

# LEIGH RAG

## **JUNE 2018**

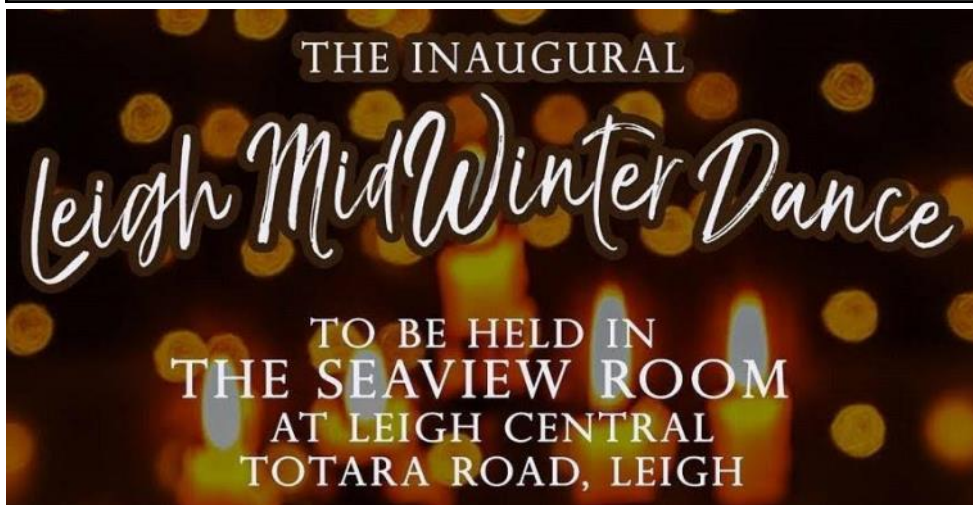
Leigh Rag is supported by the Leigh Community and compiled and edited by Tony Enderby, 19 Albert St, Leigh, Ph 422 6127. Please submit contributions before the 15th of each month. **Leave copy in the box at the Leigh General Store or email to [leighragnz@gmail.com](mailto:leighragnz@gmail.com)**

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,  
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## Editorial

I keep hoping that the incessant attacks on Rodney residents by Auckland Council will subside, but no, we are about to get screwed again. Auckland Council have decided to go ahead with a fuel tax. On top of this there will be a targeted rate to fix Rodney's transport woes. I don't see any targeted local rate for any other area of Auckland and we are to pay a transport levy as well.

Given the extra targeted rates for various projects, to hear Phil Goff say that they are holding the rates increase to 2.5% is less than truthful, but something we have come to expect from Auckland Council.

We are the only region in Auckland that pays road tolls, pays more for fuel and gets less from the rates (we have more unsealed roads for instance). Even the bus service doesn't come to Leigh.

Mayor Goff initially raised concerns about council wages as part of cost-cutting. He raised minimum wages for council staff and assuming that staff are not now paid more than their managers would have quietly raised wages across the board. Talk of controlling costs are obviously no longer on the agenda. Cont'd .

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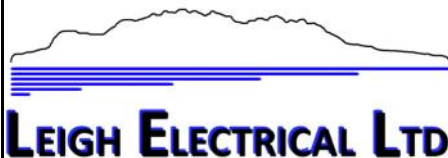
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More and more houses are appearing around the suburbs that are forced to use the Hill Street bottleneck at Warkworth. Council collects huge fees on their building consents yet puts little back into local infrastructure. This has been happening for years as Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and NZ Transport Agency dither on.

We are being told by Mayor Goff about the benefits of light rail to the airport, a harbourside stadium and so on. The latter project getting a vote of no confidence from some Auckland councillors over the way it was handled. I think if a vote of confidence in Auckland Council was taken in Rodney it would be a resounding "no confidence."

And just to top it off I read that council will be providing us with an extra bin for food scraps, for which there will be an additional charge. I would fit a week's groceries into the smallest bin, let alone the scraps and using a compost bin, I don't have any food scraps. Once again council are completely out of touch.

Roll on the next council elections – unless the murmurings lead to a full revolt and the current council doesn't last the distance.

*Tony Enderby*

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# Leigh Business Community

Mid Year has approached and is normally a quieter time for businesses in these winter months, allowing time out and holidays for some owners who work constantly throughout the summer season.

Rachel Macfarlane has taken over from Andre Van Schalwyk at Pakiri Beach Holiday Park and we welcome her.

Alan and Jasmin Macdonald are organising a Mid-winter Dance (28 July) at Leigh Central.

Our Facebook and Instagram sites are doing well, and promoting the area as a walking destination has proved popular. Interestingly, more women have an interest with walks whereas the marine sector gets a higher male response.

The new map has been placed on the noticeboard near the mail centre and the committee continue to meet, working quietly behind the scenes.

