Leigh School Festival

Come along to support our local whānau and culture!

Enjoy a summer market day featuring continuous entertainment on the stage Kapa Haka, Ra Gossage, Jade River Uke, Pipi Pickers and more.

A Wild Delicious food fermentation demo and a Magic show, a Hāngi, local eats, beer and wine, market stalls, artists performances, Seafood Quick Fire Raffles, Silent Auction and many other kids favourite carnival features.

Pack your own reusable water bottle and help us to be more sustainable!

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
LEIGH BOWLING CLUB
Our green is playing superbly. We have already held our first centre tournament and some club matches. We are looking forward to a great season of tournaments including our new junior 2x4x2 open event.
Our club will be holding Have-a-go days most Fridays for summer make sure to call us on 4226252 to secure your entry before 5:30pm

SUN FLOWER COMPETITION
LEIGH
19TH JANUARY Sunday 2020
(Leigh Hall) 2pm
-Tallest- from the base of the stem to the top of the sunflower
-Largest head-measurement from across the sunflower (not including any petals)
-Thickest sun flower stalk
-Best photo award- posted on Love Leigh face book page
-Most unusual
Adults section/ Kids section
Thank you to our sponsors so far. Leigh Eats, Leigh Motors, Leigh General Store, LJ Hookers (Leigh), Goat Island Dive & Snorkel, Leigh Sawmill Café, Leigh Bar, Leigh Central, Goat Island Marine Discovery Centre, The Knitting Truck
HAPPY GROWING

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Leigh School

It's the end of another year! Leigh School teachers and tamariki have been flat out finishing up projects, organising classrooms and preparing end of year reports.

In early November we welcomed Kerrin Jamiseon as Principal which meant Rachel Waterhouse could step down as acting principal and return to her role as new entrants teacher full time. Rachel has done an outstanding job as acting principal and the school and whanau are very thankful for her amazing effort in ensuring the smooth running of the school over the past six months. Sadly we are saying good bye to Rachel at the end of the year. Rachel has been our much-loved new entrants teacher for the last seven years. She has accepted the role of Junior Team Leader at Snells Beach School. They are lucky to have such a wonderful person and exceptional teacher.

We would also like to wish Debbie Fox all the very best in her retirement from teaching. Debbie has taught the older children at Leigh School for the past four and a half years. She is an exceptional teacher and has a wonderful rapport with the children. We are sad to see her leave but excited for her and the possibilities of a more flexible lifestyle!

Many thanks to Rachel and Debbie for your service to Leigh School!

Kerrin has appointed two new teachers that will start next year. Emma Edwards, a past student of Leigh School, will be taking over the senior class, and Bronte Waata from Warkworth will be our new entrants teacher. We are looking forward to Emma and Bronte bringing new skills and their passions to Leigh School to continue to support, nurture and educate our tamariki.

Dogs are not allowed on the school grounds! They are becoming an increasing problem at Leigh School. As stated in Auckland Council Rules, dogs are prohibited on school grounds. Please abide by this.

Term 1 commences Monday, February 3rd. Until then, have a merry Christmas, a safe and happy New Year, and a smashing summer!

Kate Shears

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Leigh Hall

What an amazing community we live in. The High Tea and Historical Display organised by the Leigh Community Club in conjunction with the Hall Committee was a great success. About $1200 was raised so you should see some new kitchen white-ware in the New Year. The committee were blown away by the generosity of so many, giving their valuable time, providing yummy home baking and skills and trusting us with family heirlooms and photos. We had so much fun dressing up and serving you with delicious teas supplied by The Goldminer's Daughter (huge thank you) and using our lovely fine china and linen. It was a nice escape into the past and we hope you enjoyed the display and a relaxing time with a good old fashioned “cuppa” and home baking. The butter churning by Judith Dooling, was lots of fun too, bringing back memories for many. We have a large number of people to thank as well as the Community Club, far too many to mention here, but we do want to thank the Warkworth Museum in particular for the loan of precious photos (copies of these can be purchased from the museum) and the dressed mannequins. Also, to our young budding pianists who braved our ancient piano and a bunch of nerves – it was so lovely to hear you play.

Our small voluntary committee works hard to improve the hall and make it more usable for the future. Council are planning some capital work upgrades, we will have plenty of notice for when these will happen, minimising disruption. Many of the regular activities are having a break over the holidays, so the hall will be available if you want a special event or family gathering. Merry Christmas, everyone.

