

PIOPIO BirdTalk

BI MONTHLY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER COVERING PIOPIO, ARIA & MAHOENUI DISTRICTS

SPORTS AWARDS—RECORD ACHIEVEMENTS RECOGNISED

An impressive turnout at the Waitomo Sportsperson Awards, recognised athletes, referees and administrators with a record number of nominees. A phenomenal achievement for the Piopio and wider districts.

A nomination in each category is recognition of the time and commitment both individuals, teams and clubs make to their sporting code.

Acknowledgement to those whom succeeded in winning their category must go to Gina Draper coach for the senior Piopio College netball team, Peter Nicol who was successful in the 40 plus sportsperson category, and to Jill Rattenbury and Maureen Waite for services to lawn bowls. Michael Barnett received the referee/umpire title.

A number of youth were also recognised in rugby, squash, and golf.

Whilst the following nominees represent Piopio and surrounding district clubs or sports, a number of other nominees recognised in the wider Waitomo district, also had schooled in the area or resided here at some stage in their development. The challenging task for Aria principal Pam Voyce, Jim Gibb and Ivan Haines was had to select winners in each category. The following is a compiled list of nominees with connection to the Piopio district.

SERVICE TO SPORT

Jill Rattenbury - Lawn Bowls

Maureen Waite - Lawn Bowls

CLUB

Piopio Aria Golf Club Inc

Piopio Swimming Club

REFEREE/UMPIRE

Michael Barnett - Shearing

ADMINISTRATOR

Tania Fagan Bike - BMX

COACH

Gina Draper - Netball

Jack Murray - Rugby Union

TEAM

Piopio Aria Golf Club Prebble Cup Team

Piopio College Under 14 Rugby Team

JUNIOR SPORTS WOMAN

Savahn Taitoko - Squash

JUNIOR SPORTSMAN

Oliver Barnsdall - Golf

Daniel Foss - Rugby/Hockey/Squash

SPORTSPERSON

Chris Baker - Dog Trials

Adrian Smith - Motocross

40 PLUS SPORTSPERSON

Peter Nicol - Hockey

* Apologies if any names have been missed.

MUSEUM MEMORIES BROUGHT TO LIFE

The history of the Piopio District has been captured in just a snapshot, after the Piopio Museum Trustees decided a picture would be the best way to promote the museum.

Local artist Peter Holbrook was commissioned in May to create a large painting depicting the district.

The composite painting features the prominent landmark, Kahuwera hills in the background. This hill has a strong cultural significance to the people of the two local

marae, Napinapi and Mokau-kohu-nui. The shepherd and dogs is a collective of Peter Holbrook as a young man and working dogs supplied by John Gray. Also a feature the Romney rams which were once a mainstay breed in the early King Country. The bay mare, a three quarter Clydesdale was bred by the late Mary Swindells in 1992 and was one of the last users of a working Clydesdale horse in the district. The trustees have received significant help from Ted

Harper whom made the frame and Jeremy Petch who assisted with other trustee members to complete this project. The museum is

home to a wealth of history and groups wishing to visit or have a guided tour can contact John Petre 8778293, to arrange an appointment.



K C HUNT TREK

The K C Hunt trek had a very successful trek in the Marokopa district with record numbers and fine weather.

Our next trek will be in the Awakino district over the weekend of the 28th February to the 1st March 2015. This trek will be run with our 'horsing around' weekend where riders will have the opportunity to have instruction in jumping and practice for the up coming Hunt season.

For more information contact susie.very@gmail.com (8778842)



PROJECT PIOPIO TRUST

Project Piopio Trust would like to acknowledge the on-going support of The Waitomo District Council through the Triennial Grant funding. This grant helps towards the funding & organisation of the publication of the bi-monthly Piopio BirdTalk, the re-vamping of the Piopio website and the running of the Christmas Parade.

Lynn Merchant

Secretary Project Piopio Trust

A reminder to all our local clubs, schools and organisations.

Have you submitted all your upcoming events to the website www.piopio.net.nz?

Our busy community always has many events through the summer months and it would be great to have as many as possible on the calendar. Photos are great too. We are also keen to include community news items.

The simplest way to submit these are through the contact form on the website or you are welcome to contact Donna or Jenny directly: email piopiobirdtalk@gmail.com or jenbrodie@xtra.co.nz

IN MEMORIAM

Eric (The Jam Man) Harrison

Many of you will have fond memories of Eric and his lovely jams. From the Piopio market commencement he never missed a market day and was the obvious stallholder to take over the organising of the Piopio Market when it needed a new manager.

Windy and wet or bright and sunny, Eric would set up his jam stall in the main street of Piopio on the third Sunday of every month.

At the beginning of last winter he felt it had finally become counter-productive and we decided to let the market lapse.

Sadly Eric passed away at the beginning of October 2014. A caring, friendly man fondly remembered.



Welcome to Harvey World Te Kuiti Travel Talk with Lorrene and Shonnie.

