
LEIGH RAG

April 2026

Editors - Helen Parkes, Lucy Harris
leighragnz@gmail.com

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**"LEST WE FORGET"
ANZAC DAY SERVICE
MEMORIAL WALL
LEIGH CEMETERY**



11am Saturday 25th April 2026

Those marching to assemble at 10.45am at the
Cnr of Harbour View and Kowhai Tce

March at 10 50 am to Leigh Cemetery
where a Commemoration will take place at 11.00 am
Followed by a social gathering at the Leigh Bowling Club.
Please bring a plate

Save the date!

Pest Free Leigh will be planting 600 plants provided by Auckland Council at the bottom of Matheson Bay Rd on *Saturday 13th June 2026* and we are looking forward to community support to complete this work. Starting time 9:30am followed by a sausage sizzle and cuppa.

PEST FREE LEIGH

We are also planning another planting program opposite the Leigh Hall on Cumberland St down the paper road (July date - to be confirmed). These plants have been nurtured by Kate McConnell using seedlings that she has sourced or been given. The advantage of using locally grown seedlings is that they germinated in the Leigh area so are well suited to the local environment. Kate has been a great source of knowledge with helping to identify and grow the plants to a suitable size for planting out.

Can you help? If anyone has seedlings popping up around their properties, then you could place them in pots and grow them to be used in future plantings. Kate would also love to receive any spare pots in the 15 cm + range for the larger plants she has, rather than buying new pots. Contact Heather 0274-480485 or Lucy 021-2028932 for delivery / collection.

Sheryl Corbett and Neil Sutherland are leaving Leigh after 20 years here in which they have been involved wholeheartedly in many community activities, including the Penguin Project, Forest and Bird, the Leigh Library, Pest Free Leigh and setting up and running Leigh Coastal Care for more than 15 years. They will be greatly missed and we wish them well.



Pest Free Leigh is looking for a new committee member who is able to oversee the finances and offer the forward budgeting advice to the committee. For more information please contact Gary Simpson on 021 795 138

LEIGH PRESCHOOL

What an AMAZING day on Easter Saturday at the Gala! It was such an incredible turnout and we are truly blown away by all the support we've received. We wanted to give a huge and heartfelt thank you to every single person who came along to support our Preschool. To all our sponsors, vendors, stall holders, donors, parents, volunteers and members of the community - THANK YOU. We truly couldn't have done this without you. We are so proud of what our community created together. Thank you for being part of it and making it a day to remember. We already can't wait until next year!!

LEIGH HALL

Upcoming events:

Sunday 3rd May - Market 10am to 1pm

Sunday, 17th May - Kowhai Singers, Story Time a Musical Journey 4pm

Door sales \$30 Students Free.

Youth Group

Young people from 13 to 18 years old are welcome to come and just "hang out" once a week, doing various activities that they choose and just being with others.

All sorts of activities happen, from basket ball shoots, table tennis, roller skating(!), art work, (several budding artists) and card games.

So, all teens are welcome to join us then,

4pm until 5.30'ish each Wednesday.

Phone Di: 021108 5423 for enquiries



Kowhai Singers
conducted by Ken Leech
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a delightful concert where every song has a tale to tell.
Guest performances from Horizon Primary School Choir
Bring cash for raffles

	Warkworth Town Hall - Saturday, May 16 at 7pm	Leigh Hall - Sunday, May 17 at 4pm	
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BOOK WARKWORTH \$25 Ticket Online from Trybooking NZ | Briar Rose Flowers | Choir Members. At the door - \$30 cash only. Students no charge. BOOK LEIGH

WHANGATEAU NEWS

Last month we hosted a meeting of the various Emergency Response Groups in the local area in order to form what Auckland Emergency Management call a "constellation". It was felt that all the local groups needed to come together to support each other in case of a local emergency. Leigh, Point Wells, Omaha, Matakana, Rainbows End and Whangateau were all represented and have agreed to meet quarterly to share information and support each other. Kym Burke the Rodney Readiness Connector also attended the meeting.

