

PIOPIO BirdTalk

Bi Monthly Community Newsletter covering Piopio, Aria & Mahoenui Districts

PAEARUHE VILLAGE SHOWS POSITIVE GROWTH

Paearuhe Village now has full occupancy and an increase in the waiting list, a comfortable position to be in which enables us to continue with refurbishment and maintenance as necessary. All the large older trees have been removed and replanting completed. Once properly established the grounds will look very nice. This time round, smaller growing trees and shrubs have been planted aiming at easier future management. Annual property inspections are due and this year the focus will be to ensure insulation is up to the required standard for rental property. External painting of all dwellings is being planned for the next three years.

We recently said farewell to Bruce Strahan from the Retirement Trust Board after many years of service. His commitment and skills have certainly been very much appreciated by all. We, and including Bruce, are not sure when he first became involved, and on that note would love to hear from anyone who may know the whereabouts of the old minute books. Our records only go back to 2008 and there is certain to be a lot of history there.

The Board is looking out for people prepared to take on leadership and administration jobs in the future. The community involvement is rewarding and the Village a great little asset for our district. If you think this could be you, or you would like to know more, please get in touch. Your support is most welcome and we appreciate if time is restricted; this role will take up little time, so even if busy now, it is a good time to become involved.

Gavin 8777700 / Jenny 8778033

GREEN LIGHT GIVEN FOR REPLICA BUS GARAGE TO BE BUILT

As a result of response to the recent funding appeal, the Piopio College Trust now has sufficient funds to accept the Totalspan/Allied Concrete/NZ Steel tender to build the Display Garage for replica Bus Arapae.

Chairman John Carter said that the Replica Bus Committee had been greatly encouraged by the appeal response and were delighted now to progress the permanent housing of the bus. The generosity of many present and ex locals and businesses was greatly appreciated.

While this stage has been reached that of providing photographic and informative information panels and an AV commentary about the provision of New Zealand's first school buses and the building of Arapae still remains.

An official opening of this Moa Street attraction is scheduled for August/September of this year.

The Trust is hopeful that contributions would continue over the next few months so as to enable this final stage to occur.

Donations can be sent to:

P. Houghton
1538C SH3
RD 5, Te Kuiti
Or Westpac Bank
03 0449 0107019 01



ARIA SCHOOL TRAIL RIDE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

We would like to say a MASSIVE thanks to our team of superb helpers. Yet another BIG weekend at the Aria two Day Bike Ride. The storm that came through week earlier to the event added to the workload and left the committee and helpers with lakes of water, slips to deal with, culverts to unblock. Fortunately the weather gods turned on the sunshine to dry out our tracks nicely for the weekend. Many thanks to our team of sweepers who kept an eye on our tracks and on all our riders.

ALL the school families, community, and supporters should be hugely proud of all their hard work to make this yet another successful event. We are extremely lucky to have the support of so many local famers, which allows us to run this event that is thoroughly enjoyed by so many riders from all areas of New Zealand.

All your input, no matter how big or small makes a HUGE impact on this wonderful weekend. Not only is it those people who help out leading up to and over the weekend but it is the people who work behind the scenes doing jobs that often go unnoticed, those keeping our farms ticking over for us in our absence, those that take care of our children, and those that donate time/food/resources. It is an enormous task made so much easier and more enjoyable with ALL your help.

The Aria School Community is very fortunate to have your support.



MARKETS

Sunday
15th
April
from
8.30am Local
produce, crafts, plants and
more.



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Kristen Pari 8778185

whanau@k04d025.kohanga.ac.nz

PIOPIO.NET.NZ COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

“My wife and I just wanted to leave a nice message for Piopio saying that we really appreciated how clearly laid out the information on your website is, as well as that your community is still friendly to freedom campers. We had a pleasant evening at the Cosmopolitan Club and a good night's sleep in their lot, followed by a very tasty breakfast at the Fat Pigeon Cafe. The

public washrooms across the road in the park are also in very good condition! I think that the more positive relationships that towns encourage with passing tourists, the better reciprocal business they'll receive and the more that tourists will be encouraged to respect New Zealand. Thank you for helping to make our trip here quite enjoyable!”

Kind regards - Alex

HOUSIE

An enthusiastic group meet to play Housie.

1.00m each
Thursday
at the Senior
Citizens' Rooms

You are welcome to join us for fun, laughter and serious involvement in trying to be the winner!!

Come and have some fun, along with an exchange of news and views.

SENIOR CITIZENS

We have a meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at 10 am.

