



LEIGH RAG



DECEMBER 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

www.leighbythesea.co.nz/news-events

***Merry Christmas from the Leigh Rag—Don't forget to watch
for Santa on the fire truck from 5pm Christmas Eve***

Leigh Church

CHRISTMAS DAY
SERVICE

9.30am

There will be no service on
Sunday 24th December

**Leigh
Summer
Festival**

FEBRUARY 03, SATURDAY 10-4PM
LEIGH SCHOOL

LIVE MUSIC | MARKET STALLS
VINTAGE CAR DISPLAY
STREET FOOD | SEAFOOD RAFFLES
ICE SLIDE | SWIMMING | KID FUN

Leigh & Districts Ex Services & Community Club

Well, another year is nearly over, it really is true that they go faster as you age! Our last meeting of the year was well attended, followed by drinks and nibbles to thank Marion Ross for all she has done for the club over nearly 20 years. The gardens are all very dry after such a hot start to summer and it's easy to forget the wildlife. The birds and bees appreciate a dish of water that they can drink from. Insects particularly need a gentle slope for them to be able to drink safely, so if you can, keep a dish topped up for them. That's for the good guys. I recently purchased two guava moth traps for the bad guys and I have been horrified / amazed at how many get caught. Hopefully my feijoa and citrus won't be infested again this year.

Talking of water, can I remind all residents and visitors that the water we drink comes from your house roof so please don't feed seagulls. We would rather they stayed out at sea!

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There will not be any markets this summer, unfortunately we couldn't get enough stall holders to commit to coming here to make a worthwhile market.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Christmas and holiday, I hope to see you around town or enjoying the beach!

Lucy Harris
President

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MATHESON BAY NEWS

The glorious weather we've been having, has brought many swimmers (and a few orca) to the beach. The water is really warming up and locals will need to get down early if they want a spot, as large groups and visitors have certainly found out what a great place the bay is. The Kohuroa Stream has been opened up to flush it out. This was done by an enthusiastic group with spades. It has closed up again, but is considerably cleaner. Freedom campers are back, but mainly in the weekends with no problems so far. Unfortunately there are still no signs to guide them to where they should park and that there is a limit of eight vans. No extra rubbish bins have been provided in the reserve where they stay.

Kendale Rd and Hill St have been resurfaced, but no sign yet of anything happening in either Matheson Bay Rd or Spray Cres apart from trees being cut back in preparation. The Kohuroa Track is looking great and locals have done a sterling job building boardwalks and laying gravel. A big thank you to ITM for their help with the materials and the Local Board for the grant. More work will be done in the New Year. Hopefully the dreaded Kauri Die-back will be kept at bay.

As rubbish collections will be at least a day late over the Christmas period, do make sure that your bags are up off the ground and visible. There are a few roaming dogs, but mainly it is the black-backed gulls that do the damage spreading rubbish around.

Have a happy holiday break and try not to stress too much over the traffic build ups! Maybe 2018 sees the dreaded WW Hill St. intersection sorted. Yeah right!

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Leigh Business Community

The end once again of a busy yet exciting year for the Leigh Business Community.

We farewelled our chairperson, Marea Neill who had put so much into supporting our small community and welcomed Alan Macdonald, from Leigh Central to take over mid year as chairman at a very busy time for him as establishing his own business, Leigh Central.

A new committee was formed (many past members still continuing on) and this hard working group have not only designed a new logo, created a new website, reprinted our popular walking brochure but as well have reproduced a new Leigh by the Sea Brochure which is about to be distributed - so a sincere thanks to all these committee members who have enabled all of this to happen.

We also thank all business members for their support of us throughout this year. We wish all businesses all the best for this festive and holiday season which is a very busy time as visitors come to enjoy this area, which we are all so privileged to live in year round.

