

January 2020

Leigh Rag is supported by the Leigh Community and compiled and edited by Helen Parkes 22 Harbour View Rd Ph 021484432 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

MARCH 7TH, 2020 LEIGH FISHING Contest LEIGHFISHINGCONTEST.ORG.NZ okuma AMA reid Mrepool KOR (WANNER Raymarine W

March 7th,

2020

The Leigh Fishing Contest raises vital funding for the Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service and other local causes.

An annual event on the fishing calendar since 2003, the event goes from strength to strength.

More information available at

https:// www.leighfishingcontest.org.n z/about-leigh-fishing-contestnew-zealand



LEIGH BOWLING CLUB

Our green is playing superbly. Our open tournaments are running well.

The business competition is full and going well on Wednesday evenings.

Results of Club Champs.

Fours - Robert Mclean, Peter Manuel, Garry Ward, & Brian Hagar.

Triples - Robert McLean, Gary Ward & Brian Hagar.

Pairs - Stewart McDonald & Glen Walker

Singles - Stewart McDonald

Junior Singles - Scott Wilson

We are very proud of our Juniors Scott Wilson, Mathieu Lennan and Lance Michelle who are currently representing Northland in the

Inter—District Competition



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Leigh Hall

We are delighted to let you know that our High Tea fundraiser last year has resulted in a new fridge-freezer (which arrives this week) being purchased for the hall. As well as that, a replacement fridge and microwave has been provided by Council and are already installed. The committee is now prioritising what to spend the rest of the fundraised money on – several items still need urgent upgrading.

The small amount of asbestos material in the hall attic has been cleaned and secured and the hall retested. We were unaware of the issue until late last year when the ceiling space under the roof was all closed off and that part of the hall temporarily secured against asbestos dust. Unfortunately, everything stored in this upstairs attic space has had to be removed and destroyed because of traces of asbestos dust. This included costumes that have been in long term storage. It is good to know however that the ongoing health of our hall users and contractors is no longer in danger of possible asbestos harm. The New Year has also brought a Council plan for major renovations for the

hall - electrical work and ceiling replacement is on the list. It is hoped that this work will be completed during the April and July school holidays when use of the hall is usually less. In the meantime, we hope the community are making the most of the various yoga, Nia yoga/exercise and dancing classes that run every week, and the Community Club sewing group on a Thursday morning.

Bookings and enquiries to

Lynn Mellsopp phone 0272868625 or email to leighhallauckland@gmail.com

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Leigh Community Club

This is my final piece for the Leigh Rag as Chair of the Leigh Community Club as I will be standing down at the AGM on March 3rd. Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported the Club during the last 3 years. Thank you to Tony and Jenny Enderby who are stepping down from editing the Leigh Rag after doing it for at least 7 years. The Rag has increased in size and coverage during their time and we really appreciate the time and energy they have added. We welcome Helen Parkes as the new editor.

As Leigh is changing, so too is the club, we are extending our help and activities in new and exciting ways. During January we have been busy submitting a grant application to Council to help fund a Predator Free Co-coordinator to work with the current groups and extend it to cover the areas which we are not trapping at the moment. We will be far more successful with a united approach, hopefully giving total coverage and sharing knowledge and experience. If successful it will enable the predator eradication project to cover Goat Island to Whangateau. We will know more in April. We are also preparing a presentation to council to persuade them to install a safe play area for toddlers. They agree it's needed but don't plan to do anything. We hope to change their minds. The bridge on the coastal walkway has finally been rebuilt and is now open for you to enjoy. Planning has started for the Anzac Service as Bags have been selling well at the shop and so the sewing team have been kept busy. If you fancy a sociable morning helping, it's open to everyone, Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.30. It's not only sewing, also cutting, preparing etc.

The Leigh Community Club AGM is on Sunday 3rd March at 4pm. Subscription is \$10 and now due for the 2020 year. Come along and take part making Leigh a great place.

Lucy Harris





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Waiting for Rain

Water saving is on our minds as the dry continues. Conserving water is essential. A number of simple tips are available online. Here are a few examples. Use a basin in your sink, then the used water can be used in the toilet cistern or on the garden. Catch laundry water for the same purpose. Use a large soft bucket in the shower to catch water that can then be used again in the toilet cistern or garden. Use a small cup for tooth brushing water. Put the plug in when washing hands, don't let the taps run. Put a wet face cloth in an airtight container to wipe little faces and hands. Add a brick or bottle of water to the cistern to limit the water for each fill. Check on the vulnerable people in your neighbourhood and make sure they are managing. Check Social Media (Love Leigh fb, or Leigh Community group fb) for updates if you can – this is an evolving situation and we need to keep informed about where and when emergency water is available.



