

LEIGH RAG

July 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 leighragnz@gmail.com**

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

Leigh & Districts Ex Services and Community Club presents:

Jud Croft talking about
The Great Pacific Garbage Patch
5 August at the Leigh Bowling Club 4pm

Huge areas of the Pacific contain circular currents that trap enormous quantities of floating rubbish. In this talk you will see graphic photos and video of the damage being done by discarded rubbish, why it's a threat to marine life, and what is being done to address this problem.



**Photo Credit:
Richard
Herrmann**

© Richard Herrmann

www.leighbythesea.co.nz

Editorial

A recent visitor to Leigh commented that they thought that the town would have been bigger. The reason being, they thought, was Leigh's website presence, brochure and walk brochure. The area is also known for the marine reserve at Goat Island which attracts a lot of visitors.

All the promotion of the Leigh area is done by volunteers. In fact a huge amount of the valuable work around the town is done by volunteers. Planting, pest eradication, street clean-ups, community functions and chasing up council to get things done are just some of the work volunteers do.

The cross section of groups is huge and diverse from the fire brigade who turn out at any time and in any weather to emergencies, to the smaller conservation groups who are just as dedicated.

The Leigh Rag has long had a column called "Good Sorts" sponsored by the Leigh Community Church. This has been a good way of recognising volunteer efforts made by the community or individuals.

Have a think about who you know that does some of this special volunteer work and as well as giving them some support and appreciation why not nominate them for this Leigh Rag award.

I'd also just like to acknowledge the dozens of Leigh volunteers who do so much to make this town and surrounding area such a great place to live. Thanks to all of you.

Tony Enderby

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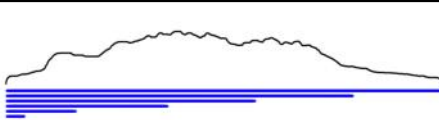
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Helen Parkes

Photo Credit Guy Parkes



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TAWHARANUI PLANTING DAY

5 August 2018

From Leigh there are beautiful views across Omaha Bay to the Tawharanui Peninsula. Over the years there have been many planting days to help restore the land and many of New Zealand's endangered birds now thrive there. Kiwi, takahe, saddlebacks, bellbirds, whiteheads, North Island robin and kaka are just some of these.

Join in a planting day and help restore the land and our views. Isn't it great that this regional park will never be subdivided and instead continue to be one of Auckland's best parks to visit.



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Leigh & Districts Ex Services & Community Club

Following on from Steve's article last month, a vote was taken at the monthly meeting which supported the idea of changing the club name. Watch this space for more news soon. We hope the new name will reflect the Club's changing role within Leigh and our relationship with Auckland Council.

Of course we will continue to organise the poppy day collection and the Anzac Day Service, but these days that is a small part of what we do. The majority of our time is spent on matters which benefit and concern everyone in our town.

A great deal of this is liaising with the council and its contractors on general maintenance work. Future planning is a big part of what needs to be done. The way the council functions, we cannot rely on Leigh being remembered when decisions are made; we have to be continually 'banging our drum' about each separate item, whether that's new pavements or lighting, or new amenities such as seating or transport.

We want the club to be able to reflect the needs and desires of everyone who calls Leigh home, but to be able to do that you have to get involved. A recent request on the LoveLeigh facebook page about walking tracks got very little response. If we are to lobby the council for funding we have to prove that it's wanted, so next time, whatever you think, let the club know.

Talking of transport, I understand that there is now a regular bus between Matakana and Warkworth. So plenty of changes happening.

See you at the next meeting, Sunday 5 August at 4pm.

Guest Speaker: Jud Croft will present his talk on The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

Lucy Harris

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Leigh Tennis Club Inc.

AGM

**At Leigh Bowling Club
Sunday 19 August 4.00pm.**

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Geoff Alexander - President LTC Inc.

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MATHESON BAY NEWS

After much work behind the scenes the upgrading of the Kohuroa track is continuing and Rodney Board Chair Beth Houlbrooke has written to the Matheson Bay Association as follows.

