



PIOPIO

BirdTalk

BI MONTHLY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER COVERING PIOPIO, ARIA & MAHOENUI DISTRICTS

PIOPIO RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB - A SEASON TO BE PROUD OF...

The players, committee and supporters of Piopio Rugby Club can all be very proud of the amazing achievements made this year. A better start could not have been asked for, when in the first round, the boys beat Waitomo and brought home the Dempsey Munro Cup. After playing some gritty, determined games, both home and away, they qualified third to make it into the top six, giving them a shot at the coveted Meads Shield. This placing was an improvement on last year and the highest for many years, so there was great cause for celebration at this first milestone. The second round proved to be a very exciting one for Piopio and they were rewarded with a large following of supporters coming to both local and away games.

As always, the Waitete game generates a huge following and is one that everyone looks forward to. This year, for the first time in 23 years, Piopio beat Waitete, in Te Kuiti, 28-16 and brought home the Hetet Shield. The last time Piopio had their name on this shield was in 1983 and it now hangs proudly in our clubrooms.

With this win and another over the second ranked team, Taumarunui Eels, Piopio went on to qualify second for the semi finals and that granted them the all important home game. This was a huge day for our club, in very wet conditions but this

didn't stop our very loyal supporters coming to the game with easily 300 people roaring on the sidelines. Unfortunately, Piopio was unable to repeat the performance from two weeks prior and went down to the Eels, 17-10.

However, the squad of 27 men can hold their heads up high and reflect on the great achievements they have made this year. They have committed themselves to every aspect of the Club, both on and off the field and to their team. It is this attitude that is reflected by the support they have received from the community and the players appreciate this loyal partnership. The committee are also very thankful for their sponsors and supporters who have helped the club get to where they are now and are looking forward to finishing off two big projects over the summer, replacing the field lights and having new carpet and lino in the clubrooms.

To celebrate the success of the club and to farewell the old carpet, we are holding our prize giving at 7.30pm on Friday 11th August 2017, at the clubrooms. This year we are really excited to be able to honour some of our players who have played 50 games for Piopio with blazers, which hasn't been done for sometime.

Everyone is welcome but tickets are limited. Tickets can be collected from Shona at KC Honda or please contact Joy on 027 3439243.

Cost: \$20 per person (includes a continuous supper.)

COUNTRY SPIRIT LIVES

ON as the Mahoenui Community celebrate the tenth Pig Hunt Competition anniversary. With record numbers in recent years, the committee have great plans for the prize giving day this year, Saturday 9th September. The essence of the day will remain the same as the opening back in 1998, when former residents Deborah McFarlane and son James (Jimbo) McFarlane gained support to run the first event. Collectively the committee created this fundraiser to support the ongoing maintenance of the Mahoenui Memorial Hall. Recognising pig hunting was a necessity in the area and a form of pest control and recreational gain,

the two served a purpose. Today the competition now allows for a wider selection of entries for the more serious sportsman and for upcoming junior hunters. The heaviest boar and average weighted pig is highly contested each year, with significant prize money on offer for hunters over a three day period. Junior hunters vie for the heaviest possums, hares/ rabbits, goats and turkeys in the little critters sections. The competition is also renowned for its spot prizes as every entry is eligible. In a community who value the importance of their district, retaining the Mahoenui Hall as the hub of this rural settlement is priority and hosting the annual event is now a known success by hunters and families alike.