One of our goals is working together for the Leigh community and dance and quiz evenings are one example so we encourage all to support these fun events. So, well done to the business sector for providing fun, social interaction and giving back to the community that we are lucky enough to live in.

**Note on next page: the First Aid course organised for 19 July.**

We welcome and offer support and friendship to all new members.

For any further information contact Jan Scott (09 422 6681)

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## Leigh & Districts Ex Services & Community Club

Well it's a mouthful of a name. So what does the club do and why should I belong? The club has been around since about 1975. Its original purpose has been to bring the community together to provide a social contact point and to carry out projects that benefit the community. We have organised Anzac Day Services, Christmas and Mid-Winter Pot Luck Dinners etc.

Over the years the club has installed the lookout on Rodney Road, developed and signposted numerous tracks, built and installed the seats that you find throughout the coastal reserve, installed the notice board opposite the Leigh General Store, installed and maintained (with help) the planter boxes outside the shops. The skate park was initiated by the club in conjunction with the Rodney District Council, and there is also a memorial seat for Graeme Ross beside the park, and Arthur Gundy installed a barbeque table and seat at Matheson Bay for the community on behalf of the club.

In recent times the club has created the garden around the "Welcome to Leigh" sign at Frost Road and upgraded the walking track between Wonderview and

Kyle Streets.

Currently we have an application before the Rodney Local Board to upgrade the coastal track between Cumberland Street and Harbour View Road. This area forms part of councils greenways project (walking tracks (Puhoi to Pakiri) so should be in for some funding. Now that we have become part of the Super City the committee spend a lot of time liaising with Council in an effort to keep Leigh and its immediate surrounds maintained.

Continued on next page

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From previous page

This is by no means an easy task with changes to council staff and contractors and it's rare for a week to go by without one of the committee having to make contact with council.

The Rodney Local Board recently asked the community club to be the contact point for the area. The club is not sure if it has the support of the community to act in this way. Should another group be formed to deal with anything stemming from council? Who should be representing Leigh and its surrounding areas, who is going to put their hands up to run it etc.

Leigh and the immediate area certainly need a voice in what happens in our patch. Please email Guy Parkes, [leigh.exservicescomclub@gmail.com](mailto:leigh.exservicescomclub@gmail.com) our secretary, if you have any constructive thoughts on the matter.

To have a say on what goes on in our / your neighbourhood, yes you should belong. And last but not least that mouthful of a name. I always find that the word club doesn't quite do it for me (doesn't convey the serious nature of the organisation) when contacting council or chasing funding and the like. Is it time for a change? Do we have any ex services in the club anymore? Do we need the word districts? That's probably a given. So how about the Leigh Community Trust. (Trust in name only. Not all the legal bit that goes with the real thing.)

Members come along and have your say at the next monthly meeting.

*Steve Mantle*

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# MATHESON BAY NEWS

Nature has rearranged the beach somewhat after the heavy rain this month. The pontoon has gone and unfortunately the buoy which was attached to the anchor came off. It was left by the dinghies waiting for divers to re-attach. It has since disappeared, so if a large oblong yellow buoy is gracing a garden in the area could it be returned.

Sealing of Matheson Bay Rd. and Spray Cres. appears to be complete, but the rain has caused damage to the seal at the beach end and gravel left has blocked drains and washed across the road. Council has been notified.

The AGM on the very wet Queen's Birthday weekend was reasonably well attended. One of the outcomes is that a pest control group is to be set up, starting with the stream reserve. Council will be assisting. Once an area and plan is in place we will endeavour to eradicate pests to encourage more bird and reptile life. On Monday, 11 June, the "lady on the motorcycle", aka "The Inspector", returned to Matheson Bay and checked the contents of the recycling bins. This was followed up by speaking with the managers of recycling for Auckland Council and Rodney to learn if there was any particular wrong items being noted in our bins. The response was that Matheson Bay was recycling very well and few "error items" which cause the bin to be deemed "contaminated" were spotted. Overall, North Rodney is a star in the entire Auckland Council recycling program.

**Other tips :** Put bins out the night before - service commences at 7am (even though we usually get our trucks about 11am the times are sometimes altered) No plastic bags - they damage and foul up the sorting machine. No batteries. They have caused fires, and a couple of trucks [valued at over half a million dollars] have been severely damaged.

**Annual Mid-Winter Pot Luck Dinner Saturday 28 July.**

*Louise van Campfort*

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Thursday 11am-1pm

Saturday 9.30am-1pm

Kia Ora

We have recently had our AGM and we welcome a new committee member, Gillian French. Gillian has been working as a volunteer and has stepped up to join the committee after the recent departure of Irene Coleman. Myfanwy Borich has stepped down from the committee but is continuing as a volunteer and we are lucky to continue to have her knowledge and experience.