Since the last newsletter I have travelled to Canada and Melbourne. The beauty of Canada and the friendliness of the Canadian people were amazing. The highlight was Lake Louise, it is unimaginably spectacular and it is worth paying extra to stay in a lake view room. I will have a group trip to Canada in 2016 so watch this space. More photos are on my Harvey World travel Te Kuiti Facebook page.

A flying visit to Melbourne and a road trip to Warrnambool,

EM: TEKUITI@HARVEYWORLD.CO.NZ

BMX YOUTH SUCCESS

Shaun Edgerton competed in the North Island BMX championships at Sunset Coast BMX track in Pukekohe over Labour weekend.



Shaun raced in 2 different events, but had major success in the 11-12 mixed cruiser class - after the weekend of racing he finished second in the North Island.



A Big Thank You

On Saturday 4th October Piopio Lions club held their annual Paddy's Market at Piopio College, where goods donated by our community were auctioned. The day was a huge success, and despite it being a bitterly cold day, the public still came out to support us.

A big thank you must go to all who contributed by donating goods for the day and also those who came along and took part in our

auction.

Once again a special thanks to Rorison Mineral Developments for their extremely generous donation of 30 tonne of Lime. Their ongoing contribution and support of our community is exceptional.

We must also thank those who delivered our flyers, Buckmans Country Couriers, Peter Carey, Sue Cullen & Sam Strong, Brent O'Hagan and Donald MacRae.

Thanks to our Wrightsons Auctioneers, John Grainger ably assisted by Weim from Otorohanga, who come along and again volunteered their time and made it a fun day. Their injection of humour into the day is a vital part of its success.

We must also thank Piopio College for the use of the gymnasium and Lamb Bain Laubscher for the photocopying of our flyer.

The proceeds from this day, approximately \$5,500, will be

used for a variety of local activities, especially our Piopio Senior Citizen's Christmas dinner to be held in early December.

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of our day, we really value your support.

UPDATE FROM PIOPIO LIONS CLUB



In early July we had a very enjoyable evening at the Night Owl Restaurant for

our change of officers evening and Owen Harrison is now our president.

Due to an unfortunate mishap we missed out on our place at the Fieldays

this year, so our funds are a bit depleted. However thanks to the support of the public, we had a very successful Paddy's Market which will enable us to carry on with our community sponsorship and also the traditional Senior Citizens dinner which is to be held on Saturday 6th December.

Piopio Primary School calf club day was

also a very successful day with the public once again supporting us.

We have had a number of new members join us lately, but we are always on the lookout for new members, if you are interested in joining us please contact one of our members.

GAVIN TODD

PIOPIO BUSINESS ASSOCIATION & PROMOTIONS

With Christmas almost upon us and the festive season near, our Business and Promotions Committee are ready to organise yet another exciting Christmas Parade for the year.

CHRISTMAS STOCKING RAFFLE

We hope you can kindly contribute to our annual Christmas Stocking appeal.

Each year our local businesses and community contribute an item (worth approximately \$25) for a monster Christmas raffle. This will be on display outside the RD1 store and Wrightsons.

Contributions can be left at RD1 and would be appreciated as soon as possible or before Monday 1st December.

Each business/ family name that contributes is listed on the Christmas stocking and we ask local businesses to have a raffle book on display to help sell tickets. The money from this raffle is our major source of funding for the year.

CRAFT STALL, FOOD, PRODUCE

If you are interested in holding a stall, please contact us for details.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Emma Thompson
RD1 Store
8770100
emma.thompson@rd1.com

Donna Pari
piopiobirdtalk@gmail.com
8778823

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBS ARE NOW DUE

Subs have been kept at \$25 per family, business or organisation.

Payable at Atkinson & Associates Vet Clinic before Monday 1st December.

The subs are used to help pay for the following expenses at the Xmas parade:

- road closure.
- sweets for children who have participated on floats.
- prizes for floats that come 1st, 2nd, 3rd in each category.
- a donation towards organising entertainment for adults and children on Xmas Eve.
- maintenance of Xmas lights.

Your promptness in paying these subs will be greatly appreciated by those organising this event.

NOTE: Any remaining money is used to help with the ongoing costs of maintaining and developing the main street area.

CHRISTMAS PARADE Wednesday 24th December.

It's going to be an evening packed with Christmas Spirit and festivities.

Who are you going to CHALLENGE for the title of best Float?

It could be others in your ROAD/ STREET/DISTRICT, another ORGANISATION, BUSINESS or your FRIENDS.

Give it some thought and make this the BEST CHRISTMAS PARADE ever!



We need help to tidy the street following the parade. Please pick up any rubbish and put in the provided bins.

