

LEIGH RAG



FEBRUARY 2018

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

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Leigh & Districts Ex Services & Community Club **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Sunday 4 March 2018
at 4pm**

At Leigh Bowling Club
Albert St

New members are welcome

Subs for this year now due
\$7.50 per person

Lucy Harris
Ph 09 4226 620
PRESIDENT

Leigh & Districts Ex Services & Community Club

What a mixed bag the summer has been so far! The children got all the nice weather and the school put on a wonderful Summer Festival, which I hope replenished their funds. The Ex Services and Community Club is active all round Leigh, building and caring for pathways, last year we refurbished the cliff top path from Wonderview to Kyle Street, this year we are hoping to continue the good work to Harbour View.

We have approached the local board for funding to build a boardwalk between Kowhai Tce and Harbour View as this area is always impassable once it rains heavily. We are in frequent contact with the council, keeping them on their toes regarding clearing ditches, mowing and general maintenance.

We are currently waiting on council to remove the most recent crop of graffiti and provide signage, which we will install at the Cumberland Hauraki intersection directing people to the public toilets. along with long overdue maintenance to the local walking tracks.

We have managed to get the gateway garden timber surround repaired and an undertaking from council to maintain the garden inside it plus to spray the weeds around the wharf area etc. We also organise the Anzac Service, and this preparation is well under way.

Our AGM will be held on Sunday 4 March at 4pm.

Come along, join and take part.

*Lucy Harris
President*

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MATHESON BAY NEWS

I hope you all had a great festive season and got in or on the water. I'm sitting writing this wondering where our golden summer went! There certainly isn't a drought here now and everything in the bay is lush and green.

The beach has been changing daily and not too many are swimming, which is probably wise with septic tank run off, likely to be hitting the bay. We are not one of the 50 Auckland beaches that are closed as the council doesn't test up here so will just have to keep our fingers crossed. There have been man of war jellyfish, dead fish and a blue penguin washed up in the past week, along with a great supply of kelp.

The freedom campers were pretty well behaved this summer, but there is no room for a game of cricket on the reserve in the weekends anymore, which used to happen.

Anniversary weekend was very busy and many families were enjoying the beautiful weather and warm water.

Matheson Bay Road and Spray Crescent have not had their upgrades yet and now that the holidaymakers have gone we hope to see something happening when it stops raining.

Work has not commenced on the track as yet, but the signs about the flora put in by Forest and Bird are a great help identifying the various plants. This makes for an even more interesting walk.

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Leigh Business Community

The Leigh Business Community hope that everyone had a great Christmas and are looking forward to all that happens this year.

Our Christmas picnic held at Matheson Bay on 6 December was a great success with a good turnout of members and great weather!

The following day members and other local residents participated in the great Leigh Clean Up Day. Many thanks to Peter Scott for supplying a trailer to dispose of all the rubbish that was collected.

An ATM machine is now available in the Leigh General Store during their open hours and this is a great benefit to locals and visitors who need to do some cash withdrawals.

Members are ready for the start of a new year with our first meeting on Wednesday 21 February.

One of our aims for the year is to look at more ways to attract visitors to Leigh as this benefits all our local businesses and keeps them open for the locals benefit also.

If you know of events that are happening in the region that Leigh could be included in or if you have an idea of how to promote our area from Whangateau to Pakiri, then please contact us.

For further information about joining the Leigh Business Community please contact Jan Scott 09 422 6681

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Saturday 9.30am-1pm**

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: Merve 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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The person considered most deserving will receive home baking courtesy of Leigh Community Church.

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LEIGH PRESCHOOL

Our children have come back to preschool refreshed and ready to play and learn. We are enjoying our younger children and are planning sensory experiences for them. Lots of messy play, water, clay and gardening. We will also be planning transition to school experiences, focusing on emergent literacy for our older children. These will be posted into our literacy stories of interest for parents.

Over the summer break there has been changes to our staffing. Jess has stepped up the Teaching Team Manager role spectacularly, with lots of projects on the go already. We were expecting two new teachers to be joining our teaching team but circumstances and other job opportunities have changed that. We have offered Ros a part time role within our teaching team. She has had lots of experiences within education, including working with school and high school aged children supporting learning disabilities, early childhood teaching within Steiner philosophies and relaxation and massage for adults and children. We have decided that due to our rolls that we do not need to hire another registered teacher at present.

This week we had a load of sand delivered to fill our sandpit – a big thanks to James, Ohad and Maria for lending some muscle to get the job done!

Xavia Healey-Diaz

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Whangateau Hall News

8 March, Thursday

7.30pm (Doors open at 7pm) \$15

Full Concert Night with 10 String Symphony 7pm.

Support opening set provided by The Pipi Pickers.

More information including prebooking at www.whangateau.co.nz

Nashville duo 10 String Symphony began as a partnership of mutual admiration-- for Rachel Baiman and Christian Sedelmyer, two 5-string fiddle players and veteran sidemen of Nashville's music scene. Rachel, a former Illinois state fiddle champion in the old time tradition, needed an outlet for the new sort of songs she was writing, while Christian, originally a classically trained violinist, now a current touring member of the Jerry Douglas Band, was looking to get in touch the impetuous spirit of the rock bands he played in before his arrival in Nashville. Two fiddles. Two Voices. Epic music.