Following this, a cuppa and DVD or a guest speaker is planned.

All senior citizens are most welcome to attend.

We have had some interesting ideas for visits once the weather improves so if you are interested, please make contact with us.

Wendy Weinberg
8778686

TE KUITI GOLF CROQUET

Wed 10am / Sat 10am

Heather and Brian Richardson
07 8778486

GYMNASTICS FOR BEGINNERS

Every Tuesday and Thursday of the school holidays.
9.00am to 10.00am at the Piopio Scout Den.
Caroline 027 230 6101

GARDEN MULCH

FOR SALE

Ph: Piopio College
8778173

COMPUTER SKILLS

Having trouble ... We can help with internet banking, emails, social media etc.

To get better use from your computer, Tablets, I Pads, Phones.

Senior Net rooms 51A King Street West, Te Kuiti

Dave Walton
022 1935 711

MAINLY MUSIC Thursdays @ 10am

All Saints Church
Moa Street, Piopio
Music and movement for children 0-5yrs and their caregivers.

Allison 877 8840

FOR HIRE

Meeting Rooms
available at Piopio College
(07) 8778173

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Co-operating Parish of Piopio, Aria and Mokau.

Main Road, Piopio

Worship service 10am every Sunday

Reverend Jekheli Singh 8788026

Welcome new families

PIOPIO PLAYCENTRE
LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

- IT'S YOUR VILLAGE
Raising kids and growing up is better when you have a village behind you.
- LET KIDS BE KIDS
Getting messy is good for kids. Let them do it at Playcentre so you don't have to at home.
- IT'S THE GIFT OF TIME
Come and enjoy time out at Playcentre while spending quality time with your kids.
- YOU CAN PLAY TOO
Play is not just for kids. It's good for your soul. Come and have fun alongside your kids.
- IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY
Everyone contributes in their own unique way to grow stronger communities.

Monday (birth – 6years)
Wednesday (3.5- 6years)
9.15-12.15 pm

OPEN
★ Hillary 8778876 ★

5 REASONS TO COME TO PLAYCENTRE

Piopio Hall

- Bond 100.00
 - Hire (Daily Hire-age) 200.00
 - Rental per hour (max 4 hours) 20.00
 - Audio Equipment - Hire Fee 65.00
 - Audio Equipment Bond 60.00
- The above are all to be booked and paid for through the Waitomo District Council. The below is to be booked and paid for through the Committee.
- crockery hire:
- Table \$10 per table
 - Chairs \$2 per chair
 - Wine flutes/glasses 50c per glass
 - Tumblers 50c per glass
 - Place settings \$2 per setting includes (dinner, side and dessert plate, mug, cutlery)

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**PIOPIO COLLEGE
hosts NCEA
MEETING NIGHT**



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MATAURANGA O AOTEAROA

Would you like to learn more about NCEA?

An evening is to be held at Piopio College on May the 2nd at 7:00pm in the Hallam Learning centre.

Key teachers involved in NCEA will be there to present and answer any queries you might have about NCEA.

There will also be a cuppa and snacks provided.

Parents/caregivers and students are all invited along to this evening.

For further information contact Angus Rogers arogers12@piopio.school.nz or College office 078778173

**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
Y7-13**

Book online

www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and enter the event code **3dsnx**.



As this year had an impressive turnout, we have shared the statistics from the two day event.

2017		2018	
2 Day Riders (Adults & Children)	315	2 Day Riders (Adults & Children)	318
Saturday Riders (Adults & Children)	143	Saturday Riders (Adults & Children)	264
Sunday Riders (Adults & Children)	124	Sunday Riders (Adults & Children)	142
Total Riders for Weekend:	897	Total Riders for Weekend:	1042
Camping	301	Camping	280
Breakfast (Saturday)	65	Breakfast (Saturday)	70
Dinner	260	Dinner	270
Breakfast (Sunday)	130	Breakfast (Sunday)	120

**BIKE RIDE
LANDOWNER
DRAW WINNERS**

Congratulations to...

\$500 cash

Stuart & Joanne Darke

Night Owl Vouchers
kindly donated by T & K Alcock

**Martin & Wendy Coup
Julie Thomson**

FARMER RECEIVES \$300,000 PAYOUT



Alan admits "I've always been a bit sceptical when it comes to life insurances, but on the 16th of May I was glad I had taken Neil's advice." Alan was

rushed to hospital with a suspected heart attack and had to be revived twice in the ambulance on the way in. Because Alan had taken out **Trauma** insurance for \$300,000 he was able to claim the full amount for his heart attack. **Trauma** insurance pays out a lump sum for around 52 critical illnesses and injuries (60% of claims are for cancer).

