

LEIGH RAG

May 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

Mid Winter Swim at Matheson Bay

Time again to advertise to ensure this local event attracts even more hardy locals!!

Our eldest swimmer will be in her nineties this year, very special

The shortest day. Sunday June 21st 10.15am plunge!!

As at all events, Covid levels and practices will be adhered to, and if we need to cancel, we will do so.



Waste Free Leigh

The Leigh Waste Minimisation team is putting a hold on all workshop offers until further notice, however the **sewing group** will commence again this week **from Thursday the 21st**. However because of restrictions of numbers in the meeting room (max 4), we will open **Thursdays and Mondays 9.30 am to 11.30 am**. You can drop by and pick up packs to be sewn at home. Sorry we can not offer a cuppa under the new regulations. You can bring your own drink. Let me know if you want a sewing pack to pick up. Options are shopping bags, drawstring hobby bags, scarves or aprons. I look forward to catching up with you all over the next few weeks.

Helen Parkes



LEIGH BOWLING CLUB

The Bowling club green is closed for the season, ground works will be undertaken over the winter months.

Under COVID19 level 2 restrictions our club rooms will be open from Thursday May 21.

Social distancing regulations will mean we will have a lot less space . Everyone arriving on site will be required to sign in.

Please be patient and show some understanding of the restrictions we now have to work with.

AGM will be Held on Sunday June 14th.

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Editorial

There are many things I am concerned about at present. Tolls for the new Puhoi to Warkworth Motorway extension being the hot topic on my mind at present. This is an affront to the people of Rodney, we already pay a toll to travel within our city and have an extra fuel tax, now we are expected to pay another toll. It is just too much. Please have your say on the NZTA website at <https://nzta.govt.nz/aboutus/consultation>.

Another is the economic state of the country, the best thing each of us can do is to BUY LOCAL, shop online if you need to but from NEW ZEALAND sources. Plan a holiday, we can all do with a change of scene for a day or two, make a booking, this will give our tourist service industry a much needed boost. Invite a family or friend to meet for a meal or a take away picnic. Remember we still have a limit of 10 people for any gathering and to socially distance from others, but working in small groups we can make a difference and we should start now.

Show your gratitude to those who are working and have been working throughout this lockdown and level 3 period. They have held our whole nation together. We are all going to need to show patience and some fortitude to continue to adapt and create the new SAFE environment, take time to consider how you and your family will adjust. Reach out if you need help, a lot of people will be under new pressures and rules.

Be kind.

Helen Parkes Ed.

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Leigh Hall

We are delighted that the Leigh Hall is able to re-open on Monday 18th and that we can get back to yoga, exercise, dancing and sewing again. Of course there are very strict conditions and number limits, but we can still do this. Existing groups seem to be all starting up again, so please contact your usual group leader for details of what is different. Contact us if you want to hire the hall for any special event.

The weather has been pretty good during lockdown and getting out for a walk or other exercise has been very pleasant. The downside of this lovely dry weather is that the drought continues. Water delivery for tank refilling has a much shorter waiting list now, but drinking water is still available for those whose tanks are still low - a limit of 30 litres per person in your household per day. The taps are on the Cumberland side of the hall and you need to bring your own safe water container. If you need help with this, please ask.

Planned work on the hall has been delayed due to the Council budget not being approved yet. We will get notice of when this work will happen and look forward to it once done.

Thank you to those who have been topping up our aluminium can bins (a small fundraiser for the hall) and for keeping this area clean and tidy. Much appreciated. We hope you enjoyed emptying those cans.....

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Leigh Community Club

I am writing this as we move out of lockdown to the more normal world of Covid-19 level 2 and we all start to get our lives back on track and adjust to the new normal.

