

# LEIGH RAG



## **APRIL 2018**

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 [leighragnz@gmail.com](mailto:leighragnz@gmail.com)**

Please Note: The Editor of the RAG does not take any responsibility for the contents of items supplied.

**Newsletter for Leigh, Matheson Bay, Whangateau, Pakiri  
Sponsored by Leigh & 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)**

## **ANZAC DAY**

**Wednesday 25th APRIL 2018**

### **MARCH**

Marchers to fall in 10.50am  
from corner of Kowhai Street and Harbour View Road

### **THEN**

Community Service 11.00 am  
Led by Rev Ellen Bernstein

### **LEIGH CEMETERY MEMORIAL WALL HARBOUR VIEW ROAD**

If wet, service will be transferred to Leigh Hall, Seatoun Rd. Look out for notice board near Fire Station and Cemetery.

Refreshments afterwards at Leigh Bowling Club, Albert Street. Please bring a plate of finger food.



***POPPY DAY Friday 20 APRIL  
7am to midday at Leigh General Store***



**LEIGH & DISTRICT EX-SERVICES and COMMUNITY CLUB**

## Editorial

Over the past few weeks many Leigh and Whangateau locals have commented on the length of grass on local reserves. One that brought it to a head was the paper road between Harbour View Road and Cotterel Street in Leigh which had been ignored for months by council contractors and reached waist-high length.

Complaints to Auckland Council were responded to with what has become a standard answer "It's not our area – it is managed by Auckland Transport."

A complaint to Auckland Transport met with the same dead end, "it's Auckland Council's area not Auckland Transport."

This kind of buck passing is not acceptable. We often see up to three ride-on mowers in town, several days a week. They travel for an hour and spent a couple of hours in Leigh mowing for Auckland Council's Parks and Recreation, then a day later do the same thing for Auckland Transport. On one day we watched as all three drove in convoy from the hall to the tennis courts in Albert Street. One mowed some of the grass while the others sat on the road and watched. Then all three drove off down the road and vanished.

Auckland Council has said that they are looking at efficiency but the huge increase in staff wages and numbers over the past five years suggests otherwise.

If the wasted time and money spent in travelling to and mowing some of the grass in Leigh is anything to go by, the time wasted across all of Auckland doing the same thing must be enormous.

We have to wonder how many people are now employed by Auckland Council and Auckland Transport just to respond to complaints by passing the buck. Somewhere there must be some accountability but no one at the top of either organisation seems keen on putting their hand up.

Thanks must go to our local board member, Beth Houlbrooke, for trying to get answers. Maybe we'll finally see someone mow the paper road between Harbour View Road and Cotterell Street.

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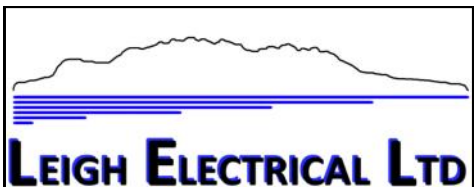
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# Leigh & Districts Ex Services & Community Club



The cold southerly winds this week have been a rude reminder that winter is round the corner, but we missed the worst and didn't lose our power like so many.

The committee is busy organising the finishing touches for our Anzac Day Service and hoping for good weather so that we can hold it in the cemetery which is such a moving and beautiful setting. Although it is school holidays, the Kapa Haka Group from Leigh School will be singing for us. We have also upgraded our PA system, so we hope to be loud and clear.

The march starts at 10.50am on Harbour View Road and the service follows on after everyone has made their way into the cemetery. There will be chairs for people who would like to sit down. Anyone is also welcome to bring a wreath or flowers if they wish.

Beth Houlbrooke spoke at the April monthly meeting, explaining the Council structure and the funding for Rodney as part of Auckland. The Rodney Board has a budget of 20 million, but 18 is already allocated for routine stuff, maintenance etc and the board has only two million dollars which they have any control over for the whole of Rodney. Questions were taken ranging from the future of the Leigh Hall to grant applications. The club continues to chase, complain, talk to and generally pester the council on the sorry state of the berms and walkways around the town.

The next meeting will be on Sunday 6 May at 4pm

*President Lucy Harris*

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# MATHESON BAY NEWS

Matheson Bay Road is having a major facelift with a new footpath, kerbing and channelling.