FOR HIRE

Meeting Rooms
available at
Piopio College

8778173

UPCOMING EVENTS

PIPIO RUGBY CLUB PRIZE GIVING

EVERYONE WELCOME - COME AND FAREWELL THE OLD CARPET PRIZE GIVING MUSIC / BAR SUPPER

FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST AT 6:00 PM
PIPIO RUGBY CLUB ROOMS

Tickets \$20

Tickets available at **KG Honda (Shona)**
Joy 0273639245

10TH ANNIVERSARY

THURSDAY 7th - SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2017
WEIGH IN: 12 - 3pm SATURDAY 9th



THE MAHOENUI HALL
Midway between Mohau & Piopio SH3
PRIZE GIVING
JUNIOR 3.30PM // OPEN 4PM

MAJOR SPOT PRIZE **\$1000**
[CASH PRIZE]

Te Kuiti Tyres SET OF TYRES VALUED \$1000 +

OPEN CATEGORY	PRIZE
AVERAGE WEIGHT Rotorbirds RMD	\$1000
HEAVIEST BOAR Rotor Work Helicopters	\$500
2ND Simpson Contracting / Freee Contracting	\$300
3RD Burrowcliffe Shearing Vanilla Blonde / Wilson Drainage	\$200
4TH White Ridge Contracting	\$100
BEST TUSKS Voucher Worth \$600	\$600
2nd BEST TUSKS Beverage Contracting	\$200
MYSTERY WEIGHT Adams Contracting	\$200

KIDS CRITTERS COMPETITION	
GOLD COIN - Juniors section (15 years & Under)	
Heaviest POSSUM	Kindly sponsored by Piopio Mechanical
HEAVIEST RABBIT/ HARE	TARANGOWER
HEAVIEST TURKEY	STUD
Best Measured GOAT HORNS (head only)	DOC Teaurunui

WILD FOOD & BAR FACILITIES
BTPOS - CASH AVAILABLE em: frpbriiggs@gmail.com

FUNDRAISED EVENT FOR THE MAHOENUI HALL WWW.FACBOOK.COM/MAHOENUI#MAHOENUIHALL

ARIA SCHOOL PRODUCTION
Matinee 11am // 7pm
Thursday 17th August in the
Aria Hall.

ALI BABA AND THE BONGO BANDITS

Book, Music & Lyrics by **CRAIG HAWES**

NOTICES

MAINLY MUSIC
Thursdays @ 10am

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

Allison 877 8840

Piopio Playcentre

IT'S YOUR VILLAGE
Raising kids and growing up is better when you have a village behind you.

LET KIDS BE KIDS
Getting messy is good for kids. Let them do it at Playcentre so you don't have to at home.

IT'S THE GIFT OF TIME
Come and enjoy time out at Playcentre while spending quality time with your kids.

YOU CAN PLAY TOO
Play is not just for kids. It's good for your soul. Come and have fun alongside your kids.

IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY
Everyone contributes in their own unique way to grow stronger communities.

Monday [all ages] & Wednesday
Big Kids (3.5 years - 5 years)
9.15am-12.15pm

Rachael 8778484

5 REASONS TO COME TO PLAYCENTRE

Everyone Benefits
You give we sell

Paddy's
A COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

MARKET

7 OCTOBER 2018
PIPIO COLLEGE GYMNASIUM

[JEFF ANDREWS 8778346]
[GAVIN TODD 8777700] [STEVE COOPER 8778 159]



ALL SAINTS CHURCH
Main Road, Piopio
Worship service 1st and 3rd Sunday
of each month. Service at 10am

REVEREND JEKHELI SINGH 8788026

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MATT WRENN
Builder

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Phone: (07) 877 8285
Fax: (07) 878 7180
mattwrennbuilding@gmail.com

NOTICES

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN TE ROO M&ORI

Ages 6 months upwards
Open 8.30 - 3pm
Mon to Friday
NO FEES - FREE COURSES -
FREE PICKUP & DROP OFF

Contact

KRISTEN PARI
8778185

WHANAU@KO4DO25.KOHANGA.AC.

TE KUITI GOLF CROQUET

Wed 10am / Sat 10am

Heather and Brian Richardson

07 8778486

COMPUTER SKILLS

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

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

SENIOR NET ROOMS
51A KING STREET WEST, TE KUITI
DAVE WALTON
022 1935 711

HOUSIE

An enthusiastic group meet to play Housie.
1.00m each Thursday at the Senior Citizens' Rooms

You are welcome to join us for fun, laughter and serious involvement in trying to be the winner!!
Come and have some fun, along with an exchange of news and views.