"The lump sum pay-out meant I didn't have to worry about finances on the farm while recovering. I'm glad Neil convinced us of the benefits of having good insurances in place...I'm not so sceptical anymore!"

For a free review of your life insurance options (this includes Life, Health, Trauma, Income and Mortgage Protection)

please contact me today: **NEIL SCHROEDER**
AUTHORISED FINANCIAL
ADVISER

A Free disclosure statement is available upon request.



neil.schroeder@sharenz.com // 027 222 6345 // www.no8life.co.nz

**KIA ORA FROM
PIOPIO PRIMARY**

We have had a great start to the year, returning to school on the first

day to a fully refurbished Multi-Purpose Room. It is looking

fantastic inside.

The students, staff and community are enjoying the new look and feel that

the new room has about it. Currently we

have 141 students with more new entrants due in throughout the year.

We started the year off with a focus on swimming and swim safety. We held our

swimming sports at the start of March with a group of 14

students then going on and representing our school at the annual inter-school

swimming carnival in Te Kuiti with a lot of ribbons being won on

the day. We had Vicki Coll come in for a couple of days

to help take



students through water safety lessons. They explored how life jackets work as well as

using improvised flotation devices such as buckets to keep them afloat in an

emergency. This year's integrated

theme across the school is about people and their interactions and associations with

the land - Mana Whenua. Aspects we plan to investigate

include: culture, history, landmarks, animals and local people. To begin with

we have enlisted the support from members of the Piopio Museum

society to talk the students about early land clearing methods. This links into a school

wide inquiry involving the students planning and developing the vacant section next to

the old school dental clinic into a garden
SCOTT LINCOLN

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WAIKATO WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER APPEAL

The Waikato Westpac Rescue Helicopter service has assisted the lives of over 7,590 people last year and operating nationwide through 16 local rescue helicopter services. Westpac's goal this year is to fundraise \$1million to support New Zealand's rescue helicopter services. Team Te Kuiti has set a target of \$2500 and would like to reach this with your help. 100% of the funds raised will be going towards the Westpac Chopper. All money



raised locally stays local, so you will be supporting the Waikato / King Country chopper. This year we have teamed up with the Piopio-Aria Golf Club who have kindly agreed to hold a golf tournament to raise funds for this year's Chopper Appeal. We are seeking your support in the form of donations for prizes. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact :

MELISSA - TE KUITI BRANCH
P: 07 8781111 (Ext:54411)
melissa.edkins@westpac.co.nz

PIOPIO SENIOR CITIZENS

Following our last meeting we travelled to Kihikihi to visit the Space Centre. What an interesting place. We had an informative introductory talk and then went to look at the many displays including lots of space memorabilia. There were lots of computer activities, jigsaws, toys and 3-D displays. We went outside to look at the sun through special glasses and a telescope.

We were able to put on a special headset that gave one the impression of walking in a weightless environment. It was all fascinating. Following the visit we went to The Creamery restaurant for lunch. This was a trip back in time to a more genteel age. Well worth a visit. In closing, the Easter Hamper raffle we ran was won by No. 14 Alma Maher. Congratulations!

WENDY AND THE TEAM

MOKAU FISHING CLUB

After a successful Take a Kid Fishing competition in January, we wish to thank Piopio Lions Club, Whitebait Inn, Coastguard Taranaki and Tanui Fire Brigade for their support.

A Big thanks to all who helped and a lot of happy faces the result.

PETE HURLEY
MOKAU FISHING CLUB

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Karen Barrett
& John Robertson

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W: www.struanfarm.co.nz

After a fabulous break at the Uprising Resort at Pacific Harbour, Fiji, I'm fully charged and rejuvenated for the year ahead.

Make a note in your diary for the following Information Evenings.

- 5 April** Southern States of the USA with Trafalgar
- 23 May** Vietnam and Japan with Wendy Wu



E: lorrene.tekanawa@helloworld.co.nz



30 October
Join my small escorted group tour to the Southern States of the USA.

Imagine the grand old plantation house Seven Oaks, toe-tapping to a Cajun band in Lafayette and swaying to the Blues in New Orleans. Enjoy a paddle-steamer ride and join



in mouth-watering BBQ tastings. Sights, sounds, food, unique experiences and good old fashioned Southern charm – be transported to another way of life. Call me now to view the itinerary.

