

LEIGH RAG

AUGUST 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

Leigh & Districts Ex Services & Community Club

I hope all the other rugby fans out there enjoyed watching the Crusaders play in Johannesburg; it was a great feat to travel to that altitude and win so convincingly. It's also pleasing to see the agapanthus being dug out and the ditches being tidied up in Matheson Bay.

The evenings are noticeably lighter and it definitely feels like time to get in the garden, although it's mostly too wet to do anything. So in the meantime I'm planting my tomatoes under cover and dreaming of summer. Peg came to Book Club this week and reportedly found it 'gripping', funds on their way to the school.

The next meeting will be on Sunday the 3rd of September at 4pm and we have local resident Judd Croft speaking about his work on cruise ships. Judd lectures on marine topics while onboard but will also be talking to us about living on a cruise ship. See you there.

Lucy Harris, President

SUPPORT GROUP

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

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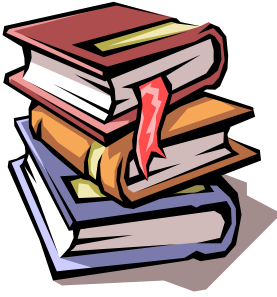
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LEIGH VOLUNTEER LIBRARY

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Kia Ora

We have some great new books to help battle the miseries of this very wet winter. Some have been long-listed for the Man Booker, one has won the Baileys Prize for Fiction, others include some hot new thrillers. Two new additions have recently been highlighted on National Radio.

Doug Avery is a farmer from Marlborough who has written a book called 'The Resilient Farmer' about his struggles with running a farm during an eight-year drought. The other is Eddie Izzard's book 'Believe Me'. Izzard is a well-known cross-dressing comedian and actor who has recently completed 27 marathons in 27 days. Both fascinating reads.

Whilst we have many locals as members of our lovely library, it is the same few who are coming in for books. Our council funding for books is driven by the numbers: how many members do we have, and how many books do we issue a year? If you haven't been to see us lately, please come and check us out, and grab some books while you're at it.

Tuesdays 4-6pm, Wednesdays 2-4pm and Saturdays 9.30-midday.

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Editorial

After a few warm weeks away in Sri Lanka and KL there was no doubt an election is looming as we drove back from the airport. The dreaded election signs are up all around, apart from in Leigh where most have already been vandalised. Love them or hate them it means we have to think about voting.

There is something of a message in the US election result where 50% of those eligible didn't vote and 25% of American inflicted Donald Trump on the world. Yet this was a democratic election in arguably the world's greatest democracy. There has been a huge amount of moaning about the result and no doubt some comes from those who didn't vote.

New Zealand needs a government for the next three years and with MMP we do get more of a choice than the US. There is no valid reason for not voting. My vote has swung almost every direction over more than 40 years of voting. In some cases I have voted against my party of choice where the sitting MP is doing a good job. The reverse is also true where the sitting MP is not.

With MMP we can vote for a completely different party to the local electorate. And there is also a vote for a minor party if you believe in something specific they are pushing for. Under MMP they may be the difference between governing and not governing.

The main thing is to get out there and vote. If you don't you have no right to complain about the result and who is going to run the country. You don't have the right to damage the election hoardings either.

Tony Enderby

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MATHESON BAY NEWS

Not a lot to report this month apart from many wet days and few at the beach swimming apart from dolphins. The great Matheson Bay clean up continues with the agapanthus from the roundabout at the end of Matheson Bay Road all but gone, thanks to Mike and Ray. Great excitement was had in Kendale Drive as another band of weed busters discovered a drain that hadn't been seen for years. This should help with the water flow somewhat now that the aga's have been dealt with there too. All that is needed now is for the two piles of weeds at the beach end of Grandview to be taken away by council. With the new contractors some communication lines have been lost so this is hopefully on the job sheet soon.

Planting of flax has been done by someone (Neil Sutherland of Forest & Bird fame ?) by the stream at the end of Matheson Bay Road. This area was washed out during last year's storm and the contractors digger pretty much dealt to any plants there. Once these take off they will hold the bank and look very attractive, delighting the tui when in flower.

The birds are busy pairing up and there have been plenty of kaka and wood pigeons around. It's lovely to hear the grey warblers and the moreporks again. Sounds like spring is not too far away.

Louise van Campfort

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The preschool is bursting with energy this term. The spring weather is a blessing, with nga tamariki able to play outside most days. Many of our older kids are really making their presence known as they enjoy their last term with us before going to Leigh School. Like always, the teachers are a rock of calm leadership, allowing our tamariki to follow their interests and plans, and ensuring they are always well stimulated and cared for.

Labour weekend is fast approaching, and with it our annual Preschool Gala. This is our main fundraiser for the year and we rely on these funds for such things as upgrading equipment. Like always, we depend on the wider community for volunteers and donations - we couldn't do it without you! Keep an eye out for our new signs, and we will have more information for you next month. If you are interested in Leigh preschool for your child / children, please get in touch as we do have places available. Ph 422 6516.

