EiGH RAG

March2020

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



The Leigh Fishing Competition Boat was won by Tim Traviss, seen here between Murray Rowe of Rodney Marine and Colin Barlow of Hunting and Fishing Warkworth. We thank them for their ongoing Sponsorship of this great event which raises funds for the Auckland rescue Helicopter Service.





We are putting on a wee market at the hall, Easter weekend (Sat 11th April). Looking for a few more locals to join in. If you have anything to sell such as homemade goodies, art, crafts, plants or general household goods please message me.

Stall Enquiries ph/msg Lisa on 0272891148

LEIGH BOWLING CLUB

Our Green is looking superb, thanks to the hard work of our Greenkeeper Lance Michelle.

A Correction from the Leigh Rag February edition Club Champs results. Singles was won by Glen Walker.

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Leigh School

2020 is off to an exciting start for Leigh School. We have a new principal and two new teachers who spent the summer reviving the classrooms. The children are enjoying and respecting the updated atmosphere.

Leigh Summer Festival raised \$14,500! Thank you to our generous sponsors and to Maite and her team for their hard work to make this event so successful and fun! Thank you to Natalie Keane of Whangateau for donating heaps of produce to Leigh School. We sold apples, beetroot, pears, oranges, spring onions, potatoes, kumara, lettuce, capsicum, celery, watermelon, eggs and organic seedlings for \$20 a bag. Helena Murrary filled a few boxes of produce and kindly offered to cook-bake-freeze for the upcoming school camp. At the end of the day we raised nearly \$900 which will go towards new books for the Year 0-3 classroom. Ngā mihi Nat!

Thank you to Sarah Solaris who kindly offered to coach basketball on Tuesday and Friday mornings to any Year 4-6. There has been over whelming response and we are grateful to welcome Sarah and her family to Leigh School. We welcome Nadia Francis who has been employed to provide regular classroom relief for our busy teaching team. Well done to all the children who trained hard and participated in the annual Leigh School swimming event. It was a great day and enjoyed by all who attended.

Lingering Lemon by Aria

As the spoon came towards my mouth, my body lunged forward with excitement! The object smelt sour when it reached my nose with a lemon tinge to it. When I touched it, my fingers felt something runny and squishy. I almost screamed! I was so nervous to taste this mystery food, my hands were shaking. When I finally put the spoon in my mouth, a sour, citrus taste filled my taste buds and I wanted to spit it out! Ewwww! Tearing off my blindfold, I realised I had eaten a slice of lemon.

Ngā mihi nui Kate Shears





Leigh Hall

A quiet and dry month, - we are delighted that the Community are able to utilise the free drinking water from the hall (Cumberland Street side) – something that the committee and others advocated for and with Beth Houlbrooke's persistence was implemented. This very localised severe major drought within a large drought area has made us appreciate our precious resources even more. Thank goodness for the sea water temperature still being favourable for swimming and great options for showering and laundry at Whangateau Holiday Park.

We are still awaiting confirmation and timing of major work to be done on the hall this year by Council. The Committee and the Council's joint focus is to enable the hall to be utilised fully and safely for the future. Again, we need to thank our Local Rodney Board team who are heavily involved in this decision making process.

In the meantime, we are still taking bookings, so if you are keen to try or start an activity or have a private event coming up - let us know. Hire rates are

very reasonable and we may be able to help get new activities off the ground. Bookings and enquiries to Lynn Mellsopp phone 0272868625 or email leighhallauckland@gmail.com

Waste Free Leigh

We continue to operate our sewing bees on Thursday mornings at 9.30 to 11.30 am. Lower Level Leigh Hall Escape to Leigh labelled bags are available at the Leigh General Store and at the Foundation. Contact helenp708@gmail.com.

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Leigh Community Club

The Leigh Community Club AGM was held at Leigh Bowling Club on Sunday 3rd March 2020

Attendance was excellent with 40 plus people at the meeting.

Auckland City Council Rodney Local Board representative Beth Houlbrooke was in attendance and updated attendees on actions council has taken to address the "Big Dry" water shortage our area is experiencing and in particular potable water being supplied free at Leigh Hall up to 20 litres per person/day.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Lucy Harris who has stood down as President after a 3 year term.

Club Officers 2020: Guy Parkes was elected incoming President, Steve Mantle, Vice President, Judi Dooling 2nd Vice President, Liz Jones Treasurer, Lucy Harris Past President..

Committee: Deen Hall, Helen Parkes, Ross Garrick, and David Shaplesky.

The Club has ended 2019 in a solid financial position and well positioned for 2020. Detailed plans for 2020 will be developed by the incoming board but key areas of focus include.

