

June 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.

> 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 Community Club, Leigh Fisheries and the Leigh General Store View the Leigh Rag online www.leighbythesea.co.nz/news-events



Light Up Leigh

Friday, 12 July starting at 4pm

Scavenger Hunt, Market, Stalls, Great Local Food

Spectacular Light Competition Leigh's best lit house Whangateau's best lit letterbox

5 July—20 July

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In May, members of the Leigh Business Community enjoyed a burger and movie night at Leigh Central on Sunday, 19 May. This was a good chance to catch up with other business owners and share burgers, popcorn and ice creams.

The next event on our calendar is the Leigh Midwinter Swim on Sunday, 23 June meet at 10:15 am to 'take the plunge' or just cheer on the others if you don't fancy getting wet! Leigh School will be selling sausages, hot soup and baking so come and support them too.

Some Leigh businesses are also getting behind the 'Light Up Leigh' event on Friday, 12 July. Come and join us and the rest of the community as we celebrate winter in Leigh. This should be a fun event for everyone. There will be more information on the Love Leigh Facebook page, the Leigh by the Sea website/ Facebook and on posters around the community. For further information phone

Jan Scott 09 422 6681 email leighbytheseaNZ@gmail.com

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Sunday, 2 July

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WETAPUNGA

Thursday, 20 June at 7.30pm *All welcome*

Talk by Chris Green world expert on these large New Zealand insects.

> at Totara Park Village Hall Warkworth

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Leigh Community Club

Martin and I arrived home last weekend, welcomed by 50 knot winds and rain, but it's been lovely since, which does make up for leaving summer behind in Britain. I barely had any rain during my trip, the cricket world cup isn't being so lucky! The Community Club has been busy while I was away and although it's winter, there's plenty of planning being done. With so many walking trails being closed due to concerns about spreading kauri dieback disease, the council are actively working to open new tracks away from kauri trees. Guy and Steve from the committee spent half a day with council and Bevan Woodward from the Trails Trust discussing walkways and potential walkways around Leigh. There is some hope of connecting the coastal path from the marine lab to Cape Rodney Road which would then of course connect to Leigh by Mount Pleasant Drive and the path at the back of the harbour. How exciting would that be? I understand that there are men at work building a path from the end of Harbour View to the rocks at the harbour entrance. The much loved goat

track is considered unsafe. The bridge on the coastal path between Cotterell and Kowhai streets is now due to be completed by the end of August. It was great to read about the planting done at Kowhai Reserve, and the fantastic results of the trapping which is going on. We all benefit from that, not just the little blue penguins. Thanks to everyone involved.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, 7 July at 4pm at the bowling club. Our guest speaker is Peter Thompson who will be talking about how they made Pt Wells Predator Free.

Come and meet your friends and neighbours and hear what is happening in your district.

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Leigh Community Hall

Recent upgrades to the hall include the downstairs "meeting" room looking and feeling cosy, with the kind donation of some nice warm rugs to go on our newly painted concrete floor (thank you Tawharanui Lodge) and new curtains made by the Waste Minimisation Project. This room is now used twice a week regularly, and is available for hire for other small group meetings.

A projector screen has recently been purchased and the committee are hopeful of getting a projector in the near future, which will be available for a small charge to groups booking the hall.

The committee are now looking out for kitchen items to upgrade the items available for everyday use in the hall. If you are having a clearout, please think of us.

Contact Lynn 0272868625 or email <u>leighhallauckland@gmail.com</u> if you can help.

Winter options for family gatherings / kids birthday parties etc? - consider hiring the hall.

Correction and additions from last month's Rag Leigh Fishing Contest The picture showing the winner of the boat was with Toni Palmer from our generous sponsors Surtees and Eden Craig from Honda Marine not Leanda Hunt from ARHT. Both schools in Leigh and our fire brigade were also given money from the proceeds raised on the day. While it was nice to be acknowledged for our time involved towards the event it is a team effort that makes it happen before and after the event and they are Linwood and Kahu, Lance Michell, Don, Jackie Woollerton and Queenie and Fina from Webster Malcolm Jo Brooks, Mark and John Aitken, Pat Rawhiti and her family and all the crew that work at the weighin Teddy, Wayne, Rex and Debbie, Luke Dick, Rob and Daphne and then those that turn up on the day to help. Many thanks to them all. Lynn and Keith Brush Your Local DIAL ADIGGER Painter/Decorator with over 25 years experience serving all surrounding areas. earthworks Decorators Leia Site Works & Foundations Drainage & Driveways Painting For your Free Quote and/or Drilling < 600 mm Section Clearing 8 Tonne Tipper Available Paperhanging Consultation, Roofs Phone Gary Airless Spraying Brian George experienced & efficient operator Home: 09-422-6695 Stopping Mobile: 021-024-44941 Repaints 021 749 594 Brian 09 422 6267 Office Email: New Homes info@dialadigger.co.nz leighdecorators@outlook.com