CONTACT SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS

Join in the fun at the **PIOPIO Christmas Parade**

Tuesday 24th December

CHRISTMAS PARADE FLOAT



*** Xmas Parade ***
Start at the St Johns Rooms
Judging @ 6:30pm
then depart 7:00pm

Categories: Road / Street/ District, Organisation / Business, Friends

Carnival Rides Christmas Music

For further Information:

Emma Thompson
RD1 Store // 8770100
emma.thompson@rd1.com

OR

Donna Pari
8778823
piopiobirdtalk@gmail.com

RED POPPY KNITTING PATTERN

1 ball red 8 ply yarn (one ball makes many poppies) plus some green and black 8 ply yarn

Red poppies

Using red yarn, cast on 120 stitches. Rows 1-4 knit. Row 5 knit 3 together across the row (40 stitches)

Rows 6-9 knit. Row 10 knit 2 together across the row (20 stitches)

Rows 11-14 change to black yarn and knit. Row 15 knit 2 together across the row (10 stitches).

Cut yarn leaving a tail of about 20cm to sew across stitches onto the centre of the poppy.

Row 16 change to green and purl to end. Row 17 knit. Row 18 purl. Row 19 knit. Cut yarn leaving a tail. Thread tail through yarn needle and slip all the remaining live stitches onto the yarn tail and pull tight. Pull ends into a circle and then mattress stitch for an invisible seam.

To make the centre of the poppy: use the black tail to stitch around the base of the green and loosely ease into a dome. Then stitch from the centre of the poppy outwards to make a star shape in the centre. Alternatively, sew a button in the centre. Sew in yarn ends.

LIZ MORGAN

are being knitted around the country for ANZAC Day 2015. The Waitanguru & Districts Rural Women are going to create a remembrance wall and are inviting everyone to be involved by knitting poppies.

Collection points will be published in the next Bird Talk issue.

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

SEASON GREETINGS

It is with regret that we say goodbye to our lovely chairperson, Hannah White and wish her well in her new job, in Palmerston North.

What does it mean, for us as a committee, well we're on the lookout for a replacement chairperson, so if there is someone out there that would be interested in putting their name forward please let us know. It's three meetings plus one A.G.M. each year. We meet at the library at a time that suits all. It's a warm, friendly, easy committee, to be on. Look forward to having you call us.

I am working some days after school closes and in January before school restarts, days and times below. Feel free to call me either at work or home. I hope you have a very festive season, stay safe if travelling and all the best for 2015.

LIBRARY LIZ

DECEMBER 2014/ JANUARY 2015

HOLIDAY TIMES

December
Monday 15th
Thursday 18th
Friday 19th
January 2015
Monday 12, 19th
Tuesday 13, 20th
Thursday 15th, 22nd

HOURS

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Recently Piopio College were proud to send away, their Under 14 and Under 16 7-a-side Rugby Teams to play in the Bay Of Plenty, Regional Schoolboy Tournament. Like the weather, our boys didn't disappoint. Under sunny blue skies, the Under 14 Team captivated the attention of the elite Bay Of Plenty schools, winning 3 out of their 4 pool matches. Demante Murray, Thomas Havea and Daniel Foss led an impressive attack, whilst Lorenz Kemp, Te Kuiti's Isaac Mulgrew and Isaac Wana and Otorohanga's Dallas McGuire steadied the team with some great defence; with McGuire and Mulgrew making

numerous try-saving tackles. The Jack Murray coached side, finished pool play in the top 4, but were outclassed by a passionate, Bay Of Plenty Under 14 15-a-side Championship winning, Rotorua team, in their semi-final. With no play-off for 3rd and 4th, Piopio were awarded 3rd place, equal with Te Whare O Mauao. Inspired by Te Kuiti High School's Bowl winning side from the equivalent Waikato Tournament, the Under 16 team had set a target to also win the bowl. Coached by Mr Ben Draper and managed by departing Year 13, Isaac Griffin, the Under 16 team showed a lot of potential and courage early on, narrowly

losing their first two games against eventual semi-finalists, Rotorua Boys and Trident High School, the 2013 Under 14 7's champions. Placed in the Bowl, Captain Hohepa Rapana-Gavin and Chris Dunphy's physical aggression spurred on the rest of the team to win their next two games and be crowned Bowl Champions. Kaleb Adams had some storming runs, Paiaka Muraahi showed some glimpses of magic, but the player of the tournament was given to the determined and instrumental play-

making wizard, Henare Williams.

CO-WRITTEN BY, KALEB "HEAD-FLICK" ADAMS, HEANRE "GUANO" WILLIAMS, AND PAIAKA "WHACK-CITY" MURAAHI.



TE KUITI & DISTRICTS PONY CLUB

PIOPIO SENIOR CITIZENS VISIT MOKAU

Te Kuiti Districts Spring ODE
2 November 2014

Great representation from 46 local riders; 23 riders from Te Kuiti and Districts Pony Club and a further 23 from local area including Otorohanga Pony club and Piopio Light Horse Club. The event was well attended with 93 entries ranging from the youngest rider age six and oldest over 60.

This was the first time holding 105cm open class in spring down to a 45cm introductory class for those just starting on their eventing careers.