There are two events planned to take place at the Whangateau Hall coming up.

Country Western Dance Night - Saturday June 6 5.30 start (bring some nibbles to share) \$5 entry.

Mid Winter Cultural Pot luck dinner 5.30pm on Friday 19 June
Bring food from your culture to share and dress up if you like reflecting your culture. I will wear green for my Irish background and do something nice with potatoes.

The recent Children's Disco at the hall was well supported by local children. Thanks Leigh Pre-School and Leigh school for your continued support. We will hold another night later in the year.

LEIGH COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GROUP

We sometimes get asked which radio stations will be broadcasting emergency information. Here's a list. Choose your favourite channel, check that you can receive it and take a note of it.

Radio Stations for emergency information:

Radio NZ 101.4 FM or 756 AM

More FM 91.8 FM

Newstalk ZB 89.4 FM

Planet FM 101.6 FM

The Hits 97.4 FM

Remember, if life or property is in immediate danger, call 111.

The Leigh Hall will open if needed in an emergency as an information hub, to provide comfort, and to coordinate help offered and help required. Email:

leighcrgnz@gmail.com

Contact: Lynn Mellsopp Ph 0272868625



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TE KOHUROA REWILDING INITIATIVE

Te Kohuroa Rewilding Initiative (TKRI) is driven by a shared commitment to restoring the health and mauri of Te Kohuroa Matheson Bay. This season has shown just how important the people and supporters behind TKRI are to that journey. The progress we're seeing on the reef is not just the result of restoration work, but of strong partnerships, knowledge sharing, and community involvement. From facilitating events and supporting monitoring, to contributing expertise or simply showing up, everyone involved in this season's mahi (work) has played an important role.

As our busy season nears the end, there are some final opportunities to get involved. On Saturday 18 April, a Scuba Restoration Day with TKRI and Goat Island Dive and Snorkel will support final kina removal in deeper areas of the restoration zone. On Tuesday 28 April, a Ranger Training Day will provide updates on rewilding work, practical citizen science training, and a guest speaker. On Saturday 23 May, the Community Consultation Day will bring together the community and guest speakers to reflect on the 2025-26 season, share outcomes, and help shape future priorities.

We're also excited to have installed an AquaWatch water quality monitoring device along the Kohuroa Awa. This device collects real-time data on key indicators such as pollutants, temperature, and dissolved oxygen, as well as tracking changes following weather events. This information will help build a clearer picture of the river's health and its connection to the marine ecosystem in the bay. Please do not touch or interfere with the device. For more information and event details, visit:



www.tekohuroarewilding.org

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LEIGH CHURCH What a blessed Easter we've had at St Michael and All Angels! On Good Friday we installed a beautiful cross outside the church. It was made by long term local Paul Rowntree from timber found underneath the old Presbyterian church in Warkworth. After a blessing by kaumatua Rev John Marsden it was carried down to the church in a procession of 60 people where we sang, heard a Gospel reading and were again led in prayer by Rev John. Rosemarie donned the cross with a crown of thorns. Easter Sunday saw our little church literally overflowing with people come to celebrate the risen Christ! Rev Iain Gow and his team of musicians led a beautiful service of floral tribute, song and joy. Lord let us carry your light into the year to come.



