

LEIGH RAG

February 2019

Leigh Rag is supported by the Leigh Community and compiled and edited by Tony Enderby, Ph 422 6127 or 021 167 1524. 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

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www.leighbythesea.co.nz/news-events

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Sunday 3 March
2019 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*

Leigh Community Club

Phew! As I write, the temperature is a comfortable 25 degrees, much better than the 34 showing on my min max thermometer for recently. Although it's been the holiday season, the community club has been busy sewing fabric bags to supply the shop to replace the plastic ones. Thank you to everyone who has bought a bag; they are all individually made by members, with fabric which has been donated, on our own sewing machines. Thank you to the generous people who have donated old machines, scissors, thread and of course fabric; it would have much harder without you! If you haven't got your fabric bags yet, they're at the shop.

The club meeting on 3 March will be our AGM. We'll be happy to see you there but remember if you want to vote you need to be a paid-up member. The AGM will be a review of the past year's activities and our current financial position.

We will also be considering changes to our financial planning and management to work with new council funding rules. In the past when the council awarded a grant, the sum of money was deposited in a lump sum immediately. That has changed and now, when a grant is given, the money is only reimbursed after it has been spent and approved, with proof in the form of an invoice.

This has repercussions for the community club, as we will need to hold funds to be able to apply for grants and fund the activity first before receiving any money from council. Grants increasingly are only given when matched funds or more are raised locally. Both of these are quite significant changes for us and many other groups and we need to work with these changes if we are to continue to do the things we think are important for Leigh.

I'm off for a swim - it's the only way to stay cool! See you on Sunday 3rd at 4pm.

Lucy Harris

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Leigh Community Church



We have welcomed in a new year and with it all the opportunities it offers to review what we do and to perhaps try new things. Folk at the church have decided to continue with Supakidz, Good Sorts, and the Harvest Festival.

Supakidz (**S**cripture **U**nion **P**rimary **A**dventures) is a club we run after school for 6 weeks each term at the Leigh School House of Learning. It is an opportunity for children to have fun and explore the christian values that underpin our culture, and is linked to the NZ Health Curriculum. Our aim is that through games, songs, craft activities and Bible stories the children will enjoy exploring these values and develop understanding, skills, and attitudes, that will help them in their relationships with others.

Supakidz begins Tuesday, 19 February at 3pm. For further information phone Barry and Janette Lee on 4226204.

Good Sorts is our opportunity to thank local people who go the extra mile for others. If you know someone who deserves such recognition drop a nomination at the Leigh store or to Jackie at the local garage during the week. We will take it from there.

Harvest Festival this year is on Sunday, 10 March we celebrate God's goodness to us as we bring produce, preserves and other goodies to church. On Monday, 11 March we will have a Harvest stall outside the Leigh store from 8.30 to 10am. Money from the sale goes overseas to missionaries we support working in Thailand.

We are also looking at the possibility of running a school holiday programme this year. We need to assess the feasibility of this project and what level of uptake we can expect. And so we will be engaging in some form of survey soon.

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Leigh Waste Minimisation Project

The Leigh Waste Minimisation Project now has a programme of workshops and sewing bees organised for this term. We will kick off with an overview of our project – what we are doing and our aims and objectives.

Bag making has been our main focus and that will continue as we support the Leigh General Store to eliminate plastic bags. We will be running workshops and sewing bee's this term to help locals to be able to create bags for a variety of purposes. So if you want to learn to sew, or get back into sewing we would love to see you at our events. All at the Leigh Hall.

- 7.00 pm Tuesday, 26 February: *Overview and Bag Making.*
- 7.00 pm Tuesday, 5 March *BeeTopia: Presentation on Bees Wax and Wrap making.*
- 7.00 pm Tuesday 12 March: *Learn to Sew (1) beginners & refresher.*
- 7.00pm Tuesday, 19 March: *Learn to Sew (2) beginners & refresher.*
- 7.00pm Tuesday, 26 March: *Helping your garden grow.*

Thursdays and Monday mornings each week at 9.30am a sewing bee will be held to help with your sewing projects. These are in the meeting room at the Cumberland Road side.

