

LEIGH RAG

April 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

COVID-19 (novel coronavirus)

While writing this we are at

ALERT LEVEL 4 - LOCKDOWN

STAY HOME - BE KIND - SAVE LIVES

The official website for information about the situation is

www.covid19.govt.nz

Editors Note

As we are unable to print this edition of the LEIGH RAG we have waived the cost to advertisers this month. We ask that you please support our advertisers and help get our local business community up and running as and when we are able to. They will need our support as we need theirs to move forward and rebuild our economy.

Helen Parkes

BASICS FOOD AND WATER

Updates on accessing the two basics of survival water and food.

Water

The Hall Committee has negotiated with the Council to get the water limit raised at the Leigh Hall to 30 litres a day

Water deliveries through tanker companies are down to around 2 weeks but bookings are starting to go up again as people are at home all day and using more water. Hopefully we will have decent rain in the next couple of weeks. This is perhaps the biggest issue facing our community

Shopping Update for Over 70's and families with immune deficiency:

The supermarkets have been hard hit and while reacting well to the increased demand and health safety measures access is slow - a normal shop with queueing time can be up to 2 to 3 hrs.

Online shopping is completely overloaded with it almost impossible to place a click and collect order or a delivery.

Small Shops:

Shopping can be done at Matakana 4 square and Omaha Superette both shops are well supplied and well organised. The Matakana Pharmacy, Matakana Butchery and the Matakana 4 Square will deliver to the Leigh area, some restrictions of age or health issues may apply for delivery

Care Mongers based in Warkworth supported by Lions & Rotary is and online Volunteer Group who will do shopping on Tuesday and Thursday morning for those unable to shop for themselves

The system works you drive to the New World supermarket carpark and connect with a volunteer (High Vis Vest Signs etc) they will take your shopping list max 25 items and shop while you wait in the car.

The volunteer delivers back to the car and you go in and pay and then drive home.

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Guy Parkes

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Leigh School

Kate Shears advised that the School Holidays are now completed and school has commenced again starting the 15th April. School is being held in the online environment at present.

The time frame for attendance at the physical school will be announced after April 21st and would not be before April 28th at the earliest. Please check school announcements online to be informed about the situation for our school.

Waste Free Leigh

As the Leigh Hall is not able to be used the sewing group will not be meeting. Bags will be available at the Leigh General store as long as we have stock on hand. If you need advice about sewing, recycling or making compost while you are in lockdown please contact helenp708@gmail.com for help and tips.

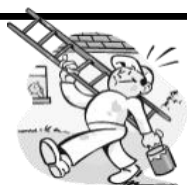


Trinity Chiropractic, 50 Golf Road,
Warkworth, 0985. Ph. 09 422 7917.



LEIGH BOWLING CLUB

The Bowling club green is closed for the season, Ground works will be undertaken over the winter months. We will advise when the Club rooms are open again for members to use.



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Leigh Hall

As everyone is aware we are unable to use the hall during lockdown. We ask that if anyone notices any unusual activity or any problem to contact us. We are still hopeful that the planned upgrade will happen shortly after lockdown is lifted.

Water is still a major issue – yes, you can still get 30 litres per person per day from the emergency water supply at the Cumberland Street side of the hall. Please use safe handling practices to avoid the spread of Covid19, i.e. hand washing or sanitising, using your own clean containers, - and leave the area clean and tidy. We have been told that this supply will continue until the drought is properly broken. Most water suppliers still have a waiting list, but if you are totally out of water try phoning your usual supplier and ask if they could do an urgent fill for you. Always check pricing and wait list times before booking a refill as these vary. Some suppliers are travelling long distances to get to us. We understand that Rhodes and Masons have the shortest lists at the moment. Thank you to all the water delivery firms – we couldn't get through without you. Don't forget to save your aluminium cans for us – the two can cages in Cumberland Street give the hall a small boost to our fundraising efforts. Aluminium cans only (no glass or plastic or rubbish) and please take your boxes and containers away afterwards, thanks. Bookings and enquiries to Lynn Mellsopp phone 0272868625 email leighhallauckland@gmail.com

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Leigh Community Club

Well what a month we trust you have all settled into your bubble well and are adjusting to the lockdown lifestyle. As it has for all of us the world has changed for the Leigh community Club committee and members

Monthly Club meetings are postponed indefinitely

Anzac Day Celebrations have been cancelled by the government along with all other outside events

The Club has focused on all things COVID19 and ensuring our Leigh community is well informed of the wider Mahurangi help facilities and how to access food supplies and health networks. Checking that residents are being supported in their lockdown residence of choice.

As movement has been severely restricted as has printing, communications channel has been via social media; namely LoveLeigh Facebook Group and Leigh Community Group Pages to pull together relevant, council, government and local community news that helps our village keep informed on health and safety, what's open and what's not and how to source critical supplies.