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LEIGH PENGUIN PROJECT

The Leigh Penguin team track penguin breeding success by monitoring nesting sites along the coast. Penguins nest in caves, burrows, under thick vegetation, in nesting boxes or occasionally under houses. According to the textbooks, the kororā / little penguin nesting season runs from June to December. During the 2025 nesting season, the first eggs observed along the Leigh coast were laid in late September, with more in October. Of the sixteen potential nesting sites under observation along one stretch of the Leigh coast, there were five active nests. Two eggs were laid in each nest. Volunteers observed the eggs being left unguarded in three of the five nests for periods of time, sometimes a few days. This did not bode well for successful hatching. Surprisingly, both eggs went on to hatch in four of the five nests, resulting in eight tiny chicks across four nests. After hatching, young chicks are carefully guarded by one parent, while the second parent heads out to sea to forage, returning each night to feed the growing hatchlings. It's a tough gig. Kororā travel up to 25 kilometers from the nest. After around three weeks young chicks are left in the nest to fend for themselves, while both parents work to feed the hungry youngsters. By December 2025 some of the eight chicks had developed their blue and white waterproof feathers and were ready to leave the nest. The late starters remained in the nest until late January – with the last of the eight finally fledging (leaving the nest) by early February. A big improvement on the past two seasons, having all eight chicks successfully fledge is a remarkable result. Something to celebrate.



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With only a few tufts of down remaining, this chick is rapidly developing waterproof feathers. Within a week this chick headed away from the nest box and out to sea.

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Leigh Community Club 100 raffle result.

The latest draw of the LCC 100 Club 2025/2026 Raffle was held at the Leigh Bowls Club on 8 April under the guidance of Guy & Helen Parkes (Committee Club Members).

The successful ticket No.s are: 1st Prize: Ticket No. 76

2nd Prize: Ticket No.3 3rd Prize: Ticket No. 14

The winners are contacted individually for distribution of the prize monies.



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LEIGH FIRE BRIGADE

A busy wee month for March with our call outs. Majority of these being Medical x11, assisting with the public x 1, false alarm x1, large veg fire x1, property/vehicle fire x1 & a technical rescue (cliff rescue at Tawharanui) x1. The veg fire in Pakiri happened fast due to a wind change and dry conditions; thanks to the support of our surrounding brigades that helped us tackle this fire quickly and safely.

Property/vehicle fire: - we were called out to an unfortunate ride-on mower which had caught alight from a hot engine and very dry grass. Showing how dry the conditions have been through this summer.

A cliff rescue in Tawharanui was a big event with crews being called in from all across Auckland to assist. Our team who are trained in Lines rescue, our four-wheel drive truck and nifty mule (carries a stretcher across bumpy terrain) were a great help to assist all the crews with the patient.

Our Truck 9433 is now our medical response unit. Being a smaller vehicle, with four-wheel drive, this helps us get to more places as required. Leaving 941 (the big one with a water tank) available for any fire call-outs. Making our Brigade more efficient to respond to call-outs. Our crews are always there for you if you need assistance.

If you do need help, call 111, remain calm and speak clearly, stay on the line, telling the dispatcher all the required info – so that they can send the right team for your needs.

Tuesday is our Brigade training evening, if you are interested in becoming a volunteer then come down on a Tues from 7pm and see our friendly team. Always happy to see new faces. Stay safe out there!



LEIGH LIBRARY

A selection from new books added to the Leigh Library this month:
Non Fiction: Beautifully photographed *Small Holiday Homes* showcases designer hideaways in amazing locations across the country. Likewise *Living Big in a Tiny House* explores interesting small space design projects in New Zealand and overseas.

An Inconvenience of Penguins by James Lafferty relates the travel writer's journeys to see all 18 species of penguins - a bid to understand the birds and their varied habitats.

Charles Ferrall's *South by South* tells the story of New Zealand's role in the wave of exploration beginning at the end of 19th century as men set out to traverse Antarctica.

The updated 2025 edition of *Tragedy at Pike River Mine* by journalist Rebecca Macfie is a suspenseful and dramatic account of the disaster.

Fiction: *Spies and other Gods* by James Wolff is a spy thriller in which an anonymous whistleblower sends British Intelligence into a frenzy, threatening to reveal secrets that could bring the establishment to its knees.

Set in the 9th century, *House of Wolff* by Tony Robinson tells the story of Alfred the Great and the House of Wessex. The first of a planned series it is described as a "light, engaging and entertaining read"

Brawler by Lauren Goff is a collection of beautifully written, powerful short stories about relationships, trauma and the decisions we make and how they continue to have impact down through generations.