For further information about joining the Leigh Business Community please contact Jan Scott 09 422 6681 or email secretary@leighbythesea.co.nz



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Kia Ora everyone

The summer holidays are well and truly upon us and the weather has been amazing. Hopefully this wonderfully warm weather will continue (with some occasional rain for our tanks!) but if it doesn't and you have children or grandchildren in need of entertainment, pop down to the library for some excellent books and puzzles. We have adventure books, and magical stories. We have humorous books and heart-breaking tales. There are some lovely early readers about a little girl who likes to be fancy, and some about a boy who likes action and adventure. And of course, there are always the trusty Tintin and Asterix books that never go out of style! We have really made an effort to build up our teen and children's books, so come in and check them out.

Summer is the perfect time for checking out some new authors or catching up with some old favourites. Salman Rushdie's new novel *The Golden House* is a tour de force and Australian Jane Harper has followed up her popular first novel *The Dry* with the equally good *Force Of Nature*.

We also have a regular book swap with Warkworth Library, which means we are able to supplement our own stock and offer more variety. We also have on offer some audio and large print books. Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas raffle.

1st prize: Gill Vercoe, 2nd prize: Merv Wright, 3rd prize: Dorothy Cooper

Take care everyone and Merry Christmas and happy holidays from the team at Leigh Library.

Tracey Lawton

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Whoops!

No, this isn't the new council recycling station at Matheson Bay. It's one of the many callouts that Leigh Fire Brigade dealt with after a truck lost a load of recycling rubbish at the top of Matheson Bay Road.

Good Sort of the Month

This month the *Leigh Community Church* have nominated all our amazing **Volunteers in the Leigh Fire Brigade** as our GOOD SORTS and it was with extreme pleasure that we delivered our baking to them on Tuesday evening. This year they have already had a record number of call-outs and these incredible, selfless men and women make themselves available at all hours of the day and night for our community. Just how lucky we are is not to be underestimated. THANK YOU LEIGH FIRE BRIGADE!

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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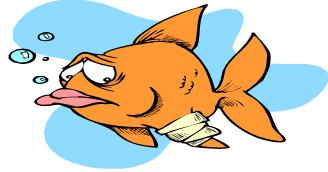
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LEIGH HOTEL

This month Leigh Central on the site of the old Leigh Hotel becomes fully operational with its first wedding. This is a fantastic asset for Leigh, the residents of which having complained about the derelict hotel over the past 10 years or so.



Leigh Central's main function room, set up for their first wedding with over 130 guests.

The site has real history with the first hotel on the site dating back to 1881. Originally a boarding house run by Mr William Bond and Mr and Mrs William Mirehouse. In 1889 they applied for a publican's licence which upset one of Leigh's founders, Charles Septimus Clarke, who rode

around the district trying to rally opposition to the licence. Obviously then like now the townsfolk liked an occasional drop as Mr Clarke was unsuccessful in stopping it. The licence was granted in June 1889.

It was originally known as the Cumberland Hotel and ownership changed hands numerous times with Mr Harper, famous as a salvage diver, recovering the gold off the ship Elingamite at the Three Kings Islands the best known.

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On Sunday, 15 November, 1957 at 11.40pm the pub caught fire and burned to the ground. With typical Leigh resourcefulness the bar re-opened 24 hours later in a shed at the rear of the property that had survived the fire.

The pub was rebuilt on the site and after Mr Harper's death the Cumberland Hotel (named after Harper's home town) was changed to Leigh Hotel. It continued to operate until 2006 when it closed.

Probably the major user of the site since then has been the Leigh Fire Brigade who used it for training. It was purchased by current owners Alan and Jasmin Macdonald who transformed what was Leigh's major eyesore into one of the town's major assets.



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LEIGH SCHOOL

Kia ora koutou,
Thanks to this amazing weather the kids have been swimming daily in our beautifully revamped pool. Keys are on sale from the school office (until 20 Dec) at the price of \$60 for school families and \$80 for other members of the public. This gives you access until the end of the season in

mid-late March 2018.

We'd like to especially thank Grant Dalton for doing the majority of the refurbishment work on the pool and also organising over \$10,000 of funding from a very generous bunch of local sponsors! The rest of the money was raised by the Love Leigh Peg and our lovely community so thanks are due there to Davy Crockett for the idea and Wendy Stephens for lots of assistance in many ways with that.