SENIOR CITIZENS

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

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

All senior citizens are most welcome to attend.

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

WENDY WEINBERG
8778686

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

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Piopio 3942
Workshop: 07 877 8880
Cellphone: 027 285 1703
Email: bcsp@xtra.co.nz

PIOPIO HALL

- Bond 100.00
- Hire (Daily Hire-age) 200.00
- Rental per hour (max 4 hours) 20.00
- Audio Equipment - Hire Fee 65.00
- Audio Equipment Bond 60.00

The above are all to be booked and paid for through the Waitomo District Council. The below is to be booked and paid for through the Committee:

CROCKERY HIRE:

- Table \$10 per table
- Chairs \$2 per chair
- Wine flutes/glasses 50c per glass
- Tumblers 50c per glass
- Place settings \$2 per setting includes (dinner, side and dessert plate, mug, cutlery)

HELLO helloworld Travel Lovers!

My 2018 Africa Safari is nearly sold out with only 3 seats left. Our super adventurous group will be escorted by Kobus du Toit who lives and works in Te Kuiti. Kobus' personal knowledge, expertise and private guide experience of East Africa, will ensure a

truly dynamic once in a lifetime tour experience.

PLUS helloworld Te Kuiti is exclusively providing two more amazing 2018 tours to Tasmania and the Southern States of the USA. Think Elvis' Gracelands, cajun cooking in vibrant, colourful New Orleans and the Country Music



Hall of Fame in Nashville. Both locations are extremely rich in culture, history and fantastic food. Don't miss out - register your interest now!

P:07 878 8184 // HELLOWORLD.CO.NZ/TEKUITI

LORRENE.TEKANAWA@HELLOWORLD.CO.NZ

JOIN IN THE FUN



QUIZ NIGHT

PIOPIO MEMORIAL HALL FUNDRAISER

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

COMING SOON

THE ARIA TOY LIBRARY

Has enjoyed the benefits of being part of such a great little community recently.

The Piopio Lions donated \$300, which has enabled us to purchase two new Strider bikes to replenish our bike collection and King Country Honda have also very kindly donated a couple of promotional toy bikes to us this month. We have plans for these bikes, so watch this space.

To both the Piopio Lions Club and King Country Honda, thank-you very much. We are very lucky indeed.

IN OTHER NEWS - We are very excited to offer the services of Laura Taylor Photography to capture some wonderful portraits of your children. This fundraiser, will allow the upgrade of new toys and replacing others, new lego being a top

priority and a true favourite.

At just \$10 a session this is a fantastic opportunity to get some affordable professional photographs of your children, without having to leave town. Get them framed and you have beautiful and easy Christmas gifts for loved ones.

If you prefer, we are open Thursday mornings as always 9.30 - 11.30am. Moa Street, next to PGG Wrightsons.

So pop on down and catch up with Lucille to secure a booking, and choose some new toys while you are at it!

f Aria Toy Library

EM: ARIATOYLIBRARY@GMAIL.COM

ARIA TOY LIBRARY

presents

Laura Taylor ^{\$10} Per ^{session}
photography

...see the love.

15 - 17 SEPTEMBER

bookings

ariatoylibrary@gmail.com



PIOPIO DENTAL

Bookings available now
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Opening
14 August



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IT'S OK TO ASK FOR HELP

Police: 111

Womens Refuge: 0800 733 843

Ngati Maniapoto Marae PACT Trust:

07 878 0028

Te Kuiti Family Health Centre:

07 878 3680

Otorohanga Support House:

07 873 8156

Alcohol & Drug Helpline:

0800 787 797

Te Kuiti Community House Trust:

07 878 5272

It's not OK info line: 0800 456 450

www.oneyouok.org.nz



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Our Piopio district has been hard hit with burglaries this year and it's continuing.

The Mangaotaki, Mairoa and Ngapaenga in particular over the last six weeks.

These burglars are targeting woolsheds and implement sheds situated close to the road.