While I write this, locals are having fun negotiating traffic lights, cones, concrete trucks and workmen. Easter was a bit of a challenge for the large caravans, campervans and buses that came down to stay, and the road took a beating, but once the concreting is done, we look forward to grading, gravel and a new seal. Spray Crescent has been patched but areas still need to be dug out. It is hoped that it too has a complete overhaul soon.

The amazing summer carries on with warm sea temperatures and lovely days for swimming. With not a lot of rain lately, it has been good to see the heavy dews keeping the gardens fresh.

## Upcoming Dates

**Saturday 2 June, 1pm** Lower Kohuroa Stream Track weed bee and flame tree removal.

**Sunday 3 June, 2pm** AGM, Leigh Hall.

**Saturday 30 June, 1pm** Weed walk around Matheson Bay,

**Saturday, 28 July** Annual Mid-Winter Dinner.

**Sunday, 29 July** Any other weed activity if needed.




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# Leigh Business Community

Already over a quarter of the year has gone and we have been so lucky with such a long summer for our visitors and ourselves to enjoy.

The committee is busy organising a Quiz night for its members and locals to get together socially in May and our thanks to Richard Scott for hosting this at Leigh Bar.

A new map for the notice board has been completed and our brochures continue to be as popular as ever. If anyone would like some Leigh by the Sea brochures or Leigh by the Sea Walks brochures to give to visitors, there are supplies at the Leigh General Store or next to the post boxes.

Leigh Business Community as a member group, has approved a Joint Venture between Matakana Coast Tourism and One Warkworth to ensure the Warkworth i-site continues to operate. There are various events happening in the Matakana Coast region this year and Heather as our Matakana Coast Tourism Rep is keeping us updated to ensure we are able to have a presence during these events.

Our Leigh by the Sea website is doing well, as is our Facebook page and we have started using Instagram to increase awareness of the Leigh regions as a great place to visit. Follow us on Instagram at Leighbythesea.nz and keep an eye out for some upcoming competitions.

Our business community has put in a submission for the 10 Year Rodney Plan as a group and many individual members have also put in submissions.

*For further information please contact Jan Scott 09 422 6681  
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# LEIGH SCHOOL



A working bee last weekend saw further improvement to the school grounds and buildings, with the spreading of gravel around the garden beds, gully traps installed, spouting repaired and the gardens tidied. Many thanks to Hynds for donating the gully traps and modular drains. Thank you too, to

the Shears family for their donation of a new stove for the kitchen in the House of Learning. The school is looking great following the recent upgrades.

Parent, teacher and child interviews were held recently. These interviews give students a chance to set goals for the year and for parents to support their children with their learning.

Our own Leigh School swimming sports showed that the children have come a long way over the summer swimming season. There was close competition in many of the events. Some senior students were selected to swim at the interschool swimming sports at Mahurangi College and one student was chosen to swim for the Rodney team in the combined schools event held at the Hibiscus Coast.

Our school pool will close on Friday 13 April for the summer swimming season. Pool keys should be returned to the school office please.

Term One finishes on Friday 13 April. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and look forward to Term Two starting on 30 April 2018.

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Kia Ora

Cold weather, endless storms ... what perfect reading weather!

The Leigh Library is continuing with it's extended hours for the next month or so as we have lots of willing volunteers and of course it means we are making it easier for you to pop in and see us.

We have two fascinating new non-fiction titles this month: 'Eleanor & Hick' which looks at the friendship and love affair that meant so much to Eleanor Roosevelt and 'The Best of A. A. Gill' who wrote such controversial and fearless articles in the Sunday Times. Whilst best known for his scathing restaurant reviews, some of his most touching work was about refugees and the British NHS. This is a great book to dip in and out of and highly recommended.

We also have the latest offerings by Bernard Cornwell, Tim Winton, Kristin Hannah and Catherine Robertson. Oh and not to forget the new children's picture book by Oliver Jeffers: 'Here We Are'.

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*Tracey Lawton*

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**Leigh Community Preschool** recently held its 2018 AGM. We are pleased to have a dedicated committee to help in the successful running of our lovely preschool. We welcome Zoe Gimring as the new Secretary, to take over for Kate Shears who accepted the role as Chairperson. Emily Williams will continue as Treasurer, Maria Mugica as Gala Co-ordinator, Georgie Brebner and Ben Shlaer as Support Persons. Jessica Bell will continue as Staff Rep until the end of Term 2 when she will be leaving the Preschool. We also welcome Makaylah who will start as a student teacher in Term Two. The AGM minutes and our End of Year Financial Reports are available upon request.