Please contact helenp708@gmail.com to book in. or txt on 021484432.



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Pest Free Leigh


Like many places around New Zealand, Leigh has many different pests both plant and animal. Mothplant is one of the worst vines (see article on page 13) and is flowering now so easy to spot. To help Leigh get rid of this and other plants such as gorse, ginger, pampas, woolly nightshade and others everyone needs to help. Your own property is a good place to start getting rid of these plants but it is ongoing and vigilance is needed as new pest plants pop up. Then check out your neighbourhood for more pests.

Other pests, also introduced to New Zealand, include stoats, rats and possums. These animals all affect our native wildlife. Think about what it was like for our wildlife before the pests arrived. There are many ways we can all help such as having traps in our own backyard.

Imagine if we could rid Leigh of pests and see our native plants and wildlife flourish! We aim to bring you information each month on how you can help get rid of pests.

Check out the following websites for more information:

www.predatorfreenz.org www.theforestbridgetrust.org.nz www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/animal-pests/





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Whangateau Acoustic Music & Social Club

Coming up next we have Australian old timey/folk/bluegrass/everything musicians Dennis Duigan and Ramblin' Ash on 25 February.

Both Dennis and Ramblin' Ash have been performing solo across Australia and in Bluegrass and Western Swing bands - this tour will see them join forces to create an act that highlights the best they have to offer.

Possessing a powerful set of pipes that are equal parts soulful and high lonesome, Dennis's repertoire draws from both the vast canon of American roots music, and a growing body of his own Southern flavoured original creations. A former heavy metal reprobate who defected and took up residence in the Americana folk music camp, Dennis has a lingering penchant for intricate and nuanced playing.

You might find Ramblin' Ash Constance pickin' old country songs for grey nomads at a free camp in rural Victoria, or playing at a crowded blues bar in Brisbane city - wherever and whenever she turns up, there is always a story to be told and a tune to be sung. With a voice like birdsong and the rollicking,

rough and tumble of a true traveller she will break your heart, then charm your socks off and leave you longing for a life on the road.

https://whangateau.co.nz/qsot-event/ramblin-ash-and-dennis-duigan/02-25_2019-700pm/

Then it's the Frank Burkitt Band on 6 March. 2019 TUI AWARD WINNER FOR BEST FOLK ALBUM! And believe you me, it deserved it. These folks are brilliant!

https://whangateau.co.nz/qsot-event/frank-burkitt-band-in-concert/03-06_2019-730pm/



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Leigh Historic Stories Wanted

The Leigh Rag is looking for anecdotes, stories and memories of early Leigh and its people and welcome contributions (up to about 200 words) from the Leigh, Matheson Bay, Pakiri, Ti Point and Whangateau areas.

Do you have a little story, historic photographs or memories to share?

It could be about an event, a person, or stories of when you were young. Any photographs to go with a story would be good too but are not necessary. Email us your story or idea or drop it off at the Leigh General Store.

Many thanks, Leigh Rag.

LEIGH RAG

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

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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 at enderbys@xtra.co.nz.

*The person considered most deserving
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Leigh Business Community

The Leigh Business Community are gearing up for another busy year supporting our local businesses and promoting our fantastic region. Our first committee meeting is on 20 February.

Whangateau Holiday Park has a new manager - Petrina, who is acting manager at present. The Sawmill Cafe is open for breakfast every day from 10am until late February. Leigh Central has 3 new cabins (2 to come) - pop in and have a look if you are passing.

We are in the process of getting some 'Escape to Leigh' labels printed to go on the reusable bags that the Project Waste team have been producing. Unfortunately these weren't ready in time for the Leigh Summer Festival but keep an eye out for these appearing on the bags shortly. Project Waste is such a positive move for a small community.

