

LEIGH RAG

March 2019

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

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Leigh Raft Race

Don't miss the great Leigh Raft Race hosted by Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The race 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.

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 build a raft and compete for some great prizes.

**Thanks to
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Central Landscape Supplies
for donated prizes.**

The Leigh Fishing Contest

A great day of fishing, music, auctions and conviviality.

The Surtees 495 with Honda outboard **Congratulations to Mark Strawbridge**



PEST FREE LEIGH - RATS

Do you have rats around your house or in your compost bin? Around this time of year, they become more common and can find their way inside houses. Rats eat birds, seeds, insects, larvae, flowers, snails and eggs.

There are two main types of rats: ship rats and Norway rats. The ship rat is the most common and is the smaller of the two European rats. Its tail is longer than its body. Ship rats are skilled tree climbers and will predate bird nests, eating chicks and eggs. Norway rats are bigger with a thick tail which is shorter than its body. They are common around urban areas and can kill adult seabirds as well as chicks and eggs.

A good way to reduce their numbers is to place rat traps around your property. Rat traps should be placed inside tunnels to make them safe for pets and children. Tunnels should be placed on a flat surface near walls or under cover. They have a small opening for rats to enter.

It's good to try a variety of baits and peanut butter is commonly used. Check your traps every few days until rat numbers drop, then you can check and rebait them less often. Be careful handling traps and wear gloves when rebaiting and removing rats.

Check out

<https://predatorfreenz.org/resources/trapping-best-practice/#backyard>

for more information on what to buy and where from.

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Leigh Community Club

The AGM of the Leigh & Districts Ex Services & Community Club was held on 3 March at Leigh Bowling Club. Lucy Harris was re-elected as President, Steve Mantle as Vice-President, Guy Parkes as Secretary and Elizabeth Jones as Treasurer. Sylvia Belsten stepped down after doing sterling work for a number of years and was thanked for her contribution and willingness to help the community. Deen Hall was elected onto the committee and brings with him wonderful skills which will no doubt be put to good use in the future. It was agreed to change the name of the club to The Leigh Community Club to better reflect the work that the committee now does and their drive to involve more and more people from across the community in their future plans to make Leigh an even better place to live.

The club will continue to organise the Anzac Day service. They will also continue with the ever-growing task of liaising with Auckland Council and the Rodney Local Board over issues relating to the Leigh area as well as applying for any grants available to improve services and facilities here. The grant application system is changing dramatically and in many cases the club must be able to show that they can fund up to half the project before council will step in with the other half and that will only be paid out once the work is completed. For that reason a smaller number of grants were made to the community this year so that the club will have a "working fund" for future works. The next meeting will be held at Leigh Bowls Club on 7 April at 4pm.

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Leigh Cemetery

How many ever think to visit the beautiful Leigh Cemetery, for the view over the picturesque harbour, the peace there and the treasure trove of historic people who lie within?

Right at the far end, under the old spreading pohutukawa tree is a cluster of significant graves. The group of pink granite gravestones are those of the first official caretaker of Little Barrier Island (Hauturu), Robert Henry Anson Shakespear, appointed in 1897, a post he held for 13 years until he became ill in 1910 and returned to the Shakespear farm on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula - now the regional park where he died that year. His wife Blanche (nee Smith), his mother Frances (Fanny), his only son, Robert (Bob) and Bob's wife Elsie (nee Tylden), and three of his daughters, Frances, Ruby and Helen, and two of Blanche's sisters, Ethel and Alice are buried at Leigh Cemetery.

Judy, Shakespear's only granddaughter spent her first 13 years on the island. Frances, the oldest daughter, 18 when they went to the island, was a keen naturalist and contributed information and hundreds of plant samples to the



Auckland Museum. She became a glass plate photographer and her collection of photographs is also in the Auckland Museum. Bob and his father built a number of boats while on Little Barrier; some were the *Judy*, *Rob Roy*, *Pirate* and *Centurion*. The middle sisters became brave and skilful sailors. Leigh was the closest land, but access by boat was always difficult. *Jenny Scott*

Left: The Shakespear Graves in Leigh Cemetery.