Lynn Mellsopp  Ph 0272868625
leighhallauckland@gmail.com.
Leigh Community Club
The Community Club has been busy since the last Leigh Rag. John Hooper from The Westpac Helicopter Trust came to our December meeting. He gave an entertaining and informative talk on the work they do. He said that on average, the helicopter is called to the Leigh area 12 times a year and those costs are covered, thanks in part, by the annual fishing competition. Leigh is one of only 3 places whose contributions cover their area's costs. Many members either helped or visited the Leigh Hall to enjoy the High Tea and the historical display. Last week, on a lovely summers evening the Children's Christmas Beach Party was held at Matheson Bay and greatly enjoyed by everyone including Santa who came along in the Fire Truck. Races and Tug of War helped work up appetites for the sausage sizzle provided by the Leigh Business Group. Thanks to everyone who made it a successful and fun party. The new picnic table by the skate park is getting well used so thanks to the team who supplied, built and installed it. Thanks to Steve and crew for mulching the Welcome to Leigh Garden. Locally made shopping bags and veggie bags are for sale in the shop, great for presents, who doesn't need a shopping bag these days? So it just remains for me to wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas and a wonderful summer. Looking forward to more great community in 2020!

Leigh Community Club

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Covering all aspects of Landscape Construction

An initial meeting to discuss how Leigh could become a pest free community was hosted by Leigh Central on 4 December 2019. The meeting brought together those who are already engaged in trapping for predators and others with an interest in improving our environment.

Leigh is a potential habitat for many native species including birds, reptiles and invertebrates many of which are uncommon or threatened. Our proximity to Hauturu makes Leigh and surrounding area a first stepping stone for their dispersal onto the mainland. It is important Leigh is predator controlled so that birds can survive here to disperse further inland.

Target species for predator control are rats, possums and mustelids in line with Predator Free 2050 targets. There is already great work being done within the area by individual groups (Leigh Harbour Valley Society; Penguin Project; Goat Island and coastal track group; together with trapping groups in Matheson Bay and Whangateau) but their efforts will be limited by continual reinvasion if there is no co-ordinated approach.

The project plans to support co-ordination between these existing efforts and focus on a new project in the Leigh / Matheson Bay township. We are looking for active engagement from the whole community – young and old, permanent residents and holiday home owners, urban and rural. We want to beat that 2050 goal!

As the project develops through 2020 we will be presenting to the community how each individual landowner can contribute but for now we would be really interested in hearing from anyone who can help establish the project.

We need help: making trap boxes; establishing trap lines and laying traps; promotion and publicity (esp social media); and financial contributions for traps and bait. We are especially looking for a co-ordinator who has the time and energy to get this project off the ground.

Can you help? Ring Liz Jones 021 0721 101 to register your interest.
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We primarily stock N.Z. Yarn and locally made products  
Open 10-4  
Wednesday to Sunday  
Based at Charlie’s Gelato  
17 Sharp Rd Matakana  
021-194-5631
Kia Ora
What a year it has been. I would like to acknowledge the community support we get at the Leigh Library. Our numbers continue to increase steadily and we are only able to operate because of you, our members.
We have some fabulous new books in for summer holiday reading plus of course many ‘older’ books on the shelves that are equally good reads. If the weather turns wet and nasty (hard to believe, given how dry it has become), we have some puzzles and audio books to keep everyone happy.
Our Leigh Library community Christmas luncheon was a success and thank you to everyone who came and participated. The Christmas raffle was drawn and the winners are: 1st prize: Andy Hamilton Other winners: Juliet Mantel, Storm Lee, Akiko, Dave Morris
Congratulations – that first prize of the hamper was outstanding!
I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the library committee and our volunteers. Everyone works well together and makes our library a huge success.
Our hours will be as usual over the holiday period with the exception of Christmas Day and Boxing Day when the library will be closed.
Leigh Library Book Club will resume on the 25th February, 7pm.
Meri Kirihimete to you all.
Tracey Lawton
Librarian

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GOOD SORTS

Our GOOD SORT this month is a real treasure of Leigh. Nominated by Liz who wrote the following. “For most of this year there has been a keen group of Leigh Ladies who have formed the core of the Leigh Zero Waste Hub. Each Thursday morning they gather at the Leigh Hall and make new from old - transforming unwanted materials into reusable bags that are available at the Leigh General Store. Other projects they have undertaken include: providing swimming bags for the children of Leigh School, cash aprons and bunting for the gala days and more recently new curtains for the Leigh Fire Station. Through their efforts over $1000 has been raised for the Leigh Community.
One special lady in this group, octogenarian - Betty Howell - has gone ‘above and beyond’ helping with small sewing jobs that are fiddly and difficult. She has mended shirts, made gardening buckets, fixed knitting problems and assisted at the weekly sewing bees. A true stalwart of Leigh.”
The Leigh Community Church wholeheartedly agree and were delighted to bake for you.
After 9 weeks away on the high seas it was great to get back to our little paradise and see so much had been done. Matheson Bay Rd. and Spray Crescent have had another reseal, weeding and laying of mulch in the reserve looks great and lovely new signs have been erected by council for the bush track. On my first morning back, I was greeted by a pod of playful dolphins which made my day.

