

PIOPIO BirdTalk

BI MONTHLY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER COVERING PIOPIO, ARIA & MAHOENUI DISTRICTS

KING COUNTRY HUNT CLUB 40TH ANNIVERSARY

A great way to start the 40th anniversary for the King Country Hunt Club, with 50 plus riders and their horses on local property of John and Pat Finlayson bordering Piopio township.

A favourite for many riders, the property was in good stead for the hounds, under watchful eye of huntsman Shane Neil and direction of master Robbie Mathews.

Celebrating the opening of this season, the club and current president Joy Hurley welcomed back life member Trevor Benton, who with his wife Olga, once homed the original pack of hounds on their Aria property in the mid 70's.

Long time resident Barry Stott was also honoured for his

services as former club president, huntsman, whip and deputy master duties. Whilst former president John Finlayson and his wife Pat, whom also joined the hunt were thanked for their contribution and support over the years. Previous president Lance Neeley and master along with wife Andra also attended the occasion and received the clubs gratitude for their commitment.

Despite windy weather, the hounds skilful scent tracking provided for a good hunt for members and the addition of many younger riders experiencing the thrill and chase. With past and founding members joining this occasion, the association with the club

looks bright with future generations continuing the longstanding tradition.

As for many clubs, fundraising is critical, so the successful annual hound auction was once again a winner and will assist with the ongoing upkeep of both hounds and kennels on the clubs' Troopers Road property. The club is always appreciative of any meat or lame animals for hound food.

As the hunt season begins, the next King Country Hunt will be held, Tuesday April 26th on Tapanui Station, Piopio to coincide with the Waikato Hunt Clubs' 125th anniversary.

RUGBY WORLD OF CHAMPIONS - William Webb Ellis Cup inspires youth on a recent visit to Piopio College

The New Zealand Rugby Union nationwide tour with the famous Rugby World Cup came into the hands of College students; Daytona Clark (XV), pictured to right, Max MacLachlan (u13's), Shalako Haumaha (Girls 7's), pictured below.

Lewis Griffin (Junior Rugby) was also selected to hold the cup.



ABOVE: IAN BAIN AND OWEN WILLIAMS – FOCUS ON AUCTION. LEFT: SHANE NEIL -HUNTSMAN, RIGHT: TREVOR BENTON - FIRST KING COUNTRY HUNTSMAN



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
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K J HOUGHTON BUILDERS

Based just out of Piopio I have been building in the area for the past seven years. Born and bred in the King Country I obtained my apprenticeship in Hamilton, working on various high end homes, commercial and industrial buildings. After my OE in London where I broadened my building and carpentry skills, I came home to build my parents' house in Te Kuiti which is where K J Houghton Builders was born. I now have three guys working for me full time and Bob Dawson contracting.

We have been kept pretty busy over the summer. We are currently building an architecturally designed home on the outskirts of Piopio, we have just returned from the Waitomo Ski Lodge on Mt Ruapehu where we have been updating the bathrooms

and we are also sub-contracting to the main contractors of the new Te Kuiti New World – and those are just our big jobs!

My team are all local guys who are friendly, energetic and hardworking. Peter, Cameron and Chris are all at different stages of their apprenticeships and we can help you with any of your building needs; maintenance and repairs, alterations/ extensions, woolsheds and farm buildings right through to building architecturally designed new homes

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IMPROVED TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

New towers—There are now two new telecommunication towers in our district. One in Aria and the other Benneydale.

To confirm if you can get Rural Broadband from a tower visit the Vodafone website <http://www.vodafone.co.nz/broadband/rural> and enter your property address. Alternatively contact Vodafone on 0800 777 042.

Getting connected

As well as Vodafone the following businesses are selling rural broadband services from the towers in the Waitomo District:

- Wireless Nation www.wirelessnation.co.nz
- Farmside www.farmside.co.nz
- Netspeed www.netspeed.net.nz
- Wireless Dynamics www.wirelessdynamics.co.nz – local service provider

Spark are also providing wireless

broadband services from the two new towers.

Tower upgrades—You may have also noticed some better coverage from your Spark mobile phone. In February Spark's Eight Mile Junction and SH3 south of Piopio site were upgraded to 4G.

Find out more if switching to a new service or connecting for the first time may seem daunting. You may have questions or need advice.

Waitomo District Council would like to facilitate a get-together with the

telecommunication suppliers to provide the community with the opportunity to find out the best options for your home and business.

We would like to hear from local residents. Register your interest by phoning **RACHAEL LAVER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER AT WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL ON 07 878 0800.**



Paul Draper
pauld@patprescott.co.nz
T: 07 873 8522
M: 027 836 1509



Looking for a new vehicle?