Whangateau Snorkel Day

12.30pm-4pm

Saturday 24 February

Explore the mangroves of the of Whangateau Harbour with an experienced snorkel guide; you never know what you might spot? Discover crabs, triplefins, parore and yellow eyed mullet. Fun for the whole whanau. Register at the event on the day. Sea conditions permitting.

Bring your own gear or get free hire of our mask, snorkel, fins and wetsuits. Recommended for everyone 5 years and up. All children under 15 years must be accompanied by an adult beach observer. Experienced guides and advanced safety procedures will be in place on the day.

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Yes, Leigh! We can do it! With researchers expressing real concern about the decline of penguin numbers in the Hauraki Gulf, we need to ask why. Is it declining food in the sea? Is it destruction of nesting habitat on land? We know penguins once nested along the Leigh cliff tops but rarely do now. Are things we do (or don't do) part of the problem?

Leigh community can make a real difference if we all do our bit. The vigilance of a resident - yes from Penguin St - led to the recent placement of traps on the cliff top. This week, with just two traps, we caught a stoat and a rat, and we know this is just the tip of our village's pest animal population. If every household did some pest trapping what a difference we could make for all our bird populations.

Our group was initially set up nine years ago to remove pest plants from the Leigh coastal area, to stop their seeds blowing to Hauturu/Little Barrier Island. Locals enjoy the native birds around the village and can do a lot to help them if we work together as a community. Our group has a stoat trap, bought with a grant from the Leigh Community and Ex Services Club. Please contact me if you know you have a stoat near you. The trap is available for you to borrow. Meantime, every bit of rat eradication helps. Pest free Leigh? What a dream!

Neil Sutherland



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Leigh School—Kia ora koutou, This update from Leigh School is all about saying by a huge thank you to all of our local and extended area community for your support of our new fundraising venture...the Leigh Summer Festival!

As everyone who came along on the day will know, the weather was a mixed bag, with some showers turning heavy from around 1pm. Regardless, we had an amazing day and will definitely be repeating the formula next year.

The bands and market were fantastic - thank you to all the locals who were involved in some way. The food tent again had lots of local supporters and volunteers, as did the Silent Auction. There are way too many people to thank individually here, but special thanks do go out to the community volunteers who helped out with set up, on the day and with pack down.

Our major sponsor as usual was Lee Fisheries and this year we also had a major donation from ITM Matakana which helped us pay for sound and music.

All our exceedingly generous sponsors can be found on the school website and also acknowledgements of many of the larger ones are on the Leigh Summer Festival FB page.

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We urge you to check out the list of sponsors (which will also go upon hard copy form on the noticeboard at the Leigh Store) and ask you to please utilize their services and shops as your preferred vendors in our area.

Finally, a shoutout to the main organising team for the event, Caroline Haggitt, Matt & Lili Crockett & Mikaela Schoevaart. We hope you all had a great day out and look forward to doing it all again in 2019! The school raised \$15,000 from the Summer Festival.
Ngā mihi, Melissa & Leigh School

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LEIGH BAR



Leigh's local family bar is open for summer

We will be open weekends until the 20th December then we will be open 7 days.

Remember to pick up your

LOCAL CARD

for special local deals.

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21 Hauraki Road, Leigh
or call Richard on 021 0419 242**



Leigh Tennis Club Inc.

Our first open Doubles Tournament on the new courts was a success on a hot sunny day and lots of fun. We had 16 players, pairs mixed in 3 separate draws and the 4 top players who won most games played together in the final.

Congratulations to Margaret Kinder and Alex Turner who were the winners of the tournament.

Club days are Sundays from 3pm for all the members.

If you are keen to join the club please pick up a form from Leigh Eats or L.J Hooker Leigh or email leightennisclubinc@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you on the courts!

Marie-Dominique Lennan for the Leigh Tennis Club



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SOFT PLASTIC WRAP

Have you noticed that soft plastic wrap is the main thing that goes into your rubbish - bread bags, vege bags, gladwrap, wrappers etc. But did you know that these soft plastics can be saved and dropped off at supermarkets for recycling. The wrap should be clean and crunchable.

Since we started keeping ours separate, it has meant we have very little 'other' rubbish left. Most of you will already be separating recycling bin items – cans, bottles, harder plastics, paper and cardboard etc. Then there is your compost bin for food scraps – that doesn't leave much does it?

You can go online and check out what they are making with the soft plastics at www.recycling.kiwi.nz



1. Collect all the soft plastics which you use at home. Bags should be empty and dry.
2. Drop them into the Love NZ Soft Plastics recycling bins at participating stores.
3. They will be recycled into outdoor furniture, bollards and other products.

The project [takes all soft plastic bags](#) including bread bags, frozen food bags, toilet paper packaging, confectionery and biscuit wrap, chip bags, pasta and rice bags, courier envelopes, shopping bags, sanitary hygiene packaging - basically anything made of plastic which can be scrunched into a ball.