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Forest and Bird COMMUNITY COAST CARE GROUP



Join the frenzy! Agapanthus is going! How fantastic it is to walk around Leigh and Matheson Bay and see the huge clearances being made. Around Leigh the agapanthus clearance is mostly on private property while in Matheson Bay it is due to groups of committed locals who have working bees to clear the agapanthus from road side drains and house frontages. It is a highly invasive plant, and for our Coast Care Group, it is wonderful to see it going, before any more of it gets into the bush.

It is also really heartening to hear reports of rat/stoat catches by residents who attended the Leigh pest eradication workshops last year. Fantastic all those who are keeping the trapping going, and also the systematic trapping work undertaken by the Leigh Harbour Valley Society. Imagine if everyone was doing it! What we could achieve!

Scientific evidence is accumulating to show that penguin populations in the

Hauraki Gulf are in trouble. In the last ten years how many reports of penguins coming ashore around Leigh have you heard? How common was it 50 or 100 years ago? What has changed for these birds? Wouldn't it be great to see them back.

Neil Sutherland

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LEIGH SCHOOL



Kia ora koutou,

Well the school is humming with our middle and senior class and their teachers loving their new classrooms, the junior class enjoying their new furniture, an arts programme in full swing and the final parts of the building / site restoration all coming together.

There will be an official opening for the classrooms in September and a notice of invitation to the community will go up on the school noticeboard at the Leigh Store, and also out on facebook. We look forward to showing visitors our neat new innovative learning environment classroom.

Our much anticipated annual Kapa Haka fundraising performance at the Sawmill Cafe will be at 6.30pm on Thursday the 24th August, so come along with whanau and friends and some cash for the koha on the door and our fabulous raffle. It's half price pizza night too of course! The raffle is currently at Leigh Eats if you want to purchase a ticket or two in advance.

We are very grateful for all of the local community volunteers who are taking part in our annual Arts Programme this year! We have a huge range of artists working with our kids with the following courses running - Photography, Knitting, Stop Motion Animation, Calligraphy & Watercolour, Model Making, Lantern Making, Wearable Arts, Music, Bird Sculptures and Mask Making. Thanks to Helen, Karen, Guy, Mors, Nicky, Greg, Jade and the teachers.

Peg is still doing the rounds for any one that is yet to have a turn with her. Our school website has a regularly updated page of how much she has raised if you want to check in how we are going with fundraising for our pool renovation. (The

link is easily found at the top of the home page in blue text.)

www.leigh.school.nz

The school is also happy to be hosting a weekly full immersion Te Reo adult class at present, run by Danyelle Nathan in the Ataarangi style.

It's lovely to see all the community connection and interaction happening in a number of ways.

Ngā mihi nui,

*Melissa Crockett-Joyoue and
Leigh School*

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Leigh School children celebrate the completion of the new classrooms for Leigh School. There will be an official opening for the classrooms in September .

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100 YEARS AGO- AUGUST 1917

The Ti Point wharf had collapsed. The settlers decided local action was needed and they would provide the labour to build a new wharf. They asked the Council to write to the Public Works Department “*strongly urging them to sanction the expenditure of £100*” that had been voted for the repair of the Ti Point Wharf some years previously.

The cost of carrying parcels on the Northern Steamship Co. steamers trading with Warkworth had been set at: parcels up to one foot, 6d; large parcels 1s and 1s 3d according to size; parcels of bread and meat, 6d.

The Rodney and Otamatea Times, 8 August reported they were pleased to notice that “*Sgt. J.E.C.(Eddie Wyatt) eldest son of Mr J.C. Wyatt of Leigh, who has been serving in Egypt, has been nominated for training for a commission in the NZEF*”(New Zealand Expeditionary Forces). Eddie studied at Oxford University, England and graduated as an Officer.

Guy Bruce Ashton, a shearer from Whangateau had sailed 16 July with 27th rfts on *Athenic*. Two men with family connections in Leigh, Norman McLeod Matheson employed at the Public Trust in Marton and Cyril Ernest Rogers, (Ernie), a bushman in Tuakau sailed on the *Waitemata*, 24 July and *Ulimaroa*, 26 July respectively. They were in the 28 Reinforcements.

Rodney and Otamatea Times, August editions 1917;

www.archway.archives.govt.nz

Sheryl Corbett



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RODNEY RAMS

The Rodney Rams are very sad to announce the passing of their beloved Club President and Patriarch, Ray "Inky" Inkersole.

Ray was stalwart and his passion and unwavering commitment to the Rodney Rams League and Sports Club was immeasurable.

Ray will be greatly missed by all at the Rams. RIP Ray.

The Rams wish to continue Ray's tradition of Thursday night meat raffles and invite all to join us from 4pm every Thursday at the Club.

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Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

Leigh brigade's members attended 10 callouts during July. These were a motor vehicle accident at Tawharanui, a power line down at Matakana and a false alarm at Matakana. The other calls were first response medicals to Leigh (5), Matheson Bay and Whangateau.

