

# LEIGH RAG

**NOVEMBER 2023**

deadline for local contributions:  
**15th of each month**

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## PICTURE OF THE MONTH



This stunning shot was taken by local photographer extraordinaire, and Matheson Bay resident, **Gavin Smith**. He often delights the community by posting beautiful regional images on the *Love Leigh Facebook* page, and it will surprise no one that his submission won us over! With impeccable timing, Gavin captured **Big Omaha Wharf** during a breathtaking sunset. The inlet's mirror-polished surface creates a seamless reflection of one of the most picturesque wharfs in the area. Gavin says it's well worth a visit! Inside is historic information "explaining how it was used to get goods into the area by ship and how it was saved and restored". We also think it's the perfect spot for summer dreaming.

*submit your gorgeous photo today for the Christmas issue - [leighragnz@gmail.com](mailto:leighragnz@gmail.com)*

## **NEW FEATURE LOCAL STORIES**

*Contributed by Evelyn Leech*

### **A Boy's Favourite Summer Pleasure**



Toby Leech diving off the Matheson Bay pontoon. (photo credit, Evelyn Leech)

Every summer for the last 5 years, Toby Leech has loved jumping off the pontoon at Matheson Bay, where we have a small kiwi bach. Toby has Down Syndrome. Through sheer determination he has progressed from being dropped off to the pontoon by kayak, to reaching it by boogie board, swimming to it with the assistance of a life jacket, to now swimming out completely unaided. Toby is 14 years old and attends Marcellin College in Mount Albert.

Initially, he went out to the pontoon by kayak with his Dad, and I would swim out and wait in the water. Now he can swim out by himself, either on his boogie board, or using his big arms. He swims for Howick Pakuranga Special Olympic Team and has ribbons for the 25 metres freestyle and 25 metres back stroke, as well as in the 4x 25 metre relay.

The pontoon is his summer highlight!

**LEIGH  
RAG**

**Have an inspirational local story to share?**

Send us a brief essay (less than 200 words) and a jpg image. Include your name, where you live and contact details. Email the editor today with using the subject line "**Local Story**" - [leighragnz@gmail.com](mailto:leighragnz@gmail.com)

# LEIGH COMMUNITY CLUB

*run by volunteers for volunteers*

Lock in the date: Leigh Community Club Christmas Party:

**Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 PM at the Leigh Bowls Club**

Bring your partners, bring a plate and let's share some time together to celebrate Christmas and our lovely community here in Leigh. The Bar will be open. We look forward to seeing you on the day!

The LLC has two main community communication initiatives. *The Leigh Rag* is a monthly local print/digital newspaper highlighting local news and businesses. Join the monthly digital copy mailing list: email [leighragnz@gmail.com](mailto:leighragnz@gmail.com). It is also available in print at The Leigh Store from the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, and online at [www.leighbythesea.co.nz](http://www.leighbythesea.co.nz). The second is the *Leigh Community Group Facebook page*, [www.facebook.com/leigh.com](http://www.facebook.com/leigh.com). Become a member and volunteer! Contact us today about how you can get involved.

Guy Parkes — Chair, Leigh Community Club [leighcommunityclub@gmail.com](mailto:leighcommunityclub@gmail.com)

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## A Farewell to Community Dynamos!



**Join us in saying farewell to Tony & Jenny Enderby** who have been invaluable community members for many years. The Enderbys are leaving the village for flatter terrain in Cambridge. Due to their tireless volunteer work and dedication, the Leigh Community Club has organised a farewell gathering. This is a chance for everyone to show their thanks and gratitude to this amazing couple who have given us all so much. We look forward to seeing you there to give them a warm send off!

**Where:** Leigh Central **When:** Sunday Nov 26<sup>th</sup> **Time:** 3:00—5.30 PM

**Format:** casual, bring your own snacks and refreshments—speeches begin 3:30 PM

Below is a small sampling of their community involvement over the years:

- editors of the Leigh Rag for 5+ years
- establishing the Penguin Project
- Pest Free Leigh volunteers
- Forest and Bird Coast Care volunteers
- Leigh Volunteer Fire Service volunteers
- rangers at Goat Island
- TOSSI (Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society)
- contributing to the Leigh Business community
- Leigh Library volunteers

*(special thanks to Alan and Jasmine of Leigh Central for hosting this event)*

# LEIGH VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Last month was reasonably quiet with only 7 incidents. There were medical calls to Leigh (3), Whangateau and Pakiri, a scrub fire in Pakiri and public assistance due to storm damage to a house in Leigh.

Our crew have been busy training. New recruits have been preparing for the fire fighter's course. Congratulations to Lukas Joblin and Leandro D'Andrea for successfully completing 7 days of intensive training at the regional centre in Auckland and the national centre in Rotorua. During the busy pre-Christmas season, several more members will attend training courses and we wish them the best.

We recently held an event to honor **Nick Torkington** (DCFO) with a Gold Star medal for 25 years of brigade service. This is a massive achievement, so congratulations to Nick and thank you for your outstanding commitment. Nick is the 10<sup>th</sup> member to receive this prestigious award. **Sarah Torkington** (Nick's wife) was also presented with a gift in thanks for her years of support. Current and past members, friends, family, and guests from FENZ and the UFBA took part in this joyous occasion. **Mark Borich** and **Carol Davies** were also given Life Honorary medals. We wish Carol a happy retirement after 21 years of service.