Leigh Bus Petition to Auckland Transport Update

Following up on our petition for a Leigh bus service which was presented to the Rodney Local Board recently we have had a response from Auckland Transport. They have said that they had received the petition and will consider it but reminded us that they have limited resources and that needs of communities had to be prioritised. So far it seemed positive although was basically just a standard AT fob-off.

They then went on to say that by adding Leigh to the existing bus network would inconvenience existing passengers from Pt Wells and Omaha. Having travelled on the bus from Matakana to Warkworth and return I didn't see too many passengers and note that most buses are empty which is not unexpected given their poor understanding of the area.

We need to now keep up the pressure on AT to ensure they don't just sweep it under the carpet and hope it goes away. The Leigh community was never consulted nor considered on their ill-conceived bus service to Whangateau or when it was stopped.

What we do now is up to the local community. I'm happy to get views of people who want input and to start to push more media coverage.

I have had one comment from a Leigh resident who was in favour of direct action such as a protest at the Matakana bus station.

I'm open to all suggestions as I feel this now needs to stay in the media in order to make AT take some action, after all we are forced to pay their annual transport levy and get almost nothing for it.

Let's make Leigh and the local communities' voices heard.

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Wreck of the "Nordic"

In the weekend before Easter 1962 the 26-foot keeler "Nordic" was at sea, motoring through a bad storm off the coast of Leigh. On board were a couple with their two young children asleep in the cabin below. The mother went to check on the children and discovered her little girl had died from carbon monoxide poisoning from the fumes from the motor leaking into the cabin. The boy was in a bad way. They turned and headed for Leigh but in the confusion of the pohutukawa branches moving about in the storm they mistook the lights from the township as harbour lights and were driven onto the rocks in a tiny bay just south of the harbour. Despite the treacherous sea and high winds many locals from the town came down to help, braving the pounding surf to bring back the occupants, carrying children up the cliffs to the waiting ambulance, and securing the yacht. Leigh residents Lewis Aitken, Peter Burrell and Fred Franich earned Humane Society bravery awards for their efforts that night. Another man, who is believed to have been a visitor to the area, was also given an award. The bay is still referred to as Nordic Bay by locals in memory of the tragedy.

In the days afterwards the yacht was salvaged by Claude Greenwood, who purchased it from the insurance company for $\pounds 80$. The lead keel was removed



and the yacht was towed round to the Whangateau slip supported by oil drums. Claude and his son Howard along with several friends rebuilt the yacht, and 17 months later 300 locals came to watch it being relaunched into the Whangateau harbour before being moored at Ti Point. It had many good years cruising round the Hauraki Gulf and Coromandel Peninsula.

This recount of the wreck of the Nordic was compiled by Raewyn Hooper from recollections from locals, including Murray and Rose Aitken, Colin Burrell, Lyn Sissons and Ron Keith as well as from newspaper articles about the salvage operation.

Photo caption: Local residents Claude Greenwood, Jim Aitken and Howard Greenwood secure the yacht.

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Forest and Bird COMMUNITY COAST CARE GROUP, Leigh

The bird life is wonderful at the moment. Tui and grey warblers are back in numbers, kaka too, and kereru are feeding on our kowhai leaf shoots. Their tree landing skills look a bit underdeveloped as they crash down into the trees- a bit like Hercules cargo planes. I wonder if they spent more time on the ground before mammal pests were brought in to NZ? Out on Hauturu, which is predator free, they behave differently and are often seen in large flocks on the ground, behaving a bit like grazing sheep.

