

PIOPIO

BIRDTALK

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



BALL ROYALTY ...

ON Saturday, October 31 our Piopio College students finally got to enjoy their annual ball after it having to be postponed due to Covid. Held at the Night Owl, senior students, their partners and a number of staff enjoyed a fabulous evening. Everyone looked absolutely stunning, captured by photographer Holly Cornelius.

King & Queen Zykarne Kopa-Winikerei, Awhina Tainui, and Prince & Princess Callum Harrison, Jessie James

Mokau Kohunui Marae upgrade

He Urunga mou, he wahi whakataa, he wahi whangai e te tinana mou, he wahi whakatau ngakau, he Paa mo ngaa Iwi katoa o Piopio.

In 2017 Mokau Kohunui Marae set about establishing a strategic plan with the help of Te Whare Wananga o Aotearoa and Community Waikato. Through this many families alongside the Trustees and Komiti put in place goals to future proof the buildings, grounds and infrastructure. Strengthening te reo and tikanga at the marae and bringing our people together were high priorities which included establishing a robust Charter and sharing information on the history of the marae. Acknowledging all those who built the marae, who moved

buildings and kept Mokau Kohunui afloat since the early 1920's was and is important so that we are able to move forward with the knowledge that we were upholding the mana of those who did that mahi before us. These wananga and hui were a turning point in the Mokau Kohunui Marae rebuild project which started on March 16th 2020, and then was delayed due to lockdown. The journey has meant Trustees of the marae have needed to involve their whanau in planning and consultation which has been great for us all to get to know each other and meet regularly for a project that is important to us. We are thankful to all those who supported and continue to support this project especially from Te Puni Kokiri and the

Department of Internal Affairs. After many months of mahi, our beloved Marae is reopening with some brand new features. Our rebuild included an updated ablution block with new bathroom facilities and also new septic and water systems. Our next project, will be using a recent grant from the Provincial Growth Fund for renovations, repairs and improvements to the dining and kitchen areas, the wharenui and grounds. This funding is also intended to help provide employment opportunities for whanau hit hard by Covid-19 so please contact parihaulage@gmail.com if you know of anyone who this might benefit.

PIOPIO BIRDTALK

Editors 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

ADVERTISING CHARGES

- *Local Business: \$35/issue - approximately business card size
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[Proudly supported by our local businesses]

COMMUNITY MESSAGES



Safe travels and fun with family during the festive season.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy start to 2021!

*The Birdtalk team,
Hannah, Sigrid, Kate & Maree*

Piopia Ambulance: It has been a busy October/November with our volunteer crews being dispatched to 14 medical events, Piopia (10), Te Kuiti (3), Otorohanga (1), and 10 ACC callouts Piopia (4), Te Kuiti (5), Awakino (1) and two motor vehicle crashes South towards Awakino.

These crashes just highlighted how important seat belts are, as without their use all occupants in these incidents would most likely have received more significant injuries.

Piopia Opportunity Shop

Volunteers are invited to help staff the shop for 3 hours once a month.

Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday, 10am - 1pm, or 1pm - 4pm.

Please phone Colleen Strahan on 8787918 or 021 2010 355.

If you have old car / vehicle batteries to get rid of – the Lions will collect these or they can be dropped off at the Oily Rag Garage in Piopia.

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

Piopia Township:

Owls Nest and Piopia 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.

Piopia Cosmopolitan Club Restaurant

Dine in or takeaway

Open to all, including non members

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 6-8.30pm

PIOPIO COS CLUB 75th JUBILEE

March 20, 2021

All members and families past/present welcome to attend.

All interested parties please email the club

piopioclub@xtra.co.nz or phone 07 8778 204

Any relevant photos would be appreciated.

Thank you everyone, Lucille



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Piopio Christmas

THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER 2020 @ 6.30PM

Donate Now to support the Christmas PARADE and continual development of our township. Your support helps cover expenses at the Xmas parade:

- road closure
- sweets for children who participate on floats.
- prizes for floats: 1st, 2nd, 3rd in each category
- public liability insurance
- maintenance of Xmas lights
- Donation to pipe band
- Health & safety requirements

\$25 per family, business or organisation.
Payable at: Atkinson & Associates Vet Clinic or Online- Project Piopio Trust:
02 0448 0033484 00 Reference: name
(Receipts can be issued at vet clinic if required)

**YOUR DONATION
WILL BE GREATLY
APPRECIATED**

**FLOAT and STALL
holders will need to
pre-register by
20th December.
Forms available from
PGG Wrightsons
Piopio.**

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

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. GIFTS CAN BE LEFT AT PGG WRIGHTSONS

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.