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Leigh Community Club AGM

1 March 2020 4.00pm

Leigh Bowling Club

Albert Street

All Welcome

Leigh Women's Bowling Club

Hosts a Roll Up at the Leigh Bowling Club in Albert Street 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

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Kia Ora lovely Leigh Community, 2020 has certainly started well at the Leigh Library with our book issues for January well up on previous years. We have some fantastic new books that have just arrived in for February/March. Some new crime/thrillers, a new Deborah Rodriguez, plus some very interesting non-fiction titles. Rob Mundle has written a book on the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, and there is the fascinating book about murder and court cases in the USA South called Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud & The Last Trial Of Harper Lee. This book was recently listed by Barack Obama as one of his favourite summer reads of 2019.

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We now have all the books in the Lucinda Riley Seven Sisters series. They are a wonderful combination of current day story interweaved with historical fiction.

Leigh Library book club is back for 2020, February 25th. It is held on the last Tuesday of the month, 7pm at the library. If you are interested in talking about one book you've read each month, we'd love to see you there. Cheers

Tracey Lawton

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GOOD SORTS

Our GOOD SORTS this month are **Tony & Jenny Enderby**, nominated by the Community Club and a number of other Leigh folk. After 8 years, they are stepping down from editing the Leigh Rag but will still be around to help out when needed as producing this local publication is a considerable time commitment every month. Over their time of editing the Leigh Rag has become self-funding by increasing the advertising which in turn has enabled an increase in the size of the Rag to cover more organisations, activities and areas. Your work on this Tony & Jenny has been much appreciated so a huge 'thank you' from us all. The *Leigh Community Church* were delighted to bake for you.







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MATHESON BAY NEWS

An amazing summer carries on with lovely warm temperatures, our little beach at bursting point during long weekends. Although we can't be 'NIMBY'S" 27 campervans in the reserve is too many for the bay and the toilets to cope with. The area was visited the other day by 'Beach Cleaners' a volunteer group that picks up rubbish, plastic, discarded fishing lines and bait bags along the beaches. They were quite impressed at how little rubbish was around. This could have something to do with locals and the council contractors picking it up, even other people's doggy do which increases with visitors.

The Kohuroa stream track has had another layer of gravel in time for winter. The bush is very dry and it is sad to see the last few black ponga struggling. Several years ago, there were many at the beach end. Sadly, most have gone as this species cannot cope with drought and doesn't regrow once dry. The stream is very low and council workers took water samples the other day. Trapping is underway in the reserve now, adding to any trapping being done on private land surrounding the reserve. If you are a weekend trapper and would

Leigh Church

ANNUAL HARVEST STALL

Monday 2nd March 8.30am - 10am

Outside Leigh General Store



like someone to keep them baited please ring me on 422 6844 as the sooner we can organise intensive trapping in Matheson Bay, the sooner we will get Bellbirds and other species back to enjoy. I counted thirty young red billed gulls enjoying a dip , more than I've ever seen before. The trapping for the penguins (190 beasties caught in a year!) could well have something to do with the increase of these pretty birds. Bring on the rain!

Louise van Campfort

LEIGH BAR





QUIZ NIGHTS

\$5 per person 6.30pm First Monday of month

Book tables at Leigh Bar

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Tuesday Burger Night 4-8.30pm \$10

Wednesday **Steak Night** 4-8.30pm **\$15**Thursday Closed

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21 Hauraki Road, Leigh or call Richard on 021 0419 242

History of the Kohuroa Stream Reserve

2001 Extreme Weather Event at Leigh: How it enabled the purchase of almost 8000 m2 for the Kohuroa Stream Reserve, Matheson Bay

1990s - architect Gregory Heap owned a site (7797m2) fronting Leigh Road at its sharp corner adjacent to Frost Road above the Kohuroa Stream Reserve. (Reserve/walkway did not extend to Leigh Road.)

1996 - Mr Heap applied to Rodney District Council to subdivide into 6 lots, each to be developed by constructing 2 bedroom dwelling with separate garaging.

Thirty-five submissions received, 34 in opposition. (In support - RDC) Consent refused.

Mr Heap requested subdivision into 3 sections with land designated either side of the stream as reserve/walkway to Leigh Road. Consent given.