Facebook: leighfire Instagram: leighfirenz As always, stay safe Leigh! Paul Smith

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# COASTAL RESTORATION GROUP

With three groups active in the community, ours, the restoration group planting at Matheson Bay, and Leigh Harbour Valley Society (LHVS), all bases are covered. There is strength in numbers, collectively we are making a huge difference. While each group has defined focus areas, they sometimes overlap. Leigh Harbour is a good example, where our group does work alongside the LHVS. We operate cooperatively, with each group appreciating the support of the other. The reality is that often the same people belong to each group! If you're interested in getting involved, please reach out to Neil (details below).

We are thrilled to learn that the Rodney Local Board is committed to pest control, valuing the importance of protecting local flora and fauna. Their 2024 budget includes education for responsible cat ownership, working with the SPCA on a **Snip n Chip** campaign (a program that helps fund pet de-sexing to reduce the number of unwanted animals in NZ, go to <https://snipnchip.sPCA.nz/> to apply). In collaboration with **The Forest Bridge Trust**, Rodney Local Board will also be increasing possum removal efforts in some key ecological areas. Their initiative is making meaningful improvements to our environment.

Neil Southerland, [corsut15@gmail.com](mailto:corsut15@gmail.com) (email to get onto our mailing list)

## Report Community Problems and Safety Issues

Auckland City Council have a range of ways for you to report a problem: **roadside rubbish, facility damage, trees down, paths overgrown, reserve issues** can all be reported online at:

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/report-problem/Pages/report-a-problem.aspx>

**HOTLINE 24 hours, 7 days: (09) 301-0101**

**Illegal fishing** [ncc@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:ncc@mpi.govt.nz) ph: **0800 4 POACHER** (0800 47 62 24)

**report a ROAD INCIDENT or UNSAFE DRIVER – \*555 and Roadwatch**

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**111 to report a water rescue to Police**



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# SPECIAL COMMUNITY NOTICE

## Tamahunga & Leigh Possum Control – Engagement with Community Partners

Kia ora Tamahunga Trappers, Pest Free Leigh, Leigh Harbour Valley Society, The Forest Bridge Trust and Restore Rodney East. As community partners, we value your conservation mahi, your knowledge of local species and ecosystems, and the relationships you hold with landowners. We are seeking your support to help us engage with communities and landowners about Auckland Council's regional possum control project, which is planned to be undertaken at Tamahunga and Leigh early next year. Below, we describe key information about the project and control sites planned for the next six months. Our intention is that you understand the project and have time to consider any risks or concerns. We invite you to please provide us with any feedback or questions.

### ***What is the regional possum project?***

This project is part of Auckland Council's *Long Term Plan* objective to achieve sustained control of possums on over 50% of rural land (in Auckland by 2028, enabled by the Natural Environment Targeted Rate). The project covers the entire Auckland Region and annual sites are selected based on the following considerations:

- Areas of high ecological value (both in native habitat and native species composition) that are threatened by the browsing effects of possums.
- It forms part of a contiguous landscape of possum control in line with the Regional Pest Management Plan objective, to progressively contain possums within Tāmaki Makaurau /Auckland.

### **Operational areas in eastern Rodney this year:**

**TAMAHUNGA AND LEIGH: 6,200 hectares** (Contractor: Feracon Limited) – see map next page

**When:** from Jan 2024, control works will run for approx. 2-4 months at each site

### ***What:***

- Letters will be sent to all landowners within the control areas prior to work starting. Letters will identify the dates of possum control work, control methodology, information on how to keep pets safe during these works, contact details of the possum control contractor, and an indicative map of the control area.
- Possum control contractors will contact landowners directly to request land access permission, discuss any concerns, consider methods appropriate to that property, and organise property access.
- The possum control will be delivered by contractors using ground-based methods only – bait stations or traps. The method of control will be determined by the agreement between the landowner and possum contractor on a case-by-case basis.
- The objective of these works is to reduce possum numbers to three per cent Residual Trap Catch (RTC), which is a measure of relative abundance, and to achieve sustained control of possums in the areas for at least a three-year period.
- Following the control works, possum population monitoring will be undertaken by a second independent contractor to ensure the control targets have been met (three per cent RTC).
- Local iwi have also been informed of these works as well as Local Board members. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to discuss this project further, please let me know and I can connect you with the project manager and contractors. We hope that from this you will have a sound understanding of the possum control programme, that you can consider it within your group projects and also support local landowners if they come to you.

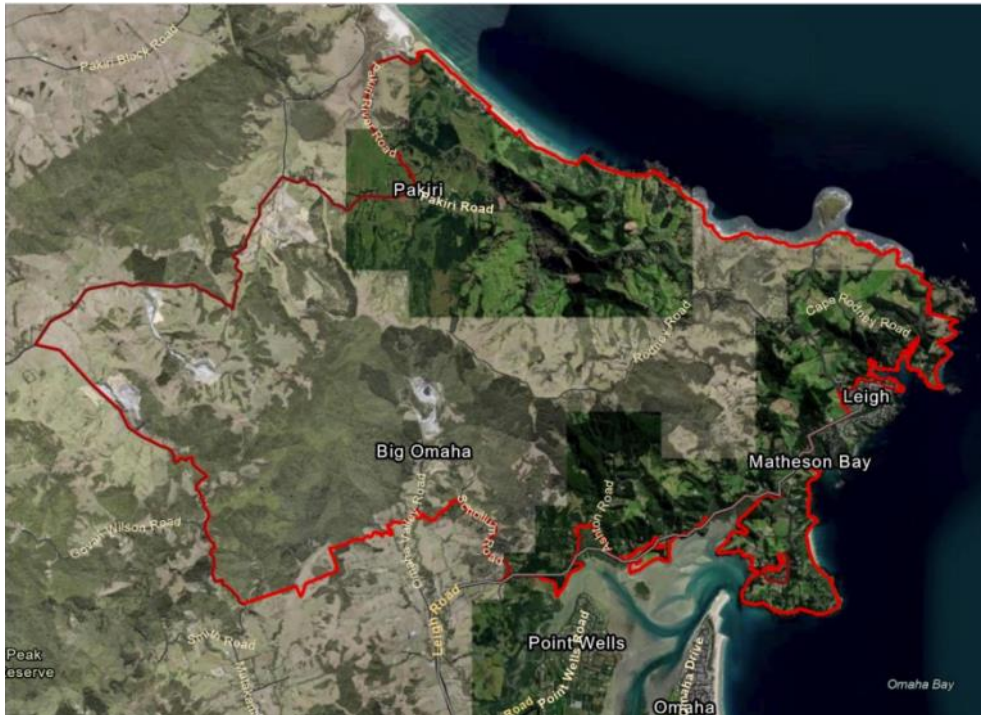
We are grateful for your ongoing collaboration and look forward to your valued support and input on this project.

