

# LEIGH RAG

## OCTOBER 2017

Leigh Rag is supported by the Leigh Community and compiled and edited by Tony Enderby, 19 Albert St, Leigh, Ph 422 6127. Please submit contributions before the 15th of each month. **Leave copy in the box at the Leigh General Store or email to [enderbys@xtra.co.nz](mailto:enderbys@xtra.co.nz)**

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 & Districts Ex Services and Community Club,  
Leigh Fisheries and the Leigh General Store**

**View the Leigh Rag online**

**[www.leighbythesea.co.nz/news-events](http://www.leighbythesea.co.nz/news-events)**

LEIGH COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL'S

## Country Gala



Sunday of Labour Weekend | 9:00am - 2:00pm

**LEIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS**

Local Seafood | Quick Fire Raffles | Carnival Rides | Vintage Clothing  
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## New Library Hours From 1 November

**Tuesday 2pm-6pm  
Wednesday 2pm-4pm  
Thursday 11am-1pm  
Saturday 9.30am-1pm**

## Community Club Talk 4pm, Sunday 5 November at the Leigh Bowling Club

Paul Decker from Mahurangi Technical Institute will talk about his work breeding and releasing whitebait locally.

**New members are  
always welcome**

## Editorial

It looks like the long wet winter is finally over. Everyone has bemoaned the fact that the ground has been so wet, maybe the wettest most can remember. But the effects of the wet winter on the sea surrounding Leigh have also been very noticeable. Every big deluge brings a plume of orange/brown muddy water that spreads around the coast between Pakiri and Tawharanui with concentrations at Goat Island, Leigh Harbour, Whangateau Harbour and Matheson Bay.

One effect is the loss of marine species that most people don't notice. In the early 2000s we often dived to photograph and record the species of nudibranchs and other sea slugs around Matheson Bay. I think some 33 species were recorded there whereas today there are less than 10. No one knows the effects of this loss. There are probably other species around the Leigh coast that are also disappearing. Unless someone has an interest in them or is studying them they vanish unnoticed.

Similarly along Pakiri and Te Aria beaches after storms, tons of horse mussels washed up. The smell was pretty bad after a day or two and lots of other species washed up with them. Why have they disappeared? I know it's easy to blame the sand mining that occurs on the north end of Pakiri but again we don't know.

I can remember the Bryde's whales feeding close to the Leigh coast and in Omaha Bay along with common dolphins and gannets. They too have diminished in number in recent years. Straylining at the edge of these workups usually brought in a good snapper but even these fish have dropped in number around the gulf in recent years.

I'd like to think that the changes for the worse that have happened since I first fished and snorkelled 60 years ago won't continue the downward trend over the next 60 years. The only thing that isn't decreasing is the human population and that is the reason for the decline of everything else.

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# MATHESON BAY NEWS

With the weather warming up there are swimmers back in the water so it looks like summer is on the way. The intrepid Matheson Bay swimming group have reported that the water is a balmy 15 deg! None of them have come up against the 18 fur seals that have been reported around the coast to Goat Island. Let's hope that the smorgasbord of fish in the marine reserve isn't depleted by them too much.

The Kohuroa Stream Track upgrade group hope soon to be back in action. As the area in which they are working is ecologically sensitive, Auckland Council have undertaken a resource consent process to ensure that all aspects of the upgrade are appropriately covered to avoid any damage to or mistreatment of the bush area.

Additionally, group leader, Roger Williams, as part of Forest and Bird, has been successful in obtaining a \$3000 grant to install information signage with description and illustration for trees in Kowhai Park, Warkworth (30+) and Matheson Bay Track, and upgrade signage at the Dome Walkway and Parry Kauri Park. This should promote a better understanding of our native habitat. It will become an education facility for both young and old. Thus the Kohuroa Stream Track will benefit from having signs near some of the native plant species along the track. Kowhai Park will be completed first followed by the Kohuroa Stream Track. The track around Leigh Harbour is closed due to a large tree falling across it.

Just a wee reminder that old septic tanks may need a clean out to guard against overflow during the busy summer season. And if your guttering gets a lot of leaf litter your water tank may also need a flush out so it can fill before the holidays.

*Louise van Campfort*



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# Leigh Business Community

The new "Leigh by the Sea" website is now online! - same web address but a whole new look - <https://www.leighbythesea.co.nz> - check it out! The new website provides a bright and visual message to visitors to encourage them to 'Escape to Leigh' and base themselves here, while they explore the region. The website also provides a resource for our community with information about community groups and a calendar of local events. The Leigh Rag online edition can now be found at the bottom of the News & Events page.