April, 2000- Matheson Bay Neighbourhood Association asked Council to purchase one lot to add the reserve. Response-no.

Kohuroa Stream Reserve Preservation Society was formed:

Aim - to purchase at least one section and have it classified as part of the Reserve. During the night of 30 May 2001 -an extreme weather event breaking a New Zealand record:

- New Zealand Record Rainfall for 1 hour-109mm Source: NIWA
- bridge near the beach swept away
- About 2m of water flowed across Leigh Rd
- An amazing level of water swept through the gorge at the waterfall. All foliage was ripped from the rock. Evidence can still be seen high on the rock near the waterfall.
- The reserve looked like a giant water blaster had swept through.

Debris at waist height and above on Mr Heap's property.

Secretary Carol Edwards asked Council if the development of 2 sections either side of the stream should be allowed.

September, 2001 -Council decided they were not suitable for residential purposes, undertook to purchase them and add them to the Reserve and offered a substantial amount towards purchase of the 3rd section if our society raised \$11,000.

Donations from individuals as high as \$1500 were received and also donations from Forest and Bird, Leigh Ex Services and Community Club, Matheson Bay Neighbourhood Association.

November 2001 -The 3 lots would be added to the Reserve . Council commented "This project would not have been successful without the assistance of the Society and other supporters".

Because of these extraordinary circumstances, we have that wonderful addition to the Reserve where the trees have grown taller and more impressive over the past 20 years. Flora and fauna have been able to thrive. And we are able to enjoy it!

Please note that the map of the reserve on the council signs at the beginning of the track are not accurate and do not show all the reserve land.



Thank you to the Love Leigh people who participated in the Sun Flower competition.

It's nice seeing the Sunflowers still popping up around the streets of Leigh.

Congratulations to the competition winners, Tallest Sunflower-Tracey Paton, Largest Head- Ivan Blackwell (adult) and Jake Borich (child), Thickest stalk- Richard Scott, Most unusual-Leigh

Fire Brigade and Margret Krey, Smallest bloom- Chris Wedding, Best bloom on the day- Maggie Isaac, Most enthusiastic- Wendy Stephens, Spontaneous award- Betty Howell, Facebook award- Richard Scott, organizers choice- Hetta & Mark, Chris wedding, Moggy mad dog Duffy.

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors Leigh Eats, Leigh General Store, Leigh Motors, Leigh Bar, Leigh Central, LJ Hookers (Leigh), Leigh Sawmill Café, Goat Island Dive & Snorkel, Goat Island Marine Discovery Centre, Ti Point Reptile Park and The Knitting Truck.

Thank you also to our wonderful judges Alice and Ngaio.

A few highlights of the day for me were Felicity and Steve making a grand entrance in Steve's Austin vintage car driving through the gates, up the path to the stairs. Felicity had put her red/purple sunflowers on the headlights and her big yellow sunflower sticking out the Length of the car. It looked fantastic. Richard Scott coming in with his sunflowers with ROOTS on. Ivan Blackwell coming in with his Sunflowers and how proud he looked.

It was a great turnout so thankyou to everyone.

Katrina Hunter

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Leigh Penguin Project

Did you know that 20 January was Penguin Awareness Day? To acknowledge our local little blue penguins we started a Leigh Penguin Project Facebook page where we are sharing interesting information.

We have had busy time over the Christmas holidays. Following on from the penguin dog sniffing out 16 penguin sites, we have placed motion cameras near some and little penguins have been filmed at two different locations. Unfortunately at least one stoat, weasel and possum were also filmed. Videos showed penguins making a lot of alarm noise followed by a stoat emerging from their nesting site and we hope the penguins were able to defend themselves against these predators.

Penguins have now moved into their moulting stage which can take 2-3 weeks to complete. They look very scruffy at this time and are unable to go to sea so are very vulnerable to predators.

It brings home the importance of predator controls for our native birdlife. January seems to have been a good time to catch stoats and weasels,

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but there are always more out there. Motion cameras are handy tools to show what is around at night and we thank Auckland Council for sharing them with us. Many thanks also to our growing number of trappers who regularly check the traps and are making a safer place for all our native birdlife.

There are many helpful ways volunteers can help our project and if you would like to be involved please email leighpenguins@gmail.com





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Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

Hope everyone had a great Christmas/New Year break. The weather certainly stayed fine but now we're all running out of water. In spite of the dry conditions we didn't have too many fires to deal with.