P:07 878 8184

helloworld.co.nz/tekuiti

LINE DANCING AT MAIROA

In February around 40 people enjoyed a weekend of dance, music and fun participating in the 4th annual 'muster' held at the Mairoa Hall. Some camped on sight and the visiting Auckland crew stayed at The Owl's Nest Motel. Many of the participants are repeat attendees and say it is the ultimate event on the line dancing calendar. They are 'blown away' by the wonderful facility we have in such a picturesque setting; a tribute to the many people who have put in countless hours maintaining the hall and grounds.

Being held over a longer period of time than the usual one day socials the muster provides a good opportunity to learn new dances and for sharing between groups. Our next event is a social on 5th May in the Piopio Memorial Hall. Members of the public are most welcome to pop in.



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Te Kuiti Family Health Centre: 07 878 3680
Otorohanga Support House: 07 873 8156
Alcohol & Drug Helpline: 0800 787 797
Te Kuiti Community House Trust: 07 878 5272
It's not OK info line: 0800 456 450
www.oreyouok.org.nz



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PIOPIO RUGBY

We have the draw for the first round of the King Country competition, which starts on the 7th

April, and as you can see we need to be focused from the first whistle.

The second game is April the 14th which will be especially important as being a home game against Waitomo we will need to defend both the Dempsey Munro cup and the Hetet Shield, so we hope to have our supportive community there!

We welcome some new players this year and along with our very loyal and dedicated men; we are looking forward to another good season. So come along and watch them play and also admire our long awaited carpet and field lights!

The coaching team is again Gary Jeffries, along with Ben Draper and Pete Hurley with Gareth Williams as Manager. The committee continues as: Pete Hurley – President, Joy Jeffries – Secretary, Scott Bradley – Treasurer, Raylene Quinn – Bar Manager, along with Kieran Bradley, Phillip Houghton, Donna Macdonald, Hamish Macdonald, Adam Black, Dwayne Cowin and Denzil Anselmi.

This year we need to adhere to our Host Responsibility in the clubrooms after the games, and to do this we need all supporters that meet in the clubrooms after the games and at other rugby clubs to be a member of our supporters club, which fits under the 'sale and supply of alcohol act 2012'. Therefore we need anyone over 18 to become supporters club members at a cost of \$20 and you will be issued with a receipt and

membership card which you will need to have on you at all times when at home and away games. Any non-members will need to be signed in.

KING COUNTRY 1ST ROUND

7 April v Taupo United @ Taupo

14 April v Waitomo @ Piopio

21 April v Waitete @ Te Kuiti

28 April v Eels @ Piopio

5 May v Taupo Sports @ Piopio

12 May v Taumarunui Districts @ Taumarunui

19 May v Kiokio @ Piopio

26 May v Tongariro @ Turangi

Queens Birthday – No Rugby

9 June v Bush @ Piopio

Welcome to the new families who have joined the Aria Toy library already. The outside toys are so handy on these lovely evenings. Now with colder days coming, come and see our new puzzles, doll houses and little people sets! Its never to late to join and remember grandparents can join as well at just \$10 a term. Welcome to Lulu Hussey the new librarian who is taking over the reins. Lulu brings her efficiency, fresh passion, new ideas and hard work ethic. Thanks to the members of the committee especially Lulu who got stuck in and got the stock take done this year. Also thank you to the big clean up team of Sarah Dudin and Karen Jones.

We are looking for volunteers to join the committee, if you are thinking of helping out please contact us. Possibly helping with applying for grants and/or the treasurer role.

LUCILLE ariatoylibrary@gmail.com



NEW TEAM AT THE OILY RAG GARAGE

You will have noticed there have been some changes at the garage over the last 12 or so months. We have upgraded the pumps and refurbished the awning and of course you can now get fuel 24hrs. The most important change is with the staff, we have moved some around, others have moved on and others have arrived.

Glenn is still our principle tyre technician, Karen has moved from the service station to take on the sales and administration of the tyre shop. Karen has gained extensive knowledge of the tyre industry and is more than capable of helping you with your tyre needs.

Bill works in the tyre bay on a part time basis but his primary role at the garage is our mower sales and repair service.

On the service station side Jaz has moved on to greener pastures and we wish her good luck for the future. On the administration side, Rose and Coral will continue in their present role.

You will have seen some new faces at the station over the last few weeks with Tui and Gareth, our daughter and son in law, whom moved from Christchurch to help run the business. Many of you will have already meet Gareth, he is running the service station, on a day to day basis. Tui will be responsible for administration and accounts, while Moetu and Stephen will take a step back. We will still be around but less conspicuous. Tui and Gareth look forward to meeting you.