I am pleased to announce that the Rodney Local Board can confirm funding the ongoing renewal of the Kohuroa Stream track. We are delighted to support the ongoing work of local volunteers in this reserve, being carried out to protect kauri from die back, erosion in to the stream, and provide a safer more user-friendly walking track. I have been out to visit the track on a couple of occasions checking on progress and gaining an understanding of some of the bureaucratic hurdles faced by the team, so am pleased that after some persistence with council staff, we have secured funding to complete the work in this financial year (starting 1 July 2018). Huge thanks must go to Roger, Lydia & Ian, Trevor and Peter for their hard work and perseverance in progressing this project which will create a wonderful asset for this community.

A meeting was held with council staff and local volunteers at the reserve to plan planting and pest control. It is proposed a strip about 10m wide will be prepared in the 'wetland' to the left of the track bridge and will be planted out in natives on a 'community day' sometime in May 2019. This has the support of both council and the local board. A 'Matheson Bay animal pest control program' is being set up by yours truly with help from council's Community Park Ranger to further improve and protect the flora and fauna of this beautiful reserve.

A reminder that the Matheson Bay Mid-Winter Pot Luck Dinner is on Saturday 28 July at 6.00pm at the Leigh Hall.

Louise van Campfort

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Kia Ora

The council has been taking very good care of our gardens and recently they applied new bark which means our grounds are looking tidy.

Our new books are racing out the door and we have some more for you. Some good thrillers by favourites such as Martina Cole, J.D. Robb and David Baldacci plus the new Fiona Kidman novel which is based on a true story about a murder in Auckland. We also have the new Michael Ondaatje novel Warlight.

For the children we have the new Tom Gates plus the 104-Storey Treehouse by Andy Griffiths – guaranteed laughs for our younger readers.

We have moved some of our books around and you will find the Warkworth Library books just inside the front door, opposite the front desk. If you can't find what you're looking for, just ask the volunteer on duty.

We've also moved the magazine rack and given the magazines a wee cull. Did you know we have a subscription to the NZ Geographic? Always interesting articles and fascinating photography.

Hope you all have some good books to read in this atrocious weather!

Tracey Lawton

LEIGH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE 50 YEARS BOOK

This 50-year celebration book is still available from any brigade member or the Leigh General Store. The 100 page book includes many colour photographs and is 20cm x 28cm. The cost of each book is \$25.

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Mid Winter Swim at Matheson Bay

Over 60 people braved the Matheson waters this year with many spectators and the weather was perfect! It was great to have Alison Roe join us and of course our oldest local swimmer, Averil who just gets better each year!

Jan Scott, secretary of the Leigh Business Community has been organising these events over the past few years and it just keeps growing!

We are lucky to have such a beautiful local bay which is not tide dependant.

Thank you to the Leigh Tennis Club for their sausage sizzle and wonderful to have the support of Sylvia's Coffee and Real Fruit Ice-cream van there with those hot drinks for all.

And thank you to Murphy, the Penguin for joining us this year!



Photo credit Murphy by Jan Scott; Swimmers by Guy Parkes



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Leigh 100 years ago

Apart from a few showers, the residents had enjoyed fine weather. At a time when the roads were often in a state of disrepair and in need of layer of gravel, fine weather enabled large turnouts at local gatherings. Such was the situation in the first week of July in Pakiri and Leigh for farewells to three young men home on their final leave from military camp training.

Kiri Brown was an efficient M.C. at a farewell social held in the Pakiri Hall on Wednesday 3rd July for Privates Andy Biorklund and Ted Gravatt. *“Dancing was vigorous to the strains of the violin and piano until midnight when a sumptuous supply of edibles was partaken of.”* They were then each presented with silver wristwatches which Miss Jane Brown and Miss Biorklund put on the young men’s wrists.

The National Anthem was then sung followed by three hearty cheers. Dancing continued to the *wee sma’ hours*.