Lockdown Heroes Before we move on it would be remiss not to acknowledge the tremendous efforts put in by the essential businesses and the local community groups who worked tirelessly to ensure we all had the essentials to survive lockdown in our part of paradise. Firstly shopping, with many weekenders choosing to make our region the place of lockdown, it soon became apparent that the two Warkworth supermarkets and their online services were severely overloaded and that getting essential supplies was a major issue for everyone, and especially problematic for the over 70s and parents with immune deficiencies in their families. Step up Mahurangi CareMongers, a community based initiative that was started by a Matakana local and as it grew, led by Warkworth Lions, to establish volunteer shoppers at New World that could shop for those who could not shop for themselves. This was put together quickly when we were all trying to come to grips with all the new restrictions and get into lockdown. Connecting volunteers to those that really can benefit is a complicated task and this effort filled a desperate need to our elderly, individuals and families with special needs. New World was outstanding in their willingness to change their systems to make this work.

Not being able to venture out of our houses, social media became our main source of information. Facebook Community Page Groups, in all our local areas, became the new media outlets to communicate all the local initiatives and government updates to all in lockdown. Facebook, a product we all dislike at times, became an indispensable part of our lives as the 'go to' to ask questions and get local information. The fact that no Covid cases were reported in the area was testament to how people reacted and acted to stay safe.

Local Heroes Firstly, Leigh General Store for managing to stay open in what must have been very trying financial circumstances so we could get our essential food and couriered items. Thank you Delwyn, Grant, Rob and staff.

Leigh Garage fuel supplies and emergency repairs not only helped those in need but also gave much needed peace of mind that we had access to help if we needed it. Leigh Hall Committee did a great job liaising with council to ensure water supplies stayed on as our big dry continues on into May, and of course the Fire Services first responders whose dedication continues to inspire us all.

A special mention must go to Leigh Central and in particular Alan McDonald for the regular Sunday Music concert that had people out on their decks and walking the town loop to get an uplift. And all of you who kept an eye on your neighbours, swapped items where things broke or people needed something they couldn't shop for; all these little deeds make a community work and be a place we love to be in.

Finally it's great to see Leigh Eats, Leigh Bar and the Sawmill Café all survived and are back serving the community as they are able, as restrictions lift.

It truly was a Lockdown to remember in our little part of paradise.

Love Leigh, SURE DO

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

Leigh Business Community

The Leigh Business Community started 2020 by focusing on looking at the most effective ways to promote our region and hence our wonderful businesses. This has become even more important in recent months as we all come to grips with the changes to our lives. For many businesses, the end of March, Easter and the School Holidays was the chance to earn the last boost of income to get us through the winter and as a result of COVID-19, most businesses missed out on this. Now that we are in Level 2, we would like to encourage everyone to support our local businesses where possible and encourage family and friends to come and have a winter escape in Leigh. Things to do, places to eat and accommodation options can be found on the Leigh by the Sea website – www.leighbythesea.co.nz. Let's keep our businesses afloat so that they are all here for us to enjoy for years to come.

Here are some updates of businesses that are currently open and ready for your custom.

Food outlets - all open and operating on winter hours

Accommodation - all open

Ti Point Reptile Park - open 7 days

Cleryak - operating for online bookings only

Goat Island Dive and Snorkel - open

Stay safe - support local.



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Forest and Bird COAST CARE GROUP, Leigh.

POO AND MORE POO!!!

What does one do in lockdown? No working bees allowed and we're stuck at home.

Keri, our resident kereru has decided the best place to rest is on a branch on the pohutukawa which leans over our outside table. We love having him there, but he does leave huge messes on the table top. This seemed a good opportunity for some citizen science.

I've gathered up Keri's piles and will 'plant' them in some seed raising soil to see what they germinate into. It will be interesting to find out which native plants he is spreading, and which pest plants we need to get rid of to stop their proliferation. It will also give some idea of where Keri is visiting when not at our place, and how far away he ranges. So watch this space. In several months I might have some answers.

Meanwhile I hope all those who joined our working bee just before lockdown will visit the coastal walkway down the steps at the end of Kowhai Tce and enjoy your effort to get rid of Wandering Willy (tradescantia) and Jasmine. It looks great.

Neil Sutherland.

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Kia ora Leigh Library community.

Do hope you are well and were able to use some of these six+ weeks to devour the mountain of books issued to you all prior to Level 3 + 4 lockdown.

Optimistically we had hoped we could open the library, (when Levels lifted) for a week prior to the postponed library maintenance work. However, contractors have begun the building interior and exterior maintenance from Monday 11 May and the site is fenced off, with no access to the contactless return slot. We have no actual completion date, but would be great if we will be back to Level 1 by completion and open with all guns blazing!