The Piopio domain was a great venue for the event with grounds looking very

tidy and well-grazed. It is obvious excellent support from local families and from other businesses generous donations to help the club run the event and keep the arena, jumps and domain looking good.

It was great to have new cross-country jumps for all levels of competitors. Te Kuiti and Districts Pony Club are planning an even bigger and better event for March 8th next year.

Results

Leah Harre and Tessa Bradcock—1st equal
Jono Nelson—6th place

**EVENT SECRETARY
CHRISTINE MANS**

Piopio Senior Citizens Group continue to meet each Thursday at 9:30 for the Exercise Class led by June O'Donoghue and Housie is held at 1pm.

We encourage the older people in the community to join and take part. You will enjoy laughter, sometimes nibbles and a cup of tea. We try to have an outing each month for the members, sometimes the local other times we venture further.

Recently some

members went to Te Awamutu to the Movie 'Hip-Hop-eration', had lunch and went shopping. In September we ventured to the Mokau Museum and had Whitebait fritters. A lovely day out. We all recommend a trip to the Mokau Museum - the volunteers have done a wonderful job of preserving the history of the area. Recently we had a Luncheon at the Night Owl - 25 members

attended, including some ex Piopio people from Te Kuiti. A Lovely meal, good company and what more could you want! We are always wanting new places to visit - any ideas are welcome.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 10am - all welcome.

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MEMBERS:

Our 3 new members, Anson

Clapcott, Steve Brough and Daryl Henwood are progressing well through the Fire Service Recruitment Process. Ryan Todd has recently graduated and is now a senior fire fighter. This is very timely as we have recently lost 2 long standing members of the brigade. In April of this year, John McGarvey retired after 55 years and Mark Bentham retired in October after 32 years. For many years, both of these members faithfully served their community and their presence will be greatly missed.

TRAINING NIGHT: We have changed our training night to Monday as this better suits our members.

SIGN: We have just put up a new sign in front of the station to acknowledge the employers of our volunteer fire fighters. Their contribution to the community is gratefully received and if possible, we encourage you to use their services.

SOCIAL EVENTS:

- We were pleased to win 'Stars in Your Eyes' again this year. We will definitely be back to defend the title.

- A quiz evening held at the Aria Cosmopolitan Club recently saw the proceeds come to the Piopio Fire Brigade. The funds raised at this evening will be put towards the heating at the station, which will also benefit the many community groups which use our facilities for their meetings and social events.

- In October, we held a Fire Safety evening for local businesses. It was very successful and well attended. If you missed out, or would like a refresher, please be in touch as we are more than happy to help.

OTHER NEWS:

- We have 10 year life smoke alarms available for sale. These are available

from any brigade member or PGG Wrightson. Every house should have working smoke alarms. Check yours today!

- With summer just around the corner, now is the time to brush up on your BBQ safety. If you use a gas bottle, have it tested at the beginning of summer by a professional. Never add a flammable liquid to an already lit fire. Never leave a BBQ unattended. Never BBQ in enclosed areas. If you have hot coals or embers, dispose of them carefully. Douse them with plenty of water and stir them to ensure the fire is out.

Callouts: Since 01 April, the brigade has attended 24 callouts as follows;

- 25.04 – False alarm – Supposed rockfall
- 06.05 – Special services incident, rope rescue, person over bluff
- 11.05 – Medical lift assist
- 19.05 – MVA Waterfall Hill, patient cut from car and transported
- 26.05 – SH4 Car Vs Drain
- 07.06 – Motorbike accident, assist patient to helicopter
- 09.06 – MVA SH3 Car Vs Bridge. Assist St John
- 14.06 – Medical assist, severe burns as a result of trying to start a BBQ with petrol
- 07.07 – MVA SH4 Truck Vs Bank. Passenger cut from truck and assisted to helicopter
- 19.07 – MVA SH4
- 30.07 – MVA SH4 Car rolled at Waterfall Hill
- 31.07 – MVA SH4 Car rolled at Waterfall Hill (This is not a miss print!)
- 29.08 – Structure fire SH3 Awakino River
- 29.08 – Structure fire SH3 causing vegetation fire
- 01.09 – Medical assist
- 21.09 – MVA Car Vs Bank at Paemako
- 03.10 – MVA SH4 Car rolled Snake Gully
- 03.10 – As above. Requested by police to return to scene after cleanup and wash road.
- 04.10 – MVA SH4 Madonna Falls.

Car Vs bank. Assist patient to ambulance

- 06.10 – MVA SH3 Car rolled in Awakino Gorge
- 12.10 – False alarm. Special services incident. Dog down mine shaft
- 15.10 – HAZCHEM incident at Aria. HAZMAT command unit attended from Hamilton
- 10.19 – MVA Car Vs ditch in Awakino Gorge
- 12.11 – MVA SH3 Awakino

MOKAU FISHING CLUB

Mokau Fishing Club is a non-profit group of about 150 members who enjoy surf casting, boat fishing & diving.