Two nights later there was dancing, singing, and recitations at the Leigh Hall to farewell Keith Matheson who was presented with a parcel of socks and a fountain pen by Reverend Charteris on behalf of the W.C.T.U. (Women’s Christian Temperance Union).

There was a large crowd at the wharf early on Saturday morning the 6 July 1918 *“to see off and give a big cheer”* to the three young men who left for Auckland on the *Kawau* at 8am. Andy and Ted left from Wellington three weeks later with the 41st Reinforcements on *Ulmaroa*. Five days later on 1st August, Keith sailed on *Tofua* with the 42nd RFTs. The ships travelled via the Cape of Good Hope and both arrived in London 4th October. They were the last men from this district to leave for WW1 service.

Keith’s younger brother, Ian had sailed in mid-June with 144 others of the 38th New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade on the *Manuka* for service in Egypt.

Diaries of Charles Clarke; Rodney and Otamatea Times, 10 and 17 July, 1918;
www.nzmr.org/lists; www.archway.archives.govt.nz.

Sheryl Corbett



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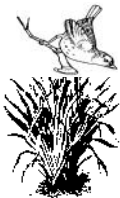
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Leigh School

This term the Leigh School children have been working on their enterprise projects. They worked hard preparing right up to Grandparents Day which was held on the last Wednesday of term. The turn out of grandparents was tremendous as was the morning tea provided by the parents. The grandparents got a chance to see the children's creations, enjoy a sweet treat or two and then purchase some of the products their grandchildren have been busy developing and marketing as part of their enterprise project. Some of the items for sale included lavender bath bombs, hot chili sauce, a calendar, freshly baked bread and bookmarks. The money raised will be donated to a charity yet to be decided. Some of the Leigh School children submitted poetry to the Matariki Youth Poetry competition and received the "Friends of Matariki Youth Poetry Literary Motif" award for their beautifully crafted work. Fleur from Mahurangi East Library (Snells Beach) come to the final assembly of the term and presented the school with a signed copy of Gavin Bishop's Aotearoa book. Well done to all the children who participated.

Hope everyone is enjoying the break and will feel refreshed for the second half of the year! Term 3 commences Monday 23 July.

Kate Shears

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Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

With the building alterations in full swing (and now getting close to completion) it's been a bit of a mission for brigade members at callouts. Our team turned out for 12 callouts in June. These were a chimney fire at Omaha Valley which turned out to be a pizza oven, 2 calls to flooding at Whangateau, an MVA at Tawharanui, a false alarm at Mahurangi and one at Goat Island and 1st response medical calls to Leigh (3), Matheson Bay (2) and Whangateau.

As I said earlier the fire station upgrade is getting close to completion with some brigade members working to get the job completed.

While Fire and Emergency New Zealand will cover most of the cost, brigade members with the support of the community raised \$40,000 towards it. We hope to have all the old fittings upgraded including kitchen utensils, photographs and a host of other things. Grants and brigade funds will see these sorted. Thanks again to all those members of the community who have supported us.

There will be an official opening in the future once everything has been signed off and we'll make sure everyone is kept informed of the date.

Training is continuing despite the grotty weather. Several of our new members are getting near to attending a recruit course and are going through the skills they will be tested on.

We could still do with a couple more people keen to train to be firefighters. If you think you might be interested come down to the fire station at 7pm on a Tuesday or ask one of our team for details.

Tony Enderby

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GOOD SORTS

NOMINATE A LOCAL GOOD SORT

Our Good Sorts column has run for a number of years, sponsored by Leigh Community Church. Many fantastic locals have been the Good Sort of the month over the years but there are others out there who also deserve the award.

If you know someone like this who has not yet been nominated, 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.

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



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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

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

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Leigh Library – 'The Cottage' opposite Leigh General 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

Pakiri Tennis Club Contact Linda Taylor (Secretary) on 021 242 7459

Rodney Rams Secretary Amy Weller 021 138 1407 rodneyrams@outlook.com

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

TOSSI www.facebook.com/tossi.nz/

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