Ngā mihi, Megan Young, Senior Conservation Advisor  
Natural Environment Delivery – North Environmental Services - Auckland Council



# Tamahunga & Leigh Possum Control Engagement with Community Partners (continued)

Auckland City Council—Map  
regional possum control area—red outline  
for image colour/detail go to The Rag online:  
[www.leighbythesea.co.nz](http://www.leighbythesea.co.nz)



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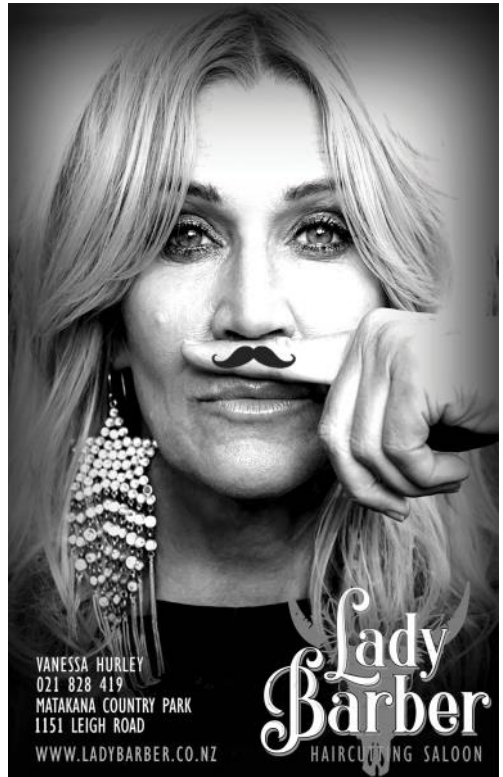
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## GOOD SORTS

Our GOOD SORT this month is **Judd Croft** nominated by our hard-working Leigh Hall Committee who wrote the following....

Judd is very community spirited and actively involved with several different local causes. Despite his busy life, **Judd** willingly tackled a tricky job for the Leigh Hall. It took several hours of his time to untangle the stage curtain cords, bunched up in what can only be described as a rat's nest, and fix the metal tracks so that they could glide smoothly once again.

Thank you **Judd!** The fix was done just in time for a concert at the hall. The curtains can now be fully opened and closed again.

The Leigh Community Church have baking coming your way Judd!

## HELPFUL COMMUNITY CONTACTS

for emergencies dial 111 and ask for police, ambulance or fire service

**Auckland Council** 09 301 0101 toll free

**Auckland Transport:** public transport enquiries 0800 103 080

**Healthline** 0800 611 116 for 24-hour medical services

**Graffiti Coordinator** – Lionel Anderson 021 795 306 call or txt with location of graffiti

**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

**Water emergencies dial 111 ask for Police.**

# THE LEIGH PENGUIN PROJECT

Sadly, the fledging penguin count for 2023 is not good. However, there are great things happening in Leigh at the moment to help improve the kororā habitat. For example, from our monitored nesting area we can see lab researchers on boats studying kina barrens. They're working on ways to revive and sustain these areas. Big thank you to everyone doing this important environmental work.



To mitigate the spread of caulerpa in the Gulf, many locals are behind the eradication of this invasive sea plant. Thanks Ngati Manuhiri for your commitment to this project.

Many members of the Leigh Penguin Project are local volunteers without deep scientific knowledge. It is very reassuring to have the support of technically trained professionals in the field to help guide our work. If you're interested in volunteering, we'd love to hear from you.

Neil Sutherland for the team

(Jenny Enderby [leighpenguins@gmail.com](mailto:leighpenguins@gmail.com) 0275-658-817)

**DOG OWNERS! KEEP YOUR DOG LEASHED ON COASTLINE TRAILS**

## Waste Free Leigh

the Leigh Waste Minimisation sewing group meets:

**Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 am to 11.30 am**

meeting at the Cumberland Street rooms in Leigh Hall

***Come along and help us create fabulous items from rescued fabrics!***

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# WASTE FREE LEIGH

**December 1<sup>st</sup> at 4pm to 8pm is the Christmas Craft Fair** held at Matakana School. Waste Free Leigh will be selling reusable gift bags, Christmas bags and other items. We are working at the Hall Rooms in Cumberland Street on **Mondays and Thursday 9.30 to 11.30 am**, and other days by arrangement. Please feel free to drop in and look at what we are making, lend a hand and check out what's for sale. Everyone is welcome. We are happy to help you with your project or you can come and learn to sew with us, everything is provided. Keep bringing in soft plastics, ensure they are clean, dry and crushable. If the bag is full, please lift it out, tie it, and pull one from the bottom, to keep the space tidy. The aluminium can collection bag is also at the Cumberland Street carpark. They are used to raise funds for the Leigh Hall Committee for equipment. We appreciate your continued contributions and donations!