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PIOPIO DENTAL UPDATES

Piopia Dental has now been open 7 months. We have loved meeting and treating locals and those from far and wide. We initially thought we were targeting the local market. But we have had patients from the South Island, USA and Bali! A recent patient suggested we should target the dental tourism market. Farm stay, dental care and wrinkle reduction all over a long weekend. Perhaps we will look into it!?!

We've received some great feedback. And it appears the convenience of having a dental service locally has been appreciated. Remember if you have an accident that involves your teeth, give us a call. Some ACC injuries are better treated earlier rather than later. And if you break a tooth bring along the broken segment. Sometimes this is the best option to bond back onto the broken tooth.



Spread the word and share Piopia Dental on Facebook.

PH: 877 8864 // EM: SMILINGKIWI@PIOPIODENTAL.CO.NZ

Continuing education is a huge part of how we provide the best service we can. Kim and the team went to the NZ Institute of Minimal Intervention Dentistry (NZIMID) conference in Taupo last September. Kim was invited by Ivoclar (Dental Company) to attend The NZ Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry 6 of the Best conference earlier in the year. Kim is also part of an Implant Study Group which meets four times a year. She has also recently completed a 2 day Facial Aesthetics Course.

In April we have an Endodontic Symposium and NZIMID Auckland Conference. Mat and Kim will be hosting the NZIMID UK speaker here in Piopia prior to the conference. In May the team are attending the biannual Trade Fair in Auckland. The Trade Fair is a Dental version of the Fieldays.

Following the Facial Aesthetics course we are offering a 20% discount for any facial aesthetics treatments.

Originally dentists used facial aesthetics treatments for gummy smiles and teeth grinding. We now find patients love to freeze those frown lines as well as their overactive tooth grinding muscles. Your smile is a full face event. We can now improve the appearance of your teeth and your skin.

Piopia Dental is now able to offer interest free finance options through Farmers Finance Card and Q Card.

We hope to see you all soon.

KIM AND THE TEAM AT PIOPIO DENTAL

PIOPIO DENTAL

Dr. Kim Tatham
BDS Otago

Ph. 07 877 8864
E. smilingkiwi@piopiodental.co.nz

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3 LITTLE BIRDS . . .

GOODNESS, we have been busy little bees since the start of the year. We've literally had bus-loads of visitors, both at the cafe and the Night Owl, catering has been full on, queues have been out the door, staff have had to be called in to help ... some days it's been chaotic madness! But we love it.

FAT PIGEON CAFE: WOMAD visitors landed on our doorstep two-fold ... by that I mean on the way down to New Plymouth, and again on the way back. Now this is great to see and we welcome them with open arms, but they just kept coming and coming! So it was all hands on deck pumping out coffee, food prep and delivery, clearing tables, replenishing cutlery, plates, cups ... phew! Even I had to step away from my little screen and put on my 'super-customer-service-woman' cape! And I actually really

enjoyed it.

Big ups to the pidgee crew – all staff were absolutely amazing and really showed efficiency and great service so well done.

THE NIGHT OWL: Our new menu is due to hit the, er, tables, just after Easter which, depending on when this goes to print, could be today! So book your table and pop down for some amazing food in excellent surrounds.

OWLS NEST MOTEL: We receive rave reviews from our guests at the motel. So if you know of friends and family who need somewhere to stay for a night or two or more, please phone Zoe on 07 877 8767 or flick an email to theowlsnest@xtra.co.nz. Of course you can book via our website www.theowlsnest.co.nz

CRAFTY PIGEON: New Bon Bon

Easter products have arrived ... come in and check them out – they're amazing! Plus we're moving older stock to make way for new stock, so specials are aplenty. And while you're there, make an appointment to have your hair 'jushed' with Kim at *Vanillia Blonde*, while Maria at *Pretty Little Beauty* will take care of your beauty, massage, personal grooming needs plus much more.

Lucky Melanie is off on more travel adventures soon ... her first sojourn is to Scotland in April, and then in May she is hosting another 'Melanie foodie tour' to Tasmania. Bon voyage Melanie! Of course, she leaves behind her talented staff who can assist you with any catering requirements.



PH: 07 877 8767 OR ZOE 021 113 5010 // WWW.THEOWLSNEST.CO.NZ // THEOWLSNEST@XTRA.CO.NZ

2018 SKY TOWER CHALLENGE

Our local brigade boys continue to train to tackle the intense Sky Tower stair challenge in support of the Leukaemia and Blood Cancer NZ fund.