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Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

Hopefully everyone had a great Christmas and New Year and enjoyed the sunshine before the current wet weather hit. Leigh brigade members had their busiest ever month in December with 27 callouts.

These were two structure fires, both at Omaha, vegetation fires at Omaha Valley, Te Arai and Matakana (2), false alarm at Leigh (2), tree on road at Whangateau, motor vehicle accident at Matakana, set up helicopter landing zone at Tawharanui and animal rescue at Matakana. The most unusual event was assisting a recycle truck that had lost its load at Matheson Bay. The other calls were 1st response medicals to Leigh (6), Matakana, Omaha, Omaha Valley, Matheson Bay (2), Cape Rodney and Ti Point (2).

The New Year started as the old one finished with six callouts in the first week then quietened down with a total of 13 for January. These were vegetation fires at Matakana and Big Omaha, motor vehicle accidents at Matakana (2) and Big Omaha, an ammonia leak at Leigh and first response medical calls to Whangateau (2), Leigh (4) and Big Omaha.

Brigade members started back into training, allowing for the heat by pumping water at local creeks in preparedness for vegetation fires. The rain sorted that out and kept the grass good and wet.

Our numbers are down a little, but if you think you'd like to give firefighting a go, come down to the fire station at 7pm on Tuesday night and have a look at what we do.

*SFF Tony Enderby
Brigade Secretary*

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Leigh Fisheries Ice Plant

Leigh Fisheries' close neighbours have had a recent visit to both collect contact details and to discuss what to do in the event of an ammonia leak.

We have made two separate rounds of visits to try and cover everyone but there are a few of you on both Albert Street and Pakiri road (close to Fisheries) that we haven't managed to meet with. Please call Jeanne or Janusz on 09 422 6424 to arrange a time.

Tom Searle

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HELP WANTED!

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Leigh 100 years ago

Fundraising for various war efforts had continued in Leigh at dances and at stock sales. Throughout December and January, fundraising became a competition between the eight districts of the Rodney Council. There would be a Queen's Carnival and Floral Fete over Anniversary Weekend when the Rodney A&P show was also held. There were extra trains and steamers from Auckland and the North running.

A queen had been chosen to represent each district: Charlena Bond represented Leigh, and Mrs Gozar Whangaripo/Pakiri. Mrs Wenzl Schollum, the Puhoi Queen won.

Money was raised through voting. Whangaripo 59,121 votes and Leigh 34,596. A total of £6000 was raised in the Rodney District for the YMCA and Red Cross. Counties throughout the Auckland Province picked up on this means of fundraising throughout 1918 and set a goal of £100,000.

Northern Advocate, 29 January 1918;

Rodney and Otamatea Times, December and January copies, and 6 Feb 1918.

Thanks.

I WISH to convey my sincere thanks to the members of the Committee and all other supporters who worked so energetically on my behalf throughout the Queen Carnival contest.

CHARLENA BOND,
Leigh.

Sheryl Corbett

Leigh Church Services

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

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Tips for staying safe in a storm (Auckland Council)

If your property or suburb may be affected by slips and power outages, prepare for the possibility that road access may be cut off.

Ensure you have food and provisions in case you find your property isolated. You also need a supply of drinking water and some to flush toilets if power goes off. Treat power lines as live at all times.

Report flooding on streets, blocked drains and trees down on public land to Auckland Council on 09 301 0101.

If your property is damaged, take photographs for your insurer as early as possible.

Further information about flooding and blockages can be found at aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

Driving

Make sure you always drive to the conditions.

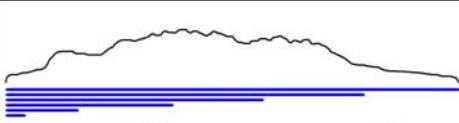
Never drive through floodwaters or over slips.

Avoid areas where flooding has occurred and, if roads are closed, observe these closures at all times.

If you find yourself stuck in flooding, get out of your car as quickly as possible and move to higher ground.

Take care driving after heavy rainfall and winds, as some roads may be slippery and affected by slips or debris.

Drive slowly and carefully.



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Angela Wain

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Leigh Church

The holidays are over, the children are back to school and we are back to the routine of everyday life once more. Folk at the local church have made plans for the next few months and we welcome your support and participation.

Supakidz commences again on February 20th, 3 - 4pm at the Leigh School House of Learning. This is an opportunity for the children to learn some of the values which underpin our society. Using stories from the Bible combined with games, action songs and crafts the children enjoy an hour of after school fun. All children are welcome and parents are welcome to join us at any stage of the programme.

Goodsorts We enjoy recognising people who give time and energy to serve our community in a voluntary capacity. Please keep nominations coming in either through the store or email the Leigh Rag Editor.

Harvest Festival Sunday, 11th March

We will be celebrating God's goodness to us as we bring produce, preserves and other goodies to church. This is followed by a **Harvest Stall**

on Monday the 12th 8.30 - 10.30 outside the Leigh Store. This is an opportunity for you to purchase the produce and preserves.

The money from the sale goes overseas to Greg and Rosie Blok (formerly Wyatt) in Thailand for their work among the hill tribes as Wycliffe missionaries



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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 Ann Dewey 021 982 678

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.