We have made many improvements to the preschool using funds from last year's Gala including a new gate, drop down curtains to keep the rain and wind off the decks, a shade sail for sun protection, an outside sensor light, two heat pumps, a new BBQ as well as two new refrigerators. The most exciting recent purchase for the children has been new swings! Thanks to Leigh Ex Services for their generous donation this year (we will keep you posted on how we spend it). It is much appreciated as always.

The focus this term has been early literacy and transition to school. The teachers have also encouraged storytelling and big movements. Preschool friends and families will celebrate the end of Term 1 with a Mexican Fiesta Shared Dinner. It has been an amazing Autumn but as the weather gets colder and wetter please ensure your child has appropriate clothing.

Have an excellent school holidays! See you back at preschool on Monday April 30<sup>th</sup> for the start of Term Two



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This weekend a large gathering at Valhalla, the Danish Society property up beside the Omaha Marae, got stuck into Moth Plant removal. It was wonderful to see the bags full of pods at the end of the day, knowing that the vines had all been removed and that they could no longer spread their seeds. This is another great example of different sectors of the community coming together to get rid of this pest plant from Leigh. However we keep finding new plants popping up around the village, so there must be plants seeding somewhere for this to happen. If you know where it is coming from, we'd love you to get the roots of it out of the ground as that's the only way to stop it from spreading.

Our March working bee, on Leigh Cemetery point, was a bit of a flop, as

people were away, sick or had other commitments. However, next month we have plants arriving from Auckland Council for planting along the cliff top walkway. There are fewer plants this year, so rather than have a big community planting morning, we're opening it up to anyone (a neat thing for a family to do) who'd like to do some planting any time from 10 May. If you're interested please phone me or email me and we'll arrange a time to suit you.



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## Leigh 100 years ago

Apart from the odd shower, Leigh had enjoyed sunshine for most of April. Easter Monday on the first was a particularly fine day. Charles Clarke's son, Willie and his wife Grace drove in the sulky to Goat Island Beach where they enjoyed a picnic with the local school teacher, Mrs Knowles and her children. Willie arrived home with a schnapper [sic] and a crayfish. A few days later he had put out a net and Charles was pleased with Willie's haul of lots of piper and other fish.

It was good weather for attending to all the autumn jobs on the farm and around the house. Charles had spent many hours removing periwinkle and convolvulus from the pig paddock and from around the apple trees. Jim Wyatt, youngest brother of Eddie and the late Len Wyatt, was disc harrowing the ploughed grounds to prepare them for the manuring and drilling in of grass seeds. Willie's horse, Prince worked with Jim's team of horses.

Kumara were harvested. Fern was cut from around the stockyards and burned. Tea tree was pulled out of the ploughed fields, and also cut and burned.

Charles loved his gardens. He planted several clumps of *Golden Bell* daffodils, and one each of *Bride* and *Old Scarlet* gladioli. He posted an order for more bulbs and grass and flower seeds to Arthur Yates on the 10th; seven days later on Wednesday afternoon, they all arrived on the steamer. The next day, he planted some *Scarborough* lilies, a dozen ranunculi and two dozen anemones. In seed boxes he sowed seeds of snapdragon, candidult, and centaurea.

Grace had gone down to the wharf to collect the mail on the evening of 18th April and heard that Elliot Greenwood has been killed in action at the Western Front. Elliot had completed all his primary schooling at Little Omaha [Leigh] School. The Rodney and Otamatea Times reported "*many friends and school-mates of Elliot at Leigh sympathise with his parents.*" He was the only son of Mr and Mrs Joseph Greenwood, orchardists in Henderson.



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On 25th April, the New Zealand Herald reported that arrangements were complete for the “*fitting celebration in the city today of the third anniversary of Anzac Day.*” Anzac veterans gathered at Queen’s Wharf at 2.15pm and marched to the Town hall where three ministers of religion addressed them. In the evening a smoke concert was held in the Town Hall. One thousand guests - returned soldiers and local body representatives - were expected to attend the concert for men only - where they could also smoke. It was reported that many Anzacs had come into Auckland from the King Country, Waikato and northern districts.

By April 1918, thirty three men with connections to Omaha/Leigh had left the district for service in Samoa, the Middle East or the Western Front. Twelve would not be returning.