Leigh Fire Volunteer Brigade members dealt with 10 callouts in December, consisting of a false alarm at Matakana, smoke showing in Whangateau which was a car doing burnouts. The others were medical calls to Goat Island, Whangateau, Leigh (3), Matheson Bay, Ti Point and Pakiri Hill. We attended 104 callouts for 2019.

January 2000 started with medical calls to Goat Island, Matheson Bay (2) and Leigh (2), a vegetation fire at Takatu and two suspicious fires at Leigh Cemetery and a power line down at Matheson Bay.

There have been some concerns raised that Leigh's first response team has not attended some local medical calls. Our attendance at medical emergencies is at

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the discretion of St John Ambulance but if anyone feels that this is an issue, then I would be happy to discuss it.

The brigade's strength jumped a little in January, with Gideon Dolan and Jake Lawton completing their recruit fire fighting courses and both are now fully-fledged firefighters. I think we have more firefighters than at any time over the last 10 years.

Our team are back into training on Tuesday nights and if anyone thinks they might want to become a firefighter come on down to the fire station at 7pm any Tuesday.

Tony Enderby



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Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade Raft Race Rules

Starts at 1400 hrs, Matheson Bay, 21/03/20.

Please Contact Errol Murray 021 078 7477

to enter a raft.

Some of the list of safety rules to be adhered to:

- *All competitors and support crews on/in the water must wear a life jacket or an approved buoyancy aid.
- *All competitors under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult.
- *Rafts cannot have a hull (must be something that you sit on not in).
- *Rafts cannot have a pointed bow. No glues or fasteners (nails, screws, bolts etc) are allowed in the construction of rafts.
- * No polystyrene, surfboards, paddle boards, wind surf boards, kayaks etc. are allowed to be used in the construction of rafts . *Rafts must be constructed of at least 3 different materials.

\$10 entry fee per raft. Proceeds go towards prizes and sausages.

Prize giving will be held at the Leigh Fire Station.

This is a community spirited, convivial event. No violent or malicious behaviour will be tolerated!



WHANGATEAU HALL

Monday, 24 February, Club Night with Moon Moth. \$15 at the door. 7:00 pm.

Monday, 30 March, Club Night, Guest and price TBD . 7.00pm

Keep abreast of all the fun to be had at Whangateau Hall via our website: www.whangateau.co.nz, and facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/whangateauhall/

Jenine Abarbanel

. . . |

Waste Free Leigh

The Waste free team is still busily sewing for the community, we are currently making bags for the shop. Over the summer we held a sewing bee to make animal rescue pouches for the bush fire victims in Australia. We have got a few craft items on the production list. We have sourced and delivered a few boxes of items that we couldn't utilize to the FOUNDATION for their Kid's Art lessons. We are hosting the Compost Collective demonstration on Saturday 22nd February at the Leigh hall at 10 am. We will continue to operate our sewing bees on Thursday mornings at 9.30 to 11.30 am. Escape to Leigh labelled bags are available at the Leigh General Store.

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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Leigh

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What's going on around here?

- 22 Feb Composting workshops 10.am—12. Leigh Hall Free
- 22 Feb Opera Picnic 2020 Cnr Ward & Matakana Valley Rd 5.30pm \$50
- 1 Mar Leigh Community Club AGM 4pm Leigh Bowling Club Free
- 2 Mar Leigh Church Harvest Festival Leigh General Store Costs whatever you buy
- 7 Mar starts 3am 14yrs and over Leigh Fishing Contest \$65 Auction in the after noon at Leigh School Field / Leigh Hall
- 16 Mar Warkworth Golf Club Women's Pro-Am 8.30am Warkworth Golf Club \$80 /player
- 21 Mar Raft Race Matheson Bay 2 pm
- 28 Mar Snorkel Day Goat Island Marine Reserve Discovery Centre 10am –3pm Free
- 9 Apr Thursday Last day of term 1 Leigh School
- 27 Apr Tuesday First day of term 2 Leigh School



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

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TENNIS FOR ALL!

Thursdays 1pm – 3pm & from 6pm Sundays from 4 pm

Leigh Tennis Club, Albert St

Great way to enjoy summer in Leigh –pick up a racquet and join the fun!

All standards are welcome. Bring your racquet or we have some. Balls provided, and childminding can be arranged.

Contact Liz Jones Ph 021 0721101 or just rock up!



Leigh Church Services

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

Sunday at 11 am

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Children's Ministry enquiries
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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.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 - 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

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 4226599

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) - <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 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.