We have had more new members join and were thrilled when a new member spotted a book she was keen to read that had a huge waiting list at Warkworth Library. New books are snapped up quickly so it's good to come in regularly and see what's on the 'Recent Additions' shelves.

Speaking of new books – we have four of the children's picture books that are shortlisted for the NZ Book Awards. The Leisure Seeker is coming to the big screens soon starring Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland and we have the book it's based on. Plus Antony Beevor's new book Arnhem, a new thriller by Claire North and Linda Olsson's new novel A Sister In My House.

Hope you're all keeping warm.

*Tracey Lawton*

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## Leigh Church Services

All denominations and visitors are most welcome to join with us each

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## Forest and Bird Warkworth

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## *Inaugural Leigh Mid-Winter Dance*

Say goodbye to those mid-winter blues and get your glad rags out! On Saturday, 28 July the old Leigh Hotel will spring back to life with the inaugural Leigh Mid-Winter Dance to be held at the sparkling Seaview Room at Leigh Central.

In a combined initiative between the Leigh Business Community, Leigh & Districts Ex-Services and Community Club and the owners of Leigh Central, the ball will be a chance for those in the Leigh community (and their friends) to have a fabulous night out and enjoy some great music and dancing right in their neighbourhood.

And it's not just for Leigh residents – we're keen to involve those who have holiday homes in the area and friends from nearby Pakiri, Matheson's Bay and beyond.

It's a fact that sometimes holiday towns can become a bit isolated and quiet in the winter – so the dance is a way to get people out, put on some of those special occasion clothes that need an airing and have some fun. And the organisers hasten to add that there's no need to spend big money on a new outfit – the dress code suggests 'Dress Up or Smart Casual – whatever people prefer'. The Seaview Room is a wonderful venue with views, grapevine chandeliers and fairy lights to turn it into a true winter wonderland.

"We are keen for as many people as possible to come, so have worked hard to keep the ticket prices to a minimum, while still putting on a quality event," says Alan Macdonald from Leigh Central, who have donated use of the venue for the event. There will be a live dance band, cash bar and late night supper for guests to enjoy. The aim is to break even, but if there are any profits they will be set aside for a similar event next year.

Tickets are limited to 150 guests and cost \$45 per person or guests can book a table of ten for \$450. Cash sale tickets are available from the Leigh General Store or by direct bank deposit.

Contact Leigh Central for details [enquiries@leighcentral.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@leighcentral.co.nz) or phone 021 246 0757. All tickets must be paid for in advance. As there will be no door sales on the night. ***As we go to print there are only 50 left, so get in and buy your ticket.***

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## Leigh School

With only four weeks left in Term 2, the teachers have been busy with mid-year testing and reports but have also found time for gardening and cooking. Te Awa (Year 2 & 3) found a beautiful butternut in the recently revamped vege garden and decided the best thing to do with it was to eat it! Mrs. V knew the perfect recipe for roasted

butternut and one wintery afternoon they cut, seasoned, roasted and enjoyed their harvest. The children loved the treat and have been busy finding lots of edible treasures in their beautiful garden.

The Friends of Leigh School (PTA) held it's AGM and are pleased to announce their newly elected members. Mikaela Schoevaart has taken over as Chairperson, Sara Mathers as Secretary, Helen Williams as Treasurer, and Scott Wilson, Carrier Fowler and Julie Turner as committee members. A major role of the Friends of Leigh is fundraising for the school. And a special thank you to Caroline Haggitt who has stepped down after five years as a committee member and Chairperson.

Leigh School's fundraising events were discussed at the parents evening held on 6 June. Everyone was happy with the inaugural Leigh Summer Festival earlier this year and it was decided to continue the event next year. The evening was also a chance for parents to view the amazing black and white photography that the children have taken in and around Leigh.

The Leigh School senior and junior hockey teams have been busy practicing during the week and their hard work and great attitude has paid off. The junior team had an excellent game on Saturday against a much older and stronger Matakana team. They showed their ability on attack and their tenacity. The seniors also showed some grit and determination to beat Wellsford Lightning 2-0. Keep up the good work and enjoy the rest of the season!

Just a reminder, the school term ends Friday 6 July and Term 3 commences Monday 23 July.

*Kate Shears*

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## Leigh 100 years ago

There were concerns of the state of the Leigh cemetery. The Omaha Riding Ratepayers' Assn asked Charles Clarke to call a meeting of people interested in looking at alternative management of the Leigh Cemetery. However, when only seven turned up at the evening meeting on Saturday 8 June, he decided to have a working bee the following Saturday. There had been a football match at the Claim [Whangateau] that day. The customary after-match dance in the evening may have been of greater interest.