Don't forget the Business Services section of our website which can be viewed at www.leighbythesea.co.nz/business-services/ and make it your first stop shop for finding a local business. Thank you to those trade services who have joined our business group. We are here to help so do contact us for any assistance with setting up your listings. Our website also lists useful things like Leigh Library opening hours and other useful information so if you have not already had a look at our website, check it out and add it to your favourites.

For any further Trade Service enquiries, or any information about LBC contact secretary Jan Scott

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Kia Ora

What a summer and what a busy time we've been having at the library.

We have some more new books. Jamie Cooks Italy is currently screening on TV1 and we have a copy so you can have a go at some of these amazing recipes. Plus a couple of books by New Zealand authors; Call Me Evie by J P Pomare and The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris are among the recent purchases.

Starting in March we will be running a monthly book club evening at the library from 7pm on the last Tuesday of the month for Leigh Library members. We will be discussing books we've read from the library and each person will be able to talk briefly about one book. We will provide tea and coffee and look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, the same old topic of overdue/lost books . . . please, please return your books before they become overdue or pay the fine upon their return. \$1 per book per week is not a huge amount but serves to encourage timely returns. If a book is lost or damaged, either replace it or pay for us to replace it. We have limited funding and our books are precious to us and our community.

We will be following up on overdue books more vigorously this year.

Tracey Lawton



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Leigh Raft Race

The great Leigh Raft Race hosted by Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade, will be held at Matheson Bay on Saturday, 23 March at 1pm. The event, which dates back more than 40 years is a chance to pit your skills against other raft makers.

Matakana Volunteer Fire Brigade have won this race for the last two years in spite of attempts by Leigh brigade members to sabotage their efforts. This year the rules will be put in place after Matakana have built their raft. Not true but cheating in all forms are part of the event and a full set of rules will be available well before the event.

As in the past, safety is a big consideration and all competitors must wear life jackets and no solid objects are to be thrown.

Errol Murray from Leigh brigade is the organiser and anyone wanting more details can phone him on 021 078 7477.

This will be a fun event so come along and support the day or better still put a raft together.

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GOOD SORTS

Our first GOOD SORTS for 2019 are the **Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade**. Such an amazing group of local men and women who drop everything in an instant to respond to emergency situations in our district. As well as all the training courses and weekly practices they must attend, they even undertake their own fundraising, hold Open Days and help out at many community events. How lucky are we all to have such a dedicated group that when the siren sounds we know for sure that help is on the way. The *Leigh Community Church* are delighted to bake for you.



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MATHESON BAY NEWS

With such a lovely hot summer there has been much activity at the beach – not all good unfortunately. We had a medical call out and it was great to see the response. Two fire engines, police, ambulance and sea rescue all came to the young women's aid. On Waitangi Day a yacht moored in the bay overnight and when a strong wind and swell came in from the east, was unable to get to safety. It beached on the rocks at the southern end of the bay and wallowed there for several days until it finally broke up. As debris full of nails, the cabin, and other large pieces were being washed up on the beach and collected by locals, the Harbour Master was called. Most of it has been removed, but there are still large pieces left. Apart from that, the water has been lovely and the swimming great.

No access to the carpark on the northern side has caused problems on the southern side where cars have to compete with campervans and trailers. It would help if people angle parked and observed the 'No Parking' sign. The local board has been alerted to the state of this carpark and it is hoped that it will be re-surfaced as the northern end has, which was in perfect condition to the untrained eye. Evidently there were drainage issues (nothing like the water and mud that collects on the southern side though).

The Matheson Bay Association has put in a submission to council against 'freedom camping' in the bay. As the bay is small and there are increasing numbers of visitors and three camping areas within the area (one of which is council owned and rarely full which we ratepayers are subsidising).

Louise van Campfort

LEIGH BAR

EST 2014

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LEIGH SCHOOL

This year we start with a full house as the school roll is 59 children. Welcome to the new families who have moved to the area and to the new entrants from Leigh Preschool.

As all the children new and old settled into their classrooms last week, the PTA and many parent helpers frantically prepared for the school Summer Festival,

which was held last Saturday.