The club membership has been steady since starting officially fourteen years ago. Our members are from all over Taranaki and the South Waikato region.

We are a very family orientated club and always include children in our competitions. After a successful event held in Labour weekend, we will be holding a competition between Xmas and New Year for Snapper, Kahawai & Gurnard by boat or surf casting (rod fishing only).

On the 27th January we will hold our annual Take a Kid Fishing event sponsored by the Piopio Lions Club which has always proved to be a very popular day.

If you would like to know any more information about the up coming events or about the club please contact **DEB 0273 506068 OR PETE 07 8777577.**



Andrew & Tracey Neal

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What another busy year it has been for us at the orchard, and thankfully the weather has been kind to us over the winter, so it looks like we have another bumper season of tasty and sweet berries ahead of us this summer. The strawberry season is well underway and our blueberries shouldn't be too far away..... We have some exciting new additions to the orchard a new Facebook page, so you can keep up to date with everything going on – check out Piopio Berry Orchard on Facebook. And over the winter we planted some new raspberry plants which means next summer we will be able to sell raspberries

PH: 07 8778490 EM: SHOP@PIPIOBERRIES.CO.NZ

from December, so no more waiting until February! Coming up – a new playground which we are hoping to have ready before Christmas.

We are often asked how to store berries so they remain at their best – after leaving the orchard make sure you keep your berries in the coolest part of your car, the floor is always a good place. Once you get home, if you are not eating your berries immediately store them in the fridge, they will keep better, and last for longer. When serving your berries, ideally it is best to take them out of the fridge an hour before serving and eat them

at room temperature. This ensures you'll get the best possible taste. As our berries are picked daily and when they are at their best, we recommend : for our strawberries eating them on the first day or two of buying, blueberries can last a little longer, often up to a week and our raspberries really need to be eaten on the day of purchase, especially as the weather heats up.

As Christmas gets closer, we get busier, so if you have a special occasion or just want to make sure you get exactly what you are after we do take orders for pick-up.

Thanks again for your continued support and we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas.

MIKE AND ANGELA ROY

LAVER MARINE—NEW BUSINESS

There is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.

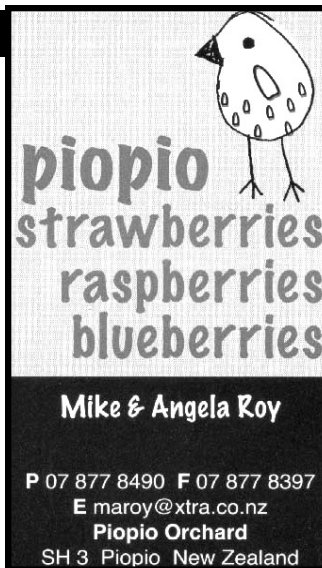
Max and Rachael Laver are now operating their marine business from 44 Moa Street in Piopio. They specialise in fibreglass and wooden boat repairs, refits and new builds. Repairs and restoration work to motorhomes, caravans, trucks, and farm machinery is another service offered.

Along with this they build traditional style dinghies and currently have two styles in production, the 7.4ft Teddington and 11ft Putney. Their traditional clinker style GRP hulls and wood finish are crafted to a very high standard with beauty, safety and practicality in mind. A

duck boat will be the next dinghy designed, built and ready for next season.

The 'Teddy' is an ideal tender or rowboat that will compliment an existing vessel or provide hours of fun as a small runabout. The 11ft Putney is built with fishing in mind – it is a comfortable, stable boat that is easy to row or to zip about in with a 5HP outboard.

Max also provides a marine surveying business to people wishing to have a boat inspected prior to purchase or for insurance reasons. This typically takes him to marinas in Auckland, Tauranga and the Coromandel. If the workshop is not open they'll be somewhere in New Zealand messing about with boats!



piopio strawberries raspberries blueberries

Mike & Angela Roy

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STRAWBERRY CHOCOLATE TRIFLE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large Chocolate sponge
- 1/4 cup creme de cacao (or chocolate milk)
- 2 packets strawberry jellies
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 cup cold water
- 2 cups milk
- 1/3 cup custard powder
- 1/4 cup caster sugar
- 2 Tbsp cocoa
- 300ml cream
- 2 chips strawberries, hulled and halved

METHOD

Slice chocolate sponge into cubes and place in a deep serving bowl. Drizzle crème de cacao or chocolate milk over the top.

To make the jelly add boiling water to jelly crystals then 1 cup of cold water. Once the jelly begins to thicken carefully pour the jelly over the sponge. Cover and refrigerate for three hours. Blend together 1/4 cup milk with custard powder, then bring 1 3/4 cups of milk to the boil, once boiling add custard mixture to the boiling milk. Continue to stir until the mixture boils again before adding the sugar. Continue to stir until the custard thickens. Cover and cool custard. Once custard has cooled, add cocoa to cream and whip, then fold through custard. Spoon the custard mixture over the jelly and top with strawberries.

an art and jewellery gallery.