In other exciting news, this year the school has decided to make a departure from our usual Easter Carnival . . . so we are delighted to announce that in 2018 on Saturday, 3 February (Waitangi Weekend) we will be holding the inaugural 'Leigh Summer Festival' on the school field.

This fun day out is modelled on events like the Coromandel New Year Markets and the Grey Lynn Festival. In addition to live music and both local and hopefully Auckland market stall holders, we will also be hosting a vintage car meet and a range of children's entertainment (including the famous Leigh ice slide). There will still be our usual Silent Auction, Quickfire Raffles & Food Tent with scrumptious fish & lamb burgers etc.

Keep up to date on Facebook by searching for Leigh Summer Festival. For stall holder info please email: leighsummerfestival@gmail.com

Thank you all for your support this year, our little school truly appreciates it. Please have safe and happy holidays!

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou, Melissa and the Leigh School whanau.

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Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade Awards for 2017

At the brigade's Christmas function the annual awards were handed out. Our fire chief, Steve Paddison was again awarded the trophy for attending the most practices and he also attended the most callouts. The cup for most valuable member went to canteen manager Carol Davies for all the effort she puts in to keep the canteen functioning and ensuring the beer doesn't run out.

Most improved fire fighter went to Paul Smith who has worked hard over the year in completing first aid and recruit fire fighter training and also first responder course.

The Stirrers Paddle for creating the most mayhem went to Martin Lefley. Martin's performance, playing the part of an injured motorist on the first responder refresher course was classic and helped him win the trophy. Several brigade member commented that had there been a trophy for the best whinging pom, he would have won that too!

The hotly contested Dork of the Year trophy went to Malcolm Allen. Malcolm was blamed (he says wrongly) for leaving a hand-held radio behind after a hang-gliding crash on Pakiri Hill. Confirmation of his win came after another hand-held radio was left on top of the fire appliance. This one made the journey to Omaha before a count of the radios was made and the missing one located.

Runners up included Mark Simmonds and Errol Murray for hosing down a freshly painted Leigh School wall and Tony Enderby for turning the wrong tap at Auckland University to get water for a training exercise and setting off the alarm. There are others who have managed to keep their endeavours quiet but there's always next year.

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Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

Quite a few people have commented about how often the fire siren has sounded recently. In November it went off 16 times, making it one of the busiest months on record and then followed in early December with a further 11 calls over 9 consecutive days. Thanks for all the community support and especially the Good Sorts Award and the accompanying home baking. Yummm!

The callouts for November were to five medical calls to Whangateau and one to Leigh, vegetation fires and Matakana (2), Upper Whangateau, Pakiri Hill and Leigh, a motor vehicle accident at Matakana, set up a helicopter landing zone at Buckletons Beach, power pole on fire at Whangateau, false alarm at Leigh and an animal rescue of a horse in a creek at Omaha Valley.

We are now attending calls outside of the local area in backing up Matakana brigade. It's disappointing on these longer trips to have people that ignore the fire truck behind them, fail to slow for an emergency or just charge ahead on the one-way brigade. Please respect the guys and girls that are giving up their time to help and use some common sense.

Hope everyone has a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and if we're lucky the number of emergencies will slow a little a give our team a well-deserved break. Don't forget to watch for Santa on the fire truck on Christmas Eve from 5pm. He will be visiting Whangateau, Ti Point, Matheson Bay and Leigh.

Tony Enderby

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Leigh Fire Brigade farewells Barry Davies

Long-serving member of Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade, Barry Davies has retired after 37 years service to the brigade and community.

Barry served in many roles including deputy fire chief and attended more than 1000 emergencies.

Coming from a family of fire fighters, his father Bob was fire chief for many years, and brothers Ian and Paul and sister Carol have all been fire fighters with Carol still running Leigh's canteen and brother Ian chief of Warkworth Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Barry was presented with a barbecue by the brigade and his wife Leanne with a bouquet.

We're not sure how he will spend Tuesday nights now he is not attending training and will probably want access to the TV remote.

As an honorary life member of Leigh brigade Barry will no doubt still be seen at social functions and will still ensure that the lawns of the fire station remain in immaculate condition.