- Council Liaison to ensure public assets of the area are maintained and upgraded where applicable
- Running of Anzac Day Commemoration Service at Leigh Cemetery 25th April
- Be part of a wider community based initiative to develop and implement Predator Free Programs in the greater Leigh Area
- Co-ordinate and support Waste Free Leigh Projects
- Support to local schools, preschools and Leigh Hall
- Help maintain and strengthen Local walkway network
- Apply for and manage community based grants to aid the local community
- Support and foster community based activities that help make the Leigh area a great place to live.

Guy Parkes



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The Leigh Community Club's Helen Parkes organized a visit from the Kaipatiki Community Facilities trust Families in Parks team. Our thanks go to Jill Nerheny for her continued support of community connection and development across Auckland, and to her team leaders Midi and Shirley and their support



workers for an awesome day. The families loved it and want to see you all back again with the big blocks and other equipment. There was something for all age groups including volleyball. cricket, hoola-hoops, bikes, ride-ons, swingball, ground snooker and preschool play corner. Leigh turned on a stunning day letting us enjoy the outdoors to the max. Creative use of big blocks was evident all day.

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Forest and Bird COAST CARE GROUP, Leigh.

The clouds are gathering right now, but will it be too late? I see huge tarairi trees in Matheson Bay have died. I hear of the plight of the giant eels in a local stream. I have known of them for years. One has been found dead, another was last seen gasping for air as the stream water supply reduced and warmed in the drought. As big fish, these were prime breeders, decades old, and probably ready to do their once only spawning migration up into the Pacific. Now they are lost from the cycle.

Now that the bridge on the coastal track between Cotterell St and Kowhai Tce has been rebuilt there is a need to remove pest plants that have grown in the bush in that area while the track was closed. Our Community Coast Care Group would love you to join us for a working bee at the new bridge, 9-11 a.m. on Thurs 19th for a couple of hours. Some of the work is picking up the tradescantia, while other work is removing the jasmine, a more energetic job. This is a great way to meet and share time with a dedicated group of local people. More details, or to express your interest in the group, phone me, 4226001. Neil Sutherland.

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Kia Ora. Because the library will be temporarily closed from 30th March, the Leigh Library Book Club will be held the week prior on Tuesday 24th March 7pm. This book club is for library members and we talk about a book we have read from the library. If this sounds like something you would be interested in and you are a library member, please come along.

Tracey Lawton

Notice of Leigh Library Temporary Closure

From Monday 30 March - reopens Tuesday 21 April

Due to essential maintenance work, the library will be closed and inaccessible, even to return your books.

Return your books as per usual if due prior to 30 March.

Books issued from now, will be extended to cover the weeks until the library reopens.

Make sure you have enough books to last you through this period, which covers Easter.

Sorry for any inconvenience, but we do need to complete this work to ensure the integrity of our lovely historic building.

Leigh Volunteer Library Committee

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GOOD SORTS

This Month our GOOD SORT is **Steve Mantle**, nominated by the Community Club in recognition of the countless hours he has spent liaising with Council on quite a number of projects and issues in our beautiful Leigh Community. In fact each week he contacts Council and speaks on our behalf, keeping them on track for Leigh. A couple of recent projects he has initiated & organised are the Table & Benches by the Skatepark and the beautiful Curved Seat at Kowhai Terrace. Awesome work Steve, we really appreciate your diligence and the results speak for themselves. The *Leigh Community Church* are delighted to bake for you.







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MATHESON BAY NEWS

The drought is really biting now with a steady stream of water tankers coming to the area. Matheson Bay and Leigh miss out on any rain going and have the lowest count of the district. Water deliveries are several weeks out so those of you who rent out your bach or house need to keep a close eye on tank levels. Having a bore certainly helps and the council taps behind the Leigh hall for drinking water is a great service. Farmers in the area are finding it hard and there isn't much rain forecast in the near future.

On a positive note, the swimming is great and I have it on good authority, it should be a good vintage! Good to know there is something else around to drink.

Planning will be underway soon for more planting on the lower reserve and replacement of plants that haven't survived the harsh (but delightful) summer. Vehicles have run into bollards and the wooden sign on the south side of the bay and these are being repaired. The sand has built up and is blocking the stream, but has afforded easier access to the northern rock pools.

Trapping is established in the Leigh Rd. end of the reserve (1 x possum 1 x rat in the first month) and a group is being organised to trap in the Grandview Rd. side, so that the reserve is surrounded and protected. It is hoped we can get more possum and stoat traps from council to add to those already supplied. The stream up the track looks lovely with all the golden leaves that the kauris are shedding due to stress. Hopefully soon we get more than the small amounts of drizzle we have been having.