Please contact either Jenny Enderby [enderbys@xtra.co.nz](mailto:enderbys@xtra.co.nz) or Heather Johnson-Lee [heather@leighcentral.co.nz](mailto:heather@leighcentral.co.nz) if you have any updates to the current information on the website.

The business community is also looking at setting up a Trades and Services directory on the website.

Heather Johnson-Lee from our LBC committee, is also part of the Matakana Coast Tourism executive committee, to ensure that the Leigh region is represented in any tourism promotions for the wider area – Puhoi to Pakiri. Matakana Coast Tourism runs the Warkworth iSite and MCT's goal is to grow the Matakana Coast Wine Country as a destination – increase visitor numbers, have them stay longer, spend more and come back.

*For further information about joining the Leigh Business Community  
please contact Jan Scott 09 422 6681  
or email [secretary@leighbythesea.co.nz](mailto:secretary@leighbythesea.co.nz)*



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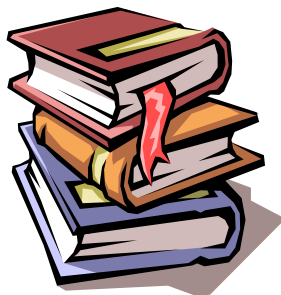


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# LEIGH VOLUNTEER LIBRARY

**Situated in The Cottage  
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Kia Ora

The weather is gradually improving and the Leigh Library is increasing its opening hours for summer, from 1 November.

**Tuesday 2pm-6pm**

**Wednesday 2pm-4pm**

**Thursday 11am-1pm**

**Saturday 9.30am-1pm**

This is partly in response to requests from the community and also because we have more volunteers to help man (woman!) the desk. Please endeavour to return books in a timely manner so others can enjoy them. If you can't return your books during opening hours, we have a returns slot to the left of the front door.

The library is hosting a new art display from members of AIM (Adults In Motion) and we would love you to come down and see their talent.

Loads more new books on the shelves including some gardening gems for spring inspiration.

Speaking of which, the garden and grounds are looking fabulous thanks to the council. We would also like to acknowledge Alice Murman for her donation of renga rengas and Keith and Sue Urquhart for the clivias.

Happy reading ...

*Tracey Lawton*

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## Good Sort of the Month

Our GOOD SORT this month is Peter Spence from Matheson Bay who instigated, organised and co-ordinated the agapanthus removal from the Bay area, inspiring others to get on-board. The flow-on effect was amazing so thanks to all of you who participated in this immense physical effort and cleaned up our beautiful area of the bulk of this invasive plant. Thanks Peter for getting the project up and running. The Leigh Community Church were pleased to send baking your way.

***Do you know of a special person in the Leigh area who deserves acknowledgement?*** 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 [enderbys@xtra.co.nz](mailto:enderbys@xtra.co.nz). The person considered most deserving will receive home baking courtesy of Leigh Community Church.

## Helpful Phone Numbers

Healthline 0800 611 116 24 hour medical services:

North Shore Hospital Emergency Care, 24 hours 7 days Shakespeare Rd, Takapuna 0800 80 93 42

Shorecare Accident & Medical, 24/7, Ground Floor, Sovereign House, Smales Farm Takapuna 09 4867777

National Poison Centre: 24 hrs advice 0800 76 4766

Depression Helpline 0800 757 111;

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## Leigh & Districts Ex Services & Community Club

I think we can safely say that spring has arrived, despite the drizzle and mist this morning, my garden is full of birds and the deck is covered with seedlings waiting to be planted out.

Nick Shears, from the Leigh School Board, came to the last meeting and told members about the school's new project to replace some of the playing field with an all weather surface so that the children are able to play sport all year. Personally, I think it's a fantastic idea and it will be a real asset for the school and community. I look forward to hearing more about it as it progresses.

Bernie Middleton is asking for a few volunteers to help at the hall when there is an event such as a funeral. Help is needed to put out the chairs and then clear up afterwards, so not a lot of work, just a few people that Bernie can call on when needed. If you are looking for an occasional job, please phone Bernie 021 396 194.

The next club meeting will be on Sunday 5 November at 4pm. We have Paul Decker from a team at Mahurangi Technical Institute coming to speak about his work breeding and releasing whitebait locally (NZ native fresh water fish). Come along, new members are always welcome.