Quality shearing gear includes Heiniger and Lister portable plants, hand pieces and combs have been stolen. There have been seven quad bike thefts in our district this year.

Keep an ear out as this gear will go back into the farming community. Thefts cost all rural people as insurance companies up your premiums to cover the costs.

We all need to make the effort to make it harder for you to be targeted.

TIPS

- Lock away valuable portable items (shearing plants, chainsaws, waterblasters, welders etc.) using locks and chains.
- Security lights on buildings
- Dog kennels placed near sheds or entrances
- Install gate sensors
- Place mesh inside glass windows
- Chain motorbikes and remove keys.

- Invest in security cameras and GPS units.
- Record all serial numbers (great job for kids on a wet day!)
- Write down unknown vehicle registrations and forward to Police.

The Police just require that one bit of information that you may have or get to solve these burglaries.

Especially while these burglaries are happening record any vehicle descriptions with date and time and forward to me via email or phone.

If you have any information on anything and you wish to remain anonymous contact:

Piopio Police 07 8770490

Tony.schrafft@police.govt.nz

WWW.CRIMESTOPPERS-NZ.ORG

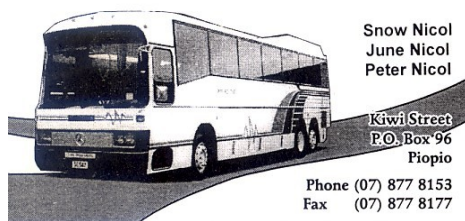
CRIME STOPPERS

0800555111

WE LIVE IN A GREAT COMMUNITY SO LET'S STOP THESE FEW WHO ARE TAKING FROM US

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THE FISH ARE STILL BITING....

To all those keen or interested in catching a fish or two in the Mokau area (snapper city), the Mokau Fishing Club is worth joining.

We have monthly BBQ's at the Awakino Hotel during the summer and also have several Fishing Competitions for boats, surf and long line fisher folk. Great prizes, small entry fees and a very social atmosphere.

We aim to preserve our special fishery and also promote fishing for kids. Our 'Take a Kid Fishing Day' is in January. We provide boats and safety gear and weather permitting, can cross the bar and bend some rods. Prizes to all and a BBQ after - no cost at all, thanks to Piopio Lions. Can't beat that!

So anything to do with fishing or just the social side, contact: **DUANE MCLEAN 8778223 OR PETER HURLEY 8777577**

PS We have a long standing Secretary standing down so if anyone is keen and /or able please let us know.

dinner + bar snacks

PIPIO COSMOPOLITAN CLUB
[de(llic-i-ous) + (t)asty] - [aff(ord-able)]

RESTAURANT OPEN:
WEDNESDAY/FRIDAY
SATURDAY
[6PM-8.30PM]

WELCOME TO THE DISTRICT

FISH MEALS
MIXED GRILLS
BURGERS
KIDS MEAL [FREE ICE-CREAM SUNDAE]
[DINE IN OR TAKE AWAY]

42 MOA STREET
PIOPIO
PH: 078778204

NON MEMBERS WELCOME TO DINE IN

dinner + bar snacks

PIPIO COSMOPOLITAN CLUB

AVAILABLE WEDNESDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

WELCOME TO THE DISTRICT

CLUB OPENING HOURS:
MONDAY 5PM
TUESDAY 4PM
WEDNESDAY 3PM
THURSDAY 5PM
FRIDAY 3PM
SATURDAY 1PM
SUNDAY 4PM

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Designer

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vanbeekdesign@farmside.co.nz

THREE LITTLE BIRDS. . .

MEL'S UPCOMING Food and Cultural Tour to Vietnam is 7th - 17th October is fully booked . It promises to be another amazing trip and those of us unable to go are understandably mighty jealous.

Birthdays were celebrated in June: the Fat Pigeon turned nine and the Owls Nest turned three. We celebrated by offering patrons a complimentary mini cupcake.