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LEIGH PRESCHOOL

What a beautiful way to end the term, and the year, at Leigh Community Preschool. The weather (as you know) has been stunning, and the tamariki have been loving their outdoor play.

They are exploring the elements, learning about the seasons, and challenging their bodies with expressive outdoor play. They are also learning how their bodies react to the different weather.

A big focus this term has been keeping safe in the sun. Nga tamariki have been wearing hats and sunscreen to play outside and are encouraged to play in the shade. (A bit tricky to stay shaded while careering around at speed on a bike though).

The kids were pretty excited to have our annual Christmas Party last Thursday. It was far too hot for the planned games on the field, so instead there was a lovely cool off in the shiny new pool followed by a barbeque at preschool. The kids did a beautiful job of the songs they had prepared for their parents, and we were all very pleased to get our presents and cards from them. The big guy in red, Westie Santa, was popular too!

This term we have said good bye to many of our big kids, and more will be leaving us to go on to school or homeschooling at the end of this term. It is always a bit sad to say goodbye but we wish them every success for their educational journey from here, confident that they have a good base to launch from and grow into successful adults.

Wednesday 20th is our last day at preschool. We have another good bye this year too. Elysia, it has been amazing to have you at the helm and I have loved working alongside you. You are passionate about tamariki and education, you are always so warm and friendly and the whole preschool has blossomed in the time you have been here. Best of luck with your new baby, and I can't wait to meet her!

Xavia Healey-Diaz



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Kauri Dieback Disease

Kauri dieback disease (*Phytophthora agathidicida*) is making headlines this week as a growing problem that is killing our iconic kauri. It is vital that walkers enjoying the Kohuroa Stream Track from Leigh Road to Matheson Bay beach stop at the cleaning stations each time they enter and leave the track. Brush off the soil from your foot wear and then spray them with the disinfectant Sterigene provided in the spray bottles. Kauri dieback is a soil borne disease caused by pigs, possums and people and according to scientist Peter de Lange it is people who are the most likely carriers. A pinhead of soil is enough to spread the disease.

www.kauridieback.co.nz

We want to protect our magnificent kauri on the Kohuroa Stream Track, which the council now recognises as a Special Ecological Area, because of its mature kauri and diverse native plants. A local community group of volunteers has been building a “dry track” to keep walkers off the tree roots and the first stage, for which we had a local board grant of \$2000 and some resident donations and generosity of ITM Matakana, is now complete. The next stage for which money is being sought from Auckland Council will take walkers away from the kauri roots by the pool and waterfall and over a board walk.

Providing a good quality track encourages walkers to not wander from the track and dogs need to be on a lead but do not spray your dog’s paws, just make sure they are free of soil. Please encourage your friends, family and networks to take extra care and clean and spray their foot wear on the Kohuroa Stream Track.

Lydia Smith

NOT JUST HATS

**We have a large range of hats
& accessories for all seasons**

**Next time you are in town
come and have a look**

Monday—Friday 9am—5pm

Saturday 9am—2pm

**ASB Building 17-19 Queen Street
Warkworth Phone/Fax (09) 425 9516**

Email rae_peggys@xtra.co.nz



Community Directory

Forest & Bird Community Coast Care Group – a community initiative to restore Leigh's reserves and bush areas, monthly weeding, 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 please 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 sec. Dave Johnson 09 422 6560

Leigh Business Community - meets 3rd Wednesday of month Jan Scott 09 422 6681
secretary@leighbythesea.co.nz web www.leighbythesea.co.nz

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 - 09 422 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 - 09 422 6880 www.leighharbourvalleysociety.org.nz

Leigh Library – 'The Cottage' opposite Leigh Store. Librarian Tracey Lawton 021 825 818 / 09 422 6944 Library Hours as follows:

Open Sat: 9.30-1pm; Tues: 2pm-6pm; Wed: 2pm-4pm; Thurs: 11am-1pm

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 Karyn Hoksbergen 09 585 1315 email secretary@tossi.org.nz

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 & Funeral Celebrant - Barrie Mason 021 683 747

Celebrant Annie Mellor www.fabulousweddingnz.com Ph 027 9297767

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.