The changing of the guard continues with the Dormers on Leigh Rd. moving away after holidaying and living in the bay for over 50 years. The Barrie family in Spray Crescent also sold their holiday home after coming to the bay since around the 70’s. Locals Joan and Trevor Springay are off to Paeroa in the not to distant future and will be missed for all their help at the Leigh church. Trevor spent many hours with the building team erecting the board walk on the track. We wish them all well in their future adventures.

Part of Matheson Bay bush was monitored for pests while I was away and I will find out the results in a few days. Trapping will be started in the area before Christmas. There will be no poison laid in the area, but it would be good if holiday makers left their cats behind as they have difficulty distinguishing between native and introduced species when hunting.

The water trucks are busy up our way as there hasn’t been much rain. Let’s hope we get a good downfall before Christmas to fill the tanks. Enjoy the festive season, make sure your house number is still clear for emergencies and put rubbish bags up high if leaving out for a few days.

Happy Christmas

Louise van Campfort

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**QUIZ NIGHTS**

$5 per person
6.30pm
First Monday of month

Book tables at Leigh Bar
Numbers are limited
Meals available

**LEIGH BAR**

EST 2014

Monday 4-8.30pm
Tuesday Burger Night 4-8.30pm $10
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Thursday Closed

$5 special Friday 4-7pm—Open to late
Saturday and Sunday 12 to late

21 Hauraki Road, Leigh
or call Richard on 021 0419 242
Forest and Bird COAST CARE GROUP, Leigh.
Great to be approaching peak summer and feeling a great job has been done. A good turnout for our December working bee left the coastal strip between Kyle St and Daniels Reef, Arun Lilly and woolly nightshade free, and almost gorse/honeysuckle/blackberry free. Fantastic work by a fantastic team!!
Huge thanks go to the Leigh “silent community”- those individuals who quietly work away to keep Leigh relatively pest plant free. One of our group recently cut out all the roadside woolly nightshade from Ti Pt Rd to Kourataki Rd! Such a big job deserves huge thanks.
With the pohutakawa heralding in Christmas, we wish you all a happy time ahead.
Ka Kite!

Neil Sutherland.

BLUE IRIS. PLEASE REMOVE!
Blue Iris/Aristea has recently arrived in Leigh. It grows anywhere, invading bush margins, open grasslands, even lawns! Blue Iris forms a tight mass which blocks out other plants. Please look for it as it must be removed before the seeds set- usually about now.
What does it look like? It has swordlike leaves, like a smaller version of the common garden iris but often brighter green, and grows about 40cm high. Its’ pretty little deep blue flowers appear in bright sun.
What should I do? Dig it out and either dispose of it with your refuse, or deep bury it. See Weedbusters website for more info.
https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/weedbusters-nz/
LET’S KEEP LEIGH PEST PLANT FREE!

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Leigh Women’s Bowling Club
Hosts a Roll Up at the Leigh Bowling Club in Albert Street on most Tuesdays at 9.30 am to midday. All welcome to come along and have a go, bowls provided, please wear flat soled shoes. We are looking for new members - $30 for your first year.
Competition ACT February 25
To enter please phone
Ann Dewey
09-422-6560 or 021-982-678
Then And Now
Bethea Frost, who recently passed away, wrote a little history book called Leigh Then and Now. In the preface of the book Beth talks about how she had to check and recheck the information from the diaries of Mr Charles Septimus Clarke. She visited libraries, archives and museums, wrote numerous letters and looked through many papers.
She put together a book which she hoped would be interesting, on the lives of the early settlers, their schools in the area and the progress made from then to the time the book was produced.
Quite a few other locals also helped Beth to write some of the early history and lent papers and photographs. Beth was able to view copies of letters written to the local paper from 1875 to 1881, copies of early school committee minutes and cuttings about early people.
This little 88-page green book is available at Leigh Library for those interested in learning a bit more about Leigh’s history

Jenny Enderby
Leigh Penguin Project
Forest & Bird Warkworth Area Little Blue Penguin / Kororā (Ti Point to Goat Island)

About this time last year our group had completed our Health & Safety Policy, worked on a community agreement, purchased rat traps using a donation from the Leigh Community Club and had boxes for rat traps being made by Arthur Gundy. It is inspiring to think about what we have achieved since then.