We had a productive working bee on the Daniels Reef track a couple of weeks ago. Our focus was on pampas removal and pulling out honeysuckle vines which are taking over the bush. Thanks to all who helped with that. Our group will exchange boots for slippers now and go into hibernation until spring. *Neil Sutherland*

Level One First Aid Course

at Leigh Central

8:30-5pm Tuesday 6 August 2019

Cost \$150 per person

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Forest & Bird Warkworth Area

Little Blue Penguin /Kororā Project

Many thanks to Leigh Bar and the quiz participants for the donation towards our penguin project. Not only is the quiz an exciting night but you can buy an answer for \$5 in most rounds and that goes to a good cause.



No doubt by now you have spotted all the colourful

penguin nesting boxes put at the end of Penguin Street by our Leigh School children. Plenty of homes for the little blues, and we hope that we do get a few in residence this year.

Dogs are one of the main dangers for these little birds and it would be great if dog owners could keep their dogs on a lead when walking around our beautiful coastline. That includes Leigh Harbour, Leigh Coastal Walkway and Ti Point Walkway, especially at dawn and dusk.



Donations to our project can be made to Forest & Bird Warkworth's bank account with reference PENGUINS Bank Account #38-9020-0129881-00 Some suggestions are \$20 towards a rat trap and tunnel, \$80 towards a stoat trap and tunnel and \$50 towards a penguin nesting box.

Email <u>leighpenguins@gmail.com</u> if you would like to be kept up-to-date with our project or help in any way.

> Many thanks Jenny Enderby





LEIGH VOLUNTEER LIBRARY

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We have some amazing new books at the Leigh Library.

Mary Holm does a weekly money segment on National Radio and we have her new book 'Rich Enough?'. Vincent O'Malley was a standout at the recent Auckland Writers' Festival and his new book 'The New Zealand Wars' is now available. Ben MacIntyre's riveting 'The Spy And The Traitor' and Doug Gold's 'The Note Through The Wire' are just some of the new non-fiction titles.

Not new but new to us and new on television is Joseph Heller's 'Catch 22'. We have new crime/thrillers by Peter James, Jeffery Deaver and Mattias Berg.

For the children there is a lovely version of Mary Poppins with illustrations by the very talented Lauren Child, a 'Learn with Ruby Red Shoes Counting Book' and a delightful new picture book called 'Yak and Gnu'.

There are lots of other new titles but you have to be in quick to grab the hot ones! The Leigh Library Book Club continues and we will be doing it again on the last Tuesday of the month, 7pm at the library for members. Look forward to seeing you there.

Tracey Lawton



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Leigh Waste Minimisation Project Report

The project continues to make bags for the Leigh general store as well as some other ongoing sewing projects. We have made curtains for the Leigh Hall meeting room from rescue/donated fabric as well a cover for the halls new projector. We are also making cash aprons for Leigh School for their fundraising events.



Tuesday, 2 July Reducing Our Household Rubbish: The Zero Waste Approach

19:00-21:00 at Leigh Central, 19-23 Totara Road, Leigh (co-hosted with Leigh Waste Minimisation and Leigh Community Club) You can see more about Liam and Hannah's

lifestyle at <u>https://therubbishtrip.co.nz</u>



Mobile: 021 246 0757

Workshops and learn to sew evening events will begin in Term 4 starting Tuesday, 15 October.

Remember to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Rot, Recycle.

Helen Parkes

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The Matheson Bay Association AGM was well attended followed by a get together over coffee and cake. One of the items discussed was the proposed pest control along the Kahuroa stream track. A plan has been developed, but there is no funding left in this year's budget to implement it. We are looking to coordinate with the Leigh Penguin group for a training session with council staff in the near future. It would be great to have much of the area pest free in coming years. There is of course nothing stopping anyone laying rat and possum traps in their own properties now, which is a good time to reduce the critters before the next bird breeding season. I've counted six noisy kaka in the reserve over the

past week, numerous pigeons are into the five finger berries and there is much activity with the flock of rosellas.

The morning swimmers are still in the bay, no doubt in training for the mid-winter swim on Sunday 23 at 10am. The water has been very clear over the past weeks and looks (almost) inviting. There is even a new picnic table at the ready for those on the side-lines.

Time to make a diary note for the Matheson Bay Pot Luck Dinner on Saturday, 20 July at 6.00pm at the Leigh Hall.