*Lucy Harris, President.*

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**Sunday 22 October**  
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Our Courtyard Lounge is available now and the Seaview Room is available for bookings from December 2017.

## **Borg vs McEnroe**

NZ premiere  
**Leigh Tennis Club Fundraiser**  
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6pm 30 October

Price \$25 includes movie and 1 glass of wine or beer.

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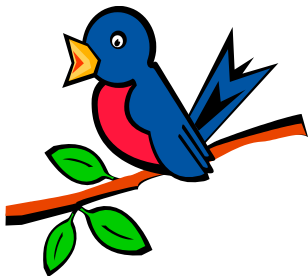
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# Forest and Bird COMMUNITY COAST CARE GROUP

At last the ground is dry enough for working bees. We're having our first one this week, Thursday, 19 October, 9-11 a.m. and should reach a milestone with the Coast Care project. We'll clear the last area of pest plants along the cliff top, ready for autumn planting. It is amazing to think that through huge community support we have almost achieved what we set out to do about nine years ago.

With fresh water quality so much in the news lately it is timely to reflect upon what is happening where our local streams meet the sea. The contrast between the water quality of the streams feeding in to the Leigh Harbour and the quality of other local streams is marked. It shows the difference bush on the stream edges can make in reducing sediment in the water. This is a community issue as clay and mud smother out fresh water crustaceans that were abundant in our local streams not very long ago, and are now locally extinct.

The Whangateau Harbour Care planting this weekend on the banks of a stream that is part of the Whangateau Harbour catchment is a great example of what can be achieved by community effort. The riparian work of the Leigh Harbour Valley Society and some other local land owners is also to be applauded.

*Neil Sutherland*

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# LEIGH SCHOOL



Kia ora koutou,

Well it's a been a lovely school holiday break for the staff and kids and we look forward to enjoying this last term of the year. During the holidays our Friends of Leigh School committee organised and ran our annual fundraising disco at the Sawmill Cafe.

As usual it was very well attended by kids from all over the community and their parents. The theme was to wear something white as we had black lights and the dance floor looked awesome with all the kids grooving around under the lights with their white clothes glowing. The night raised close to \$1000 for the school which was an excellent total. Here are a couple of photos from the evening.

Ngā mihi nui,

*Melissa and Leigh School*



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Join us for the grand opening of the DOITS Gallery; in commemoration to some of New Zealand's finest wood and stone carving artists and their artwork. The gallery provides the opportunity to showcase the work of participating artists, as part of the lead-up to the Labratta Netana Music & Art Festival, opening in late November (27th Nov - 9th Dec) at Leigh Sawmill Reserve.

This is a family event, with free admission, open to the general public. Come along and share in this unique experience, showcasing our country's traditional art form.

**When: Thursday 26th October 6.30pm - late**

**Where: Leigh Sawmill Café, 142 Pakiri Road, Leigh**

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## HISTORY

Many people attended a send-off for Archie Dunning at Leigh Hall on Friday night, 19 October 1917. The next day a crowd gathered on the wharf "to bid him goodbye" as he sailed away on the *Kawau*. It had been his final leave before embarking the following month on the *Tofua* with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Reinforcements of NZ Mounted Rifles Brigade bound for Egypt.

Mr J.C. [Charlie] Wyatt had recently chaired a meeting of the newly-formed Fruitgrowers' Assn to which seven Leigh fruit growers had signed up. He then travelled to Pakiri to encourage the growers there to also join. Willie Clarke had received a letter from Johnny Greenwood serving in France. Johnny and cousins, Bert and Percy Greenwood, also in France had all received YMCA coupons worth either 5 shillings or 7s 6d from funds raised at a recent Dome Valley Entertainers' Concert. The Rodney and Otamatea Times reported that

*"good and helpful articles on the drink question had been read"* at the recent meeting of the Pakiri W.C.T.U [Women's Christian Temperance Union] held at Pakiri Hall. They raised £2 3s towards the Government's purchase of minesweepers and decided to hold a social evening in early December for *"the good of the cause."*

Four men from the Leigh district were among the too many men who would not return from the war taking place in October in Passchendaele, Belgium: George Rogers, Willie Haskell, Cyrus Matheson and Ken Brown.

Rodney and Otamatea Times, October issues 1917; Charles Clarke's Diaries, Warkworth

Museum Archives; *Sheryl Corbett*

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## Leigh Community Preschool

Hello lovely people of Leigh. I hope you are all looking forward to the wonderful Country Gala this Sunday. This is Leigh Preschool's main fundraiser and is a fantastic event. You will find us on the school field and in the hall from 9 to 2 for your fix of fresh

produce, plants, delicious food, bric-a-brac, vintage clothing, kids things and more. There will be rides for the kids, a silent auction and quick-fire raffles.