This is the second year of the Summer Festival and despite the occasional rain throughout the day, a great time was had by all. The scones were freshly baked, the fish burgers were delicious, and the hangi was a big hit and welcome addition this year! There was an amazing range of musical acts which added a great vibe, and the beer and wine made for a lovely afternoon, early evening. The school raised ~\$16,000 which will be used towards the upgrade of the House of Learning including the kitchen.

A big thank you to the main organisers, all the parents, and business sponsors and supporters whom made this all possible.

Thank you to Mahurangi Community Charitable Society Inc who have donated \$2000 to the school to support families who struggle to pay for school expenses. They raise money by selling second-hand donated goods at their store on Mill Lane, Warkworth.

What a generous community we live in!

Kate Shears

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THANK YOU, LEIGH RESIDENTS!

2019 is the first year we have seen really positive signs that our project to stop the spread of **Moth Plant/Kapok Plant** is succeeding. The project is in its ninth year and of the 150 sites we now monitor, many now only need an annual check. So what has been the success factor? Undoubtedly the 'buy in' from Leigh householders! This year, more than ever, there are dead moth vines in gardens, road side, and in bush where residents have checked their property and got the vine roots out of the ground. This is truly a community project. Thanks.

Our Coast Care Group mission is to restore the sea cliffs and coastal walkway reserve to how it should be. It's a bold dream but we can be proud of the revegetation we've done over the years. We always can do more with more helpers and we'll resume working bees soon- now that the days are cooling a bit. Our jobs always vary from light to energetic, so if you'd like to help, please email Neil at corsut15@gmail.com and you'll be put on our data base.

Neil Sutherland.



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Leigh Hall

A huge thank you to so many of you who were able to help at our recent working bee. Wow, what a difference. It makes the committee members feel good to know that what we are striving for (a nice meeting place for a large range of activities for everyone who wants to use it) is appreciated. And wow, we certainly do appreciate you, the Leigh Community.

This year's plans include niggling away at council for some more upgrading to be done. A big thank you to the Council Rural Hall Coordinator, Jo, who is a local and has done a lot of work on our behalf. There has been dead tree removal done (some still in progress) and fumigation and cleanup should happen in the very near future which will get rid of the rest of the ants! There will be some new signage put up in the next few months, and a water upgrade is planned for April. There is still so much more that we, the committee want for the hall, and we hope to fundraise to do more improvements ourselves – watch this space.

One current project is to get the meeting room downstairs fully operational, - and to this end we have the offer of new lino to replace the ancient bug-infested carpet that has now gone. We would love to hear from any local concrete workers who could help out with grinding and levelling the floor, and any lino layers that would be interested in quoting for the laying.

Hall hire fees are very reasonable. We would like the hall to be used more, so contact us for more info. leighhallauckland@gmail.com or Ph Lynn 0272868625.



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Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

The year ended a little less busy than 2017 with 14 callouts for the brigade in December. These were a structure fire in Matakana and another at Snells Beach, car fire at Omaha, motor vehicle accident at Matakana, vegetation fire at Pakiri, a tree fallen across road on Pakiri Hill and medical calls to Leigh (5), Goat Island, Pakiri Hill and Pakiri. The brigade attended 128 calls during 2018.

The new year began with a callout on New Year's Day and saw the brigade called nine times during January. Callouts were to a rescue at Goat Island, animal rescue at Whangateau, and medical calls to Pakiri, Pakiri Hill, Cape Rodney, Whangateau, Leigh, Goat Island and Matheson Bay.

For all medicals calls we were ably supported by St John Ambulance staff who do an amazing job and also by Auckland Rescue Helicopter team for more serious events. The helicopter team are invaluable to our area, being able to transport a patient to hospital in the city in 20 minutes which given the traffic problems we are now stuck with will save lives.