Enjoy the beautiful weather that is still happening and keep warm.

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QUIZ NIGHTS \$5 per person 1st (6.30pm) and 3rd (7.00pm) Monday of month

POKER NIGHTS \$10 buy in 2nd and 4th Mondays of month (6.30pm) Book tables at Leigh Bar Numbers are limited

Meals available

Leigh School



The PTA held its AGM last month. Congratulations to Carrie Fowler (Secretary) and Helen Williams (Treasurer) for being re-elected, and to Awa Gillgren & Maite Serna-Bermejo for stepping up and offering to organise the 2020 Leigh School Summer Festival.

A very special thank you to Christina Harley for her involvement in the PTA over the past year. She and her family are returning to Canada in a few weeks time and will be greatly missed by all.

Congratulations to Will Searle for being elected onto the Board of Trustees. He will be welcomed by returning members Chris Calder, Lili Crockett, Tim Haggitt, Nick Shears and Rachel Waterhouse. Many thanks to Peter Browne who held the property portfolio for the past three years.

Don't forget to get down to Matheson Bay on Sunday, 23 June at 10:15am for the annual Mid-Winter Swim! The water is about 16 degreesC but there will be plenty to warm up with after the plunge. Leigh School will be fundraising by selling Matakana Butcher sausages, hot soup & bread, as well as yummy baked goods. Bring your togs and your loose change and enjoy a community event!

Once again, the school is collecting Yummy Apple stickers. Collect the Yummy cut-out labels on bags of apples and from individual Yummy apples. You can find Yummy Apples at New World, Pac n Save and participating Four Square stores. The more stickers we collect the more sports gear we receive. You can drop your stickers off at the school office.



Kate Shears

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Angela Wain

Mike Pero Matakana Coast

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

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Whangateau Hall

24 June: Folk Club Night guest performer Ra Gossage. \$10, 7:00pm.

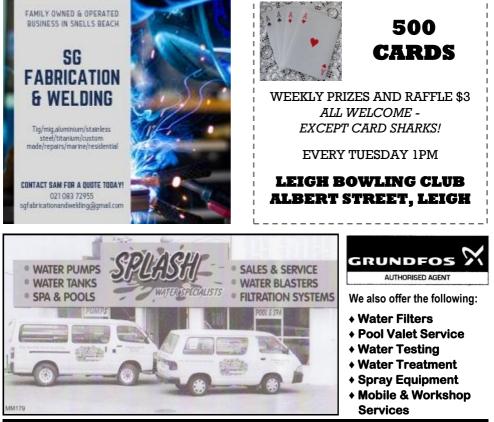
29-30 June:Ngā Uri o te Tai art exhibition by local artist Arapeta Ashton.

More information about all these events and more can be found at <u>www.whangateau.co.nz</u> www.facebook.com/whangateauhall/

Want to get involved?

Whangateau Harbourcare Group meets the first Tuesday of the month. Whangateau Residents and Ratepayers group meets the second Tuesday of the month.

The Whangateau Hall and Reserve Committee meets the first Tuesday of every third month



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GOOD SORTS

Our GOOD SORT this month is **Mike Leah**. He heard about an incident on our very slippery Leigh Harbour boat ramp, where a local gentleman received injuries requiring medical treatment, and promptly contacted the council demanding immediate action. The very next day council management and workers were there at 9am to give the boat ramp a long overdue waterblast. Great work Mike for caring enough to not only get this community hazard fixed but we hear you have also continued to check in on the accident victim. Our nominator also told us how it means a lot to her knowing we have caring people like you Mike in our community and the *Leigh Community Church* couldn't agree more and have some home-baking coming your way.

LEIGH COMMUNITY MID-WINTER SWIM



SUNDAY, 23 June Meet at Matheson Bay at 10.15 am Swimmers and supporters welcome

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 Volunteer Fire Brigade

Looks like winter is finally about to start with colder nights and fires. Hopefully everyone has had their chimney cleaned — chimneys that haven't can build up soot and are the cause of many fires. The ash in the fireplace is another area that needs careful disposal of too. Never store ash in plastic buckets or place into rubbish bins or bags as it can still be hot enough to re-ignite several days after removal from a fireplace. You don't want to test the efficiency of your smoke detector with a real fire.