Ann Packer's new novel *Some Bright Nowhere* tells the story of a couple who have been married for 40 years. Claire is diagnosed with cancer and Eliot takes on the role of caregiver. The book centres on a dying woman's final wishes and the perspective of the husband who must try to understand them.

The psychological thriller *Look What You Made Me Do* by John Lanchester is a black comedy of infidelity, revenge and intergenerational tension

Consumer magazine: The library has taken out a subscription to the hard copy of Consumer - the Autumn 2026 issue is now available and will have a borrowing period of 2 weeks.

Library will be CLOSED on Anzac Day - Saturday 25th April

Regular events in Leigh

Most regular activities will finish for the year soon. Please check with your organiser for start dates in the New Year.

What	Where	Day	Time	Details
Waste Free Leigh Sewing Group	Leigh Hall Cumberland St	Mon Tues & Weds	9.30 – 11.30	Drop in. Non sewers welcome
Leigh Cards 500	Leigh Bowling Club	Tues	1:00 - 3.30	All welcome \$3
Pilates	Leigh Hall	Tues	5.30 - 6.30pm	Sam 021 531 355
Youth Group 13-19 year olds	Leigh Hall	Wed	4.00 - 5.30pm	School terms
Advanced contemporary dance	Leigh Hall	Thurs	8.30 – 9.30	Ann 021892678
Pilates	Leigh Hall	Thurs	9.45 – 10.45	Sam 021 531 355
Knitting club	Leigh Library	Thurs	2.00 – 4.00	All welcome
Preschool playgroup	Leigh Church	Fri	10 - 11.30	Contact Zoe at Leigh Eats

Leigh Hall can be booked through Lynn Mellsopp
0272868625 or email : leighhallauckland@gmail.com

MATHESON BAY NEWS

Be a Tidy Kiwi slogan was instilled in New Zealand culture back in the '60s. Today it's Keep NZ Clean. We are encouraged to "pack in, pack out", but to support the endeavour to keep the picnic areas, beach and walking tracks free of rubbish, our thanks go out to the Council for providing, and emptying regularly, extra rubbish bins during the busy summer season and for keeping the ablution block clean and the playground surface well covered in wood chip.

Repairs to a rotten section of the Kohuroa Stream walkway have also been carried out.

Matheson Bay continues to provide local, and further afield schools, with invaluable opportunities to learn about the restoration work of the Te Kohuroa Rewilding Initiative and to celebrate the new bans in place, which we hope will bring significant improvements to the ecosystems for continued enjoyment and education.

There is a new addition to the stream - it looks like an unattended fishing pole with a blue float on its end.

Aqua Watch is a water quality monitoring device installed to collect ongoing real-time data on pollutants, temperature, dissolved oxygen and changes after weather events. This information is used by the Te Kohuroa Rewilding Initiative to help better understand the health of the river, a vital link between the freshwater and marine ecosystem at the bay. They do ask that the device is not touched or interfered with and we look forward to hearing from the TKRI about their findings.

The stream works its way to the sea via ever changing directions with the large volume of sand providing challenges. But also giving us a lovely spacious beach for all to enjoy, as we ease our way into the cooler months.

A new addition to the beach is a flag/totem pole. Unsure of its installation and origin of the timber, it seems to be reasonably secure.



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WHANGATEU HALL NEWS

Coming up at Whangateau Hall:

27 April 2026, Monday. April Club Night with special guest and club favourites, David Shanahun and Shimna Higgins! Club darlings David and Shimna (<https://www.davidandshimna.com/>) return with a brand new show!

This dynamic guitar & violin duo are re-united for a series of sizzling shows across New Zealand in 2026. Shimna will be back from Belfast, Northern Ireland & this tour marks a special reunion, a chance to bring their close harmonies, infectious fun vibes, and exquisite guitar and fiddle playing back home to New Zealand where it all began! This is a club night with first half floor singers. Tickets available through Humanitix, or at the door. Email whangateaufolk@gmail.com to book a floor spot.