CARLEY SIMPSON - 021 0424493 // SINEAD SCOTT 027 3812569

Piopio Christmas

THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER 2020 @ 6.30PM

The festive season is upon us and Santa's Little helpers have been faced with some challenges. Whilst we do not wish to be a Grinch, we are very mindful now, as volunteers, of the significant risks and responsibilities under the Health and Safety Act, that are placed upon us in running the annual Piopio Christmas Parade.

Whilst tradition will remain, some aspects will need to move with the times.

- Santa's Little helpers will now need a **dozen extra helpers to share lollies with children** as they walk the streets, rather than throwing from floats.

[If you are age 16+ we welcome anyone willing to help make this parade happen for another year].

- To ensure all risks are managed, all float entries will now be required to pre-register before 20th December and ensure all participants on their floats are managed and safely transported. (Pick up your Registration form, so you are aware of the changes before you finish building your float. (Collect forms from Carley Jane Beauty— 61 Kaka Street)
- Stall holders are most welcome to attend and we ask you to consider managing your site to ensure all potential hazards are identified and minimised where possible. Please email Carley: carleyjanebeauty49@gmail.com
- For all spectators and onlookers, we will do our best to provide a safe environment for this

tradition to continue, however we need you to play your part.

- This event will be an ALCOHOL FREE event. Parents of children and teens please be mindful of moving vehicles and respectful of others with no lollies, water balloons to be thrown.

As we are only volunteers, please help us to ensure this event can continue to happen in Piopio, we do not wish to be liable in the event of any mishaps.

Carley, Sinead and many other elves

[SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS]

Celebrating a job well done!

On the 27th of September 2020, Robyn Dunn celebrated 10 years of service with Atkinson & Associates Veterinary Services.

Many of you will know Robyn from the pivotal role she holds on the front counter at the Piopio clinic.

Robyn has seen many changes since 2010, the most significant being the sale of the business on the 1st of April from Richard & Nicky Atkinson to 4 employees, Michael & Hannah Catley, Anna Martyn and John Bernau.

She has had extensive agricultural experience, having farmed herself and worked in a number of farm related companies like PGG Wrightson Otorohanga.

Robyn grew up in Pukekohe but moved to Taranaki to further her Special Education Career and also had her two children, Brooke and

Alex. Living in Raglan, Robyn travels daily to work which makes her 10 years even more impressive!

When practice manager, Cathryn Peacocke, was looking for someone to cover her upcoming maternity leave, Robyn fitted the bill perfectly. "Robyn knows the business and the clients better than anyone and has many skills required for a management role – it seemed obvious to me! I'm pleased to say she has agreed to cover my leave and we have found an ideal person in Maria Morrissey to cover her role in reception".

Atkinson & Associates have also had another 10 year anniversary in October with shareholder and vet Anna Martyn ticking over 10 years with the business.



Piopio College happenings



On October 14 the Piopio College Junior A netball team participated in the bi-annual Eddie Alcock tournament. The girls had a fabulous day and enjoyed being back out on the court after COVID caused lots of interruptions to this year's competition. They did extremely well to make the final of the A Reserve grade and finished the day in second place. A number of students recently represented our College at the annual Rangitoto Cross Country and did very well indeed.

Tuesday, November 22 saw our Year 10 Geometry students on a trip to Napinapi Marae. The aim was to identify transformational geometry in cultural designs.

Congratulations to Beau Pari, Keahrey Manson and Malachi Laird on making the King Country Rugby Academy. Well done guys! A group of Y10 and 11 students recently attended a careers expo in Te Kuiti at the Les Munro Centre. Y10 student Ryan Smith said,

"There were heaps of different local people advertising the different career pathways available to us. Also the courses available to take to boost your chances of getting a job. It was heaps of fun. I've opened up heaps of doors for my future, and I'm grateful that I was given the opportunity to go." On Wednesday Mrs Draper took a team to represent Piopio College at the Quad Sports in Taumarunui, including a Ki O Rahi and volleyball team. It was a fun day and the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves. AND just like

that we find ourselves on the brink of another Christmas. I am sure we are all looking forward to farewelling this year and anticipating a much brighter, happier and healthier new one! Thank you to our community, whanau, students and teachers for all your support. And a special thank you to all our parents and helpers who were involved with our students this year. Wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas. Bring on 2021!

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The Latest Surplus: The Piopio Community Fruit & Veg Stand

Happy summer gardening season to all. Hopefully everyone managed to score some tomato plants from the community stand and is busy pinching those laterals as they grow.

It's been a mixed bag at the stand these past few weeks, as citrus surplus wanes and our winter jam, lemon honey and marmalade makers turn their efforts to other pursuits.