THE NIGHT OWL:

We are running our popular Quiz Evenings again every Thursday fortnight. The next 10th August, so grab some mates and come along for a fun night. A big thank

you to our quiz sponsors. Half of all entry monies received will be donated to Piopio St John and Piopio Volunteer Fire Brigade, so a very worthy cause to come along and support these mighty fine folks.

We have enjoyed some special occasions at the Night Owl including birthdays and family gatherings, so please spread the word that we are available for functions and events.

OWLS NEST MOTEL: We have enjoyed excellent occupancy at the motel, thanks to a bit of contract work around the area, as well as tourists and travellers. If you have friends or family requiring accommodation, please

enquire.

FAT PIGEON

CAFE: The café continues to be busy – it was VERY busy over the recent school holidays but that is to be expected.

Don't forget that our locals get to enjoy a Tuesday Treat ... a regular espresso coffee (or tea) plus a muffin or scone for just \$8.

CRAFTY PIGEON: Exciting new items are arriving soon so please pop in and see Yvonne or Kim for the perfect gift for him, her, them and you!



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

PIOPIO PRIMARY CELEBRATES SUCCESS

Great results for inter-school Rangitoto cross country with Atiria Barrowcliffe winning the Intermediate girl's cross country race and Reece Omelvena gaining a second and Harley Denize a third place in the Junior boy's race. We also gained first place in the Junior boy's and Junior girl's teams events.

Aria orienteering was another successful occasion with Tana Maguire achieving first in the Year 4 Boy's along with Che Benefield coming in third. We also had Reece Omelvena placed second in the Year 5/6 boys race. Our Year 4 team was placed second overall.

The celebrations of Matariki engaged all students in making soup; peeling, chopping and dicing vegetables that were donated from our families. The soup was shared out and enjoyed with all the students at the end of the day.

Attending the annual Whikoi mo Te Reo at Te Kuiti marae to present a play based on the Kaitiaki (guardians) of the Mokau River , and uniting with Piopio College to also share in their Matariki celebration was certainly a great finish to the festivities.

Major renovations on the multi purpose room has now begin after receiving significant funds from outside funders. The interior will be completed in the coming weeks.

SCOTT LINCOLN

www.theowlsnest.co.nz

FAT PIGEON CAFE
• 07 877 8822 •

Night Owl
• 07 877 8769 •

OWLS NEST MOTEL
• 07 877 8767 •

CRAFTY PIGEON
• 07 877 8992 •

BOOK TOUR

Don't miss this unforgettable evening with Doug Avery to celebrate the publication of his much-anticipated book.

In a dark place, having weathered years of drought, Doug Avery shares his powerful story of how he turned his Marlborough farm — and his life — around. He has tips for all of us in dealing with what life throws at us.



Friday 1 September 2017

7.00pm-9.00pm at Te Awamutu Club, 542 Alexandra Street, Te Awamutu

Tickets \$20 from Paper Plus, 07 871 5257. Includes finger food, tea & coffee. (Light meals can be purchased beforehand) Proceeds to charity

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PIOPIO LIONS CLUB



The Lions club recently had their Change of Officers and Stephen Cooper (owner of Piopio's Oily Rag Garage) is now the President of the Club.

During the past year the club has supported several local organisations in various ways. Some of these are:

- Piopio Fire Brigade for reflective jackets \$1260.
- Tainui Pet Day \$150
- Piopio Calf Club \$200
- Pureora Youth Camp \$500
- Senior Citizens Lunch \$2650
- Mokau Fishing Club- Take a Kid Fishing \$500
- Piopio Fire brigade replacement

- defibrillator pads \$100
- Aria Toy Library \$300

The Lions Club holds a monthly tea meeting in the senior citizens club rooms for which we donate \$900 per year. This is of great assistance to the senior citizens financially, as they are also on a tight budget.

We have also committed approximately \$2000, in conjunction with Piopio Caravan Park for another defibrillator for Piopio.

