



# PIOPIO BIRDTALK

Bi-monthly community newsletter covering Piopio, Aria and Mahoenui districts

## Curious Keas Celebrates 10 years!!

It feels like only a year or two ago that Curious Keas opened its doors to Piopio's Preschoolers, parents, whanau and community, I have been running some numbers and we have had 445 children, and 405 families enrol in that time. Our oldest children are in year 11 in their schooling journey, it has been so special to watch this as being a small community we get to see them as they get older and watch them develop. I have said to several of my staff over the years that if they ever need a boost in confidence go down to one of the schools (Aria, Piopio primary or College) and all of our Keas children come and say hello or run up and hug you.

We still have 4 original staff members, dedicated to the care and education of the children in our community. Building relationships and getting to know the children and whanau are the foundation to learning at any level, it is key to promoting a positive view and attitude to life long learning. Having fun, being positive, a sense of humour, and a passion for children are some of the most powerful qualities in teaching at any level.

When we began our adventure of setting up, as a new business we worried that we may not get enough children to remain viable. Less than a 6 months later we increased our licensed space from 30-35, and within a year carried out further alterations to increase licensed space to 40.

Curious Keas will be celebrating this significant milestone with our children, their caregivers and staff, we have plans of 10 days of celebrations whereby we will have a celebration each day for 10 Days beginning on the 21st of march and ending on the 1st of April. I always wanted to hold an open day and invite as many families/children back as possible and have a barbeque and aerial photo to mark the occasion but this is going to be

impossible given the current covid situation, this will have to happen when restrictions ease.

Education has always been highly regulated, but as with anything in the last few years everywhere you turn there are more rules and restrictions on how you operate. Trying to remain true to our ethos of risk taking, learning through cause and effect, trying different ways of doing things and seeing this as learning not danger or failure is always a juggle, but having a team that all feels like this is the best way that children learn allows us to find ways of upholding the rules without restricting children's play, confidence, and growth.

One of the things that I speak of often is how lucky our children are to grow up in our community. Children and their whanau arrive at Curious Keas already knowing many of the children and teachers so it really helps them with their initial settling and confidence to be away from whanau and home. We have worked closely with the schools to develop smooth transitions as the children move on to primary. By the time our children move on to school they have watched their friends go, they have met their teacher, visited the school, had opportunities like watching the production, joining for waiata, watching sport and attending pet day. We also share routines and rituals (karakia, waiata, and current learning strategies in learning phonics) we have mini cross-country, and Pet day as a way of introducing some of the things children will experience at school with the view of sending the children off more confident and ready for a new environment.

In more recent years we have had organised visits from school students and teachers to Keas initiated by the new entrant teachers as the children tell them all about it. This is something we

are really proud of as you can see that the schools also place great importance on relationships and knowledge of where children come from in relation to being ready and open to learn.

One of my favourite trips I have ever organised was a local trip around the area in 2014, the children were into inviting each other to their houses and explaining where they lived, which led to looking on maps and seeing where everyone lived. We decided to map out a route, and then booked a bus. The day came and we had organised some stops along the way. We went past most children's houses, and had invited family to put notes in letterboxes. This was an amazing adventure with so much learning and connection-with the children, their whanau, our staff, and our community and also our schools (our Keas kids thought they were so cool going on the bus like the school kids). I think Snow and June Nicol (from 3way motors) were just about as excited about it as I was, they have been so generous with sponsoring trips on the bus for our children and they see the joy the children get out of it, and the berry orchard asked to be the last stop and shouted all of the children an icecream. We have done many other amazing trips over the years but this is a prime example of how it takes a village to raise a child!

Our plan was to have an updated staff photo this week, but unfortunately we have several staff off work so that will have to wait until everyone is back on board!

We are looking forward to many more happy years in Early Childhood here at Curious Keas, to our past and present Staff, children, families and community we thank you for your support, and wonderful memories we have created here!