During lockdown a decision was made at our place to buy six HyLine hens. They are now at home at "Cluckingham Palace," busy pumping out beautiful eggs each day far in excess of our needs. So if you see "farm eggs" on offer give

them a try with thanks to "Braveheart" and her crew.

Our stand has been open for over two years now. It's a daily commitment, but hopefully something that is of value to the community, contributing an element of anticipation as to what you'll see on offer when passing by.

See our FB page and Instagram feed for updates on what's on offer daily. Here's looking forward to the summer's abundance, with thanks to all for sharing your surplus.

Karen Barrett

struanfarm@gmail.com

877 8012



ARIA TOY LIBRARY

The Aria Toy library would like to welcome our much needed Georgia. Georgia is the new librarian. She has hit the ground running and we are so lucky to have her.

The Toy Library wishes everyone a wonderful and safe Christmas holiday. We hope you all join again next year.

Calling all pilots! We are excited as our new ride on wooden plane arrives next year. This is thanks to the grant from the Piopio Community & Districts charitable Trust.



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Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

The team at Davis Automotive Ltd.

Closed from: 24th December 2020
Re-opening: 5th January 2021

Piopio Swimming Pool Trust

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COUNCILLERS UPDATE

As a condition of our Piopio Waste Water Treatment Plant Resource Consent we are required to invite all the submitters to the original consent to an annual Liaison meeting in Piopio. This year 34 invitations were sent out but only one person turned up to join myself and two staff members.

There have been some minor breaches of our Discharge Consent conditions, but the Regional Council has been kept fully informed of all instances, what caused the problems, what solutions were implemented, and they are happy with our procedures.

The maintenance requirements for the switches and pumps on the properties where they are required continue to be relatively high and expensive; however the environment they have to operate in is highly corrosive. New technologies are now available but the cost hasn't yet come down to the level required to be a viable option, but the staff are confident it will before long.

For those properties that have the switches and pumps, please refrain



from altering the settings or pushing the buttons. Our staff have set them for optimum operation and every call out is very expensive and adds to the overall operational cost of the scheme.

As you may have read in the Waitomo News recently, speed on our roads is now a major focus of Central Governments National Land Transport Plan. Deaths and serious injuries from road crashes are not declining and speed, and lack of seat belt use, is seen as having the greatest influence on the outcome of a crash.

Setting of speed limits is bureaucratically complicated and expensive presently, with NZTA responsible for State Highways, and City or District Councils responsible for their local roads. NZTA is setting up

a new simplified system for registering the speed limits proposed for each road, but national uniformity in the speeds chosen could be challenging.

What is the worst section of road you drive on regularly and what do you consider is the safest speed to traverse that section? I'd be interested to hear your comments.

See you at the Christmas Parade.

Phil Brodie

Ph 027 3479843

Email Phil.Brodie@waitomo.govt.nz



Barbara Kuriger MP for Taranaki-King Country

Inglewood Office
80 Rata St, PO Box 124,
Inglewood 4330
06 756 6032
Kuriger.Inglewood@parliament.govt.nz

Te Awamutu Office
053 Mutu St, PO Box 302,
Te Awamutu 3800
07 870 1005
Kuriger.Teawamutu@parliament.govt.nz

National
Authorised by Barbara Kuriger MP,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington.



3 LITTLE BIRDS

As of today, there are only 30 more sleeps until the jolly big fella comes down the chimney ... OMG! Like us, I'm sure you will be happy to see the flipside of 2020. We can only congratulate you all on your 'teamwork' in getting through very trying times! We also thank you for supporting our businesses.

NIGHT OWL: We are pretty much chocka-block with Christmas bookings and other end-of-year related functions. Dee, Mel and their catering crew (have been and) will be busy little birds for the next few months. And of course the earlier months in the new year brings weddings, which we absolutely love

catering for and hosting. Our new summer menu will be up and running by the time this goes to print ... we have some exciting dishes on offer!

OWLS NEST: The Owls Nest Motel has purchased a number of new king-size beds, and will continue to replace all beds by mid-2021.

FAT KIWI CAFE: Similarly, the Fat Kiwi is also busy with catering. An exciting addition to the Fat Kiwi is the installation of a retail store and catering kitchen right next-door, which is due to open at the end of this year. It is yet to be named, however it will



complement the already popular café.

FAT PIGEON CAFE: The Fat Pigeon is rocking along as usual. Our AMAZING pidgee crew are always on the ball when it comes to providing excellent service, food and Ozone coffee. We are coming into our busy time of year (spring/summer), so thank you in anticipation, for your patience and continued support.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and safe and happy New Year.