## THE LEIGH HALL

The Leigh Hall is an ideal venue for family gatherings, large or small group meetings, indoor events (up to 120 people). We have excellent kitchen facilities, offering crockery, glasses, and cutlery. Get in touch today to book your event during the busy summer season.

The Hall committee is also interested in offering more recreation, arts, music, health, sports and fitness sessions. If you need a space to hold your lessons or events, please get in touch. New groups can enjoy a free trial of the space while building a following.

**BOOK THE HALL:** email or phone **Lynn Mellsopp**  
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# THE LEIGH COMMUNITY PATROL

The Patrol has been busy day and night looking after the community this month. Longer days and more settled weather allows us to extend patrolling periods. Our goal is to quickly assist the public in the event of an emergency.

To this end a refresher course on first responder training was held in the Community Patrol headquarters, attended by a large group of Patrollers. Also taking the session were experienced first responders from the **Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade**. The training focused on first-response procedures, particularly when we first encounter an unconscious driver after a motor vehicle accident. We learned that it is imperative to isolate the scene to prevent further danger. This involves activating our emergency lights, using the patrol vehicle and road cones as blockades, calling emergency services for further assistance, checking the health of the occupant (and possibly other occupants either in the vehicle or surrounding the scene) and administering first aid.

Most were able to build on skills acquired from taking St. John's first aid course. A mannequin was provided by the Leigh Fire Brigade for Patrollers to renew their CPR (Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) skills. **An AED defibrillator is always in the patrol vehicle ready for use if required.** It is used to help patients who have experienced a sudden cardiac arrest. This sophisticated yet easy to use medical device can analyze the heart's rhythm and if necessary, deliver an electric shock (or defibrillation) to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. Patrollers all agreed this training program was just what they needed to ensure they can ably assist during an emergency.

Annual **Christmas celebration: November 30<sup>th</sup>** (mark your calendars).

A warm welcome is extended to all those in the community who wish to become a Patroller! Please contact Julie George our secretary, at [leigh@cpnz.org.nz](mailto:leigh@cpnz.org.nz)



"new recruits" photo credit: Lynley Averis

# PEST FREE LEIGH



Dr. Edin Whitehead  
grey-faced petrel chick  
Tawharanui.  
photo: James Ross

We are privileged to live on the Hauraki Gulf, a global seabird hotspot. Seabirds are critical to marine and terrestrial ecosystems. One of the local sounds of summer, **tītī Cook's petrels** can be heard at night, as they cross from the feeding grounds in the Tasman Sea to breeding sites on **Hauturu Little Barrier** and **Aotea Great Barrier Island**, via the North Auckland Seabird Flyway. (Listen for the bleating sound kek-kek-kek). After the removal of introduced predators (feral cats 1980, kiore rats 2004), Cook's petrels breeding rates increased from 5% to 60% on Hauturu.

Seabirds once nested all over the North Island but introduced predators have made it very difficult for burrow-nesting birds to thrive. With pest control, some mainland areas (e.g., Tāwharanui) are seeing the return of breeding pairs such as ōi grey-faced petrels. With continued eradication efforts, we will see more seabirds nesting on our shores.

Our next **Open Day** is this coming **Saturday 18 November**, from **10 am until midday**, at **Leigh Hall** (Cumberland St end). Traps are available for local residents. Drop in and have a chat to our team about trapping in your backyard.



Cooks Petrel, Tawharanui, photo James Ross

We are running an **online auction** of **Masterchef cook-top pans**. They have been donated by members of the Leigh community following the recent New World promotion. The online auction will run for two weeks from **November 16-30<sup>th</sup>**. Bids can be placed via email to [pestfreeleigh@gmail.com](mailto:pestfreeleigh@gmail.com).

During the auction, bidders will be contacted via email when they have been outbid, thus giving an opportunity to re-enter another bid. The highest bidder for each item will be contacted on **Friday 1 December** to arrange payment and collection of goods. All proceeds will go towards continuing pest control activities in the Ti Point, Matheson Bay, Leigh and Cape Rodney areas. Below is a list of the auction items.

- 1x 28cm stirfry pan with glass lid
- 2x 26 cm frypans
- 2x 24 cm casserole dishes, each with a glass lid
- 2x 18 cm saucepans with glass lid
- 1x set of utensils



# LEIGH BOWLING CLUB

*The Leads and Twos* singles event was held on Saturday, Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. All players had 'one life', that meant losing a game knocked you out of the event. The two players to reach the final were John Brooks and Symon Morrice. John, who played very consistent bowls, took the title. Also during the afternoon, a number of younger players bowled a few ends as part of their stag do. Great fun and very entertaining to watch!

The **Business House Competition on Wednesday nights** continues to be a very popular night at the club. It continues until **December 6<sup>th</sup>**, and resumes on **Feb 7<sup>th</sup>**. The **Lion Red Triples Tournament on Nov 25<sup>th</sup>** is filling up fast and bound to be another great event. Special events in December include the **Club Christmas Get Together** and **Corner to Corner Competition** on Saturday Dec 16<sup>th</sup>.