There is now a total fire ban imposed for all our area. This means no open fires of any kind anywhere—including beaches, parks and back yards. Charcoal barbecues are also a no-no in public parks as the hot embers are often tipped into the sand, long grass or a rubbish bin. We only have to look at the events in Nelson to see what can start as a small fire then can rapidly escalate. Our area is pretty dry and with large areas of open grass, scrub and forest it could happen here. Be really vigilant and don't give a fire the chance to spread—call 111 if you feel any threat from a fire. If we do get called to a fire you have, we are obligated to extinguish it.

Brigade members are back training although hoping we don't get called to any major fires. Problems with pumps and our truck and its replacement have just been looked upon as a challenge.

Remember if you come across an emergency and our crews are working along the road to please slow down. This also applies as our trucks come in and out of the fire station. The flashing lights on the trucks are there as a warning so please slow down and don't endanger our crew.

Tony Enderby

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The logo for Mike Pero Real Estate, featuring the name 'mike Pero' in a white, handwritten-style script font on a black rectangular background.

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Angela Wain

Mike Pero Matakana Coast

P: 0274 936 800 or 0800 MATAKANA | Angela.Wain@mikepero.com



@mikeperomatakanacoast



LITTLE BLUE PENGUINS - KORORĀ

These cute little penguins come ashore to breed around the Leigh coast. At this time of year up till around the end of March, adult penguins come ashore to moult. They shed their feathers and grow new ones over a two-week period and are very vulnerable during this time as they cannot swim.

The Department of Conservation website lists the following to help keep our penguins safe:

- Leave penguins alone. Usually scruffy birds are simply moulting.
- Put your dog on a leash around penguin areas.
- Keep your dog away from nests, and warn others nearby of the location.
- Donate your time or money to help penguin protection groups, such as the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust and Forest & Bird.

To help protect little penguins we are interested in any sightings on land. Please email Leighpenguins@gmail.com with details of where you have sighted any.

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES

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Matheson Bay History

I first came to Matheson Bay (aged six) on a family Christmas holiday in 1949. We stayed in an old army hut on the corner of Matheson Bay Road. By the late 50s that was Mrs Boon's Store. Meantime my parents and three friends had built family baches up the road. In those days the road from Warkworth was unsealed. Mrs Boon complained regularly about the dust from the Leigh traffic. She then she discovered that one of the new bach owners was the Ministry of Works engineer for Northland. So, for several years, every time Roy went to the store for his paper or milk, he got an ear bashing about dusty roads. Finally, he surrendered, and about 40 metres of seal appeared on the corner alongside her store. (but not past his bach).

In those first years we used to get milk from the Kendall farm. The kids would be sent with a billy through the bush, across the stream, and down the farm track to the milking shed. Great adventure.

After a few years the families acquired a clinker dinghy, and wanted a boat shed. The only boatshed near the beach was Roly's boatshed. The story as I remember it was that Mr McCallum owned the piece of land at the beachfront, and Bert enquired if he could buy a small plot. Mr McCallum declined, because the depth of land left was less than the Queen's Chain he would lose if he sold. But he forthrightly gave permission to build on his land, we had a robust boat shed (and community changing shed) until Auckland took the land for a park.

Other events included the mullet boat race annually from Auckland, with a Saturday dance at the Leigh Hall, a riotous occasion.

The only early beach access was down Matheson Bay Road and the main road sections all had an access right of way down a bulldozed track from the road end onto the beach (now mostly eroded away). Quite a few boats were manhandled up and down that track.

When I first learnt to snorkel (about '57) the reef to the island was a cornucopia of fish life, including crays. But the diving schools soon discovered that, and there was a fast decline.

Amongst our neighbours, Bill and Rene Bass were keen and expert fishermen. They took their dinghy out regularly and usually returned with a boatload of fish, generously shared (scaled and gutted) amongst the neighbours.

John Pearce

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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
www.leighbythesea.co.nz or email LeighbytheseaNZ@gmail.com

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 phone Lynn Mellsopp 027 2868 625 or email leighhallauckland@gmail.com

Leigh Harbour Valley Society - 09 422 6880 www.leighharbourvalleysociety.org.nz

Leigh Historic Group currently being formed email historyleighnz@gmail.com

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.