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GOOD SORTS

This month our GOOD SORT is **Richard Scott** nominated by Helen Parkes who wrote the following. "On Friday, 7 December Richard walked to our home to deliver Guy his phone which he had inadvertently left behind on a table at the Leigh Bar. Richard said that as it is a busy time of year he would be lost without his phone so thought it important to drop it off to Guy and we really appreciate this act of kindness." Thanks Richard for going the extra mile here in Leigh. The *Leigh Community Church* have home baking coming your way.

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 LeighRagNZ@gmail.com.

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

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Leigh Community Hall

Change is in the air, and it's good. These beautiful early-autumn days are really nice.

The hall committee are excited that the community is becoming more connected and that there are a lot of activities happening around Leigh and surrounds for young and old alike.

Look out next month for a kids "drop-in" day at the hall during the holidays. Date and details will be put on the LoveLeigh facebook page and on noticeboards around Leigh. We hope to have plenty of free activities available that are suitable for both primary and college aged kids, to get them out of your hair and away from their devices for an hour or two. Anyone wanting to help out for a while during the day or who has gear suitable for indoor activities please let us know, we'd love some assistance. If this is well supported it could become a regular school holiday thing.

The hall still has lots of spaces in the regular booking schedule for either small or large get-togethers.

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 phone Lynn 0272868625.

Lynn Mellsopp

Thank You Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

For fixing the bell at the Leigh Community Church. It had been out of action for over a year, so we are very pleased you guys needed some ladder practice and got the job done without any fuss.



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Nine years since the start, this has been such a rewarding project. Think back to the Daniels Reef track when it was privet, pampas and tobacco plant for 10 metres either side of the track, and look at the wonderful bush that now grows there. This was where we started and now there are several other areas of developing restoration along the Leigh Coastal Reserve.

It is exciting to see the recent establishment of trap lines along the coast, as the obvious next stage for our project is to do something about predator control to encourage wildlife back to the area. The current coastal trapping is getting about a 25% catch rate of rats and weasels each week, and of course your household trapping is all part of the big picture.

Our March Coast Care working bee resulted in a big clean out of pest plants on the headland beside Crabb Beach.

Our next one will be for two hours, 9 a.m. Thursday, 4 April, place to be decided. If you're interested and not on our email list, please get in touch.

Our jobs always vary from light to energetic, so if you'd like to join the group, please email Neil at corsut15@gmail.com and you'll be put on our data base.

Neil Sutherland

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Kia Ora

In this current world climate of extreme acts of violence and hatred, books are a window into other cultures, beliefs and realities. Reading has always been a way to open our minds and walk a moment in someone else's shoes.

Here are some books we have that will provide excellent reading and also perhaps a glimpse into something unfamiliar or inspiring.

Home Fire by Kamila Shamsie, Exit West by Mohsin Hamid, An Orchestra of Minorities by Chigozie Obioma, The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris, To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee, Washington Black by Esi Edugyan, Becoming by Michelle Obama, Half Of A Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

Also, don't forget that we are running a library book club at Leigh Library on the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm. This is open to Leigh Library members and is a chance to talk briefly about one book you've read from the library. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Tracey Lawton

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Leigh Community Preschool

Leigh Preschool held its AGM on Wednesday evening and, as it turns out, 2018 was a very busy and productive year! We welcomed three new teachers who brought with them fresh ideas. The preschool upgraded its interior in both the under 2's and over 2's area with fresh paint, new carpet and furniture. We also did a bit of maintenance to the outdoor water feature and revamped the beloved mud kitchen. These are just a few of the highlights! The preschool ran a very successful gala in October that raised ~\$16,500 thanks to some very generous community support. These funds are earmarked for further upgrades to the interior of preschool including new furniture.