Venturing to the city the team of five will compete in different divisions with the aim to improve their own personal best on the 19th May. If you'd like to help them out please google 'Sky Tower Challenge 2018' and follow the prompts. Also come join the Family Feud challenge at the Piopio Hall with all funds going to support the cause.

2018 PIOPIO FIRE BRIGADE TEAM
ROWAN, ANSON, STEVE, SANDY AND ANDREW

UPCOMING Events



THE LEGENDARY WAITANGURU TRAIL RIDE

FUNDRAISER FOR WAITANGURU HALL
SUNDAY 8th APRIL 2018

20 MINUTE DRIVE FROM PIOPIO TOWNSHIP

The BIG Loop	Approximate 40 km. Side-by-side friendly.	Adults \$35 Under 15 \$15
Beginners	Short loop on a local farm near the Hall.	\$10
Motocross	For the kids, right beside the Hall. Open all day.	Free

Registrations from 9.30 a.m. at Waitanguru Hall. Track open 10 till 3.
 For full details visit: www.silver-bullet.co.nz/events
 Enquiries to: Brendan 07 8778349 Brice 07 8778878 Ken 07 8778811

PIOPIO Cosmopolitan Club

Of TUG WAR

prizes

42 MOA street - PIOPIO

1ST team = \$150
 2ND team = \$100
 3RD team = \$50

ENTERTAINMENT
 by DJ PETE

[07]8778204

14.04.18
 FROM 6PM | SATURDAY
 PIOPIO COSMOPOLITAN CLUB

RESTAURANT / BAR SNACKS

\$20 PER TEAM OF SIX

Fundraiser for **PIOPIO MEMORIAL HALL**
PIOPIO FIRE BRIGADE SKY TOWER CHALLENGE

From 6.30pm
 Piopio Memorial Hall

FAMILY FEUD

FRIDAY 20TH APRIL

TICKETS FROM: PGG WRIGHTSONS	Family Feud Contestants TEAMS OF FOUR \$40	DOOR ENTRY \$10	R18 - cash bar available
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Team REGISTRATIONS to: **KRISTEN 0274713788**

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

STARS IN YOUR EYES RETURNS

ACTS WANTED NOW! CONTACT KRISTEN 0274713788

PIOPIO MEMORIAL HALL
SATURDAY 23 JUNE @ 6.30PM
 R18 cash bar available

FOR TICKETS: \$25 INCLUDES PGG WRIGHTSONS LIGHT SUPPER

**A WORD FROM
MAYOR BRIAN
HANNA**



I have been working on developing the 2018-28 Long Term Plan (LTP) and planning for the future 10 years. The Consultation Document (CD) sets out an overview of our plans and key proposals for the LTP. and we would really like to hear your feedback.

Shaping our communities

Enhancing our community development initiatives is a key feature of the 2018-28 LTP and the proposals linked to this are ground breaking for a district of our size. Community services contribute to better social interactions, and add significant value to our communities. The future for Waitomo is exciting. There are opportunities for us to take the next step on our journey towards a vibrant and thriving District. We are set on a path to shape Waitomo into the place that we all want it to be. A place that is safe, welcoming, encourages business development, and supports well-connected communities. This is not something Council can do alone and we want to enhance and establish partnerships with key stakeholders for achieving the outcomes we want for our district. There are opportunities for us to take the next step on our journey towards a vibrant and thriving District.

Over the last 10 years our focus has been on core infrastructure investments in order to ensure we meet legislative compliance and to meet the health and well-being outcomes of our residents now and into the future.

We have worked hard to draw a balance between investing in our communities and District so we are an attractive destination to live and work in while ensuring that the investments are affordable. Our infrastructure assets and community facilities are in great shape and we are proud to say that our quality services are going to support our growing population.

Financial prudence has been our

guiding principle for the last three LTPs. We have sourced funds from avenues other than rates wherever possible like government subsidies and community funding organisations for capital investments in our District thereby improving facilities and services with the ratepayers not having to bare the full costs.

We are also very pleased with the progress being made by Inframax Construction Limited (ICL). The recovery plan put in place for ICL and supported by the community has come to fruition. In 2011/12 WDC funded a recovery plan for ICL, with the purchase of Parkside subdivision (\$1.3 million) and a loan of \$750,000. This was necessary as ICL was struggling to remain viable, and was under severe distress as a company. The net profits of ICL have been increasing year on year, we have now completed the sale of Parkside subdivision and our loan to ICL of \$750,000 will be returned by the end of next the financial year clearly indicating that ICL is on a firm footing now.