As a community group we have also linked into our neighbourhood groups in Pakiri, Matheson Bay, Whangateau, Ti Point, Matakana, Warkworth and Omaha. These groups have been a fantastic source of helpful local information and also getting problems addressed that were common to us all.

We are lucky in Leigh to still have our Local Store open 4 hours 7 days a week as in the new normal world sourcing food has been a major issue with queues at supermarkets and the overloading of online ordering.

Over 70's have been particularly restricted as have families with health concerns. Neighbours and the Warkworth Caremongers group have been fantastic to ensure people food needs are being looked after

On top of these Covid-19 issues are water shortage or "the Big Dry" continues The tap stand water organised with Council at Leigh Hall has been a godsend and even at time of writing is being well used. Rain is starting to fall and decent rain should soon be upon us. We still need rain (In April who would have thought) Overall the people in our local area are supporting each other well and following the lockdown however the stresses are only going to mount as people try and survive on minimum incomes and one off expenses start to hit.

We know this is only just the beginning of what will be a long process of community restrictions until a vaccine is widely available. It looks like NZ is well positioned to minimize deaths but getting the economy going is a massive challenge particularly for an area like ours where tourism is a key factor.

The Leigh Community Club will continue to work to ensure that the great community spirit this area is known for continues throughout this long recovery.

If you or a neighbour needs community help please contact us

E: leighcommunityclub@gmail.com Ph. Guy Parkes (Chair) 021352588

Remembrance of Matheson Bay holiday resident Christine Peake

Sadly, we record the death of Christine Peak QSM on Wednesday March 25th 2020.

Christine and husband Brian have been holiday residents at Matheson Bay for many years. In the late 1940s, Christine's parents Roy and Doreen Harris from New Plymouth used to holiday in February at Leigh, staying at Botterill's house near Leigh Harbour. Christine was a pupil at Leigh School for a few weeks each year while her dad went fishing.

Years later, in 1967. Christine married Brian Peak from Epsom Auckland. They lived and worked in London for a few years and, upon returning to settle in the Takapuna area, had a holiday cottage built at Matheson Bay in early 1970s.

This was a much used holiday residence for Christine, Brian and family friends for 30 yrs.

In 2004 the original cottage was moved off site and Peter Wyatt built a more substantial home for them.—the brown house halfway down Grandview Rd with the flag on top.

Christine has enjoyed many happy times at Matheson Bay— always active with boating fishing adventures, swimming, walking and generally being a loving and generous wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to many.

She was a highly respected musician. Pianist, violinist, orchestral and choral conductor, and much respected music teacher. She taught at Kristin School, Diocesan School, Kings College, Carmel College and Westlake Girls High School.

On Wednesday 25th March, she died peacefully at Harbour Hospice North Shore after a period of ill health born with courage and stoicism.

Christine will be greatly missed by her family and wide circle of friends gathered from her lifetime of selfless giving, and inspiring others.

Matheson Bay will not be the same again without her. We treasure our happy memories of this special lady. “

Brian Peak



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Forest and Bird COAST CARE GROUP, Leigh.

Nga manu aplenty!

Who'd have believed that Covid19 might have a feathered lining? So many people have commented on their awareness of the rich birdlife around the village. Certainly as I write this I can look out at kereru - whoops here comes another straight at me like those gravity defying globe master aircraft that used to fly over my Christchurch home en route to Antarctica when I was a kid- and countless tui who adore their singing perch in our pohutukawa. Fantails, toutowai (grey warblers), waxeyes... they're all there, along with the drifts of gulls and gannets on their daily patrol. They seem more visible, more obvious.

Out on my fitness walk the other day I said "Giddyay!" to someone. He stopped and said he'd just been recording the bird song. He'd never been aware of it before because usually there is so much traffic noise around his house.

What ever it is- more birds; that we now have time to stop and look and listen; or just our heightened awareness of things around us- it delights me to be part of a community that is celebrating what nature brings to us. When lock down is over, wouldn't it be great if we all carried on living life at a pace where we continue to be a bit more in harmony with the beauty around us?

Neil Sutherland.