Thank you all for supporting our little birdies.

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CONNECT WITH US

For the travel industry this year has been very challenging year with 99% of our income stream disappearing. With the unpredictability of travel, governments opening and closing borders, it is understandable people's reluctance to book ahead.

Donna and Andre are taking a hiatus and from next year I will be operating from home. I will still be contactable by phone, email and private messaging and able to meet one-on-one in Te Kuiti and Piopio. Travel is at an evolutionary stage and it will be interesting to see how travel will evolve in 2021 and 2022.

I would like to thank all of you for your support, kind messages and flowers. To Donna and Andre, thank you for your passion for our clients' experiences and your unwavering support to me, you are amazing! Merry Christmas everyone and here's to a fabulous 2021.

P: 07 878 8184
W: helloworld.co.nz/tekuiti
E: Lorrene.tekanawa@helloworld.co.nz
Donna.pari@helloworld.co.nz

Watch this space – proposed Waitomo District Plan

Waitomo District Council (WDC) has been reviewing their district plan over the past few years and we understand it is due to be released for formal consultation within the first quarter of 2021. Many farmers across the district received letters from WDC last year advising that significant natural areas (SNA) had been identified on their properties. Following feedback from Federated Farmers and in keeping with good practise, WDC provided the opportunity for landowners to discuss concerns and issues with regards to those sites and in some cases SNA boundaries were amended to more accurately reflect the 'on the ground' situation. That informal consultation was a part of the district plan review process. It was however only one part of the plan that is being reviewed. The rest of the plan, which will include controls over activities like farm quarrying, earthworks, vegetation clearance, fencing and building placement in the rural zone has not been released in draft form for

public feedback. It is worth noting that it is not only SNAs that have been identified for extra layers of control but also areas called Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONLs). Federated Farmers understand that large tracts of pastoral farmland have been identified within these ONLs. Unfortunately, WDC are not undertaking the same informal consultation process for ONLs before the plan is made public. Affected landowners will need to wait for the release of the notified plan to see the full extent of those overlays and determine whether the proposed controls will unduly impact on-farm practices.

Federated Farmers policy staff have considerable experience working through these council planning processes and will be available to share this expertise with farmers when the formal consultation process begins. Now all we can do is give you a 'heads up' this is coming. When the details of the plan are released, it kicks off a process which can take over two years to complete. This includes time for people to provide feedback, in both written and oral form, give examples as to why or why not the



FEDERATED FARMERS
OF NEW ZEALAND

provisions are acceptable and provide alternative solutions if necessary, before decisions on the final form of the plan are made. So, watch this space, Federated Farmers will continue to keep you updated, and provide more information as to how the reviewed district plan provisions will affect you and your farming business along with what we will be doing on our members behalf. Please get in touch with Hilary Walker, Senior Regional Policy Advisor, at hwalker@fedfarm.org.nz or using the 0800 327 646 number should you wish to know anything further at this stage.

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Waitomo District Council

The Edge of the World

[Part 1] It was All Hallows Eve. Everyone was getting their houses ready to defend against the monster takeover. And I don't mean monster costumes. I'm talking about actual monsters.

In the town of Candyland, monsters had picked off human life forms since anyone could remember. The locals fortified their homes with barbed wire, electric fences and even machine guns. No matter what anyone did, someone always disappeared. Two months ago I had journeyed to the monsters lair at the

end of the world hoping to set things straight. I didn't travel alone; I brought an entire team of navy seals. We sailed away on an icebreaker yacht. Our passage was rough. The waves loomed like mountains but since I'd employed the best sea captain in the world we managed. After that our real journey began. Thirteen days later we faced a frozen desert. Our ship got stuck in the thick, thick, ice despite the yacht's titanium bow. The captain growled, 'We're not going anywhere.' 'We must find another way across,' I announced. We abandoned ship and trudged through the icy land.

We made it across the ice and started climbing a huge glacier. We avoided the yawning crevasses that could have swallowed a man whole. Then something terrifying happened. A black shadow soared through the icy clouds. The navy seals froze as if they were turned to cold, solid, stone. Their faces paled like the wastes beneath our feet. I said, 'Wait, what was that?' Then a deafening roar echoed from above the glacier. The ground shook as though an immense earthquake had erupted beneath our feet. AND....