Steph Brough  
Please see pictures page 3

# PIOPIO BIRDTALK

Editors [piopiobirdtalk@gmail.com](mailto:piopiobirdtalk@gmail.com)

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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## COMMUNITY MESSAGES

**WANTED: NEW BIRDTALK EDITOR** to work alongside Hannah and Sigrid to continue the bimonthly community newsletter. Please contact Kate on [piopiobirdtalk@gmail.com](mailto:piopiobirdtalk@gmail.com) for more details



Sam Were riding his pony 'Simply Polka Dot' at the recent annual Timberlands Pony Club Event.

A number of riders of all ages competed from our local Tekuiti and District's Pony Club— hopefully there will be a full report in the next issue of Birdtalk.

Congratulations everyone on your success and a big thankyou to all parents and supporters.

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Within our district several defibrillators are on hand in the event of an emergency.

### Piopio Township:

Owls Nest and Piopio College.

### Surrounding districts:

Mahoenui (Coleman's woolshed) Aria Cosmopolitan Club, and Waitanguru Hall also have these on hand.

A free App is available on google Playstore to locate machines throughout New Zealand.

## ANZAC Update

April 'no news' is that there isn't a definite plan for our ANZAC commemoration this year.

There is to be no public service in Te Kuiti.

After speaking to a few people actively involved in the past it is felt that we need to commemorate ANZAC in a way that is appropriate to the wider Piopio district, within the current event guidelines.

The only certainty is that it won't be the traditional march, service and refreshments to follow.

The hall is unlikely to be open.

We have a few ideas but also encourage input from organisations, schools and the public in general.

There will be a public notice in the King Country News closer to the time with more definite plans, and hopefully more certainty.

Contact Jenny Brodie  
[jenbrodie63@gmail.com](mailto:jenbrodie63@gmail.com) or 078778033

Or Tracey Neal  
[potawa488@gmail.com](mailto:potawa488@gmail.com) or 078778009

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# Curious Keas Celebrates 10 years!!



## PAST PIOPIO GREAT: Eric Shortridge on his days in Piopio

Last December we recognised the passing of Dr Eric Shortridge, past Veterinarian from Piopio. He was 94 and the dearly loved husband of the late Betty Shortridge (nee Tatham).

From his time as a professional in Piopio to his family ties to the district for the rest of his life, we have been able to celebrate some stories from his past as a well appreciated person of influence in Piopio.

Piopio, for its small population, has been exceptionally fortunate to host Veterinarians such as Eric, who originally hailed from England and began work in Piopio on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 1952. Piopio had a population of 300 when he was employed to start a new practice here, as a branch of the Te Awamutu Veterinary club. There were no Vet schools in New Zealand at that time, all vets were recruited from Britain or Europe, or were sent to Australia to be educated up until 1964. During the early 1950s it was forecast that NZ needed 250 vets nationwide but there was only 217 with masses of vacancies- we were very lucky to have such a vet arrive in Piopio.

Eric had lots of stories from his time in Piopio, familiar to those that we still love now. Pig hunting and memories of being notably scary with his driving on the local roads.... Vet's still get cursed for their driving skills even in today's age!

From his notebook inscriptions after his emigration to NZ as a Veterinary Surgeon, he recalled Piopio having the small Dairy Factory and quite a lot of sheep stations. He was called to one farm, foaled a mare for the farmer, who had been struggling with it for a long time and from then on, the farmer thought he was a magician.

He gave talks at Young Farmers functions and at the Rotary Club in Tekuiti, he did a lot of equine work, including eye operations, pulling teeth and tricky foaling's. He stated at the time that he did more in his first few years in Piopio as a vet than he would have done in five years in England.

He instrumented the new Vet Clinic surgery which was completed in November 1952 and he remembered fondly his first New Year's Eve celebration in Piopio which was an out of this world 'fancy dress parade and dance', with impromptu concerts and Māori dances.

He told his children stories about his days as a Vet in Piopio. He told them he always drove quickly and people would get off the road or were even known to jump into ditches if they saw dust flying- they knew the vet was headed their way. He also said the Lady at the telephone exchange could always tell people where he was because she heard and transferred all the calls.