If you would like donate anything, bric-a-brac items can be dropped at 9 Pakiri Rd, and clothing only at 3 Wonderview Rd. Both garages will be open from 9 to 4. Please only saleable items, and remember we need to sort everything so the sooner we have it the better.

Here's hoping for brilliant weather on the weekend - see you there!

*Xavia Healey-Diaz*

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# Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

September was a quieter month than the last few for Leigh brigade members with only 6 callouts. These were power lines down at Matakana, motor vehicle accidents at Matakana and Matheson Bay and first response medicals to Ti Point, Matheson Bay and Leigh.

The longer evenings are here with daylight saving and it's a good time to check batteries in smoke alarms, Smoke alarms save lives – it's the smoke that you don't notice that kills. If you don't have a smoke detector or think yours doesn't work, contact Tony on 422 6127 or 021 167 1524.

Although we are only a small brigade a recent visit from Fire and Emergency area management told us that we are among the top brigades in the country for administration and training. It was also the chance for brigade members to ask questions such as why is the fire station building upgrade taking so long and a few other gripes although the meeting was positive. Let's see if the on-off building alterations happen within their time frame of completion by July 2018.

Another of our long-serving fire fighters, Tony Borich has moved to Warkworth and has left the brigade after 14 years.

Thanks to those members of Leigh community who helped at the fire station, made scones and offered support during the recent house fire. It's these little things that make all that we do for the community worthwhile.

I think our numbers are the lowest in quite a while but we're still managing to turn out a crew to every callout. If you think you'd like to give fire fighting a go, come down to the fire station at 7pm on Tuesday night and have a look at what we do.

*Tony Enderby  
Brigade Secretary*

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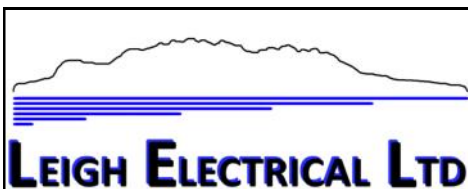


## Whangateau Hall News

On November 3 we will have a full concert with Albi and the Wolves! The show starts at 7:30 and the \$15 tickets are available at the door.

November 10, the Whangateau Hall committee are hosting a "movie night" at the hall. Bring your bean bag, or use one of ours. Bring your own snacks, or we will have popcorn, soft drinks and candy available for purchase. Entry is by gold coin donation and everyone is welcome. The movie is yet to be selected, but it will be all-ages friendly.

November 27 is Whangateau Acoustic Music and Social Club night with special guests RhodeWorks from the Waikato. These talented recipients of the 2017 Frank Winter award for 'Outstanding Musical and Vocal Talent' are largely self taught and play true-to-tradition bluegrass supported by their parents. First half is floor singers, and we will have a very special surprise supper served at halftime! We can't announce it yet, but you won't want to miss this very special evening! More info about everything on at the hall is available at [www.whangateau.co.nz](http://www.whangateau.co.nz)



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All denominations and visitors are most welcome to join with us each  
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prayer meeting  
every Sunday  
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**Maggie Isaac ph 09 422 6883**

**Kevin Staples Ph 09 422 6660 or 021 10 10 875**



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AGENT RECOGNITION AWARDS 2015/16

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OFFICE RECOGNITION AWARDS 2015/16

PREMIER Silver



## Rodney Rams

The Rodney Rams had an Open Day on 23 September 2017 to celebrate and welcome the community and supporters into their new clubrooms. Greg Whaiapu, the General Manager of Auckland Rugby League attended the opening. The official opening ribbon was cut by Caitlin Conning-Inkersole, granddaughter of recently-deceased, long standing club president Raymond Inkersole. Sadly, 83-year-old Ray passed away less than two months before the club's opening. Ray's passing was a great loss to the club as he'd been there right throughout the rebuild (and long before) and he was very enthusiastic to see the new clubrooms re-open. Sadly, this was not to be. Following the ribbon cutting, the building was blessed by local kaumatua John Marsden.

The rebuild which began in 2015 (after the building was lost to a fire in 2014) was funded by varied sources, including insurance, Ray Inkersole's contribution of \$15,000 towards the decking, Foundation North contributed \$99,000 to complete the kitchen and the club also won a Woodstock Facebook competition in 2016 - where Woodstock requested nominations on Facebook for two NZ league clubs in need of a hand up. The Rams were lucky enough to win one of these two prizes, \$10,000 which was used to complete two toilets areas in the clubrooms.