We had four local organisations help us at the Fielddays, which allowed us to contribute \$900 each to their causes. These were Piopio College Senior Netball for the UNIS tournament, Piopio College Ball Committee, Rural Women, Piopio Youth Sports

Committee. The club also provides four trustees for the Board of the Piopio Retirement Centre.



The Lions Club membership is slowly dwindling, to the extent that we are very concerned about our ability to carry on. We currently only have male members, and although we have never had an application from a woman to join, do we need to change?

It would be a great loss to the district if the club was to fold. **We need new members** – if you have ever thought about joining our Club do reconsider and give us a call.

GAVIN TODD 877 7700

KEN PERRY 877 8035

Everyone Benefits
You give we sell



Paddys
A COMMUNITY
FUNDRAISER
MARKET

7 OCTOBER 2018
PIOPIO COLLEGE GYMNASIUM

[JEFF ANDREWS 8778346]
[GAVIN TODD 8777700] [STEVE COOPER 8778 159]

Paddys
MARKET

7 OCTOBER 2018
PIOPIO COLLEGE GYMNASIUM

HELP US TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY
WE ARE SEEKING ANY SALEABLE ITEMS OR PRODUCE, LARGE OR SMALL.

A COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

We also sell on commission and reserve, cars, tractors, furniture etc.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES

Recent projects supported
Piopio Fire Brigade for reflective jackets \$1260 & replacement defibrillator pads \$100 // Tainui Pet Day \$150 // Piopio Calf Club \$200 // Pureora Youth Camp \$500 // Senior Citizens Lunch \$2650 // Aria Toy Library \$300 // Mokau Fishing Club- Take a Kid Fishing \$500



[JEFF ANDREWS 8778346]
[GAVIN TODD 8777700] [STEVE COOPER 8778 159]

BARBARA KURIGER
MP FOR TARANAKI-KING COUNTRY

ELECTORATE OFFICE CONTACT

P | 07 870 1005
E | Kuriger.Teawamutu@parliament.govt.nz
A | 25 Roche Street, Te Awamutu

barbarakuriger.co.nz



National

Funded by Parliamentary Services and authorised by Barbara Kuriger MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

STOCK ON ROADS

Waitomo District Council receives regular complaints for matters relating to roaming stock. All farmers are reminded to mend fences regularly and keep their stock safely on their properties. Wandering stock may be impounded by Animal Control Officers and all costs associated with the impounding (officer time, transportation and sustenance) are recovered from the owner. If the stock is not claimed, it may be disposed of in accordance with the Impounding Act 1955.

Enquiries regarding Animal Control can be made to Waitomo District Council on 0800 932 4357, or email info@waitomo.govt.nz

Wandering stock are a threat to traffic safety!



Check your property fences regularly.

Report an emergency to the Police - 111.
Notify Animal Control 24/7 on 0800 932 4357

Creating a better future with vibrant communities and thriving business.



TLC TALK

As we all crank up the heater and stoke up that fire for winter, the TLC Action Group are turning up the publicity for the upcoming Waitomo Energy Services Customer Trust elections.

Alongside my TLC Action Group peers Nigel Chetty (Otorohanga) and William Oliver (Te Kuiti) I have posted off my nomination to be considered as a trustee for WESCT, so I now need your support.

WESCT Trust are the governing body over The Lines Company (TLC), and every three years an election is held to elect the trustees to represent the beneficiaries of WESCT. These trustees can only be nominated and voted on, by the beneficiaries of WESCT.

If you live within the circulation area of the Piopio Birdtalk and you currently have a TLC account sent to you each month (your name is on the bill), you are a beneficiary of WESCT, and therefore have the opportunity to vote in the upcoming election in September (not to be confused with the General Election).

The voting paper will be sent to you in the post, and it will not be in a TLC envelope. Therefore it is imperative that you do check your mail in September, fill in the voting paper and send it back in the envelope that will be provided. Online voting is not an option.