He loved Pig Hunting and had a land rover he could get most places, a lot of the local area was bush and scrub that was still being developed. His friend Athol Watson, the local barber would get told where the pigs were being a nuisance (over a good haircut) so together with Athol's dogs and his vehicle they kept a lot of pests at bay. They always tried to carry out any pigs they caught as wild pork was very good meat and what they couldn't eat was welcomed by friends.

In 1953 he was called to attend a lion in a travelling circus....from a distance! It was said the lion's mate in the cage nearby took a dim view of the proceedings.



He enjoyed the many outdoor activities Piopio and the surrounding district offered. He played tennis, went trout fishing, pig hunting (with Athol) and mountaineering. He was here when the new Memorial Hall was opened, in March 1954, and started the badminton club, with himself as President. After three years in the business, he handed over the vet practice to Harold Skyrme and moved on from our little district.

SHORTRIDGE,  
Eric Howarth:

Peacefully passed away on 18 December 2021, aged 94. Dearly loved husband of the late Betty. Adored father of Margaret, Patricia, Catherine, Bruce, and their partners. Treasured grandfather and great-grandfather of Nicholas, Joel, Dion, Hannah, Matt, Alana, Madyson, Hugo, Rose, Harper and Sebastian.



*Thanks to Barrie & Jude Tatham for providing words and photo*

# Term One 2022

The year has started well, despite the many speedbumps (Covid challenges) we have faced on the way. Children come and go depending on their family's isolation status and "Learning from Home" work packs are delivered as required. Support for our families in isolation continues to be an ongoing challenge for our staff who so far (fingers crossed) have not had to isolate themselves.

With our major fundraiser for the year (Aria Two Day Trail Bike Ride) cancelled due to covid restrictions we are challenged with finding other fundraising opportunities to fill the void.

Many off-site sporting events have been cancelled, however we were able to hold our own swimming sports albeit without an audience. The fun events of the day were of course the most enjoyed by all participants, especially the House Chant competition.

### Next Term

We look forward to again hosting the **Interschool Orienteering** event at the Aria Domain on Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> (Covid willing).

We will also host our annual interschool **Science Celebration** in the Aria Hall on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

More information regarding these events will follow next term. We will also begin our annual **school**

**production** preparations in readiness for performances mid-term 3. Keep safe everyone!

*Pam Voyce*  
**Principal, Aria School.**



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Your enrolment will enable the Trust to support pupils in their academic, cultural and sporting development and participation by way of scholarships, grants for specialist equipment and course participation (e.g. Spirit of Adventure etc.)

The Trustees are confident that, with the anticipated response, sufficient funds will be available for other "special projects" as well as support for the professional development of staff.

As a member of the PPCCC you will receive an annual statement of income and expenditure and details of the recipients of Scholarships and grants awarded.

The Trust has embarked on this means of providing ongoing support for the College as a consequence of the miniscule returns that the \$100,000 of Trust funds now receive from our Term Investments.

**Our goal is to have a minimum of 50 Piopio College Coffee Club members**

*We have enrolled 45 to date*

*Our thanks for considering becoming a member! You will be most welcome.*

For New Zealand members annual receipts of your contributions will be provided for Taxation Donation rebates.

Enrolment forms are available from the College Office or by emailing either of us.  
The Trust's bank account is 03-0449-0107019-01 for AP's:  
Particulars: Your Name / Ref: Coffee Club  
PS: Contact details of ex AFS /International students/staff would be appreciated.

John Carter  
Chairman, Piopio College Trust Board  
cartdke@extra.co.nz  
Brian Tegg  
Barista  
brimar4042@outlook.com

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# Councillors Update



In the last Birdtalk, I commented on the climatic conditions we were experiencing, and then on February 11 we copped a rain 'bomb', and an example of the damage incurred is evident at View Terrace in Piopio. The damage to our road network has been extensive. A full survey and rehabilitation costing should be completed by June, but a current 'ball park guesstimate' is \$10m to \$15m, and may have to include land purchase and some completely new road sections.

Fortunately for ratepayers, a subsidy rate of 95% has been confirmed from Waka Kotahi for the emergency work, but we will have to find \$0.5m to \$0.75m based on that 'guesstimate'.