To be continued
by Hanataua Bodger-Kearns

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ABOUT MARU

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Steven mb: 0275 546064



MOKAU Summer Events 2020/2021

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER

Mokau Art and Craft Market 9am-1pm
Live music, local crafts and car club

SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER

Mokau Fishing Club
Corson Tyres 4-day Xmas Comp
\$8000 worth of prizes, 30 categories. Non-members welcome!!
Earlybird draw \$200. Registrations 6 - 7 am @ North Boat Ramp.
Weigh-in: 3.30 - 4pm Awakino Hotel.
Ph: Wal Death 0276037255 Email: wal.death@agrifeeds.co.nz

Domain Days 11am-3pm
Our Christmas present to the community: Mini Jeeps and Bucking Bull at the Tainui Wetere Domain. Gold coin donation.

TUESDAY 29TH DECEMBER

Walk to Mohakatio Falls 9.30am
Meet at Ben Hutchinson's woolshed at the end of Mohakatio Road for a 4-hr walk. A reasonable standard of fitness required. Children must be accompanied. Bring hat, snacks, and water.

WEDNESDAY 30TH DECEMBER

Corson Tyres 4-day Xmas Fishing Competition Prizegiving
Prizegiving and BBQ, meal \$5 for non-members/non-anglers
Final weigh-in: 3:30 - 4:30pm Awakino Hotel

THURSDAY 31ST DECEMBER

Awakino Hotel New Year's Band 8pm
Rock Band - Head First

SUNDAY 3RD JANUARY

Mokau Art and Craft Market 9am-1pm
Live music, local crafts and car club

MONDAY 4TH JANUARY

Family Water Day 1pm
Meet at Gorries' driveway, 29 Te Mahoe Road. Kayaking, paddle boarding and inflatables. All children must be supervised by parent or guardian. Picnic lunch. Ph Heidi: 0276791931

WEDNESDAY 6TH JANUARY

Twilight Bowls 5.30pm
Come and have a social bowl with the Awakino Bowling Club Every Wednesday night throughout the summer.
Briscoe Street, Awakino \$2 a player. Ph Gail 067529014 B.Y.O.

FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY

Shared Meal & Table Tennis 6.30pm
Support the local cafes and bring along takeaways to the Mokau hall. Dinner would be followed by games of table tennis

SATURDAY 9TH JANUARY

Mokau Hall Open Day 10am
Come and see the new gym and kitchen, morning tea provided. Ph Heidi 0276791931

Ratepayers' meeting 1pm
Rock painting 10-11:30pm & 1-3pm
Contact Ronda Ph 0272431582
Held at the Mokau Hall.
Theme: LadyBirds

SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY

Mokau Fishing Club 9am
Take a kid fishing
Meet at the north boat ramp, bring rod, drink and sunhat. Younger children must have parent or guardian supervision. Followed by lolly scramble and sausage sizzle at the Tainui Wetere Domain.
All children receive a certificate and there are some great sponsored goods for giveaway.
Email: mokaufishingclub@yahoo.com

SATURDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

Awakino Hall Anniversary 10:30am
110 year celebration held over Waitangi Weekend
Follow the event on Facebook: *Awakino Hall 110 Year Anniversary Celebration* Or Ph Dorothy Lowry: 067529123

SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

Women's Fishing Competition 8am-3pm
Email: mokaufishingclub@yahoo.com

SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Mighty Mokau Bike Ride 8am-3pm
<http://mightymokau.com/> Contact Maree Ph 067529765

SUNDAY 21ST MARCH

Lime Kiln Walk 9:30am
Mokau Museum walk with the New Plymouth Tramping Club. 4-hr walk to the Lime Kiln along the Mokau river. Meet at 412 Awakau Road.



PIOPIO BOWLING CLUB would like to thank the following sponsors for supporting us this season:

*Iona Angus *Davis Automotive *Jill Rattenbury *Potawa Simmentals *Piopio Superette *Laver marine *Deb & Hemi Livestock *Adams Contracting *Piopio Vets *Mark Barrowcliffe.

We are very appreciative of their support.

If anyone would like to try outdoor bowls, please contact Wendy and Dan on 8778686. We will give you some private coaching if you wish, and you will be able to play in our Tournaments on the first Sunday of every month. *Wendy Weinberg*

PIOPIO COMMUNITY ADVENTURE FITNESS ZONE IS NOW OPEN

MIGHTY MOKAU TRAIL BIKE RIDE

Sunday 28th February 2021

Where: **Awakino at Piri Piri Station, Taumatamaire Station and McDavitt's Farm**



Pre Register your Ride at mightymokau.com Closes 24th Feb

Pre-registration – Adult \$35 or \$40 on the day
Pre-registration - 15yrs & under \$15 or \$20 on the day



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TENNIS CENTENNIAL

Pio Pio Lawn Tennis Club Inc. is turning 100 years old in 2021. To celebrate, the committee is holding a Centennial Event on Saturday 10 April 2021.