You may have been aware of an increase in the number of fire trucks around the Leigh area recently. This is due to a few members of the brigade undergoing emergency driver training in order to bring the brigade's number of drivers up.

At the end of training which involved driving under the watch of an instructor for four days, Kevin Lawton, Tony Enderby, Errol Murray, Nick Torkington and Malcolm Allen are all now qualified as emergency response drivers.

A worrying trend is the increased number of house fires around New Zealand with fatal results. Smoke alarms do work and it would be great to see every house in Leigh fitted with one. The worst possible scenario for the Leigh brigade team would be to have to attend a fatal house fire. If you don't have a smoke detector or think yours doesn't work, contact Tony on 422 6127.

It's nice to see the days getting longer again although the weather is still definitely winter. Brigade members have continued training on various emergency scenarios that hopefully they won't have to put into practice. Our numbers have increased a bit at the moment but if you are interested in joining the brigade drop down on a Tuesday night at 7pm and have a chat to one of us.

*SFF Tony Enderby
Brigade Secretary*

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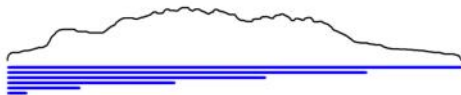
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PLANTING DAY

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Angela Wain



OFFICE RECOGNITION AWARDS 2015/16

PREMIER Silver

Good Sort of the Month

Our GOOD SORT this month is the very lovely Rosie Grayson, nominated by Marg who wrote. "Rosie has been living in this area for many years and for over 20 years was our Rural Mail Contractor. During this time she went over and above the call of duty to not only deliver the mail but find the rightful owner and forward on correspondence to folk who had moved on. Always happy to help with a warm friendly smile is Rosie. Renowned for her mulled wine and her generosity in offering her Hihi beach cottage for friends needing a break. One of the most sincere and kindest women around".

The Leigh Community Church thanks you Rosie for all your kindnesses and the Wyatt family remember when you very kindly arranged to deliver Norris and Betty's mail to the top of their very steep driveway when they were too old to safely walk to the roadside.

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.

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Community Directory

Forest & Bird Community Coast Care Group – a community initiative to restore Leigh’s reserves and bush areas through monthly weeding and planting bees Neil Sutherland 09 422 6001
Graffiti Coordinator – Lionel Anderson 021 795 306 call or txt with location of graffiti
Leigh & Districts Ex Services & Community Club - meets 4pm, 1st Sunday of month at Leigh Bowling Club. Anzac Day Service and Community Matters. New members welcome. President Lucy Harris 021 202 8932

Leigh Badminton Club – anyone interested in re-starting this club call Dennis Humphrey 09 422 6625

Leigh Bowling Club - to foster fellowship and the game of bowls. New members welcome. President Biscuit McLean 027 590 4829 or secretary Dave Johnson 09 422 6560

Leigh Business Community - meets 3rd Wednesday of month Jan Scott 09 422 6681
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Leigh Cards 500 - 1pm - 3.30pm Tuesday, Leigh Bowling Club, all welcome, \$3.00

Leigh Cemetery Trust -Secretary Joyce McCormick 09 422 6893

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

Leigh Girl Guides, Brownies & Pippins - Fay Bradnam 021 0279 0161

Leigh Hall - Bookings / enquiries Bernie Middleton 021 396 6194

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

Leigh Library – ‘The Cottage’ opposite Leigh Store. Librarian Tracey Lawton
021 825 818 / 09 422 6944

Leigh School – 09 422 6031 www.leigh.school.nz

Leigh Tennis Club – enquiries at Leigh Eats or Marie Dominique 021 490 039

Leigh Walking Group - meets Mondays at 9.30am for interesting walks throughout the Rodney, Kaipara and Auckland regions. Hugh McKergow 09 422 6219

Leigh Women’s Bowling Club - meet Tues, Oct -April, for friendly bowls. New members very welcome. Olive Gravatt 09 422 6273 or Wendy Brooks 09 422 7963

Matheson Bay Neighbourhood Assn - Secretary Peter Spence 021 404 529 or
mathesonbayassn@gmail.com

Pakiri Community Landcare Group - Frankie 021 688 997 or nick@nickmolloy.co.nz

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

Whangateau Acoustic Music & Social Club - www.whangateau.co.nz

Whangateau Neighbourhood Support – Sharyn Carew sharyncarew@vodafone.co.nz

Whangateau Residents & Ratepayers Assn meets 7.30pm, 2nd Tuesday of month at Whangateau Hall. Audrey Sharp 09 422 6209 or Hugh McKergow 09 422 6219

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE & CELEBRANTS

JP - Fay Bradnam 09 422 6038

JP & Wedding Celebrant - Dr John Peebles 021 974 247

JP & Marriage & Funeral Celebrant - Barrie Mason 021 683 747

Facebook

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

Leigh by the Sea - www.facebook.com/pages/Leighbythesea/251994924849626

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

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