The shape of things to come

Our current debt level sits at \$43.4 million, well below the forecast in the 2015-25 LTP, and we plan to decrease that further by \$14 million over the life of the plan by using the forecast dividend from ICL. To further advance our goal over the next ten years, forecast dividend from ICL will be used to assist in reducing Council's debt, and by doing so, reduce overall costs to the community. In the 2018-28 LTP we are expecting a total dividend from ICL of almost \$5 million.

Rates affordability remains on our agenda and we are committed to limiting rates increases. The rates revenue is proposed to increase by **an average of 2.75% per annum** over

the next 10 years. Average rates increase for next year is 2.97%.



Effects for Piopio

One of the significant changes we are proposing is the "harmonisation" of water and waste water charges. Our current policy is that each community pays a different amount of the full cost of its services for water and wastewater depending upon the service costs, up to a cap level and then any amount over this figure is spread across the whole district. (This shows as a subsidy for Piopio sewage, Benneydale water, etc. on your rate demand) We have felt this has had a negative effect on our small towns such as Piopio, Benneydale, and Mokau, especially when upgrades have to be done to meet legislation, and want to do something to ease this burden.

We are proposing that we move to one rate for Water and one for Wastewater across our whole district (harmonisation), which is a common policy in many districts. This will significantly affect rates for the likes of Piopio Township, in a positive way. At the same time we are removing amalgamating the small individual subsidies for each scheme and replacing it into one district wide rate. This will represent the district wide benefits from a public and district health perspective and good sanitation and public facilities in our townships perspective. The plan is to transition to this policy over four years for water, and the effect for Piopio township ratepayers will be a reduction in water and wastewater rates of \$1779 per property over this four year period.

There are many other proposals in our LTP, I encourage you to read our consultation document, and give us your feedback. I also encourage you to attend our public consultation meeting in Piopio on **Thursday April 26th, 7pm at Piopio Hall.**

NOT FAKE NEWS

That's true – everything you are about to read is absolutely 100% true. Beef and Lamb Genetics have been running a progeny test with around 2,200 cows and heifers over 5 large properties across New Zealand. Launched in 2014, this test compares bulls of most of the well-known beef breeds in NZ under commercial conditions against each other. So far the progeny tests have shown very exciting results for Simmental, with both 200d (weaning) and 400d (yearling) weights being in the top range across all breeds.

So what breeder wouldn't want calves that grow faster, finish sooner, weigh and yield more, cost less and ultimately return a profit? The difference between the highest and lowest average adjusted sire weaning weight in the progeny from 2014 was 26kg. At \$4/kg that's \$104 per head – and that's at weaning!

For more in depth information, visit Beef and Lamb Genetics website www.blzgenetics.com or www.simmental.co.nz/resources

On the home front, a good summer has seen good growth rates across all classes of stock, and the sale bulls are looking a picture. Two dates to

mark on your calendars;

the second **ANNUAL KING COUNTRY COMBINED BULL BREEDERS - Open Day on April 30th**

POTAWA SIMMENTALS ANNUAL ON FARM AUCTION, with a new start time of **12.30pm on May 29th 2018**, as always please contact your local stock agent for more information.

Finally – a huge congratulations to Stu and Amanda Hayes of Makomako, their \$1400 weaner steer price is possibly a NZ record – and well deserved for outstanding Simmental calves at Kauroa Weaner Fair 2018.



Andrew & Tracey Neal

488 Mangaotaki Road
Piopio, 3971
New Zealand
Ph: 07 8778009
Mb: Andrew 0273665514
Tracey 021 1377118
Email: potawa@vodafone.co.nz

PIOPIO ANZAC COMMEMORATION WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL

Parade 11am

Please assemble at 10.45am on Moa Street outside the St Johns' rooms.

Current service men/women (all services) in uniform would be much appreciated. Service medals may be worn by relatives. All those who wish to participate are urged to do so. The service will follow outside the Memorial Hall, weather permitting. All organisations, individuals, family groups are welcome to participate in the wreath laying ceremony. Light refreshments will be

available following the service in the hall. Any contributions of food will be greatly appreciated. We are again able to have Moa Street closed to traffic for the duration of the service. This year this is possible through generous grants from Piopio and District Charitable Trust, a Community Development Discretionary Grant through WDC, Insurance cover through RWNZ and Waitanguru Branch RWNZ. Community input is most welcome. Please give Jenny Brodie (877 8033) or Susie Verry (877 8842) a call if you would like any further information.