Our next club event is the **Handicapped Singles** on The club and bar will be open over the festive season from **4:00 PM from Wed-Sat**.

(FYI: the club is booked on Dec 2-3 for a post wedding event followed by the Leigh Community Club's Christmas party.)

enquiries to Ian Bradnam, Secretary on 021 423144

# LEIGH COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Summer is in the air and we are loving all the fresh energy it's bringing to our community. Our new tamariki have settled in well and enjoying their time at Leigh Community Preschool. Please help us spread the word that we are **accepting new enrolments for 2024, for all ages**. We encourage you to learn more about what we do at:

[www.leighpreschool.co.nz](http://www.leighpreschool.co.nz), please direct anyone interested to [info@leighpreschool.co.nz](mailto:info@leighpreschool.co.nz) for more information (last day of term 4 will be December 20<sup>th</sup>)

Christmas is just around the corner, and Santa's List has begun early this year. If anyone in the community has any **old oven trays** lying around, or if you're looking for an excuse to upgrade, we would love some for our sandpit activities. Please get in touch to arrange a drop-off or pick-up or deliver it to someone from our preschool whanau. We are also on the hunt for some **Mobilo**. This is an incredible resource our older tamariki love, but we don't quite have enough to satisfy their needs (and it's quite pricey!) If you or someone you know has any to donate (or sell), please get in touch. The same goes for any **heavy-duty tuff trays** (also called *tuff tables*, or *Active World* trays and tables).

Finally, we'd like to say a huge thank you to **Brenda Walton** for her dedication and mahi over the last 10 years. Brenda has been a huge part of our preschool whanau and we're sad to see her go, but the joys of retirement await!

Lucy van Oosterom



# LEIGH COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GROUP

Not that we can remember a decent summer, but this one is currently forecast to be long and dry. Please think about water conservation now, while tanks are full.

- ⇒ check pumps, taps, tanks and pipes for leaks
- ⇒ be a nice neighbour - keep an eye out for your neighbours and absentee owner's property for problems with their water
- ⇒ mulch gardens and use ground cover to help retain water
- ⇒ water in the morning and late afternoon, not during the day in full sun
- ⇒ save "grey" water for gardens and/or outdoor cleaning (washing machine water for example)
- ⇒ plan for stock to have enough water and shade
- ⇒ have an emergency supply of drinking water on hand
- ⇒ pre-book water deliveries in advance, they could have long waiting lists this summer

Most of all, enjoy the sun safely. In the event of water shortages, please be aware that public toilets may run out of water too. Spread the word to our many summer visitors that the **Leigh Hall on the corner of Seatoun Road and Cumberland Street is the place to go in an emergency situation.**

enquiries to Lynn ph 027-286-8625

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Saturday	8:00AM - 8:00PM
Sunday	8:00AM - 8:00PM

# LEIGH TENNIS CLUB

The sun shone and tennis was the winner on "Opening Day" last Sunday at Leigh Tennis Club. President Marie-Dominique welcomed new and old member for the new season and gave a shout out to all in the community to come along over the next few Sunday afternoons to join in coaching and social play.

**Juniors Coaching 1 to 2 pm**

**Seniors Coaching to 3pm**

**Social tennis from 3pm**

Leigh Tennis Facebook for more details: <https://www.facebook.com/leightennisclub>

Want to join? please contact **Marg on 027 2760230** or **Marie-Dominique on 021490039** or email [leightennisclubinc@gmail.com](mailto:leightennisclubinc@gmail.com)



## LEIGH RAG

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you have something to share? Start the conversation by submitting a short essay (less than 500 words) on a local matter that is well-researched, based in fact, useful for the community to know and solution focused. The essay should challenge, engage and/or delight readers, offering a different point of view that opens a window into an issue they were otherwise unaware. Include an explanation of your professional or personal background that supports your opinion or idea.

send with the subject line 'op-ed' to the [leighragnz@gmail.com](mailto:leighragnz@gmail.com)

### DOG OWNERS

please have your dog on a leash as you walk the **coastal trails**, we have vulnerable native birds in the area



# WASTE FREE LEIGH

We are busy making items for the **Craft Fair on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>** at the **Matakana School, 4-8pm**. The focus is on Christmas gifts and gift bags; however, we will have other items as well. We are delighted to have assisted a few locals with equipment and materials to help them complete their projects. Recently we received donations from crafters who are no longer able to work on their projects. If you are interested in quilting or fabric doll making, please get in touch as we are looking for a home for some items.

The sewing/craft room is open to all at The Leigh Hall, Cumberland Street, **Mondays, and Thursdays 9.30 am to 11.30 am each week**, or by arrangement at other times. Contact Helen Parkes via phone or txt on 021 484432.

## NOMINATE A LOCAL GOOD SORT!

The Leigh Community Church has run the *Good Sorts* column since 2013. Nominate someone by writing a few words about 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](mailto:LeighRagNZ@gmail.com)*.

*The person considered most deserving will receive home baking courtesy of Leigh Community Church*

The logo for Squeegee Boys features the words "SQUEEGEE" and "BOYS" in a bold, yellow, bubbly font with a black outline. The text is set against a background of a blue sky with white clouds. To the right of the text, there is a photograph of a person in a blue uniform and a hat, standing on a tall, thin pole and using a squeegee to clean a window.