The event will run from 2pm at the clubrooms where past and present members can catch up over drinks and nibbles and also have a hit of tennis. This will be followed by a dinner to be held at the Night Owl (to be confirmed). There will be a charge for those who attend the dinner (amount also to be confirmed).

We are looking for registrations of interest for the event to assist us with planning and also want to gather as much memorabilia, photos and stories as possible from anyone who has had an association with the club over the last 100 years. Please email Paulettejohns2@gmail.com to register your interest or get in contact with one of our committee members:

- Matt Buckley 027 231 8088
- Wendy Verry 021 212 1453
- Bex Clapcott 027 295 7654
- Chris Clapcott
- Andrew Downey
- Les Kjestrup
- Paulette Johns 021 1133 743



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Aria Squash Club News

September - Club Champs

Holding our Annual Club Champs event, most of our active members entered, playing 3 games over two weeks. Finals was followed by Prizegiving.

Results were:

- Mens Champion – Mark Anderson
- Ladies Champion – Lee Alcock
- Mens Most Improved Interclub Player – Tony Schrafft
- Ladies Most Improved Interclub Player – Jenelle Coxall
- Mens Most Improved Club Player – Chris Walton
- Ladies Most Improved Club Player – Katie Watson

October - Junior Squash

This year we had a whopping 24 children register for Junior squash, ranging from 7 – 13 years old. 4 one hour long coaching sessions were run on Fridays over a period of 11 weeks and finished off with a tournament style afternoon to find the Junior Club Champion.

- Boys Champion – Regan Bevege
- Runner-up - Isaac Carter
- Girls Champion – Eden Wiseman

- Runner-up – Eva Darke
- Most Improved Boy – Jerem Smith
- Most Improved Girl – Bella Ormsby

Thanks to volunteer coaches, Mark Anderson and Caroline Foss.

October – The Pro’s came to Aria! We were lucky to secure a 3-hour coaching session with 2 of NZs top ranked players - Lwamba Chileshe #2 and Joel Arscott #11 provided members with some useful tips and technique alterations before playing each other in a very comical exhibition match. The boys then stayed for dinner and answered lots of questions and filled us in on the PSA Squash world they live.

November - Summer Interclub Squash Waikato trialled a new format for Summer – a shorter season of 6 weeks with players spread through the grades making up a team. Aria were able to put together a Mens Team and a Ladies team. The men were undefeated the whole season, but the points system placed them 2nd. The Ladies held top of the ladder for the whole season, and took out the win.

AGM coming up in January – keep and eye out for information on our Facebook page.

Next Season Squash Waikato are proposing 3 seasons.....

Autumn - starting early March (6 week competition)

Winter – Starting early May (8 week competition)

Spring – Start end of July (8 week competition)

For now, we take a break from squash, those with keys are still able to use the courts. However Friday social nights, the Bar and Kitchen will be closed until next season. *Lee Alcock*



Tony Schrafft & Chris Walton at recent prizegiving

The King Country Hunt

held its AGM in Piopio recently. There have been some major changes to the Committee and we are looking forward to the 2021 Season which starts late March/April.

Like many organisations Covid hit the Hunt hard with us losing over a month of Hunting but once we were able to get going we had an awesome season.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members who paid their subscriptions even when we were doubtful of any hunting. We also received very generous donations from past members.

We held a very successful Trek at Puketiti station in early November with over 100 horses. A massive thank you to the Puketiti staff for hosting us and the

landowners who allowed us to ride on their properties.

To the community members who support the Hunt in various ways - grazing cattle, allowing us to Hunt on their properties, we are very grateful for your continued support.

The Hunt covers a large area, from Te Kawa in the north, Awakino and the Taumarunui area in the south. We welcome new people to hunting and

if you are interested in coming and giving it a go we would love you to join us, no obligation to join :)

If anyone is interested in hosting the Hunt on their property we would love to hear from you. The Hunt season goes from March to mid July and we are always keen to try new properties.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or interest in the King Country Hunt.

Joy Hurley 8777577



- Patron; J Nelson
- President: R Rapley
- Vice Pres: P Fordham
- Joint Master: J Hurley and S Smart
- Deputy: T Mouat
- Secretary: C Hurley
- Treasurer: J Mouat
- Committee: A MacLauchlan, V Hughes, G Ogle, I Bain, R Weir, J Lankshear

Picture thanks to KC Hunt Trek FB page

Succession Planning with Coach Approach Rural



Families involved in farming remain the backbone of the New Zealand economy, and are critical for the vibrancy of our rural communities. Additional land purchases and increased productivity have meant leadership, people management, financial and governance expertise are now essential skills required to run farming businesses profitably and sustainably.