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We would really appreciate it if you can please return your books and puzzles to Wendy Brown's house, 68 Barrier View Rd, Leigh, where there will be a plastic bin in the entrance way.

Leigh Library book club will hopefully start back at the end of June but I will keep you all posted in Love Leigh page on Facebook as it will obviously depend on government direction.

Cheers

Tracey

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GOOD SORTS

Our GOOD SORT this month is **John Hagen**, nominated by Leigh Fire Brigade. A neighbour of John's required urgent medical attention and when an ambulance was not available he, without hesitation, volunteered and transported the patient to Red Beach Medical Centre. Many thanks for this amazing kindness **John** from not only our Leigh Fire Brigade Volunteers but our whole Community. The *Leigh Community Church* have baking coming your way.



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MATHESON BAY NEWS

I'm writing this on the first day of level 2 (and looking out to the bay), nothing appears to have changed. We live in such a quiet part of Auckland at this time of the year, but things have certainly got busier and noisier again. Lawn mowers have competed this last week with the Tuis and Kakas and there has been a flurry of painters catching up on jobs in our street. So life goes on albeit still with the 2 metre rule, but there is an underlying excitement of what we can now do. I'm hanging out for a lovely meal and glass (or two) of wine having celebrated (?) a birthday in lockdown.

The gate on the northern side is open again and the toilet block has been open for 10 days unbeknown to the early morning swimmers who can now change at the beach. Brave souls that they are as the water temperature is now a balmy 17 deg.

The planting of the reserve is still on hold until further notice and as we still have had little rain that is probably a good thing. The Matheson Bay Pot Luck Dinner date (usually Julyish) has not as yet been finalised due to restrictions along with the Labour Weekend AGM. Both of these will depend on numbers allowed.

For those of you who own holiday houses and are looking to come up and maybe take in a movie, Matakana Cinemas will not be open until Thursday 28th May just in time for Queen's Birthday Weekend. Come up before then and support our great food outlets – you can't beat Leigh for fish & chips, Sawmill gourmet pizzas and great hamburgers at the Leigh Bar, all of which are open and would love to see you.

Cheers

Louise van Campfort

OPEN 7 DAYS from May 21

Monday **Fish & chips** 4-8.30pm

Tuesday **Steak Night** 4-8.30pm

Wednesday **Burger Night** 4-8.30pm

Thursday **Taco** 4-8.30pm

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PREDATOR FREE LEIGH

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

Covid-19 has put a brake on the predator control planning and activities while we have all been in lockdown. Now that we are in Level 2 we are all able to move around and engage in community activities.

As we reported last month, Auckland Council only approved part of our funding request. This means – in the absence of any other successful funding applications – we will need to scale back our proposed predator free project for the Leigh district. Our primary focus is likely to be on predator control in the Leigh/Matheson Bay townships. We are still hopeful that our application to the Department of Conservation will be successful and enable us to focus on coordination of predator control activities in the wider Leigh catchment. There was encouraging news in The Budget yesterday that the government proposes to scale up predator control projects. Let's hope that is a positive signal for our project.

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

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Leigh Penguin Project

Weasels and Stoats

After more than a year of trapping, the team on the Leigh Penguin Project have made significant progress in removing non-native predators, in order for the little blue penguins to make a come-back on the local coast.

The use of trail cameras which can operate both day and night gave us the chance to identify the pests that prey on the penguins. Although we had caught weasels prior to setting up cameras, we had not caught stoats. It didn't take long for us to see our first stoat on camera on the Leigh coast, although it never got caught.