Over 45 penguin nesting boxes have been placed around the coast. A trapline has been set up from Wonderview to Penguin St. (73 rats, weasels and mice have been caught). Monitoring of pests using ink cards has been completed twice (6 monthly) at Ti Point.

Rodney Local Board have provided advice and traps for the Ti Point Coastal Walkway. (84 possums, rats, weasels and mice have been caught).

Results of predators caught have been added to the Catch IT website. Application for the DoC Community Fund has been successful.

A dog specialising in seabirds has explored Ti Point and over 16 nesting sites of little penguins was noted.

More traps have been purchased and wooden boxes for them are being made as we plan to add another trapline alongside the Leigh Harbour Walkway.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have worked on paperwork, checked traplines, carried traps to sites, helped with monitoring using ink cards, recorded catches, made trap boxes and checked penguin boxes. You are making a real difference to our native flora and fauna. Many thanks also to the Rodney Local Board and the Department of Conservation for their help with our project.

If you would like to be involved, please email LeighPenguins@gmail.com or phone/text 0211671524.

Jenny Enderby

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Leigh Fire Brigade attended 10 callouts during November which was a little busier than the previous month. Two calls were false alarms at Matakana and there were scrub fires at Leigh (3), Snells Beach, Matakana, and Point Wells, some of these being fireworks related. The other calls were to a structure fire on Pakiri Hill and a medical call to Leigh.

Santa will be doing his traditional fire truck run on Christmas Eve starting from Whangateau around 5pm and working back to Leigh. Listen for the siren and the “ho ho ho”!

It looks like being a dry summer and we have already attended quite a few vegetation fires which started in rubbish burnoffs. Take care with any fire – and remember you need a permit for any outdoor fire at the moment. If there is little rain this may change to a notified complete fire ban.

The brigade will be ready to respond to all emergencies over the Christmas holiday period but we always hope we won’t have to. Stay safe out there over Christmas and New Year.

Thanks to all those people who have helped the brigade in so many ways over the past year from donations to making curtains for the fire station. Your support is hugely appreciated and it means we are able to keep our medical equipment and other gear above the standard supplied by FENZ.

Happy Christmas and a Great New Year from the Leigh Fire Brigade.  

Tony Enderby
The Business Community has had another busy year - which has gone so quickly!
We supported the Leigh Community with providing a sausage sizzle for all and New World sponsored the bread, serviettes and sauces so thank you to those members who ran this for us and to New World. Thank you Richard for organising a great deal with Matakana Butcher with the sausages.

Thank you to John Gardiner on our committee for cleaning the Welcome to Leigh Sign, ready for summer.
On Thursday December 19th, we have organised a Leigh Clean up and encourage the community to come and support us ready for the summer visitor influx. This is at 5pm and we meet in the Leigh Central Carpark.
We will be holding an end of year barbecue for current financial members at 6.30pm after the clean up at Matheson Bay.

Many of us attended Christina Blackwell’s funeral at the Leigh Central - a wonderful celebration of her life in an amazing setting, bright and colourful as she was, with the sea setting behind.
Christina was a very hard working member of LBC, with their Glass Bottom Boat Business and was both secretary and treasurer for many years.
Thank you both, her and Ivan for their huge support and many voluntary hours that they gave.
We wish all a safe and happy Xmas and long summer months for both locals and visitors in the New Year.
Please contact Jan ph 094226681 or the email below for any information or how to become a member of LBC. (Both tourism and trade services) Jan Scott, Secretary, Leigh Business Community, leighbytheseaNZ@gmail.com www.leighbythesea.co.nz
WHANGATEAU HALL

Seasons Greetings

There's no folk club night in December, and we won't be hosting our traditional Boxing Day Leftovers Pot Luck this year. We might consider it again in 2020.

There are 3 concerts in a row in January and February, so our next club night will be on February 24th.

The three concerts are going to be crackers! Don't miss them.

13 January 2020, Monday, Concert. Good Habits, This "nu-folk" duo from the UK will offer a real change of pace for us, playing their story songs accompanied by cello and accordion. $15, 7:30pm.

27 January 2020, Monday, Concert. Lonely Heartstring Band, This superstar bluegrass band from the USA returning for a third and most likely final time. $25. 7:30pm.

4 February 2020, Tuesday, Concert. AJ Lee and Blue Summit. These award winning rising bluegrass stars from California are making their first visit to New Zealand. $20. 7:30pm.