Louise van Campfort

LEIGH BAR EST 2014 S



QUIZ NIGHTS

\$5 per person 6.30pm First Monday of month

Book tables at Leigh Bar

Numbers are limited

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LEIGH BAR



Monday 4-8.30pm

Tuesday Burger Night 4-8.30pm \$10

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Coronavirus - protect yourself and others

Prevention is the best strategy to keeping well.

Of huge health benefit to us all, the government has declared a two-week quarantine for anyone coming into NZ. Those entering NZ just before 15th March may be infective. Symptoms take 2–10 days to appear but you may be contagious **before** this. Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- 1 .high temperature (at least 38°C)
- 2. cough
- 3. shortness of breath

You need to be tested to know if you have COVID-19. Younger people may not present with severe symptoms but could still be carrying the virus. Be careful around others, especially those at high risk: the elderly, people with an existing heart condition or history of respiratory illness. One health expert advises: "Don't think about changing your behaviour so you won't get it, think about changing your behaviour so you don't give it to somebody else."

COVID-19, like the flu, can be spread by dispersing droplets a short distance through talking, sneezing and coughing. Droplets may settle on surrounding surfaces and it is possible to get infected if you touch those objects and then your mouth, nose or eyes.

Prevent yourself from touching your nose, mouth and eyes after shaking hands, handling money, touching surfaces at work or public venues.

Use 60% alcohol-based hand sanitiser when out. Wash hands vigorously with soap and water often (at least 20 seconds, sing Happy Birthday!) Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.

Seek professional help for medicines you can take to boost your immune system if you are in a high risk category. Keep warm going into Autumn and eat nourishing foods.

- Stay home if you feel unwell.
- Seek medical advice and phone Healthline on 0800 358 5453.
- If you have shortness of breath contact your doctor immediately.

Kate McConnell, Medical Herbalist; call 4226760 for further advice on prevention or treatment.

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES 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.

Keep Leigh Waste Free

Remember to:
Refuse, Reduce, Reuse,
Repurpose,
Rot, Recycle and
Repair.

Leigh Penguin Project

Little blue penguins/kororā may be moulting at this time of year. They shed their feathers and grow new ones which takes about two weeks. During this time they can look very scruffy and need to stay ashore as they cannot swim or go to sea until they have their new feathers. This makes them very vulnerable to predators.

Our vision is to help protect them with penguin nesting boxes around the coast. Predator controls will also help our native birds. So far over 200 predators have been caught including stoats, weasels, rats, mice and possums. Recently another trapline was set up to cover the last part of the Ti Point Coastal Walkway and part of the Ti Point Reserve. We are looking for volunteers who may be able to help check traps in this area. We prefer to have a few people involved so that each trapper only needs to check monthly. If you would like to help with trapping we would love to hear from you.

Email leighpenguins@gmail.com or message Jenny on 021 167 1524.



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PREDATOR FREE LEIGH

Chris can be contacted at chrisfloyd@inspire.net.nz or 021 066 2165.

In December 2019, Chris called a public meeting to discuss the proposition for Pest Free Leigh. Approximately 20 residents from Leigh, Matheson Bay and nearby attended the meeting hosted and held at Leigh Central. Since that time a small working group consisting of Chris Floyd, Jenny and Tony Enderby, Chris George, James Ross and Liz Jones has pursued this initial approach further. An application for funding for a pest free co-ordinator was submitted to Auckland Council in January. Should this application be successful, it would enable us to engage a co-ordinator for approximately 20 hours per week for two years. The role of the co-ordinator would be to engage with existing community groups that are already engaged in predator control within the Whangateau to Pakiri catchment. In addition, it would allow the establishment of a concentrated trapping network for the Leigh and Matheson Bay residential area. Auckland Council will advise during March if we are successful. A decision on this application is expected mid/late March.

A second funding application was submitted to Predator Free NZ for funding to assist with construction of traps for rats and mustelids on private land. Predator Free NZ makes grants of up to \$5,000 to community groups. This application was not successful.

DOC also has a community fund for trapping initiatives. An application will be made to this fund in March. Should this application be successful, it would enable us to expand the area for trapping to include public and conservation land

In the meantime, we are keen to hear from local residents who:

- Are already undertaking predator control on their property
- · Would be interested in participating in an active way
- Willing to purchase traps for their own property or for trapping lines on public property





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Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

At the time of writing it looks like we have made it through the driest summer on record without any significant vegetation fires in our area. Leigh Fire Brigade attended 7 callouts during February. These were to a false alarm at Matakana and one at Goat Island, a small fire at Whangateau and a motor vehicle accident at Big Omaha. The other callouts were medical calls to Leigh and Whangateau (2).