All landfills in New Zealand have their carbon emissions measured, or assessed (for smaller scale ones like ours), and under the ETS have to purchase carbon credit units to cover those emissions. The cost of these units is expected to increase from around \$45/t this year, to around \$90/t for next year, and also the Governments Waste Disposal Levy is increasing from \$20/t to \$30/t, on the roughly 8000t of waste going into our landfill.

Our Revenue and Financing Policy (RFP) allocates the recovery of Waste Disposal costs as 60% Fees and Charges (User Pays) and 40% Targeted Rate (on every rating unit in the district). The Fees and Charges portion is met through the cost of Councils blue rubbish bags and transfer station fees.

After 15 years of service as CEO of Waitomo District Council (including

extracting the Council from the financial morass it was in in the mid 2000's), Chris Ryan has retired and we have appointed Ben Smit who was most recently CEO for South Waikato District Council, as his replacement.

Mayor Robertson noted this change in leadership in his March 3, 2022, article in the King Country News, and also stated 'I will be proposing a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the Council's CEO to our governance body'. He went on to state '... governing bodies do not always set and monitor CEO performance effectively. In my opinion there has been a gap in this area at our Council for many years. We will remedy this'.

Mayor Mark Ammon instigated a CEO performance monitoring regime, facilitated by an HR Consultant. That regime of 6 monthly, and annual, performance reviews, and KPI reassessment, has continued up until Mayor Robertsons election in October 2019. Since that time, there have been no 6 month, or annual reviews, of the CEOs performance, nor, any reassessment of the KPIs previously utilised.

With Three Waters still a 'hot' topic, I thought mention of the Piopio Water Supply Scheme might be of interest. It comprises some 8.5km of various diameters of predominantly asbestos cement pipe, with large sections nearing the end of its useful life. Actual operational experience indicates poor pipe condition. Failure risk is increased

due to the lack of a 'rising main' direct pipeline, from the treatment plant to the storage reservoir, which results in pressure fluctuations in lower lying areas and is a cause of pipe failure.

Installation of back-flow preventers is programmed over the next twelve years at \$6k/yr.

The water take resource consent from the Kuratahi Stream expires next year and we've budgeted \$51k over the 2 years for its renewal.

The treatment plant capacity is 600m<sup>3</sup>/d, current demand roughly 309m<sup>3</sup>/d, peak demand is 527m<sup>3</sup>/d, while our consented water take is 450m<sup>3</sup>/d.

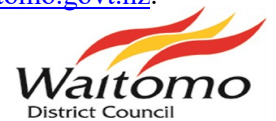
Annual asset renewal and replacement costs are about \$74k, and the dedicated rising main is costed at \$337k in 2025/26.

The implications of the new standards, and their enforcement, by the new water regulator, Taumata Arowai, have not been assessed yet in dollar terms, but are part of the reason for the Three Waters reform proposals.

If you have any queries or comments about any Council services, please contact me on 078778033, 0273479843, or email, [Phil.Brodie@waitomo.govt.nz](mailto:Phil.Brodie@waitomo.govt.nz).

Phil Brodie

Rural Ward Councillor



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## The Latest Surplus: Piopio Community Fruit & Veg Stand

Thankfully we haven't needed to close the Community Stand due to Omicron cases locally thus far, and we'll do our best to keep it open if things do continue to surge in late March into April. Particularly with the bounty of late summer fruit and veggies relative to the prices at the food store!

Everything contributed to the stand continues to fly off the shelves. Fruit has always been popular, along with tomatoes, but now even veggies like silverbeet and beetroot are getting scooped up. Special thanks to Alan Busch for his annual donation of pots of honey, to a family orchard in Aria who welcomed me to pick nashis, pears, peaches and apples for the community, and to our jam and lemon honey makers who continue to make and deliver homemade preserves with surplus fruit.