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I would like to thank the committee members who have stepped down for various reasons and extend a warm welcome to the new committee members Maria (Chairperson), Alaina (Secretary), Shani (Treasurer), Ben, Harriet, Crystal, Rawinia and Pam. I have really enjoyed my time on the committee at Leigh preschool and wish the preschool all the best as it is a real asset to our community!

Kate Shears



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MATHESON BAY NEWS



The golden weather is continuing and the beach is beautiful, the water still warm. The fresher mornings are a great start with still warm days following. Great for all the people selling their houses in the bay of which there are about six at the moment.

The Kohu stream track is finished and if you haven't been up for a while check out what this amazing team have done to upgrade the beautiful walkway, to protect the kauri and make for easier and safer access. David Edwards has arranged for the planting project at the southern end of the reserve (near the track) to commence. Diary 4 May at 9am (rain dates 11 or 18 May) and come and

help plant the 500 native trees that have been supplied by Auckland Council. As many people as possible are needed to crack this in the three or so hours envisaged. Come prepared with a spade, boots and gloves and enjoy the sausage sizzle to follow. This is a great chance for the whole community to get involved and socialize. Good to see that Downer have now cleaned up the left over concrete from the new footpath at the bottom of Matheson Bay Road. The mower contractors will now be able to mow there again.

Louise van Campfort

LEIGH BAR

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LEIGH SCHOOL

Salps, salps and more salps! Leigh School has wrapped up their enquiry into salps, a gelatinous marine organism frequently found in our local waters.

Thanks to support from Unlocking Curious Minds and the University of Auckland, our lucky children got a chance to snorkel at Goat Island to see salps in their own habitat. It was a lovely day and the children had a blast despite seeing very few salps - they did however see quite a few snapper and an eagle ray! To conclude, Claudio (AUT) and Moira (NIWA), and Tim from the Goat Island Marine Discovery Centre (UoA), gave a final presentation to the children which showcased a new app and virtual reality learning experience. The children then got a chance to display their own independent project on salps including many outstanding dioramas, a salp model, and a couple of movies. Tim and Hayley from the Discovery Centre flipped sausages for morning tea and Jonathan from Mahurangi Matters took notes to include in a feature environmental piece soon to be published. A great project for Leigh School to be part of and thanks to all involved.

Year 4, 5 and 6 children spent Wednesday competing in the inter-school swimming sports at Mahurangi College. Congrats to all who participated and especially to Freya, Poppy, Gigi, Douglas and Kalani who made it to the finals in quite a few races. Considering we only had 9 children in the entire competition, Leigh School did exceptionally well.

Kate Shears



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Warkworth Area Forest and Bird AGM

Thursday, 21 March, 7.30pm
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Melwood Drive, Warkworth

Speaker: Mel Galbraith

Mel is a senior lecturer in applied ecology at Unitec. He will tell us about his research on black back gulls and about Motu Kaikoura, a recently restored island near Great Barrier Island.

All welcome

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Whangateau Road Safety Meeting

Around 50 people attended a meeting at Whangateau Hall on Friday, 15 March to discuss possible solutions to traffic speeding through the village and on neighbouring roads in the area. Warkworth Police head Sergeant Mark Stalworthy and Rodney Local Board Member Beth Houlbrooke also attended.

Most of those present tabled ideas for improved road safety in the area at the end of the meeting. Those with the most support included:

Standing speed cameras at Leigh, Whangateau, Point Wells, Omaha and Matakana; increased police presence across the whole area including Whangateau; making Leigh Road between Matakana and Whangateau and Whangateau and Leigh 80kph; having a speed readout of actual speed (as at Snells Beach) at the start of Hauraki Road, Leigh and at Whangateau.

Other ideas included installing speed bumps, barriers alongside roads, pedestrian crossing in Whangateau and also more signage to encourage people to slow down as they pass through Whangateau and other safety measures.

More information on this will be published in a future Leigh Rag.