Hopefully everyone stays safe during the Coronavirus event. The important thing is to ensure you wash your hands thoroughly with soap for 20 seconds and avoid touching your face. With luck Leigh will avoid the issues that come with major medical events such as this.

Th Leigh Fire Brigade Raft Race is on at Matheson Bay on Saturday, March 21 at 2pm. Contact Errol Murray 021 078 7477 for details.

Remember there is still a total fire ban on for our area which means no fires at



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all. The small amount of recent rain has made the grass grow a little more and it is still very dry. This will continue until we get significant rain, which hopefully won't come with a direct hit from a tropical cyclone. This would solve the water shortage problem but would create many other issues for the community.

Training continues on Tuesday nights, covering a multitude of emergencies which hopefully we won't have to put into practice. If you want to see what we do, come on down to the fire station on a Tuesday night. There's always room for an extra firefighter.

Tony Enderby



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Open Categories

	Open categori	
Snapper	Name	Winning Length
Mystery Length	Martin Maddocks	78.5cm
Snapper	Name	Winning Weight
Average	Bruce Fenton	1.31kg
Kingfish	Name	Winning Weight
Heaviest	George Hurley	12kg
Average	Mark Hoare	9.8kg
Kahawai	Name	Winning Weight
Heaviest	Karl Fowlie	2.8kg
Average	Mike Anderson	2.31kg
Trevally	Name	Winning Weight
Heaviest	Reuben Gerbick	3.11kg
Average	Lewis Thomas	1.40kg
John Dory	Name	Winning Weight
Heaviest	Terry Rhodes	1.25kg
Other Fin Fish	Name	Winning Weight
Eel	Sam Cooper	1.00kg

LEIGH FISHING CONTEST RESULTS

Womans Heaviest Kingfish caught by Cheryl Adams Winning Weight 11.1kg

Junior Categories

Snapper	Name	Winning Length
Mystery Length	Joshua Scott	55cm
Mystery Length	Benjamin Scott	55cm
Snapper	Name	Winning Weight
Average	Jake Borich	1.00kg
Kahawai	Name	Winning Weight
Heaviest	Carter Ruawhare	1.95kg
Average	George Beesley	1.27kg
Trevally	Name	Winning Weight
Heaviest	Meila Ruawhare	1.0kg
Average	Jordan Rawhiti	0.85kg
Sprat	Name	Winning Weight
Heaviest	Jonathon Gielen	0.51kg
Most Unusual	Name	Winning Weight
Unknown Species	Kane Winstanley	0.2kg

Lucky Ticket Draw (Boat) Tim Traviss Auckland

WHANGATEAU HALL

Musical Events at Whangateau Hall

30 March 2020, Monday, Club Night. We have a great guest Bluegrass and Beyond! \$10 show, at 7pm. Email for a first half floor spot.

13 April 2020, Monday, Concert. Czech Mate. Moravian, Slovak, Gypsy Swing, Balkan, Folk, Pop. \$15. Buy Tickets

27 April 2020, Monday, Folk Club Night. First half floor singers. Second half Slow Water Session Band. Irish/Celtic. \$10, 7pm. Email for a first half floor spot.

Other events at the hall:

7 April 2020, Harbourcare Group meeting. 7pm

14 April 2020, Residents and Ratepayers Group meeting 7pm

21 April 2020, Monthly market. Buy, sell, swap, chat. 9am-1pm.

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

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?

Thur 19 Mar 9-11am Coastal Care working Bee New Bridge between Cotteral St & Kowhai Tce

Sat 21 Mar 2 pm Leigh Raft Race Matheson Bay

Sat 28 Mar 10am-3pm Snorkel Day Goat Island Marine Discovery Centre

Mon 30 Mar - Tue 21 Apr all days Leigh Library Closed

Thur 9 Apr Last day of term Leigh School

Sat 25 Apr 10.45am for 11.am Anzac Day Service Leigh Cemetery

Tue 28 Apr First day of Term 2 Leigh School

Sun 5 May Black Grace 20 for 20 \$20 door sales Matakana Primary School

Mon – Sat 18-23 May Warkworth Theatre group "Le Sud"

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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 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

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

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 Glen Walker 4226486 **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 President Guy Parkes 021352588

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 <u>secretary@tossi.org.nz</u>

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.