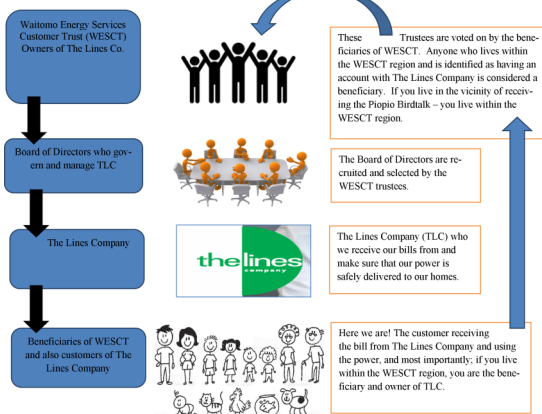
If you want to check out why we are standing for election, we have got quite flash and have created a website; www.tlcaction.com and you can also find us on Facebook, so please join our page to show your support and to keep abreast of what we are up to – we are standing as a trustee to be your voice as a beneficiary.

As I am still getting a lot of TLC customers who are WESCT beneficiaries who don't understand the governance and ownership of TLC, so, as I know everyone loves pictures, hopefully the attached image will provide a bit more clarity.

[IF CHANGE IS WHAT YOU WANT WITH TLC, VOTE FOR THE TLC ACTION GROUP – THREE TICKETS FOR ERIN GRAY, NIGEL CHETTY AND WILLIAM OLIVER]

ERIN GRAY 0278818818 // WIRIHANA_23@HOTMAIL.COM

UNDERSTANDING WHO YOU ARE VOTING FOR



PIOPIO COLLEGE MATARIKI

Since ancient times, to Māori, the sighting of the Pleiades constellation has marked the dawning of a new year. Traditionally, it was a time for reflection, to remember those who have passed away, to give thanks for the bounty of the land and look ahead to a new harvest. Today, it remains all those things; it also gives us a chance to celebrate and share the Māori culture. With 'Matariki Whare' challenge now becoming an annual event at the college, it is a great platform for our students to find their voice and express their pride and passion. Our students are encouraged to take leadership within their whare and to promote values that express community involvement and support. Matariki week involves whānau groups coming together and competing against each other through a series of challenges such as Matariki kai, decorations, costume and the grand event the *HAKA CHALLENGE!*

All culminating in the event that includes contributing schools, whanau and esteemed judges invited from around the district. This year our celebrations kicked off with a week of kai sharing. Each group creating delicious food, raising a grand total of \$816. Every student and staff member in our kura stepped up and participated with PRIDE. From helping to set up and preparing kai to going hard with the waiata and haka, everyone had an important role to play in supporting their

whānau.

We had some excellent feedback from the community including some awesome words of affirmation from our Mayor Brian Hanna who was really impressed with the quality and structure of our afternoon.

Guest performances by Piopio primary school added such depth to our day with the history of our local area and their performance 'Kaitiaki of the Mokau awa'.

We were also treated to a special item performed by local rising stars who filled our gymnasium with their stunning vocals.

We must thank our sponsors who kindly gifted us some amazing prizes this year, we were overwhelmed by your generosity and willingness to support the students. So a **MASSIVE** thank you to the following businesses: **Atkinson's & Associates, The Fat Pigeon, PGG Wrightsons Piopio, RD1 Piopio, The Warehouse and New World.**

A big thanks must also go to our judges, Roy Willison, Joanne Taitoko, Matarina and Rozel Coffin; our guests and parents who made a big effort to join our celebrations and our parent / whānau helpers who came in and supported our students on their kai days!

Lastly...A massive congratulations to our KOWHAI whānau who took out the number one spot and our Matariki Trophy for 2017. Ka mau te wehi, Kowhai!





Waitomo
District Council

Last month it was great to

see so many of you at the Sir Colin Meads statue and exhibition launch in Te Kuiti. It was a great celebration, and we received great sponsorship support both locally, and nationally. This was not a council led or funded project, and was a significant project for the small "Legendary Te Kuiti" committee, and it is great to see this group grow in strength. I have always used the example of what "Project Piopio Trust" has done for Piopio to encourage them to promote and grow Te Kuiti, so it was good to see them step up.