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Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

The quieter time for Leigh brigade members continued into February with eight callouts. These were a call to smoke showing at Leigh, but nothing was found, a structure fire at Pakiri and medical calls to Leigh (3), Whangateau, Goat Island and Matheson Bay.

In spite of the fine dry weather no major vegetation fires occurred in our area. The responsible attitude of the community is a major contributor in this. Thanks everyone. The very large fires that occurred in the Nelson region shows what can happen if a small grass fire jumps into trees and then threatens peoples' homes.

Brigade members have spent a few Tuesday nights working around the local creeks pumping water in training for a fire away from regular water supplies. We're lucky that many of the local creeks still run during a dry spell, ensuring us with water.

Our numbers are climbing back with a few new recruits and we welcome Jake Lawton and Gideon Dolan to the crew. Hopefully the number of callouts stays low and the run of nights without the siren sounding continues.

Don't forget the raft race at Matheson Bay on Saturday, 23 March at 1pm. Should be a fun day with prize giving afterwards at the fire station. Thanks to Leigh Eats, Leigh Bar, Central Landscape Supplies and Leigh Sawmill Cafe for their generous donations.

If you think you might be interested in becoming a firefighter you're welcome to come down to the fire station at 7pm on a Tuesday and see if what we do suits you – no obligation to join

Tony Enderby

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Leigh Church Harvest Festival Stall

We set up our stall outside the Leigh store, last Monday, on a lovely sunny day. Thank you Delwyn and Grant for cheerfully letting us sell our goodies on your doorstep!

Business was brisk and by 10am most of the produce, preserves and baking was sold.

Our thanks to those who came and supported us buying goods, bringing baking, and to those who bought goods and also included a donation. We appreciate your support, and thanks to you all we raised \$415.

This money will go to Greg and Rosie Blok in Thailand. Rosie, (nee Wyatt), as many of you know, grew up in Leigh. Greg and Rosie work among the hill country tribes translating the Bible into their language, living with the people and engaged in village life.

Joan Springay

Leigh Church Services

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

Sunday at 11 am

There is also a prayer meeting every Sunday at 10.30 am.

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All welcome

LEIGH RAG

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Helpful Contacts

*For all emergencies dial 111
and ask for police, ambulance or fire*

Auckland Council

Dogs, pollution, rubbish etc call 09 301 0101 toll free or to report something that is causing an immediate risk to the safety of a person, people or property.

Auckland Transport: public transport enquiries 0800 103 080

General roading and street light queries 09 355 3553

Harbourmaster: maritime safety, moorings, harbour emergencies Call 09 362 039

Coastguard

Call *500 for on-water assistance or for marine emergencies dial 111 / VHF Channel 16

Department of Conservation (DoC)

Call their hotline 0800 362 468 (marine reserve offences, marine mammal strandings, sick or injured wildlife, etc.)

Healthline

Call 0800 611 116 for 24-hour medical services

Lifeline Helpline

Call 0800 543 354 or text HELP (4357) for free, 24/7, confidential support – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Whatever the issue, they are there to listen.

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)

Call 0800 80 99 66 to report fisheries offences.

Northlink Health enquiries for Home Help Ph 0800 425 999

North Shore Hospital Emergency Care

24 hours 7 days Shakespeare Rd, Takapuna 0800 809 342

Orca Hotline

Call 0800 733 6722 to report orca sightings.

Police - urgent but not life-threatening incidents

Call *555 (minor crashes, non-injury, continuous poor driving, traffic congestion, breakdowns and obstructions on the highway.)

Warkworth Police Station 09 425 8109 8am-4pm Mon - Fri

Shorecare Accident & Medical: 24/7, Sovereign House, Smales Farm

Takapuna National Poison Centre: 24 hrs advice 0800 764 766

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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 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. Glen Walker 09 422 6486

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 Club - meets 4pm, 1st Sunday of month at Leigh Bowling Club. Organises Anzac Day Service and Community Matters. New members welcome. President Lucy Harris 021 202 8932

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.