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# SPECIAL NOTICE

Thank you to those who have supported my classes in Leigh, which have been running since April of last year. I love Leigh – it's a great spot with a lovely community but the time spent in travel, sporadic attendance and rising fuel costs means that I've got to be practical, so the last **class in Leigh will be Thursday Nov 30<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm. Classes will continue in Matakana at midday – last day for 2023 will be Dec 14<sup>th</sup>.**

If you are holding Class credits with me you can either use them for any of my classes elsewhere or contact me to arrange a refund. There are 4 more Classes in Leigh so I look forward to seeing you in at least one of them!

Nga mihi  
Sonya Robinson  
Ph. 027 319 5261



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**call 111 and ask for the appropriate service**

# LEIGH SCHOOL

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through the final term of 2023! Students were refreshed and ready for the busy term after the spring holiday break and jumped right back into work.

We would like to thank all those who helped with Athletics Day. It was touch and go with the weather, but we got there in the end! Congratulations to students who made it into Inter-School Athletics.

Year 4, 5 and 6 students spent the morning at Snells Beach on Thursday Nov 16th for the **Taurima Kapa Haka Festival**. All the local primary schools came together to share waiata and kai, and took part in fun workshops.

The **School Pool Key** will be available to purchase from **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Please see Georgie in the office should you wish to hire a key for the summer months. (*\*Please note there is a new payment plan to hire a pool key*).

## SCHOOL PHOTOS:

Photolife will be visiting the school on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>  
(*preschoolers are welcome to head over for sibling photos*)

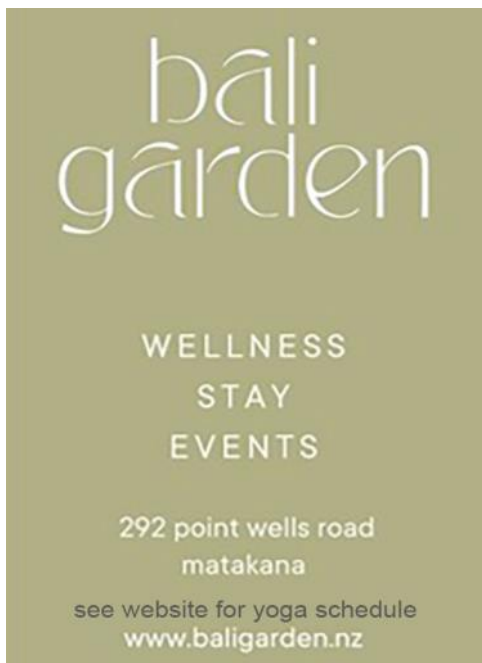
## PRIZEGIVING

Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

## LAST SCHOOL DAY OF 2023

Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

*Georgie Brebner*



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New thrillers include Mick Herron's MI5 spy caper for Slough House fans, *The Secret Hours*; *Kill Your Brother* by Jack Heath (a disgraced athlete searches for her imprisoned brother); Stig Abell's debut *Death Under a Little Sky* (a detective is jerked out of quiet country retirement by the discovery of a woman's bones) and 'techno-thriller' *Prophet* by co-authors Helen Macdonald & Sin Blaché.

Also on our new books shelf: *Pineapple Street* by Jenny Jackson, set in Brooklyn Heights, 'smart, escapist'; *Oh, Miriam!* more showbiz tales from irrepressible Miriam Margolyes; 2023 Booker Prize *Time Shelter* (Georgi Gospodinov), meditations on love and trauma in a multigenerational Irish family, *The Wren, the Wren* (Anne Enright), and many more ...

**Christmas raffle!** This year we are offering one bumper prize combining two baskets and a box of delicious goodies and wine, on display at the library now. Tickets on sale at the desk – **raffle drawn on 12 December.**

There are more than 3,000 'not new' books waiting for you and your children on the shelves, perhaps among them overlooked hidden treasures ... come on down to The Cottage and browse. While you're choosing books, buy a raffle ticket and check your contact and family details are up to date!

Jenny Stewart, Librarian

## COURIER PACKAGES

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# GATE KEEPERS WANTED

Mary Nissen is currently coordinating the holiday roster for the **Grand View Road Gate at Matheson Bay**. The gate has proven to be an effective way to protect the safety and enjoyment of our beautiful bay and reserve. Throughout the year, the permanent locals in Matheson Bay open and close the gate every day, sometimes a grim task in the middle of winter. Traditionally, they get a break over the holiday season with bach residents taking over the gate roster from Christmas through to the beginning of the school term (approx. 5 weeks).

Can you help again this year OR can you join us as a new helper? If you're unsure when you'll be at your bach, we welcome you to get in touch. Email Mary approximately when you can assist: [nissen.jordan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nissen.jordan@xtra.co.nz) Any time slot (it does not have to be for a full week) would be most appreciated!



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# MATHESON BAY NEWS



It is terrific to see the progress Auckland Council is making in Matheson Bay with the deferred maintenance now well underway. They are working quickly to replace the bollards around the playground and have already removed some of the old picnic tables to make way for new ones. Frequent storms are changing the coastline with much of the grass area disappearing into the sand. With this said, the revamped picnic area should help accommodate more beachgoers. The team are doing their best to ensure this will be ready for the holidays. Thank you for staying clear of working areas.

The footbridge may be closed off for a day or two as they work on raising the path that leads to the toilet block. The current path is often underwater or covered in sand, so it is fantastic to see them working to remedy this. Please walk along the beach to get from one side of the bay while this work is being done. A small inconvenience for long-term gain.

I have high hopes for an actual summer this year with sunshine instead of rain, a gentle breeze instead of a raging storm and squeals of laughter as children splash around the bay. Fingers crossed!