In other news of the hall, Auckland Council is currently reinforcing our floor. We can already feel the difference! This strengthening will allow us to get another 5 years of life out of the old floor while we make a plan for full replacement.



More information about all events at Whangateau Hall can be found at whangateau.co.nz/calendar.



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LEIGH HALL REPORT

Leigh hall is busy at present with lots of bookings and a bit of maintenance being done. We are pleased to be able to offer you, our community, this venue for your events, family gatherings, children's wet weather play time and social gatherings. The hall committee works hard to maintain the standard of the hall and offer you as many facilities as we can. The winter can be a time when outside activities are difficult, so if you would like to book the hall please contact Lynn Mellsopp 027 286 8625 or email leighhallauckland@gmail.com. Of note there is likely to be some works on the Seatoun Ave side of the hall in the next month or so to upgrade our water and septic systems to bring the hall up to the standard of an emergency hub. Please keep clear of any building and construction activity outside the hall. The hall should remain open during this exterior upgrade work.

WASTE FREE LEIGH

Waste free Leigh had a successful market day at the Leigh Preschool Festival and was delighted to chat to so many people about our work. Our next market day is booked for Sunday May 3rd 10 am to 1pm. We are now making a wider variety of items including wallets and bucket hats. We are happy to have people drop in to visit, sew, iron, cut out, chat, and have a cuppa. Please continue to drop your soft plastics to the Cumberland Street Collection point at the hall; this is used for the creation of farm fence posts and building conduit. Your aluminium cans provide funds for the hall committee to keep the hall facilities up to scratch.



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View ljhooker.co.nz/C4J20



495 Rahuikiri Rd, Leigh

Sea Views 6ha bushclad land near Pakiri. Build or relocate your dream home.

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View ljhooker.co.nz/F9VHAY



22-28 Cumberland St, Leigh

Stylish Leigh Central Villas. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 carpark. Buy off plans.

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View ljhooker.co.nz/FGHHAY

Rodney Kaipara Realty Ltd Licensed Agent REAA 2008. All information contained herein is gathered from sources we consider to be reliable. However, we cannot guarantee or give any warranty about the information provided. Interested parties must solely rely on their own enquiries.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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

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

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

Leigh Church - leighchurch99@gmail.com ph 0211782967

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

Leigh Community Patrol - leigh@cpnz.org.nz, Ginny Gooch (secretary)

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

Leigh Community Resilience Group - 027-286-8625 Lynn Mellsopp

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

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

Leigh Library – leighbythesealibrary@gmail.com

Leigh Penguin Project - 0275-658-817 madeleineroberts71@gmail.com

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

Leigh Swimmers - 021 868561 kaye@yogifish.nz Kaye Mueller

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 Fiona Harrison
027 2030892

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

Pakiri Tennis Club - pakiritennis@gmail.com, Myles Williams President

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

Plunket - 0800 184 803 (appointments and enquires), 800 933 922 **PlunketLine**.

Rodney Rams Rugby League Club - 0275378308 Kelly Tepania
rodneyrams@outlook.com

Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society - 585-1315 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 Marie Ashton Jones book the Hall: 021-428-568 Jenine Abarbanel
whangateauhallbookings@gmail.com

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE & CELEBRANTS

JP - Fay Bradnam 422-6038 02102790161

JP - Jon Everest Txt 021 354 708

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

A JP is available every Tuesday 11.am to 1 pm at Matakana Cinema Foyer

FACEBOOK

Leigh Community Club - www.facebook.com/leighcomm/

Leigh Community Patrol - www.facebook.com/leighcommunitypatrol

Love Leigh - www.facebook.com/groups/loveleigh/

Leigh by the Sea - www.facebook.com/leighbythesea

Leigh Historical Photographs NZ - www.facebook.com/groups/739949979454558

Leigh Rag - www.facebook.com/leighragnz