I'm back in the Motor Trade Industry and can now supply you with new Toyota & Holden Vehicles. We also have a great selection of used vehicles at our two Otorohanga yards.

Have your dog ownership details changed?

We encourage all dog owners to notify us of any changes in their dog ownership status.

This includes:

- Advising when dog has died or no longer in possession (eg. lost, stolen)
- Advising any change of owner contact or dog details
- A change to the number of dogs kept on premise
- Advising change of dog's address
- Advising change of dog ownership.

There are many ways you can contact us. Visit our friendly Customer Services team at the WDC Queen Street Office. Write to us at PO Box 404 Te Kuiti 3941. Free phone 0800 932 4357, Fax 07-878-7771 or email: info@waitomo.govt.nz



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PIOPIO LIONS CLUB

We started our Lions year (1 July 2015) with our

Change of Officers

night and meal, held at the Aria Cos Club, which was a fantastic night, great food, and a great venue and atmosphere. Thanks to the staff involved.

Neil Fairhurst is our president for this year.

Recent events have included the donation of a storage shed from Wrightsons which we will be erecting at the Pioipio Domain to house our caravan. A big thank you to Wrightson. We will be looking for volunteer labour to help erect this shed. It has been an ongoing problem of where to store our caravan, until now.

Activities that the club has been involved in recently, include having our food caravan at Pioipio Primary Pet Day, Pioipio Xmas Parade, Curious Keas and Aria Sports Day. These are all venues that the members enjoy being involved in,

although it involves a fair bit of work, they are always enjoyable days.

The money raised from our caravan has all be donated to various community groups.

Paddy's Market was again well supported by the community, with most of the proceeds going towards our annual senior citizens Xmas dinner.

Our monthly meetings have been well attended with members enjoying a variety of good guest speakers, arranged by our programme chairman Paul Jones.

On a sad note, it was a big blow to the club to lose Noel Verry, who died suddenly. He was a past president of the club, and a very vibrant and enthusiastic member and his involvement in the club was fully supported by his wife Helen.

We are always on the lookout for new members, so if you are interested in becoming a member or would like more information about Lions, please contact out President Neil Fairhurst, Ken Perry, or Gavin Todd.

ARIA SCHOOL

NORTHLAND VISIT

22ND- 26TH FEBRUARY

During February, 23 senior students and 11 adults spent an action packed week in Northland based at Marsden Bay, Whangarei.

Highlights were many and included:-

- A day at The Octopus Hideaway in Leigh where all students and parents snorkelled in the Goat Island Marine Reserve.
- A visit to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds and Russell. We were the first school to be welcomed by the newly formed Bay of Islands Education Network.
- A sail on a replica sailing ship, the R Tucker Thompson, with all children climbing the rigging

and having a turn at steering.

Other activities were a visit to the Matakohe Kauri Museum, Marsden Bay Oil Refinery, Leigh Reptile Park, Kelly Tarlton's Marine World and the Auckland Stardome. We mustn't forget lots of water sliding, kayaking, driving (thank-you awesome parents!) and AMAZING fish and chips!

It was an action packed week enjoyed by all and we thank our annual Two Day Bike Ride fundraiser for funding half of the total cost.

PAM VOYCE

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NEWS FROM PIOPIO COMMUNITY SPORTS INCORPORATED

Pioipio Rukuhia Domain

A big thankyou to King Country Energy for sponsoring a grant towards renovation of the old shearing stand at the domain into a communal sheltered picnic area.

A belated thankyou to the Pioipio Rural Fire Brigade for the very tidy burning of timber piles at the domain.

Thanks to Barrie Tatham, Peter Demchy and Aaron Bradcock for their generosity in donating, milling and shifting timber that will be used to construct new horse day yards at the domain, later in the year.

And thankyou to Roger Buckman and John Carter for their assistance in weed control and general maintenance.

As always, there are many many community hands involved in the upkeep of the Rukuhia Domain. The grounds are currently looking awesome and with the upcoming equestrian event over Easter and the rugby season well underway, we are so very fortunate to have the amazing facilities that we do in Pioipio.

KATE CARTER

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& John Robertson

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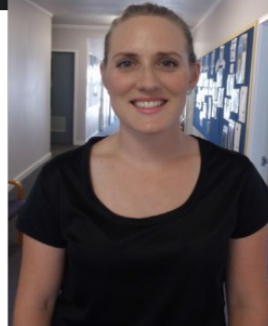
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HIGHLIGHTS— TERM 1

- Introducing Piopio College's Head Students for 2016- Jack Griffin and Sarah Bevege (pictured top right)
- Agriculture students learn to put in a strainer post during a fencing course at Mahoenui.
- Introducing Katherine Atkins, our new PE teacher at Piopio College for the year (mid right)
- Learning to drench sheep on the Tarrant's farm
- Rugby World of Champions - William Webb Ellis Cup visits.
- A shearing course was

held at Mokauiti. It was amazing to see our five boys and one girl shearing their hearts out leaving for work at 7.00am and arriving back after 5.00pm.