Identifying options, up skilling and transitioning the next generation into managing and leading the business is critical.

Ideally the succession process includes planning for the timely and continuous transfer of wisdom and skills to the succeeding generation. Without this occurring, there is potential for successors to become frustrated and feel held back and for family and business relationships to become strained.

Common issues and opportunities that 'steer' families into a succession process are:

- *A family member returning home to work for the family business
- *Parents, or the family business, purchasing another farm or business
- *Knowing a family where their process,

or lack of process, has resulted in family dysfunction

- *Parents unsure of what children's plans for the future are
- *Death, divorce, incapacitation or health issues
- *Successor(s) and their mother's frustration from inaction

Taking control by starting succession conversations with all family sooner rather than later creates choices, improves risk management, can maximise growth opportunities and can strengthen family relationships and unity.

Deferring these conversations until tomorrow reduces choices and often limits decisions to being about exit and sale, rather than creating sustainable family business options.

Coach Approach Rural have helped facilitate family succession planning for over 10 years, and bring a unique process, focusing on people first, and structure later, ensuring that everyone is heard.

Dani Darke, Partner with Coach Approach Rural is bringing this service to the King Country. Dani has a background in rural finance as an Agribusiness manager, and a deep

empathy for rural people, and farming.

"An important part of our offering is around facilitating a 'discovery' process for people – getting clarity around values, principals, strengths and goals. By understanding who they are, and what matters most, people can get clear about a vision for their future."

"Taking a family from a position of fear where they are worried about conflict or starting the conversation – through to them being able to see new opportunities and being excited about the future has been a highlight for me, and shows the value in our process."

Coach Approach Rural's services are registered with the Management Capability Development Voucher Fund. To find out more, Dani can connect you to Te Waka - the Regional Business Partner for the Waikato.

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The World's Weirdest Xmas Traditions

Swedish Yule Goats

The Yule Goat is an old Christmas tradition from Scandinavia and Northern Europe. The goat is a Santa-like figure sharing presents on Christmas Eve. Today in Sweden, large straw goats are erected in towns across the county. The village of Gävle has a famously unlucky goat, which has been burned down by vandals more often than it has survived since it was first erected in 1966.



The Yule Lads of Iceland

13 Icelandic Yule lads carry out the role of Santa Claus. One the lads visits children on each of the 13 days leading up to Christmas, and each lad has a different personality. Children place a shoe in their bedroom window each evening, and if they've been well behaved, the [Yule lad](#) visiting that night will leave candy or small gifts. The lads were once somewhat frightening, leaving rotting potatoes for naughty children, but their image has softened over the years.

Lucky Spiders in the Ukraine

In an old Ukrainian folk tale, a poor widow and her children found a Christmas tree growing in their yard but had no money to decorate it. They took the tree inside, and when they woke up on Christmas morning, a spider's web covered it. The youngest child opened a window and daylight shone on the web, turning it into silver and gold. In honour of this legend, Ukrainian people often decorate their trees with plastic spiders and webs. A spider web on Christmas morning is said to bring good luck.

KFC Christmas in Japan

Thanks to a 1970s marketing campaign, Japan associates Christmas Eve with Kentucky Fried Chicken. Apparently KFC got the idea from an expat customer who bought KFC chicken for a holiday party, as turkey isn't widely available in Japan. The company ran with the concept, marketing its chicken as a traditional meal for the festive season. Over the years, the idea has grown beyond a commercial campaign to become a firmly established holiday tradition.

Latvian Mummers

Amateur actors –mummers– dress up as animals like cranes, goats, wolves, bears or horses, or as macabre characters that symbolise death. The mummers must stay incognito, cover their faces with masks and disguise their voices to ensure that no one in their neighbourhood recognises them. They go from house to house to drive evil spirits away with music and traditional songs. Families welcome them into their homes and offer them food and drinks in return.

Italy's Present Witch

The witch La Befana visits Italian children on January 5, the eve of the Epiphany. According to the legend, she turned down an invitation from the Three Wise Men to visit baby Jesus in the manger, and quickly regretted her decision. The story says that she still flies around on her broomstick looking for baby Jesus and giving gifts to children to make up for her mistake. Children put out a glass of wine and some food for her.



Bolivian Chook Church Extravaganza

Christmas Mass in Bolivia is chook full of excitement. An old story has it that the night Jesus Christ was born, a rooster crowed at around midnight to announce the birth. In acknowledgement of this belief, Bolivians flock to church to celebrate Misa del Gallo, 'Mass of the Rooster'.