Extensive renovations and restoration is being undertaken by the new owner and artist Dawn Mann. A former

The Old Piopio Post Office will soon reopen as

gallery owner from Oamaru, Dawn was drawn to the 104 year historic post office building and the friendly community.

The gallery is currently undertaking external painting and Dawn and her daughter Kathryn hope to be open before Christmas.

A selection of jewellery made by Dawns' daughter Kathryn, artwork

and collectable pieces will be available.

THREE LITTLE BIRDS. . .

Whoa – it's rushing up to meet us . . . Christmas that is. The Three Little Birds can help in almost every aspect of your Christmas . . . food, prezzies, drinks, gift vouchers, food, decorations, trimmings, food! BREAKING NEWS, drum roll please . . . we have published our first ever website (hoorah!) which features all of our businesses – please take a look www.theowlsnest.co.nz and let us know what you think.

FAT PIGEON CAFE: The cafe enjoyed a busy time over the school holidays last month, and the coming summer months bring more busy times ahead so in anticipation of that, thank you for your patience and support. We have a few new faces in the café so come along and get to know our latest pidgees. Our summer menu is in the pipeline and will be up and running by the time this goes to print.

Don't forget the Fat Pigeon (and The Night Owl too for that matter) are available for your Christmas function. We're working on our float/s so 'bring it!' We look forward to seeing the creativity unfold in the lead-up, and we'll see you at the parade.

OWLS NEST MOTEL: Lyn, Dave and Tracey have been busy hosting a number of guests including our regular truckies and contractors, family and

friends of locals, plus a handful of tourists/passers-by. The feedback has been excellent, commenting on the friendly, warm hospitality and the fresh, clean rooms, and with The Night Owl next door every need is taken care of.

So if you have friends or family in need of a bed, phone Lyn on 07 877 8767 or 027 253 1398 or email theowlsnest@xtra.co.nz or they can book all by themselves via the website.

THE NIGHT OWL: Gosh, we've had some diners through our doors from all over the place! Thank you to those Te Kuiti and Otorohanga businesses who have or are coming to The Night Owl for their Christmas staff functions – we're sure you will enjoy yourselves, the atmosphere and the food.

We have changed to our summer menu, so do pop in and try that. The menu can be downloaded from our website under 'The Night Owl' tab.

We are also in the process of completing our outdoor covered dining area so hopefully that won't be too far away. And we have a few weddings booked early next year, to be held in the garden area on the other side of the motel and landscaping of this area is coming along nicely. Please contact us if you wish to consider your nuptials (or reception) at The Night Owl – we'd

love to have you.

In the New Year we plan on having weekly specials and offers – we'll let you know of these a bit closer to the time. We have a new face or two at The Night Owl so again, pop in and introduce yourself. And a final note: here's a great gift idea . . . a Night Owl voucher.

CRAFTY PIGEON: The Crafty Pigeon welcomes Justine Street as an assistant in the store. Justine also works occasionally at the Fat Pigeon. She will fill in while Carley attends to her Carley Jane Beauty clients, as well as help out as required.

Carley, Melanie and Rachel attended the Spring Gift Fair in Auckland earlier this year and found some AMAZING items. The store is currently in 'Christmas' mode with delightful festive trinkets and gifts. Free gift wrapping is included so that means one less job for you.

We have installed a new till system which makes for quick and efficient processing of your purchases – just another way to make your shopping experience at the Crafty Pigeon an absolute delight.

The Three Little Birds' crew will see you at the Christmas Parade . . . Chirp Chirp Chirp! (translated: Ho Ho Ho!)

JULES TAITOKO

Each year, the Councils' Annual Report is audited for the Auditor General, and invariably has resulted in a list of questions, requirements for reviews, and 'qualified' sign-off reports, essentially, all consequences of Councils struggle to get itself onto a stronger financial footing, and turn around the fortunes of Inframax.

This year we have had a 'clear audit', no questions, no reviews, and an 'unqualified' audit sign-off. It is a significant achievement, and a lot of credit must go to the management and staff at Inframax, for bringing that business back into profit.

The overall kudos though, must go to the management team and staff at Waitomo D.C., who have done the hard yards, and made it easier for the elected Councillors to make the right decisions.

Inframax achieved a nett profit after tax of \$511,399, which was a great result. A revaluation of the investment in Inframax gave a fair value in the range of \$2.6 to \$3.8 million at the end of the financial year, which compares

to the previous book value that had been written down to zero.

The Te Kuiti Railway Building development is progressing well, and as can be seen from Rora Street, the exterior has been transformed, and the renovation of the platform canopy is nearly complete.

The Mokau Water Supply dam is now complete, and full, and after testing of the inlet and outlet components, will be coupled up to the Water Treatment Plant.