It was a fine day in Leigh on 25th April 1918. Charlie Wyatt finished drilling the *Western Wolts* in the middle of the morning and Willie was boarding it in. Charles Clarke planted a chrysanthemum that Mrs D. Matheson had given him - and sowed some stock seed.

Charles Clarke’s Diaries, April 1918 from <http://csclarke.falkor.gen.nz/april>; New Zealand Herald, 25 April 1918; Rodney and Otamatea Times, 24 April 1914.

Sheryl Corbett

## Leigh Church Services

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# Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

March was one of the brigade's busiest months ever with 18 callouts and four callouts on the busiest day. There were motor vehicle accidents at Matakana (2) and Omaha, a car fire on Pakiri Hill, a false alarm at Matakana, a vegetation fire at Matakana, trees fallen onto road at Omaha Valley and Goat Island and medicals at Pakiri, Tomarata, Goat Island, Leigh (5), Matheson Bay and Matakana. Several of these emergencies saw the Northland Rescue and Westpac helicopters evacuate patients, in one case both helicopters were on scene.

The fire station building alterations are now in full swing with brigade members having loaded chairs, tables and other equipment into the container on the fire station forecourt. The changes will be complete by July if all goes to plan and an official opening will take place along with an open day later in the year. Access to the fire station will be restricted during the building process under health and safety regulations but the brigade will continue to attend callouts.

Training has been curtailed a little by the weather and the ever-increasing procedures and paperwork instigated by the new Fire and Emergency New Zealand regime. Our fire appliance went away for a COF and has not returned and we have a relief vehicle on station. In spite of the setbacks we will still be responding to emergencies.

Robbie Torkington, who has been a member of the brigade for more than 50 years has decided to hang up his helmet. He'll still be around helping with jobs on station. Enjoy your retirement Robbie and try not to hog the TV remote off Sharon. Thanks to you both for all those years of service and support to Leigh brigade and the community. We think you've earned Tuesday nights off.

Our firefighter numbers are down a little and we could do with a few more keen recruits. If you think you'd like to give firefighting a go, come down to the fire station at 7pm on Tuesday night and have a look at what we do.

**SFF Tony Enderby, Brigade Secretary**

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An invitation to join  
Leigh Business Community members

# DINNER & QUIZ NIGHT

**Wednesday, 2nd May, 2018**

5.30pm Leigh Bar Opens  
6.30pm Dinner  
7.30pm Quiz starts

**\$15 pp (includes dinner & quiz)**

Tickets available at Leigh Bar



- Numbers are limited.
- Six people per table.
- For more info contact Helen on 021 102 9001 or email alex.g.h@xtra.co.nz

## GOOD SORTS

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

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

## REEL BLUE SPORTS

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**Supporting:** Mahurangi College, Warkworth Town Hall Restoration, Warkworth/Wellsford Hospice, Matakana School, Omaha Golf Club, Rodney Rams League Club, Mike Pero Foundation, Point Wells — Christmas Letterbox Competition, Community Centre, Croquet Club, Fete and Library.

**Angela Wain**

**Mike Pero Matakana Coast**

P: 0274 936 800 or 0800 MATAKANA | [Angela.Wain@mikepero.com](mailto:Angela.Wain@mikepero.com)



@mikeperomatakanacoast

# Forest and Bird Warkworth AGM

Thursday, 19 April starting at 7.30pm

Totara Park Retirement Village Hall, Melwood Drive, Warkworth

Followed by:

A talk by Dr Tim Lovegrove who will tell us about his recent research on the spotted shag's last stand. Tim is always a fount of birdie knowledge.

If assistance is needed for

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12 Penguin Street, Leigh

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

**LEIGH BAR**

**EST 2014**

*Leigh's local family bar is open for summer*

We will be open weekends until the 20th  
December then we will be open 7 days.

Remember to pick up your  
**LOCAL CARD**

for special local deals.

Simply come to us on  
21 Hauraki Road, Leigh  
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**Mobile: 0274 946 370**



## 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

[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 phone Lynn Mellsopp 027 2868 625 or email

[leighhallauckland@gmail.com](mailto:leighhallauckland@gmail.com)

**Leigh Harbour Valley Society** - 09 422 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)

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

**Rodney Rams** Secretary Amy Weller 021 138 1407 [rodneyrams@outlook.com](mailto:rodneyrams@outlook.com)

**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 & 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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LoveLeigh/)

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

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

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