Over the past three years there has been a lot of fundraising by members and many generous sponsors who have helped to make this new building come to fruition.

The Rodney Rams would like to convey sincere thanks to everybody who has been involved in supporting the club to rebuild and new members are very welcome.

Thursday night raffles continue to be held at 4pm and the new kitchen will be opening in the near future at a date TBA. The summer Touch module starts Friday, 20 October.

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Email: [rodneymotortrim@gmail.com](mailto:rodneymotortrim@gmail.com)

## Community Directory

**Forest & Bird Community Coast Care Group** – a community initiative to restore Leigh's reserves and bush areas, monthly weeding, planting bees Neil Sutherland 09 422 6001

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

**Leigh & Districts Ex Services & Community Club** - meets 4pm, 1st Sunday of month at Leigh Bowling Club. Anzac Day Service and Community Matters. New members welcome. President Lucy Harris 021 202 8932

**Leigh Badminton Club** – anyone interested in re-starting this club please call Dennis Humphrey 09 422 6625

**Leigh Bowling Club** - to foster fellowship and the game of bowls. New members welcome. President Biscuit McLean 027 590 4829 or sec. Dave Johnson 09 422 6560

**Leigh Business Community** - meets 3rd Wednesday of month Jan Scott 09 422 6681  
[secretary@leighbythesea.co.nz](mailto:secretary@leighbythesea.co.nz) web [www.leighbythesea.co.nz](http://www.leighbythesea.co.nz)

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

**Leigh Cemetery Trust** - Secretary Joyce McCormick 09 422 6893

**Leigh Community Preschool** - 09 422 6516 [www.leighpreschool.co.nz](http://www.leighpreschool.co.nz)

**Leigh Girl Guides, Brownies & Pippins** - Fay Bradnam 021 0279 0161

**Leigh Hall** - Bookings / enquiries Bernie Middleton 021 396 6194

**Leigh Harbour Valley Society** - 09422 6880 [www.leighharbourvalleysociety.org.nz](http://www.leighharbourvalleysociety.org.nz)

**Leigh Library** – 'The Cottage' opposite Leigh Store. Librarian Tracey Lawton  
021 825 818 / 09 422 6944 Library Hours as follows:

**Open Sat: 9.30-1pm; Tues: 2pm-6pm; Wed: 2pm-4pm; Thurs: 11am-1pm**

**Leigh School** – 09 422 6031 [www.leigh.school.nz](http://www.leigh.school.nz)

**Leigh Tennis Club** – enquiries at Leigh Eats or Marie Dominique 021 490 039

**Leigh Walking Group** - meets Mondays at 9.30am for interesting walks throughout the Rodney, Kaipara and Auckland regions. Hugh McKergow 09 422 6219

**Leigh Women's Bowling Club** - meet Tues, Oct-April, for friendly bowls. New members very welcome. Olive Gravatt 09 422 6273 or Wendy Brooks 09 422 7963

**Matheson Bay Neighbourhood Assn** - Secretary Peter Spence 021 404 529 or  
[mathesonbayassn@gmail.com](mailto:mathesonbayassn@gmail.com)

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

**Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc. (TOSSI)** - [www.tossi.org.nz](http://www.tossi.org.nz) Secretary  
Karyn Hoksbergen 09 585 1315 email [secretary@tossi.org.nz](mailto:secretary@tossi.org.nz)

**Whangateau Acoustic Music & Social Club** - [www.whangateau.co.nz](http://www.whangateau.co.nz)

**Whangateau Neighbourhood Support** – Sharyn Carew  
[sharyncarew@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:sharyncarew@vodafone.co.nz)

**Whangateau Residents & Ratepayers Assn** meets 7.30pm, 2nd Tuesday of month at Whangateau Hall. Audrey Sharp 09 422 6209 or Hugh McKergow 09 422 6219

### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE & CELEBRANTS

JP - Fay Bradnam 09 422 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](http://www.fabulousweddingnz.com) Ph 027 9297767

### Facebook

Love Leigh - [www.facebook.com/groups/LoveLeigh/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/LoveLeigh/)

Leigh by the Sea - [www.facebook.com/pages/Leighbythesea/251994924849626](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Leighbythesea/251994924849626)

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

**If your club or group does not appear, please advise the editor.**