The Krampus

Krampus is a half-goat, half-demonic being with wicker basket on his back. This basket is quite unlike Santa's sack, however, as the mystical creature is out to fill his crate with badly behaved children and take them to the underworld. Cities have an annual Krampuslauf, during which men dressed as Krampus run through the streets carrying torches. Krampus parties are starting to become popular in the USA, with celebrations taking place in cities such as New York and Portland.

Norwegian Broom Hiding

Norwegians once believed that witches and evil spirits revealed themselves on Christmas Eve, and families started hiding their brooms, mops and brushes before going to bed on Christmas Eve so that the witches couldn't steal them. Sometimes, spruce logs are burned in the fireplace to prevent witches from coming down the chimney, and men occasionally fire shotguns into the air outside to scare off evil spirits.



Aria

2-DAY TRAIL RIDE



Sat & Sun

20 & 21

Feb

2021

Aria School • 07 877 7857



Aria 2 Day Trail Ride

St Helens Domain, Kumara Road, Aria
(half hour south of Te Kuiti)
Signposted from Piopio, Mahoenui Hill & Mapiu

3 Senior
Tracks

1.2km
Moto X Track

Kid's
Track

**Due to over-capacity concerns on our tracks,
we have no option but to restrict rider numbers**

To ensure entry, please pre-register:

\$40/day, \$70/weekend

Kids (15yrs and under) \$15/day, \$25 weekend

Pre-registration closes midnight Sunday 14th Feb.

Entries received after this will incur extra charges

- Tracks open 9.30am on Sat – no briefing – rolling registration
- Camping available Fri & Sat
- Sat – Breakfast & Dinner available for purchase
- Sun – Breakfast available for purchase
- Side-by-side passengers full price (must register)
- Helmets compulsory, protective clothing recommended
- All day BBQ – licenced bar – Eftpos available
- No dogs permitted

Info/Registration www.silverbullet.co.nz
or email aria2dayride@gmail.com

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- T & K Alcock • Progress Transport • Te Kuiti New World

COMMUNITY SERVICES & BUSINESSES

LOCAL FACILITIES

Aria Cosmopolitan Club
(07) 8777812

Cloverleaf Café
(07) 8778368

Night Owl Bar and Eatery
(07) 8778769
www.theowlsnest.co.nz
E: theowlsnest@xtra.co.nz

Fat Pigeon Café
(07) 8778822

Piopio Cosmopolitan Club
(07) 8778204

Piopio Berry Orchard
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Oily Rag Garage and Tyre Service (07) 8778159

Piopio Dental
Dr Kim Tatham (07) 8778864
smilingkiwi@piopiodental.co.nz

Carley Jane Beauty
M: 0210424493

King Country Chiropractic
Dr Scott Mouatt (07) 8737376
M: 0273301339
E: kcchiro@xtra.co.nz

Recreation Centre
Kimberley Cody (07) 8778700
M: 0272101860

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Aria Playcentre
Hannah Bodger-Kearns
(07) 8777898

Aria Toy Library
Librarian: Karen Jones
M: 0210385153
E: ariatoylibrary@gmail.com

Aria Primary School
(07) 8777857

Curious Keas Preschool
Stephanie Brough (07) 8778224

Kohanga Piopio
Kristen Pari (07) 8778185

Mainly Music
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Thursdays @ 10am
Alison Singleton (07) 8778840

Piopio Playcentre
Nicola Kloeten
M: 0276960598

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

Senior's Exercise Classes
Wendy Weinberg (07) 8778686

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

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Piopio Garden Circle
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Gillian Hooper (07) 8787880
M: 0273459603

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Gavin Todd (07) 8777700 or
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 - Tumblers 50c per glass
 - Place settings \$2 per setting includes (dinner, side and dessert plate, mug, cutlery)
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All Saints Church

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Piopio. Worship service 10am
Reverend Jekheli Singh
(07) 8788026

Laver Marine
(07) 8778484
M: 0211054737

Opportunity Shop/Mustard Seed
Colleen Strahan (07) 8787918

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

The Old Piopio Post Office Art Gallery
M: 0224370789

Waitanguru Rural Women
Liz Morgan 0272846653

ACTIVITIES and ATTRACTIONS

Hairy Feet Waitomo
(07) 8778003

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

Piopio Market Day
3rd Sunday of each month
Colleen (07) 8776686

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

Key for toilet available from the
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SPORTS and RECREATION

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

Light Horse Club
President Helen Potter
E: 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

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

Pony Club
President Olivia Buckley
Head Coach Maree Bradcock
Secretary Amanda MacLachlan
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Tennis Club
Reon Verry (07) 8788678

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(07) 8777577

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Kim Tatham
(07) 8778820

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