The recently publicised special Government funding for improvements to State Highway 3 is now known as the 'SH3 Mt Messenger to Awakino Gorge' Accelerated Regional Roads Package. The SH3 Working Party, which comprises staff and Councillors from: Waikato and Taranaki Regional Councils, Waitomo and New Plymouth District Councils, NZ Transport Agency (Waikato and Taranaki), Transfield Services, NZ Automobile Association, Road Transport Association, and NZ Police, will be considering potential improvements to the road from just

north of the Awakino Tunnel to just north of Urenui.

The first meetings to investigate these proposals are being held in late November. The initially estimated cost of this project was \$20 - \$25 million, possibly commencing in 2017/18.

If you have any queries about any of these topics, or any other Council business that is affecting you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

For Mokau Ratepayers, I've tentatively arranged a meeting for Saturday January 10th, 1.00pm, at the Hall – more details later.

PHIL BRODIE
RURAL WARD COUNCILLOR
WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL
H : 07 8778033, EMAIL:
BRODIEAU@XTRA.CO.NZ

JUBILEE SUCCESS ENJOYED

The turnout of many to the recent Piopio Playcentre 50th Jubilee celebration was enjoyed by past and present members and children, staff and volunteers. It was a great reason to acknowledge 50 years of Playcentre in Piopio. To commemorate the milestone new wall artwork was created, shade sails were installed over the playground, and a cookbook with a selection of tried and true recipes from past and present members was produced.

Guest speakers Ian Walsh talked of the early days and establishment of the present day site and Suzie Denize told of her time as a mother and later years as a long serving supervisor. The future for Playcentre was outlined by current member Donna Pari, adding how valuable the Centre was as a support network for families in our community.

The days celebration concluded with Kay Taitoko leading a blessing and Mrs Chris Morgan was invited to plant a commemorative Kowhai tree..

The Jubilee's organising committee were appreciative to all those that attended as well to Waitomo District Council, Rural Womens NZ, Piopio District Charitable Trust, Fonterra and Trust Waikato who contributed toward the new structures and celebrations.

It was clear from the onset of Playcentre in this community that it would be valuable to the community. It takes a village to raise a child, and today the many families who continue to enjoy Playcentre still believe this philosophy.

Photo Below: **KAY TAITOKO BLESSES THE PLANTING OF THE TREE WITH CHRIS MORGAN AND YOUNGEST MEMBER WAITARIA BODGER-KEARNS.**



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A positive review from the Ministry of Education reports:

"Piopio Primary School continues to build strong community links in a friendly family-like atmosphere. Students have access to a wide range of learning experiences, including traditional rural events. The principal, trustees and staff work well together in the best interests of students, including those who need extra help."

The Wearable Arts' Competition at the Country Fair recently was just another example. The brief focussed on creating and designing a head piece, using recycled materials or trash and the designs ranged from rock star headphones to full outfits

incorporating a headpiece to a Marge Simpson-like hairdo. **NEIL BROOKS**

COUNTRY FAIR COMPETITION WINNERS

Grocery raffles: Congratulations to: Sadie Mortensen, Robyn Wrack, Whaea Tania, Hannah White and Bex Clapcott who each collected a large box of groceries .

Guess the lollies in the jar: Edward Buckley.

Possum-busters:

Average weight-Lynden Brough.

Most possums- Riley McNamee and Creston Baker

Wearable Art Awards:

Juniors: Sophie White 1st, Olivia Smith 2nd, Reanna Haine 3rd

Seniors: Katie Denize 1st, Keeana Randell 2nd, Izzie Watson 3rd

SHARED FROM PIOPIO PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER.

A MESSAGE FROM PARENTS CONCERNED:

In the past 6 months several vehicle crashes have occurred at the corner of Ruru street/ Aria Road and the corner of Tui street by the Night Owl. The danger of vehicles not giving way and travelling straight through this intersection has seen many very near misses also.

Please ensure at all times you or others you may be driving with **GIVE WAY.**

Many school children are using the pedestrian crossings at this intersection between **8AM -9AM** and **3PM -4PM.**

Please drive carefully around our children.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIGHTY MOKAU SCHOOL TRAIL BIKE RIDE
 Sunday 22nd February 2015
 'NEW TRACKS' - LESS ROAD, MORE TRACK!
 Where: **AWAKINO AT PIRI PIRI STATION, HIDDEN VALLEY, TAUMATAMARE STATION AND MCDAVITT'S FARM**
 Kids Track available. Registration & sign in from 8.00am.
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WANTED

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PHONE SHANE NEIL 8788793

- 2014**
- 6 DECEMBER**
Senior Citizens Xmas dinner
- 24 DECEMBER**
Xmas Parade starts 6.30pm
- 2015**
- 27 JANUARY**
Mokau Fishing Club -Take a kid fishing competition
- 28 FEB-1 MAR**
KC Hunt club—Awakino Ride
- 22 FEB**
Mokau School Bike Ride, Awakino

HOUSIE

An enthusiastic group meet to play Housie.
 1.00pm 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.