With the apple season in full gear, and quince, feijoas, figs

and walnuts about to happen, please don't let your surplus go to waste. A bag or box dropped at the stand is much appreciated and only takes a moment to do while you're passing by on other errands. If you cut a pumpkin and have a wedge or two leftover, consider dropping that off in a piece of newspaper or ice cream container.

If it's easier for you to drop a big box inside our front gate and leave it to me deal with containers and putting things into the stand, I'm fine with that too-- just need to know when it's being dropped off.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions/issues.

Karen Barrett

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**The Piopio Community Pools** were lucky to get five new inflatable pool toys without any delays from Covid. They have been a huge success and there is never a moment where the toys are left alone.



*Above: Thea Young enjoying the new inflatable toys*

The Piopio Swimming Pool Committee would like to thank the Piopio Community and District Charitable Trust for making this purchase possible.



*Above: Heath Cody and Leo Carter*

## MOKAU FISHING CLUB

We would like to say a huge thanks for everything all our sponsors do for our club. Due to covid we were unable to have our usual members bbq at the same time. But please, thank our amazing sponsors when you see them around. Also a huge thanks to the boat owners that make this day possible.

On another note : last day of summer comp is next Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>, don't forget to weigh in your fish. Cheers Mokau Fishing Club



# Piopio Primary visit Riding For Disabled

On Thursday 3 March, the Room 7 students from Piopio Primary School, had the privilege of supporting their classmate Bruce at his weekly Riding For Disabled session in Otorohanga. Gwen Buckley and her team of volunteers welcomed us with great enthusiasm.

It was awesome to see Bruce smiling and so relaxed on his horse, Gracie. One student commented on how clever Bruce was riding backwards and another thought it was absolute bravery to even get on a horse let alone play games on one!

The sun shone, the children took photos, asked questions, and sketched. Lynette Adams drove the GO BUS - which was kindly donated for our transport. It was truly a fabulous experience for us all.

Gwen writes, "That is just fantastic to hear the feedback from Bruce's classmates. Everyone was so impressed by what a wonderful group of students you brought along and we feel so touched by the interest and value you place in what we do at RDA - something we are able to see every week, but not everyone does - so THANK YOU!!!"

Our Year 6 students are busy creating Google slides to share their experiences and learning through literacy, visual art, and technology.

VICKI JENKINSON  
Rm 7 teacher at Piopio Primary School




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# Piopio & Aria Playcentre Update



On behalf of Piopio and Aria playcentres I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lee Alcock for all the years of contribution she has made to our playcentres as an employee and a volunteer. She has always gone well and truly above and beyond her role and we cannot thank her enough for the work she has put in. As Lee has moved on to the next step in her career we are looking for someone to fulfil her role in both Piopio and Aria playcentres. If this is something that may interest you please contact either myself (Piopio president) or Natasha Richardson (Aria president).



Playcentre has always had passionate people like Lee which is one of the things that makes it such a valuable asset to our rural communities. The past couple of years has been hard on our local playcentres. We have struggled with new members particularly as we have moved in and out of lockdowns and various phases of Covid. We are now at a point where numbers are low and the future of Playcentre in our communities is uncertain. Both Piopio and Aria are always keen to share what we are about and give people in our community the opportunity to come along. So, I thought I would take the chance to share my playcentre experience.

I have been involved in Piopio playcentre for the last 5 years and have had my 3 kids coming through the playcentre system. For me, playcentre has been great in getting to know people and building a support network for myself in the local community. I am not from Piopio but married a local. My career in the agriculture sector involved lots of travel throughout the Waikato but I didn't know many people around here. When I had my oldest child in 2015 I found the transition quite isolating being at home all the time even though I have great family support. My decision to join

playcentre was just as much for me as for my child. The first few weeks or months were hard turning up to playcentre not really knowing anyone – I knew it would take time to settle in so I stuck it out – and I'm glad I did.

Throughout the last 5 years I have met many families in the community, and made some awesome friends. I now have a 'village' that I know I can call on for anything from help with something, parenting advice, or just someone to have a coffee and a yarn to. I have learnt so much about how children develop and learn. I have enjoyed the luxury of seeing my kids in a play environment with a range of other kids of different preschool ages. I can see them learning and growing through play, experiences and various social interactions with the other kids. I love having somewhere to do the playdough, paint, slime, clay, fingerpainting, body painting, and any other form of messy play that I don't want to happen at my house. My kids all love going too.