As we head into the busy season, please be mindful of excited children (adults, and dogs) who sometimes forget that cars use the roads and parking lots too. There are plenty of roads that do not have footpaths. Family groups sometimes spill across roads as they head to the beach, so take care when driving. Let's look after each other and have a fabulous summer!

See you all at the end of year **Christmas Breakfast at Matheson Bay on December 29<sup>th</sup>**.

Yvonne Keesing

## MEDIA RELEASE

# DOC PREPARES FOR SELL-OUT CAMPING SUMMER

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is gearing up to host approximately 60,000 campers over the upcoming summer at more than 300 campsites spread across New Zealand. Popular holiday destinations include the Coromandel, Hauraki Gulf Islands, and Northland, some of which are expected to sell out during the peak summer season.

The cyclone recovery efforts have included repairing water infrastructure, rebuilding internal roads within the campsites, fixing bridges and culverts, repairing toilets, and clearing debris and fallen trees. "The main impact visitors will experience from last year's turbulent summer is reduced capacity of around 25 – 30 per cent at some Coromandel and Northland campsites."

DOC campsites are particularly popular through the peak Christmas-New Year season, and during any summer long weekend. They draw campers looking to enjoy fishing, swimming, boating and walking in sometimes isolated locations. Visitors planning to head to these locations are urged to go [properly prepared](#) and keep up to date with weather conditions and road network alerts, especially in the northern Coromandel.

### **Adjusted capacities for DOC Campsites:**

#### **Coromandel**

Port Jackson: Reduced from 250 to 185 visitors.

Fletcher Bay: Reduced from 300 to 200 visitors.

Fantail Bay: Reduced from 80 to 60 visitors.

#### **Whangarei**

Uretiti Beach Campsite: reduced from 1000 to 750 visitors. Although floodwaters have receded over the past year, two main pools alongside the ring-road appear to be permanent.

### **DOC campsite availability for the upcoming summer:**

#### **Northland Campsites**

Otamure Campsite: Full from December 24 to late January.

Puriri Campsite and Urupukapuka Campsite: Full from Dec 25 to end of first week of January.

Trounson Kauri Park Campsite, Puketiti Campsite, Uretiti: All have space available for Christmas/New Year bookings.

#### **Coromandel Campsites**

Port Jackson Campsite, Fantail Bay Campsite, and Waikawau Bay Campsite: Full from December 25 to the end of the first week of January.

Fletcher Bay Campsite & Stoney Bay Campsite: available for Christmas/New Year bookings.

Kauaeranga Valley campsites: Plenty of capacity, but visitors are encouraged to book early, particularly for the busy Christmas-New Year period.

#### **Inner Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana Campsites**

Motuora Island Campsite: Full Dec 25 to the end of the first week of Jan. Pest Free Island.

Home Bay / Motutapu Island Campsite and Motuihe Campsite: Space available for Christmas/New Year bookings. Pest Free Islands.

Aotea/Great Barrier Island Campsites

Akapoua Bay, Awana Beach, The Green, Whangapoua, Harataonga, and Medlands Beach Campsites: All have space available for Christmas/New Year bookings.

**To book a campsite:** [Stay at a campsite: Places to stay \(doc.govt.nz\)](#)  
**See our website for** [tips to be a low impact camper](#)



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

A selection of **DOC CAMP SITES** are pictured below. *Whangapoua*, *Medlands* and *Motuihe* (pest-free) camp sites are available for booking this Christmas/New Year. The *Motuora* camp site (pest-free) is booked from December 25th to the end of the first week of January 2024.

**For bookings go to:** [Stay at a campsite: Places to stay \(doc.govt.nz\)](https://www.doc.govt.nz/stay-at-a-campsite/places-to-stay/)



Whangapoua campsite on Great Barrier Island—photo: Brian Dobbie



Medlands Beach, Aotea Great Barrier Island—photo: Scott Venning



Motuora campsite —photo: DOC



Motuihe beach —photo: DOC

---

## Nicole Steven

Media and Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Pāpāho a Whakapā  
Auckland House | Tāmaki Makaurau  
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# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Bali Garden is located in beautiful Point Wells, Matakana. This sanctuary is the brainchild of Sophie Carew, who has created a one of a kind wellness retreat. Whether you are searching for stunning accommodation, an events venue, or yoga classes, look no further than this local treasure.

Visit the website for more info and book your wellness session today (schedule below).

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## bali garden CLASS SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning Classes	6.30 - 7.15am Power Pilates Mai	6.15 - 7.15am Vinyasa Hamish		6.15 - 7.15am Hatha Ana	6.15 - 7.15am Ashtanga Wendy	7.30 - 8.30am Vinyasa(Gentle) Sandey	8.00- 9.00am Vinyasa(Power) Monique
	8.00 - 9.00am Nia Technical Amara			9.00 - 10.00am Mixed Pilates Mai			
	9.15 - 10.15am Ashtanga Wendy	9.00 - 10.00am Vinyasa Mai	9.00 - 10.30am Yin Yoga Wendy	9.15 - 10.15am Nia Technical Amara	9.00 - 10.00am Slow Flow Ana		
Afternoons & Evenings					1.30-2.30pm Meditation Alex - KOHA		
	6.15 - 7.15am Vinyasa + Meditation - Alex	6.00 - 7.00pm Yoga Nidra Rebecca					

### MANDALA STUDIO

Larger studio, located at the end of the garden on the left

[baligarden.nz](http://baligarden.nz) | [@baligarden\\_matakana](https://www.instagram.com/baligarden_matakana)