Available from:
THE CRAFTY PIGEON & PIOPIO BERRY ORCHARD

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Worship Service Sunday @10am

All Saints Church
 Main Road, Piopio

PHONE: REV. CAROL HANCOCK 8788026 PIOPIO ALL SAINTS 8778097

SENIOR CITIZENS

Don't wait for us to come to you! We welcome everyone to join.

We have monthly meetings at our Senior Citizens' Rooms and generally have an outing during each month.

BERYL HUIA (07) 877 8353

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS

Piopio & Districts Museum

John Petre (07) 877 8293
Key available at Piopio Superette
Piopio POP (Tui Park)
Snow Nicol (07) 877 8177

Key for toilet available from the

BAR & RESTAURANT

Aria Cosmopolitan Club

(07) 877 7812

Cloverleaf Cafe

(07) 8778368

Fat Pigeon Cafe

(07) 8778822

Night Owl Bar & Eatery

(07) 8778769

Piopio Cosmopolitan Club

(07) 877 8204

Piopio Berry Orchards

(07) 8778490

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Housie Afternoon (Thursdays)

Shirley Bardsley (07) 877 8725

Marriage Celebrants

Rose Young (07) 877 8029

Piopio College Community Library

18 Aria Road, Piopio
Liz Jones (07) 877 8173 Ext 220

Piopio Garden Circle

Cheryl Austin (07) 877 8771

Piopio Lions Club

Noel Verry (07) 8778582
Gavin Todd (07) 877 7700 or
Ken Perry (07) 877 8035

Piopio Memorial Hall

Vikki Watson (07) 877 8289
Tracey Neal (07) 877 8009

Crockery/Cutlery/Glass Hire)

Piopio/Paearuhe Retirement Village

Noel Verry (07) 8778582

Jenny Brodie (07) 8778033

Opportunity Shop/Mustard Seed

Colleen Strahan (07) 878 7918

COMMUNITY SERVICES cont.

Seniors' Exercise Classes

June O'Donoghue (07) 877 8492

Senior Citizens Organisation

Bookings: Beryl Huia (07) 877 8353

Shirley Bardsley (07) 877 8725

Waitanguru Rural Women

Wendy Coup Em: wdcoup@gmail.com.

HEALTH

Big Sky Physiotherapy & Acupuncture

Erin Barclay (07) 877 7842 or 027
8879785 email erinbigsky@gmail.com

Cancer Society

Kaye Nelson (07) 877 7840

Helen Verry (07) 877 8582

Ear Health

Ginny Opie (07) 877 6818

King Country Chiropractic

Dr Scott Mouatt
(07) 873 7376 Mob: 027 3301 339
email: kcchiro@xtra.co.nz

Recreation Centre

Kimberley Cody
Evenings: 8778700
Mobile 027 2101860

kimberley@aroundtwelve.com

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Aria Playcentre

Michelle Carter (07) 8778495

Aria Toy Library

Librarian: Karen Jones (07) 877 8945

Mainly Music

Alison Singleton (07) 8778840

Piopio Playcentre

Frankie Patterson 027 9082595
Nicole Johansen (07) 8777708

SPORTS & RECREATION

Aria Squash Club

Terry Alcock (07) 877 6670

Badminton Club

Michelle O'Reilly (07) 877 8085

Light Horse Club

Amanda Maclachlan (07) 878 7182

Maree Bradcock (07) 877 8734

Line Dancing Club

Linda Oliver (07) 877 8313

Piopio-Aria Golf Club

Helen Verry (07) 877 8582

Tracey Mulligan (07) 877 8582

Piopio Bowling Club

Jill Rattenbury (07) 877 8016

Piopio Domain Board

Kate Carter (07) 877 8146

Piopio Rugby Football Club

President: Dave Tapara 02040229453

Secretary: Joy Jefferies (07) 8778875

Treasurer: Susan Ngarotata
021 261 6808

Piopio Swimming Club

Pres: Lee Alcock (07) 8777 754

E:shellalcock@hotmail.com

Sec: Ana Wise man (07)8777553

Pony Club

Anna Nelson (07) 877 7744

Heather Pease (07) 877 8144

Scouts & Cubs

Karen Petch (07) 87788100 Clive Knox

Te Kuiti Tramping Club

Jenny Brodie Ph (07)877 8033.

Tennis Club

Reon Verry (07) 878 8678

The King Country Hunt

Master: Robbie Matthews (07) 8731898

Trail Bikes

Ian Murray (07) 877 8054

Waitomo Ski Club

Ian Kerr (07) 878 7661

Waitomo Aero Club

Pete Voyce (07) 877 8254

John Carter (07) 877 8290

Walking Group

Jennifer Kearns (07) 877 8836

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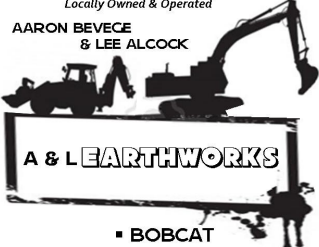
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PIPIO BirdTalk
The finer details ...

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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