My eldest has been at school for 18 months with my second starting this year. I have found it so much easier having the network developed at playcentre that has transferred to school. Having other parents with school aged kids to ask questions and knowing parents at school events has made the transition to having a school

child that much easier.

The playcentre journey for me has been key in adjusting to being a parent, to have a 'village' to lean on, and to feel part of the community. Playcentre is all about kids learning through play and supporting families.

Playcentre is open in the school term with Piopio playcentre is located next to Piopio Primary school and is open on Mondays (9:30am-12 noon) and Aria Playcentre is located on the Aria primary school grounds and is open on Tuesdays (9:30am-12 noon). If this resonates with you come in for morning tea, take a look around, talk to the other families and see if it might be something for you.

**Nicola Kloeten**  
Piopio President  
0276960598  
[piopio@playcentre.org.nz](mailto:piopio@playcentre.org.nz)

**Natasha Richardson**  
Aria President  
078776657  
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## King Country Hunt

The Hunt season is due to start with the Opening Hunt to be held at the Finlayson property, Piopio on Saturday 2nd of April. We have two practice days in late March which are a great introduction to hunting and getting horses jumping in a safe supportive environment without the added excitement of the hounds. We would like to invite anyone with a horse to come join us and give hunting a go! We have members who don't jump and follow through the gates and we cater for all levels of riders, including children.

The Hunt also hold Treks as fund raisers, the most recent being held at the stunning Piripiri Station in

Awakino. This was a very successful 3 day Trek with 87 horses and riders from all over the North Island. Our generous hosts Mark and Wendy Smyth made us all very welcome and the rides were beautiful. Our hard working members provide delicious meals and everyone went away buzzing.

Although the King Country Hunt is small we are big in heart and really would love to share our awesome sport with more horsey people. If you've been thinking about giving it a go please get in touch with me and I can let you know how we roll! Once you try it you'll be hooked. For more information contact Joy Hurley on 07 8777577 or 027 5777881

## ARIA TOY LIBRARY



We are on the hunt for some amazing committee members to help run the Toy Library. The current committee no longer have any pre-schoolers and would like to pass their roles on. They are all happy to support new members as they transition into the roles this year. It isn't much of a commitment, with only a couple of meetings and a fundraising event a year. These roles are as much or as little commitment as you want to make and provides an opportunity to meet fellow mums/dads/grandparents in the community.

We really don't want to lose the Toy Library from our community, which will happen if we can't transition the committee by the end of the year.

On a positive note, we have made a few new purchases from our last fundraiser, and these will be available in the next couple of weeks. If you haven't checked the Library out, please come down on a Thursday morning and see what it has to offer for your pre-schoolers.

If you are interested please get in touch via email [ariatoylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:ariatoylibrary@gmail.com) or send us a FB message.

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### OPENING HOURS / FEES AND CHARGES FOR PIOPIO TRANSFER STATION

Monday	8.30am – 4.30pm
Wednesday	9.00am – 1.00pm
Saturday	8.00am – 12 noon
Sunday	1.00pm – 5.00pm

### Fees and Charges 20/21

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Disposal of Unofficial bags (small)	\$3.80
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Car Boot	\$36.00
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Ute	\$71.00
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Televisions – each	\$21.00
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# Message from outgoing editor, Kate Carter. How lucky are we?