Watch for the signs for the Community Market at the hall. They will still be happening on the third Tuesday of the month, but they'll also be on occasional Sundays, just watch for the signs along the road for the next "pop up" market. Open 9am to 1pm, everyone is welcome to sell, buy, swap, or just sit and enjoy a cup of tea and a biscuit! You can find more information about all of our upcoming events at www.whangateau.co.nz.

Jenine Abarbanel

NOMINATE A LOCAL GOOD SORT

The Leigh Community Church has run the Good Sorts column since 2013. 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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What’s going on around here?

December 2019
17th 1.30pm Leigh School Prize-giving & BBQ $5 per plate at Leigh Hall
19th 5.00pm Leigh Clean Up meet at Leigh Central
20th 4pm on Leigh Bowling Club Christmas Party bring a salad at Leigh Bowling Club
22nd 6.30pm Carol Service at Leigh Church

January 2020
4th & 5th 10am-4pm Mary Jordan artists showcase at 64 Grandview Rd Matheson Bay
13th 7.30pm Concert - Good Habits $15 at Whangateau Hall
19th 2.00pm Sunflower Competition at Leigh Hall
27th 7.30pm Concert - Lovely Heartstring Band $25 at Whangateau Hall

February 2020
4th 7.30 pm Concert – AJ Lee and Blue Summit $20 at Whangateau Hall
8th 10.00am – 5pm Leigh Summer Festival at Leigh School Fields and Leigh Hall

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Orca Hotline Call 0800 733 6722 to report orca sightings.
Police Non Emergency Dial 105 theft, vandalism, shoplifting, lost property, stolen cars, drugs etc. or 0800 105 105
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

TENNIS FOR ALL!
Thursdays 1pm – 3pm & from 6pm
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Leigh Tennis Club, Albert St
Great way to enjoy summer in Leigh – pick up a racquet and join the fun!
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Contact Liz Jones Ph 021 0721101 or just rock up!

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Leigh Church Services
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All welcome

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**Community Directory**

**Forest & Bird Coast Care Group** - a community initiative to restore reserves and bush areas through monthly weeding and planting bees - Neil Sutherland 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 call Dennis Humphrey 422 6625

**Leigh Bowling Club** - to foster fellowship and the game of bowls. New members welcome. President Biscuit McLean 027 590 4829 or Secretary Dave Johnson 422 6560  
**Leigh Business Community** - meets 3rd Wednesday of month - Jan Scott 422 6681  
secretary@leighbythesea.co.nz or www.leighbythesea.co.nz

**Leigh Cards 500** - 1pm - 3.30pm Tuesday, Leigh Bowling Club, all welcome, $3.00

**Leigh Cemetery Trust** - Secretary Joyce McCormick 422 6893

**Leigh Church** - Church Hall bookings please Phone (09) 425 8054

**Leigh Community Club** - meets 1st Sunday of the month. Anzac Day Service, Interesting speakers, council communication, care of walkways, beaches and more.  
leighcommunityclub@gmail.com

**Leigh Community Preschool** - 422 6516  
www.leighpreschool.school.nz

**Leigh Hall** - Bookings / enquiries phone Lynn Mellsopp 027 2868 625 or email leighhallauckland@gmail.com

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

**Leigh Library** – ‘The Cottage’ opposite Leigh Store. Librarian Tracey Lawton 021 825 818 / 422 6944

**Leigh Penguin Project** 0211671524 or email leighpenguins@gmail.com

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**Leigh School** - 422 6031  
www.leigh.school.nz

**Leigh Tennis Club** – leightennisinc@gmail.com

**Leigh Walking Group** - meets Mondays at 9.30am for interesting walks throughout the Rodney, Kaipara and Auckland regions. Valda Paddison paddis@xtra.co.nz

**Leigh Women’s Bowling Club** - meet Tues, Oct -April, for friendly bowls. New members very welcome. Bev Cassidy 422 6599

**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

**Plunket** meet 1st Monday of month Leigh Church Hall Contact Adele 0272901915

**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 422 6209 or Hugh McKergow 422 6219

**JUSTICES OF THE PEACE & CELEBRANTS**

**JP** - Fay Bradnam 422 6038

**JP & Wedding Celebrant** - Dr John Peebles 021 974 247

**JP & Marriage & Funeral Celebrant** - Barrie Mason 021 683 747

**Celebrant** – Annie Mellor  
www.fabulousweddingnz.com 027 929 7767

**FACEBOOK**

**Leigh Community Club** - www.facebook.com/Leighcomm/

**Love Leigh** - www.facebook.com/groups/LoveLeigh/

**Leigh by the Sea** - www.facebook.com/pages/leighbythesea/251994924849626

**Leigh Historical Photographs NZ** - www.facebook.com/groups/739949979454558

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