While it was great to recognise Sir Colin and his contribution to our district, and New Zealand, one of the key drivers was also to create another significant attraction for visitors to our district. We have had significant increases in visitors to this attraction, and our goal is to increase visitor numbers to our wider district, such as Piopio, Mokau and Benneydale. The Timber Trail continues to grow in user numbers year on year. As tourist numbers continue to rise, predictions are for the

current 3 million visitors to increase to 4.5 million by 2025. Currently visitor numbers to the Waitomo Caves are around 700,000, so there could be potentially 1 million visitors by 2025.

Some of you may have seen me on TV 3 recently arguing strongly for a Border Levy to support more infrastructure funding to come directly from tourists. The simple principle is those that are significant users of infrastructure such as toilets and car parking as examples, should contribute to the funding of it. While the increase in visitor numbers may seem daunting, it also offers exciting opportunities. Most surveys of visitors to New Zealand, indicate that they want to see the New Zealand great outdoors, get at one with nature, visit rural farms, as well as the obvious hotspots- Waitomo, Rotorua, and Queenstown. When I talk with Mayor's from other rural areas, they all mention the real success of rural homestays, and Air B&B that are creating significant diversification opportunities for farmers. I know a couple that operate near Te Kuiti and Waitomo, and they are very busy for significant parts of the year. We are very well located to capitalise on such

BRIAN HANNA - MAYOR WAITOMO DISTRICT

opportunities. Piopio is also well placed to capture visitors on route to Taranaki, and this will only increase after the lonely planet's rating of New Plymouth as a top 10 places to visit.

Rukuhia Domain.

Can I congratulate all those involved in the Rukuhia Domain, the place looks fantastic. I know Kate Carter and her committee have worked hard on improving the running of this great domain over the past few years.

To all those involved with Piopio Rugby Club, congratulations on a great season, building on several strong showings over last few years. I have really enjoying joining the big crowds of supporters that have followed both home and away games, it is a great effort by the hard-working committee, and is great to be part of your club. It was particularly enjoyable being at Rugby Park to see your victory over Waitete.

In closing, I wish Kim Tatham and Matt Sheriff all the best for their new venture with the new dental practice in Piopio. The building looks great, and I enjoyed a tour of it with Kim recently. I know that Kim's drive and determination will make this a successful new business for Piopio.



SPORT WAIKATO

is looking to acknowledge 2017 sporting excellence in the region.

District Sports Awards nominations are open from **Thursday 1 June 2017** until **Thursday 28 September 2017**.

Each district in the Waikato region will have its own awards event, with category winners going forward to be considered for the prestigious Brian Perry Waikato Regional Sports Awards held in January 2018.

Sport Waikato CEO Matthew Cooper said following a successful Olympic year, this year's events such as World Masters Games, the Rugby League World Cup, the British Lions Tour and the America's Cup yachting reminds us to recognise our own local sporting talent and volunteers.

"We have lots to celebrate – so many of our sportspeople and emerging athletes are based in the Waikato region and it's time to celebrate their achievements. It's also a time to recognise and acknowledge the hard work of those who support sport – the administrators, coaches, officials and volunteers whose time is spent helping our athletes to achieve", said Cooper.

Regional Capability and Events Coordinator Gilly Alexander wants clubs, schools and sports organisations to take the time to fill in a nomination form so that the achievements of a district can be highlighted. Nominations online is an easy process, from Administrator of the Year to Sportsperson of the Year - our categories reflect the various roles in sport.

WWW.SPORTWAIKATO.ORG.NZ/AWARDS

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E: ariatoylibrary@gmail.com

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Stephen Cooper (07) 8778159

Gavin Todd (07) 877 7700 or

Ken Perry (07) 877 8035

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E:shellalcock@hotmail.com

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Reon Verry (07) 878 8678

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PIOPIO BirdTalk

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