 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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## 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](mailto:secretary@leighbythesea.co.nz) Web: [www.leighbythesea.co.nz](http://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](http://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](http://www.leighharbourvalleysociety.org.nz)

**Leigh Library** - Open Tuesday 4-6pm, Wednesday 2-4pm, and Saturday 9.30-12 noon. Contact Librarian Tracey Lawton on 422 6944

**Leigh School** - Ph 422 6031 [www.leigh.school.nz](http://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](mailto:mathesonbayassn@gmail.com)

**Pakiri Community Landcare Group** Ph Frankie 021 688 997 or email

[nick@nickmolloy.co.nz](mailto:nick@nickmolloy.co.nz)

**Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc. (TOSSI)** [www.tossi.org.nz](http://www.tossi.org.nz) Secretary James Ross 09 422 6760

**Whangateau Folk Club** - [www.whangateau.co.nz](http://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/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/LoveLeigh/)

Leighbythesea [www.facebook.com/pages/Leighbythesea/251994924849626](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Leighbythesea/251994924849626)

Leigh Historical Photographs NZ [www.facebook.com/groups/739949979454558/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/739949979454558/)

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