*For as long as I have known it, Piopio has been a community of proactive, get up and go kind of people, and this has been demonstrated in the businesses that have developed and thrived over the years.*

*Businesses like Curious Keas, the Night Owl/Fat Pidgeon, Vets, Barrowcliffe Shearing, Davis Automotives, Piopio Motors, the Oily Rag, Country Couriers, the gift shops, corner stores and more recently Hairloom Designs and the Ferret's Nest. And that's just to name a few.*

*There are so many community driven initiatives that are only here in Piopio due to donated hours by our amazing locals. The Ambulance, the Fire station, the community gym, Aria Toy library, the Community food Stand, Sporting groups and organisations such as the Piopio community Sports Inc Society (Rukuhia domain- with the Rugby and Equestrian clubs), other sporting groups like the Aria Domain, Squash, Tennis, volunteers, and coaches (from Swim Club to all school sports). It wouldn't be Piopio without the time and effort of so many of us - and I would like to thank everyone for this. People of all ages, thank you for making (and keeping) our community so amazing.*

## Life as a Vet, Mother, Wife and Farmer

My life as a vet started in Queensland, Australia, graduating from Vet school in 2002. I was born in central Queensland (Moura) and grew up in a little town called Rosedale, on the coast about halfway between Bundaberg and



Agnes Waters. I attended an area school about twice the size of Aria for primary and then boarded away in Bundaberg for most of my secondary schooling.

Coming to New Zealand as a New Graduate in 2003 was intimidating. Thanks to open arms from Nicky and Richard Atkinson, the general welcoming community and partner in crime- Anna Martyn, who also started as a new Graduate the same year, we were friends from university starting the next stage of our lives in a new country.

Fast forward almost 20 years, a lot has happened in that time. Three children later (now aged 10, 11 and 12) a wonderful husband, a farming business and a veterinary business, there's not a lot of hours left in each day.

I'm still very lucky to have the support of family in Australia as well as the extended Carter Clan in New Zealand but consider so many of you in our wider community great friends and colleagues.

I began trading as KC Vet Services (Kate Carter Vet Services) late 2016 wanting to keep my hand in the career I enjoyed- initially part time around farming, ripper rugby, every other school sport or function that held our sons' interest and other community ventures that I was involved in.

This gradually increased over the years, equipment such as scanners/ultrasounds were invested in to follow my interest in both horse and mixed animal practice. By 2019 the days were being juggled as best possible- but it has left not a lot of time for my own sporting interests or even watering the vege patch... as people can appreciate the time family takes as they grow, as well as running your own business.

So, by May 2021 when the opportunity came to welcome Karen McWhirter (now McCormick) to my team, it has been fantastic to help keep another veterinarian local. We are very lucky to have someone of her skills and interests remain here in Piopio.

Our Veterinary services remain primarily production animal; sheep and beef, working dogs and the occasional cat and horse. Availability (time to fit everything in!) is still an issue but there is a recognised nationwide shortage of vets- we are very lucky to have so many within our district, and hopefully with the borders now relaxing more international veterinarians can enter NZ.

I've very much enjoyed my Birdtalk time, especially with the great help of Sigrid, Hannah and Maree. Now it's time to hand the reins to another.

I'd like to thank everyone that has supported me professionally as well as from the community over the last couple of decades, I'm forever grateful I found a place like Piopio to call home.

*Kate Carter*  
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**Fat Pigeon Café**  
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**Piopio Cosmopolitan Club**  
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**Carley Jane Beauty**  
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**King Country Chiropractic**  
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**Recreation Centre**  
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M: 0272101860

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## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**Aria Playcentre**  
Hannah Bodger-Kearns  
(07) 8777898

**Aria Toy Library**  
Librarian: Karen Jones  
M: 0210385153  
E: [ariatoylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:ariatoylibrary@gmail.com)

**Aria Primary School**  
(07) 8777857

**Curious Keas Preschool**  
Stephanie Brough (07) 8778224

**Kohanga Piopio**  
Kristen Pari (07) 8778185

**Mainly Music**  
All Saints Church, Moa Street  
Music and movement for children 0-5yrs & caregivers.  
Thursdays @ 10am  
Alyson Singleton (07) 8778840

**Piopio Playcentre**  
Nicola Kloeten  
M: 0276960598

**Piopio Primary School**  
(07) 8778103

**Piopio College** (07)8778173  
Meeting rooms available for Hire

## COMMUNITY

**Piopio Police** 07 8770490  
**Crime stoppers** 0800555111  
We live in a great community so let's stop these few who are taking from us.  
E: [Tony.schrafft@police.govt.nz](mailto:Tony.schrafft@police.govt.nz)  
www.crimestoppers-nz.org