HEIRLOOM FRUIT TREE INTEREST

I'm curious about the variety of heirloom fruit and nut trees that thrive in our Piopio district. Many on private properties or roadsides around the area i.e apples, plums, figs, quince, pears, walnuts, peaches, and citrus are of interest.

1. Type of tree or trees.
2. Varieties if you know, or description of fruit (colour of skin, flesh, e.g.)
3. Estimate on how long it's been on the property, who might have planted them

Satisfaction to grow them from grafts, cuttings or stones would be something myself and John would consider if anyone is happy to share or allow me to view.

A recent walk to the old Fig tree on the Huia Homestead a few years ago (on Waitouru), is now growing into a fruiting tree and thriving from a simple cutting.

This is really just a project of personal interest, nothing commercial. But I may write about it if I come up with interesting info to share.

Anyone who is interested to share, please email or phone.

My details:
Karen Barrett - Struan Farm
942 Statehighway 3
RD 2
Piopio 3970
E: struanfarm@gmail.com
T: 877.8012

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Cancer Society

Kaye Nelson (07) 877 7840

Helen Verry (07) 877 8582

Ear Health

Ginny Opie (07) 877 6818

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Dr Scott Mouatt

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E: kcchiro@xtra.co.nz

Recreation Centre

Kimberley Cody (07) 8778700

M: 027 2101860

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Aria Playcentre

Emma Darke (07) 8776854

Aria Toy Library

Librarian: Lucille mb: 0211350466

E: ariatoylibrary@gmail.com

Curious Keas Preschool

Stephanie Brough (07) 8778224

Kohanga Piopio

Kristen Pari (07) 8778185

Mainly Music

Alison Singleton (07) 8778840

Piopio Playcentre

Hillary Morgan (07) 8778876

COMMUNITY SERVICES & business

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Shirley Bardsley (07) 877 8725

Justice of Peace

Kath Tucker (07) 8777720

Rose Young (07) 877 8029

Vikki Hall (07)8778058

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Piopio College Community Library

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Jenelle Burnell (07) 8778173

Piopio Garden Circle

Gillian Hooper (07) 8787880

(027)3459603

Piopio Lions Club

Stephen Cooper (07) 8778159

Gavin Todd (07) 877 7700 or

Ken Perry (07) 877 8035

Piopio Memorial Hall

Vikki Watson 0275095195

Steph Brough (07) 8778224

Crockery/Cutlery/Glass Hire)

Piopio/Paearuhe Retirement Village

Jenny Brodie (07) 8778033

Opportunity Shop/Mustard Seed

Colleen Strahan (07) 878 7918

Seniors' Exercise Classes

Wendy Weinberg (07) 8778686

Senior Citizens Organisation

Bookings: Beryl Huia (07) 877 8353

The Old Piopio Post Office Art Gallery

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Vanilla Blonde & Carley Jane Beauty

(07) 8778446

Waitanguru Rural Women

Wendy Coup E: wdcoup@gmail.com.

ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS

Hairy Feet Waitomo

(07) 8778003

Piopio & Districts Museum

John Petre (07) 877 8293

Key available at Piopio Superette

Piopio Market Day

Colleen (07) 877 6686

Piopio POP (Tui Park)

Snow Nicol (07) 877 8177

Key for toilet available from the

Cloverleaf Tearooms or Snow Nicol



SPORTS &

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Terry Alcock (07) 877 6670

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Koa Gower E:koa@farmside.co.nz

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Line Dancing Club

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Piopio-Aria Golf Club

Tracey Mulligan (07) 877 8234

Piopio Bowling Club

Eileen 0272550868 Tony (07) 8778396

Piopio Domain Board

Kate Carter (07) 877 8146

Piopio Rugby Football Club

President: Peter Hurley (07) 8777577

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Piopio Swimming Club

Pres: Lee Alcock (07) 8777 754

E:shellalcock@hotmail.com

Pony Club

Ross Harris (President) (07) 8776555

Annette Shailer (secretary) (07) 8736613

Te Kuiti Tramping Club

Jenny Brodie Ph (07)877 8033.

Tennis Club

Reon Verry (07) 878 8678

The King Country Hunt

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PIOPIO BirdTalk

The finer details ...

Community feedback and articles are welcomed and appreciated. The views published in this publication are not those of the editor but of the contributors. Articles must not be longer than 280 words and may have accompanying photos.

We reserve the right to edit any material.

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