A meeting was held at the Library [then in the basement of Leigh Hall] after the working bee. A petition was organised. It sought permission from the Minister of Internal Affairs allowing the district to elect local trustees to manage the cemetery as an alternative to the Rodney County Council. Five men were nominated: Charlie Wyatt, Charles Clarke, Alex Matheson, A. Haskell and D.W Knaggs.

Today, local people continue as trustees of the cemetery: David Wyatt; Joyce and Terry McCormick, and Barry Davies. contractors to Auckland Council mow the lawns.

Rodney and Otamatea Times 5 June, 1918; Charles Clarke's diaries; chat with David.

*Sheryl Corbett*

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## LEIGH PRESCHOOL

On 31 May we said good bye to our very wonderful and much loved teacher Jess Bell. We enjoyed a beautiful afternoon tea provided by the families of Leigh Preschool and presented Jess a very big card handmade by the children.

Angela, Evangeline and Makaylah have settled in well and are developing their own special relationships with the children and their whanau. They have brought with them some new ideas and a fresh buzz to the preschool. It is a delight to arrive each morning and see the beautiful environments and activities they have created. Last week Evangeline did dinosaur shadow drawing on the front steps while Angela was busy making amazing prints using string and dye. When the weather is miserable and going outside is not an option, keep your eye out for a lion or lizard roaming around Leigh!

A special thank you to Silvia Neves for installing a spiral garden feature, to the Leigh & Districts Ex Services & Community Club for the donation used to purchase a new tumble dryer and to the Leigh Fishing Club for their generous donation yet to be spent.

Last day of Term 2 is Friday 6th July. Term 3 commences Monday 23 July.

*Kate Shears*

### SECTION SERVICES

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# Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade

May, traditionally has been the month with the least callouts for Leigh Fire Brigade members. This year proved no different with only 5 callouts but it got busy again at the beginning of June. May's callouts were a motor vehicle accident at Matheson Bay, a vegetation fire at Matheson Bay which we didn't find, first response medical calls to Whangateau and Leigh and a false alarm at Leigh where the siren sounded for no apparent reason.

The fire station alterations are going to plan and although it looks like a bomb site at the moment will be completed on schedule in early July. Having few callouts in May was a benefit to all with us not disturbing the builders or having to find our gear amongst the building materials.

While Fire and Emergency NZ will cover most of the cost of the upgrade to the fire station, brigade members with the help of the community raised \$40,000 towards it. We still need to replace much of the old crockery, cutlery etc which dates back to the 1970s and donations will help a lot in this respect. Thanks to all those members of the community who have supported us in the long road to the fire station upgrade. It's hard to believe that the process started before the first Christchurch earthquake and was deferred for various reasons till now.

Special thanks go to the Leigh Fishing Contest organisers for their recent donation to the brigade. It's great the support the contest organisers give to the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust which is there for us in extreme medical emergencies. Being able to get a patient to an Auckland hospital in 20 minutes is often a life saver.

Training still continuing despite the grotty weather. With the modern focus on safety there are plenty of training videos brigade members need to watch on station on those really bad nights that we don't venture out. We could still do with a couple more people keen to train to be firefighters. If you think you might be interested come down to the fire station at 7pm on a Tuesday or ask one of our team for details.

*Tony Enderby*

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**Angela Wain**

**Mike Pero Matakana Coast**

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



@mikeperomatakanacoast

## GOOD SORTS

This month the *Leigh Community Church* members have nominated all the **Leigh Library Volunteers** as our GOOD SORTS. These wonderful people donate their time so everyone in our community has free access to the library where there is plenty of choice for a good read. So a very big thank you to all of you who help out at "The Cottage". We wouldn't have a library without you. The Church ladies were only too pleased to bake for you.



### NOMINATE A LOCAL GOOD SORT

Our Good Sorts column has run for a number of years, sponsored by Leigh Community Church. Many fantastic locals have been the Good Sort of the month over the years but there are others out there who also deserve the award.

If you know someone like this who has not yet been nominated, please write in a few words their good deed or thoughtfulness, including their name, address and phone number and drop it into the Leigh General Store in an envelope marked "Good Sort" or email the Editor

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



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6PM FRIDAY,  
22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE



## FOLK CLUB

WHANGATEAU  
HALL

Guest performer

**Diane Ponzio**

7pm Monday 25 June

Guest performer

**Niels Gedge**

7pm Monday 30 July

**Doors Open  
at 6.45pm**

For more  
information  
contact

**Jenine Abarbanel**

[jenine@torkington.com](mailto:jenine@torkington.com)

**News and updates  
at**

[www.whangateau.co.nz](http://www.whangateau.co.nz)

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## 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 General 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 [rodneyrans@outlook.com](mailto:rodneyrans@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)

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