- For our Friday timetable some of our students are learning Spanish.
- YR11-13 completed a two day first aid course.



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BOARD OF TRUSTEES-MEET AND GREET

Parents and Whānau, you are invited to a Meet and Greet Q&A time with the BoT.

- Please choose a date and place to suit:
- 5:30pm-6:30pm Wednesday 30 March at Mokau Kohunui Marae Piopio
 - 5:30pm-6:30pm Thursday 31 March at Journey Church Te Kūiti

- 5:30pm-6:30pm Tuesday 12 April at Aria Primary School
- 5:30pm-6:30pm Wednesday 13 April in the Piopio College Staffroom

Please come along and share your thoughts and idea about our school. We look forward to seeing you there.

Nau mai, Haere mai.

COUNCILLORS UPDATE; 2016 RESIDENT SURVEY

Each year we survey Waitomo District residents to gauge their satisfaction with the different services provided by the Council such as roads and footpaths, water supply and refuse and recycling. This year we are proposing an extra section on 'Liveability – Waitomo as a Place to Live'. The answers to this survey help guide the Council in its planning for future service levels, and direction of development.

The 2016 Resident Survey will be a paper survey distributed to each letter box in the District, but will also be available online at www.waitomo.govt.nz. The Survey will be distributed in late April/early May, and is required to be returned to Waitomo District Council by Friday 13 May 2016. Each completed survey returned to Council by that date will have a chance to win one of five \$200 Te Kuiti New World grocery vouchers. Please take the time to complete the

survey, preferably as soon as it arrives, as your answers, opinions and ideas are very important in helping us plan for the future of our District, but please - only one completed survey per household.

The 'thumbs down' in a recent Waitomo news regarding the 'non-opening' of the Piopio Transfer Station on Statutory Holiday Mondays came to my attention and I was rather disappointed the writer hadn't made contact with me for an explanation prior to going to print. The previously established arrangement was that the facility would be open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm each Monday. The new arrangement is that the Piopio Transfer Station will not operate on any Monday that falls on a Statutory Holiday. That change when applied to say the 2016 calendar year would mean that the Piopio Transfer Station will not open on 8 Mondays out of the 52.

We identified that the use of the service on a statutory holiday that fell

on a Monday (i.e. Anzac Day morning or Boxing Day morning) was low. In that situation, WDC cannot justify the extra labour costs to the ratepayer in operating on a Monday Statutory Holiday given that the facility is open on the Saturday and Sunday beforehand. This minor change is in line with the Council's aim of seeking out the best mix of arrangements for cost-effective service delivery.

Other than for Statutory Holiday Mondays, Piopio Transfer Station (normal) opening hours are: Monday and Wednesday 9am – 1pm, Saturday 8am – 12 noon and Sunday 1pm – 5pm.

The change was listed under WDC Notices in the Waitomo News (pg 21) Thursday 28 January 2016.

If you want to contact me about either of the above subjects, or anything else that concerns you, please get in touch by phone or email.

PHIL BRODIE
RURAL WARD COUNCILLOR
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EM: BRODIEAUHI@XTRA.CO.NZ



3 LITTLE BIRDS

THE RUGBY WORLD

CUP – seems like a century ago now, but the Webb Ellis Trophy paid us a visit at the cafe and it just re-awakened those moments when we jumped off our chairs woo-hooing, screaming, laughing .

FAT PIGEON CAFE:

Well, this is a blimmen nice cafe this. The food is incredibly delicious, home-made, fresh fare from our country hearts. Wash that down with our award-winning Ozone coffee or a lovely hot cuppa tea ... what more could you possibly ask for?

You may have noticed a slight change to our menu ... we've changed it to a rotating menu. That means every two months we rotate our burger flavour (chicken, lamb and steak), our salads (prawn, chicken, lamb), and other items rotate: nachos vs quesadilla, pancakes vs French toast, mince on toast vs lambs fry. So fear not, all your favourites are still in there, they might just be taking a break.

It is finally starting to

cool down which is a blessing in our kitchen– as you can imagine it was sometimes unbearably hot in here. But as always, our pidgee crew soldier on and we are very proud of them and appreciate their good work.

Don't forget our 'Tuesday Treat' of an espresso coffee or tea, with either a muffin or a scone for just \$8 – pop in on a Tuesday and treat yourself.