**Piopio College Community Library** (07) 8778173  
E: [library@piopio.school.nz](mailto:library@piopio.school.nz)  
18 Aria Road

**Senior Citizen's Organisation**  
Meetings first Tuesday every month, 10am All welcome.  
Wendy Weinberg (07) 8778686

**Seniors' Exercise Classes**  
Wendy Weinberg (07) 8778686

**Housie Thursdays**  
**1pm Senior Citizen's Room**  
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Shirley Bardsley (07) 8778725

**Justice of Peace**  
Vikki Hall (07) 8778058  
Clive Fredericks (07) 8778048

**Marriage Celebrant**  
Clive Fredericks  
M: 0272803867  
Heidi Preston  
0276791931

**Piopio Garden Circle**  
Visits are 3rd Thursday of every month except January & August  
Gillian Hooper (07) 8787880  
M: 0273459603

**Piopio Lions Club**  
Stephen Cooper (07) 8778159  
Gavin Todd (07) 8777700 or  
Ken Perry (07) 8778035

**Piopio Memorial Hall**  
Book venue or facilities through Waitomo District Council on (07) 8780800 or  
[info@waitomo.govt.nz](mailto:info@waitomo.govt.nz)

**Piopio/Paearuhe Retirement Village**  
Jenny Brodie (07) 8778033

**All Saints Church**  
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Reverend Ian Croft 0275052798

**Laver Marine**  
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M: 0211054737

**Opportunity Shop/Mustard Seed**  
Cara Bryant 0273453389 or  
Tasha Bryon 0273246016

**Community Fruit & Vege Stand**  
Karen Barret (07) 8778012  
E: [struanfarm@gmail.com](mailto:struanfarm@gmail.com)

**The Old Piopio Post Office Art Gallery**  
M: 0224370789

**Waitanguru Rural Women**  
Liz Morgan 0272846653

**Mahoeni**  
Lynette Adams  
E: [lynadams@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lynadams@xtra.co.nz)

## ACTIVITIES and ATTRACTIONS

**Piopio and Districts Museum**  
Mark Verry (07) 8778842  
Key available from Piopio Superette

**Piopio Market Day**  
3rd Sunday of each month  
Allison Shardlow 0273039582

**Piopio POP (Tui Park)**  
Waitomo District Council  
(07) 8780800

Key for toilet available from the Cloverleaf tearooms or Snow Nicol

## SPORTS and RECREATION

**Aria Squash Club**  
President Mark Anderson  
(07) 8778950  
Secretary Lee Alcock  
E: [ariasquash@gmail.com](mailto:ariasquash@gmail.com)

**Light Horse Club**  
President Helen Potter  
E: [helen.neilpotter@gmail.com](mailto:helen.neilpotter@gmail.com)

**Line Dancing Club**  
Linda Oliver (07) 8778313

**Piopio-Aria Golf Club**  
Hamish Roach  
M: 0275785905

**Piopio Bowling Club**  
Nigel 0272550898 or Wendy on (07) 8778686

**Piopio Community Sports (Rukuhia Domain)**  
Tony Schrafft  
[Tony.schrafft@police.govt.nz](mailto:Tony.schrafft@police.govt.nz)

**Piopio Rugby Club**  
President Peter Hurley  
(07) 8777577  
Secretary Emma-Jane McKinney (07) 8778415

**Piopio Swimming Club**  
Kate Carter  
M: 0212645771  
E: [katemcdtiaans@hotmail.com](mailto:katemcdtiaans@hotmail.com)

**Pony Club**  
President Olivia Buckley  
Secretary Amanda MacLachlan  
(07) 8787182

**Tennis Club**  
Reon Verry (07) 8788678

**King Country Hunt Club**  
President Joy Hurley  
(07) 8777577

**Trail Bikes and Moto Cross Track**  
Darren Lupton (07) 8778054

**Waitomo Ski Club**  
Kim Tatham  
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**Waitomo Aero Club**  
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