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Kia Ora Leigh community. One of the upsides of this Lock Down period has been the time I've had to read. Hopefully many of you were able to stock up on books from the Leigh Library before the country went to Level 4 Lock Down. At the time of writing this, we are still unsure about when the library will be able to open again. As the council is unable to start work on the building you are still able to return your books through the slot on the verandah of the library. Speaking with our works supervisor, we have decided to open the library for hopefully a week before the remedial building

work starts to give everyone a chance to get some more reading material. Once dates are confirmed I will post them on the Love Leigh Face Book page. And to those in our lovely community who are helping neighbours and friends, providing entertainment in all shapes and forms, and generally being kind and compassionate,
Thank you. Cheers Tracey

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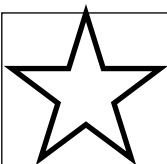
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GOOD SORTS

Following numerous nominations our GOOD SORT this month is once again our amazing and tireless **Helen Parkes** who continues to support the Community of Leigh and it's people in so many ways. As you would have read last time, she is the driving force behind the Waste Minimisation Programme and the Sewing Thursdays which continue to make cloth bags for the Leigh Store and other items and to raise money for our beloved Leigh Hall. And now with our Covid-19 Lockdown it's Helen who is solving the water issues, arranging/coordinating grocery shopping for our most vulnerable and generally making herself available to remedy the plights of others. Well done Helen, our Community is so much richer for all your contributions and the *Leigh Community Church* thanks you with a home-grown food parcel



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Children's Ministry enquiries

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MATHESON BAY NEWS

This must be the quietest Easter in Matheson Bay ever, but no freedom campers in the reserve is a positive. I'm looking out to Cape Coleville to an empty sea which would normally be buzzing with fishing boats on such a beautiful Easter. It is quite strange. There have also been few cargo ships and there are now no swimmers in the bay either. Even the dogs are confused and are missing their usual cuddles and friends.

Long term holiday resident Christine Peak QSM, who has been enjoying Matheson Bay since the 70's, died last month. Christine and her husband Brian, have had many happy years in their Grandview home. Christine had been coming to the area since the late 1940's and even attended Leigh school for a few weeks a year, while her father went fishing. Our thoughts and sympathy are with Brian and their family at this sad time.

Our community is managing in self-isolation (which is not a lot different for those of us retired). It has been great having the Leigh Store open and a big thank you to them and the Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade. Also thank you to Matheson Bay Association Secretary, Peter Spence for organising a 'community contact list' for those of us that are holed up in the bay.

It has not been easy getting hand sanitizer, but I'm relieved that my Bombay Sapphire's alcohol content isn't high enough to work. Soap and water work well we're told, but with the drought still on, water is still at a premium!

Trapping is continuing and two more possums have been caught, but the elusive stoat is still at large. Another Aussie overstayer caught trying to 'self-isolate' in Matheson Bay. Stay well – we will get through this.



Louise van Campfort

LEIGH BAR

EST 2014



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First Monday of month

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EST 2014

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Coronavirus - protect yourself and others

Prevention is the best strategy to keeping well.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

1. high temperature (at least 38°C)

2. cough

3. shortness of breath

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.

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 .

• To seek medical advice and phone Healthline on 0800 358 5453.

• If you have shortness of breath contact your doctor immediately.

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**Keep Leigh
Waste Free**

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

PREDATOR FREE LEIGH

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

Since our last report in the March Leigh Rag, Auckland City Council has advised that we were awarded a grant of \$13,100 for two years - \$26,200 – towards co-ordination for Predator Free Leigh. This is a great start for our project but not nearly enough to undertake the landscape wide project we had originally planned.

The Auckland Council, however, did provide a letter of support for our application to DOC for co-ordination funding. Applications for this fund closed just before lockdown. Like everything else, decisions regarding this process have been suspended.

In the meantime, we encourage you all to continue your own trapping and predator control initiatives. With the colder weather starting, the rodents and mustelids will be searching for food. We can restrict infestations through our own vigilance.

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Leigh Penguin Project

To protect penguins and other native flora and fauna we have set out traplines to reduce introduced mammalian predators. We are not using any poison but use non-toxic baits like peanut butter, eggs and rabbit meat. The Rodney Local Board and the DoC Community Fund have helped us to set up these traplines. Many thanks also to Arthur Gundy for making so many trap boxes and Jackie Atkins for providing eggs. Also many other locals have donated material for trapboxes, traps and volunteered to check traplines regularly. Thanks to these efforts, we are reducing the numbers of predators.

The Leigh Coast trapline was started in February 2019 and recently had more traps added with two more local volunteers helping out. More than 70 rats, mice and weasels have been caught. The Ti Point Walkway trapline was set up in May 2019 and now over 120 possums, rats, stoats, weasels and mice have been caught. Around Leigh Harbour, we set up traps along the coastal walkway and up through the bush. Within the first week or so we had caught our first stoat and rat. Generally not a lot is being caught there which is a sign there are not many predators, although seven rats were caught in one check.

Our next trapline was recently created at the end of Ti Point and partly into the Ti Point Reserve. The first time checked there were 5 rats and 2 weasels, so a good start. This was followed with several stoats, another weasel and more rats. We are looking for volunteers to check this trapline once a month.