### SATTVA STUDIO

Situated through the black door via the tiled sunroom



# COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST	PLACE
25 Nov	Lion Red Triples Tournament			Bowling Club
26 Nov	Enderby's Farewell	3-5 PM		Leigh Central
30 Nov	Community Patrol Christmas Celebration	call for info		Community Patrol
30 Nov	Tai Chi w/ Sonya LAST CLASS			Leigh Hall
1 Dec	Craft Fair	4-8pm		Matakana School
3 Dec	Leigh Comm Club Xmas Party	4 PM		Bowling Club
12 Dec	Leigh Library—Raffle Draw			Leigh Library
20 Dec	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL TERM			Leigh School
29 Dec	Matheson Bay Xmas Breakfast	Morning		Matheson Bay
WED Night	Business House Competition			Bowling Club
SUNDAYS	Club Days	2:00 PM		Tennis Club
MONDAYS	Yoga Meditation	6-7:15pm	\$0-10	Snells Beach C.Ctr.

## REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

what	Day	time	contact
Waste Free Leigh Sewing	Monday (entrance Cumberland St)	9:30 – 11:30	Drop-in non sewers welcome
Yoga	Tuesday	9:30 – 11:30	Marion 021-111-9104
Nia / Pulse	Wednesday	8:00 – 9:00	Amara 0221-696-481
Advanced Contemporary Dance	Thursday	8:30 – 9:30	
Waste Free Leigh Sewing	Thursday (entrance Cumberland St)	9:30 – 11:30	Drop-in non sewers welcome
Knitting at Leigh Library	Thursday	2:00 – 4:00	All welcome
Nia / Pulse	Friday	9:00 – 10:00	Amara 0221-696-481

# LEIGH RAG

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# Community Directory

**Forest & Bird Coastal Restoration Group** - 022-582-2713 Neil Sutherland

**Leigh Bowling Club** - 021-423-144 Ian Bradnam (secretary)

**Leigh Business Community**— leighbytheseanz@gmail.com www.leighbythesea.co.nz

**Leigh Cards 500** - 1:00 - 3.30pm Tuesday, Leigh Bowling Club, all welcome, \$3.00

**Leigh Cemetery Trust** - 027-277-7594 Diti Hill-Denee

**Leigh Church** - 425-8054 (call to book the Church Hall)

**Leigh Community Club** - 021-352-588 leighcommunityclub@gmail.com Guy Parkes (pres)

**Leigh Community Patrol** 021-827-855 leigh@cpnz.org.nz Julie George (secretary)

**Leigh Community Preschool** - www.leighpreschool.co.nz 422-6516 Lucinda van Oosterom

**Leigh Hall** - 027-286-8625 leighhallauckland@gmail.com Lynn Mellsopp

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

**Leigh Library** – 021-024-13144 / 422-6409 Jenny Stewart (librarian)

**Leigh Penguin Project** - 0275-658-817 leighpenguins@gmail.com

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

**Leigh Tennis Club** – leightennisinc@gmail.com Marie Dominique Lennan (pres)

**Leigh Walking Group** - paddis@xtra.co.nz Valda Paddison (meet Monday at 9.30am)

**Matheson Bay Neighbourhood Assn** - mathesonbayassn@gmail.com Yvonne Keesling

**Pakiri Community Landcare Group** - 021-688-997 (Frankie) or nick@nickmolloy.co.nz

**Pakiri Tennis Club** - 021-242-7459 Linda Taylor (Secretary)

**Pest Free Leigh** - pestfreeleigh@gmail.com FB: www.facebook.com/groups/pestfreeleigh

**Plunket** 027-290-1915 Adele (meet 1st Monday of month Leigh Church Hall Contact)

**Rodney Rams Rugby League Club** - 021-0205-8098 Daphne Were rodneyrans@outlook.com

**Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society** - 585-1315 [www.tossi.org.nz](http://www.tossi.org.nz) Karyn H. secretary@tossi.org.nz

**Waste Free Leigh** 021-484-432 helenp708@gmail.com Helen Parkes

**Whangateau Acoustic Music & Social Club** - www.whangateau.co.nz

**Whangateau Neighbourhood Support** – sharyncarew@vodafone.co.nz Sharyn Carew

**Whangateau Residents & Ratepayers Assn | Whangateau Hall** - 422-6209 Audrey

Sharp or Hugh McKergow 422-6219, *book the Hall*: 021-428-568 Jenine Abarbanel  
whangateauhallbookings@gmail.com

## **JUSTICES OF THE PEACE & CELEBRANTS**

**JP** - Fay Bradnam 422-6038

**JP** - Jon Everest 021 354 708

**JP** - John Marsden 489-0193, 021-509-463

## **FACEBOOK**

**Leigh Community Club** - [www.facebook.com/leighcomm/](http://www.facebook.com/leighcomm/)

**Leigh Community Patrol** - [www.facebook.com/leighcommunitypatrol](http://www.facebook.com/leighcommunitypatrol)

**Love Leigh** - [www.facebook.com/groups/loveleigh/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/loveleigh/)

**Leigh by the Sea** - [www.facebook.com/leighbythesea](http://www.facebook.com/leighbythesea)

**Leigh Historical Photographs NZ** - [www.facebook.com/groups/739949979454558](http://www.facebook.com/groups/739949979454558)

**Leigh Rag** - [www.facebook.com/leighragnz](http://www.facebook.com/leighragnz)

**IF YOUR CLUB OR GROUP DOES NOT APPEAR, PLEASE EMAIL US: LEIGHRAGNZ@GMAIL.COM**

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