THE NIGHT OWL:

Sticking with the rugby theme and because the season is upon us, to support our local Piopio Rugby Club we have a Rugby Pizza Mania special for you all. So on Thursdays and Saturdays you can enjoy one of our delicious pizzas plus a drink for just \$25. And of course you can watch the games LIVE on the big screen (er, probably not a Piopio game live on the big screen, but the Super games ... one day boys).

Also, we will be having weekly menu themes, we have already had Americana and Easter, and coming up is Mexican and Indian. So keep an eye on Facebook please.

Don't forget our specials: Thursdays Half-Price Desserts, Fridays Merry 60 (Happy Hour), Sundays 2 Pizzas for \$40 and Kids dine for \$5 (conditions apply).

OWLS NEST MOTEL:

Planning a wedding? The Owls Nest and Night Owl are lovely venues for this, and other, special occasions. We have just created a Wedding Info Booklet with full details of what we can offer so if you are interested in receiving a copy by email please drop us a line to theowlsnest@xtra.co.nz

CRAFTY PIGEON: Big congratulations to Carley and Roy, a beautiful baby boy named Rico was born on 18 March (a day before his Nana Melanie's birthday). Rico, his Mum and Dad are all doing very well. Rico was slightly earlier than expected as Carley was going to finish work on the 24th, but of course she'll be taking leave slightly earlier..... like, now! Justine will be on hand at the Crafty Pigeon for all your gift needs.

Hoping you all had a wonderful break over Easter, hunted for and consumed chocolate and spent quality time with family and friends.



Welcome to helloworld Te Kuiti Travel Talk

We have been operating under helloworld for one month and it has been a very exciting time. The strong partnerships that we have with our suppliers and in particular Air New Zealand has meant we have had some great exclusive offers for our clients.

The exclusive offers will be a regular feature together with providing our long term commitment and expert service to our local community.

Steve has been jetting around the Pacific over the last month and he has all the latest updates and knowledge for Rarotonga and Fiji. His posts on our helloworld Te Kuiti Facebook page have certainly been very popular.

Lastly on the 4th of April helloworld will launch Fly Buys with a triple points offer. Until next time, "Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer"

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Simmental Cross weaner steers make \$1300.00 at Stratford Weaner Fair

Yes – that’s right. It’s not a misprint. In fact, weaner sales across the country have been very strong this season, and as always, Simmental cross cattle have been some of the most sought after.

Fact 1. There is a nationwide shortage of beef cattle

Fact 2. A good European sire (for example Simmental) crossed over a



good British bred cow, Hereford x Friesian by preference in our experience, should always produce an outstanding calf with hybrid vigour that will either be an early finishing animal or a readily saleable store animal at any age.

It’s well known that a line of

Simmental cross animals sold in the sale yards will always make a premium over other lines – so if you are in the market for a bull, look no further that a Simmental.



And if you want to buy local, from a vendor you know, we will have 20-25 R2 bulls for sale this autumn. For a no-obligation look – come to our Open Day on Monday 2 May, and if you are looking to buy a bull, mark our sale date on your calendar – 31 May. To have a chat, call **ANDREW OR TRACEY NEAL ON 877 8009**

ARIA TWO DAY BIKE RIDE

The annual Aria two day bike ride was held at the Aria Domain on the 13th and 14th of February. The bike ride, which began as an Aria school fundraiser, has now grown so large that it has become an event that is run by many from the wider Aria community.

This year the opportunity to ride three 40km tracks over a number of properties in the area attracted 879 riders over two days, some coming from as far away as BOP and

Wellington. Many families support the two day ride too as it is a chance for newer riders to test themselves on the shorter rides as well as the kiddies track.

On Saturday evening we held the ‘mud run’, where keen riders try and get as far as they can into a huge mud pit with the winning rider collecting a small bounty for their efforts.

Nearly 300 people camped at the Aria Domain this year and our team of helpers fed nearly 300 people for dinner on Saturday night as well as around 100 hungry mouths for breakfast each day.

This year the profit for the event was \$27,000. Aria Primary received \$20,000, St Helen’s Domain Board \$5,650 and the rest of the proceeds were split amongst King Country Honda, Piopio Lions Club, St Mary’s



Andrew & Tracey Neal

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Scout Group, White Ridge Contracting and A & L Earthworks.

Each year the tracks spread over a total of 30 farms and we continue to be grateful to the landowners who open their farms to allow the ride to happen. We wouldn’t be able to run the event without the co-operation and assistance of these landowners. We are also grateful to our supporters and sponsors whose contributions help to make this annual event such a success.

THE ARIA BIKE RIDE TEAM




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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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