With over 250 predators removed from these areas, it must be good news for our flora and fauna. We must not forget that we are doing this to help our native birds, insects, lizards and trees and we are seeing an increase in their numbers.

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Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

Leigh Fire Brigade is having to change the way everything is done, due to Covid-19. All callouts have to be treated as a possible virus contamination. Some of our members are unable to attend so we are relying on a smaller number on callouts. On the plus side, at the time of writing there have been no callouts involving Covid-19. Hopefully this will continue.

March was a very busy month with 15 callouts, easily the busiest March on record. These were a vegetation fire, illegally lit at Ti Point, a shed on fire at Ti Point, smoke showing at Pakiri, false alarms at Goat Island and Matakana and 10 first response medical calls. These were to Leigh (5), Whangateau (4) and Ti Point.

It's great to see almost everyone sticking to the lockdown rules. The confusion over whether we could swim or not caused a few issues. Sadly a few abused the rules which hopefully will not lead to a Covid-19 problem at Leigh. The important thing is to ensure you wash your hands thoroughly with soap for 20 seconds and avoid touching your face and keep the 2-metre self-isolating distance outside your bubble.

Remember all outdoor fires are totally banned for the duration of the lockdown. Our team don't want to have to deal with any unnecessary callouts which may expose them to coronavirus. If we do get callouts, expect to see the team in protective clothing, which is for their protection. This does not mean that the callout is in any way related to Covid-19.

All our training has been put on hold until further notice and weekly checks of trucks and equipment is carried out by a small duty crew to minimise any exposure.

Stay safe out there and stick to the rules so our area remains free of this disease and we can return to normal as soon as possible.

Tony Enderby



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LEIGH TENNIS CLUB APRIL 2020

To comply with the government edict, the Leigh Tennis Club courts have been locked for the duration of lockdown. There is no access to the tennis courts until further notice.

We are very disappointed that the electronic security system on the tennis club gate has been deliberately vandalised. This will be a significant cost to reinstate this system. These courts are available for use by members of the Leigh Tennis Club. Each financial member of the club has a swipecard for individual access.

We hold regular club times – Thursday morning all year round, Thursday and Sunday afternoons/evenings through summer. If you are not a member and would like to play tennis, non-members can have access on a casual basis at \$5 /person by prior arrangement with a committee member. Contact details for committee members is on the clubhouse door.

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WHANGATEAU HALL

Musical Events at Whangateau Hall

Whangateau Hall is closed to everyone until Auckland Council reopens facilities after the Level 4 Lockdown. In the meantime, you can enjoy past musical performances at the hall on our Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCotfz-k3qmxavxK4XQjezAA>, including several from the February AJ Lee and Blue Summit concert. We're digging through the vault, uploading and releasing new videos from past concerts every week. Right now, we are uploading the 2017 concert from Australian bluegrass band The Company. It's certainly a show worth re-watching!

When we reopen, all the usual regular activities will resume. Narcotics Anonymous provide Addiction Support meetings every Thursday evening. The flax weaving group meets on Wednesdays. If you're interested in learning to weave flax, the Hetete School is offering a free online introductory lesson that will take you through selecting, harvesting and preparing flax through making your first project, a kono. Go to hetetschoolofmaoriart.com to sign up for your free lesson, and maybe by the end of this lockdown you'll be looking to join the other weavers in our community!

Music will also at the hall once we reopen. We've had to postpone performances from Bluegrass & Beyond, The Slow Water Band, and Diane Ponzio, so we will be rescheduling them and many others once it is safe again for us all to gather together at the hall.

Auckland Council was scheduled to begin renewal repairs to the hall in May. It is unclear how the shut down will affect that, but we will keep everyone informed. You can also sign up to our newsletter for updates at whangateau.co.nz or follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/whangateauhall/>. We'll also share updates on the Love Leigh Facebook page, which we're sure you all follow!

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

JOE ROBERTS

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🌐 warkworth.ljhooker.co.nz

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105 Police Non-Emergency Supporting Information

In an emergency, always call 111.

105.police.govt.nz

You can now report to Police online Suspected COVID-19 L4 isolation breaches


Businesses you suspect are breaching the essential services rule.
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Lifeline Helpline Call 0800 543 354

Northlink Health enquiries for Home Help Ph 0800 425 999

North Shore Hospital Emergency Care 0800 809 342

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

SAWMILL CAFÉ

We are closed for the duration and not sure how we'll be able to open once lockdown finishes, imagine it will be the same as the last weekend, with an extended takeaway menu, reduced hours and guest registration until given the ok for normal service and gigs.

Please keep an eye on our facebook page and website, will post on the LoveLeigh Facebook as soon as we have info, Take care from all the Sawmill team



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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 rodneyrms@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.