The brigade had a busier month in May with 10 callouts. The first was a false alarm in Leigh with all the other being medicals calls. These were to Leigh (4), Ti Point (3) and Whangateau (2).

Many of our newer brigade members and some older ones recently completed a first responder course run by St John Ambulance giving them the higher skills needed in medical emergencies. This means almost all the

brigade is now first responder qualified. As many of those we have recently responded to, the delay in ambulance arrivals is not improving and our additional medical skills are being utilised more and more.

On more than one occasion those involved in the emergency have called Fire Emergency and asked for Leigh First Response to assist. Remember for medical emergencies to call 111 and always ask for ambulance initially.

Our team will still be training in spite on the cooler winter nights.

Tony Enderby





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PEST FREE LEIGH TOETOE. REALLY?

"Lots of toetoe around Leigh! Yeah. Right."

Well actually, apart from some planted around the cliff top below Wonderview Rd, and a bit in a couple of gardens, there's no native NZ *toetoe* around Leigh. That's what people call it, but it's actually all the invasive South American *pampas grass*. It provides great stock shelter down in Southland, but up here it's a real pest. Just look at what's happened in a year where the pines were cut out on Ti Point.

Everything in 'flower' now is *pampas*, (*toetoe* flowers in spring), and should be removed. The tiny seeds from the fluffies blow everywhere and will grow in any bare soil. Small pampas plants are easy to dig out; others will die if drenched with glyphosate spray. N.B. The fluffies on *pampas* point upwards, while the fluffies on *toetoe* droop down.

Pampas is a recurring threat to Hauturu/Little Barrier Island and to Tawharanui. By digging it out you're doing your bit for those fantastic projects.



New Non-Emergency Number - 105

The launch of 105 marks a very significant milestone in the history of New Zealand Police. They made a song, featuring staff, to help you get it stuck in your head. You might have noticed their awesome video promoting the new way to contact police for non-emergencies, 105.

Until now people either called their local police station or they called 111 if they wanted to get hold of Police. Quite often people called 111 just because they wanted to talk to someone even if the matter wasn't urgent.

To help keep New Zealand as safe as possible, they have introduced 105 so people know how to contact police for non-urgent situations as well. You can use 105 to report things that have already happened that don't need urgent Police assistance.

You can call 105 from both mobile and landline phones. It's a free nationwide service available day and night for New Zealanders and overseas visitors.

You can also go online to 105.police.govt.nz to report: Theft in a public place - Theft from a car - Intentional property damage - Shoplifting - Lost property or to get an update on a report already made or add to an existing report.

Just remember to always call 111 in an emergency. The new 105 service is only for Police non-emergencies. Call 111 when:- A crime is happening now – and the offenders are still there or just left - Someone's in danger or badly injured - There's a serious risk to human life or property - You see a major public hazard, like trees blocking a road - Any of these things are happening now or have just happened.111 is also the number for Fire and Ambulance. A simple rule of thumb for when to call 111 and when to call 105 is this: If it's happening now, use 111. If it's already happened, use 105.



DIAL 111 Fire - Ambulance - Police

Don't waste valuable time trying to find local numbers to call if you need fire, ambulance, police or assistance.

Call 111 and ask for the appropriate service.

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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 <u>www.leighpreschool.co.nz</u> 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 <u>historyleighnz@gmail.com</u> 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 <u>nick@nickmolloy.co.nz</u> Pakiri Tennis Club Contact Linda Taylor (Secretary) on 021 242 7459 Plunket meet 1st Monday of month Leigh Church Hall Contact Adele 0272901915

Rodney Rams Secretary Amy Weller 021 138 1407 <u>rodneyrams@outlook.com</u> Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc. (TOSSI) - <u>www.tossi.org.nz</u> 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 <u>sharyncarew@vodafone.co.nz</u> 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 <u>www.fabulousweddingnz.com</u> Ph 027 9297767 FACEBOOK

Love Leigh - <u>www.facebook.com/groups/LoveLeigh/</u>

Leigh by the Sea - <u>www.facebook.com/pages/Leighbythesea/251994924849626</u> Leigh Historical Photographs NZ - <u>www.facebook.com/groups/739949979454558</u> TOSSI <u>www.facebook.com/tossi.nz/</u>

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