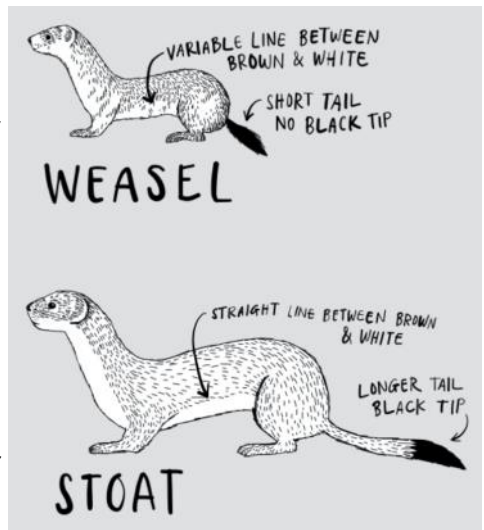
However we did have success on both the Leigh Harbour and Ti Point traplines. Both quickly caught several stoats and we know from the cameras that stoats are still present at Ti Point.

Stoats and weasels are major predators of penguins and almost all native birds, predating nests of eggs, chicks and sitting parent birds.

Although stoats and weasels are similar there are some differences. Stoats are larger, up to 30cm in length while weasels grow to around 20cm. Stoats have a long tail with a bushy black tip whereas weasels have a shorter tail with no black tip.

Both species are brown above with white under their bodies

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Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

The Covid-19 pandemic created no problems for Leigh Brigade in April. Although all callouts were treated as possibly Covid-related, the team had no cases to deal with. It was also a quiet month compared to March with only five calls. These were vegetation fires at Omaha Valley and at Leigh, two medical calls to Leigh and a call that saw Matakana and Warkworth brigades searching for smoke in the hills at Point Wells. Eventually Leigh brigade was called and found the cause to be steam from recent rain rising from the bush above Whangateau. Hopefully the other brigades found the "hills" at Point Wells.

Although there were a few rule breakers during lockdown we have managed to get through without any problems. It's still important to regularly wash your hands thoroughly with soap for 20 seconds and avoid touching your face. With luck we'll get through this without a secondary bout of Covid. For a view on what could happen during a flu epidemic just look up Spanish Flu 1918 to see how more than 9000 New Zealanders died in just six weeks.

All our training has been put on hold until further notice and weekly checks of trucks and equipment is carried out by a small crew to minimise any exposure. Our crew may still arrive at a callout with additional protective gear on as a safety precaution but this does not mean the call is Covid-19 related.

Having enjoyed my first feed of fish and chips in quite a few weeks I look forward to getting out for a beer or a wine and dinner. As long as no one does anything stupid over the next month we should be able to return to what will be as near as possible to what was once normal.

Tony Enderby



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WHANGATEAU HALL

Musical Events at Whangateau Hall

Whangateau Hall will be re-opened as of Monday, 18 May 2020 under Covid19 Alert Level 2. Maximum occupancy of the hall and grounds (within picket fence) is limited to 10 people, and all events in the hall and grounds are limited to 2 hours in duration. We will be maintaining an attendance register for all hall users, to assist in contact tracing, should the unfortunate event of a positive case in our area occur. Users must maintain social distancing of a minimum of 1 meter, but mask usage is voluntary. We'll have disinfectant and clean cloths available to make sure all door knobs, light switches and surfaces can be easily cleaned after each event. We're keeping a close eye on Government and Auckland Council information and we'll be updating these guidelines as new information comes available. Narcotics Anonymous and the weekly Weaving will be starting back up, but we'll wait for a further loosening of group sizes before anything happens with Folk Club.

For more information about using the hall, contact Jenine at 021 428 568 or jenine@torkington.com. 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!

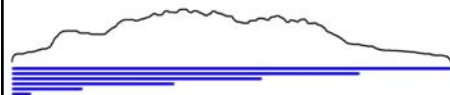
Jenine Abarbanel

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 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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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.

Before making your report, please refer to information from the Ministry of Health about self-isolation and guidelines about essential businesses.

To complete this report you will need to **provide your name and email address** so we can contact you if required.

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Helpful Contacts

For all emergencies dial 111 and ask for police, ambulance or fire

Auckland Council 09 301 0101 toll free

Auckland Transport: public transport enquiries 0800 103 080

Healthline 0800 611 116 for 24-hour medical services

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



THURSDAY
TAKEAWAY ONLY 5-8PM

FRIDAY
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SATURDAY
12PM - LATE

SUNDAY
12PM - 7PM

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PO BOX 35,
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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
LeighbytheseaNZ@gmail.com 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 rodneyrans@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.