

# Foss claims world title in Aussie

**NATALIE FOSS** is the 2026 Universal Trench Ladies World Champion, taking out the title in Australia in February with a personal best score of 190/200.

She finished one point ahead of the next three competitors in a tight field, securing the win in a standout performance.

Since returning home, Natalie has continued a busy run of competition. She went straight into the Down The Line (DTL) Nationals in Christchurch where she won the ladies in the ball trap and handicap and placed first A grade in ball trap. This was followed closely by the DTL World Championships, also held in Christchurch where she was number one qualifier in the NZ second ladies team.

Clay target shooting includes several disciplines, and Natalie competes across a number of them. Her main events are Down The Line (DTL), Universal Trench (UT), and ISSF Trap (Trench), which is governed by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).

Her latest result adds to her growing success in UT and trench at an international level.

She is now preparing for the ISSF Junior World Championships in Germany in June.

While the Olympics are a long-term goal, Natalie says her focus for now is on gaining experience and continuing to compete internationally. She also looks up to New Zealand Olympic medallist Natalie Rooney, and what she has achieved on the international stage.

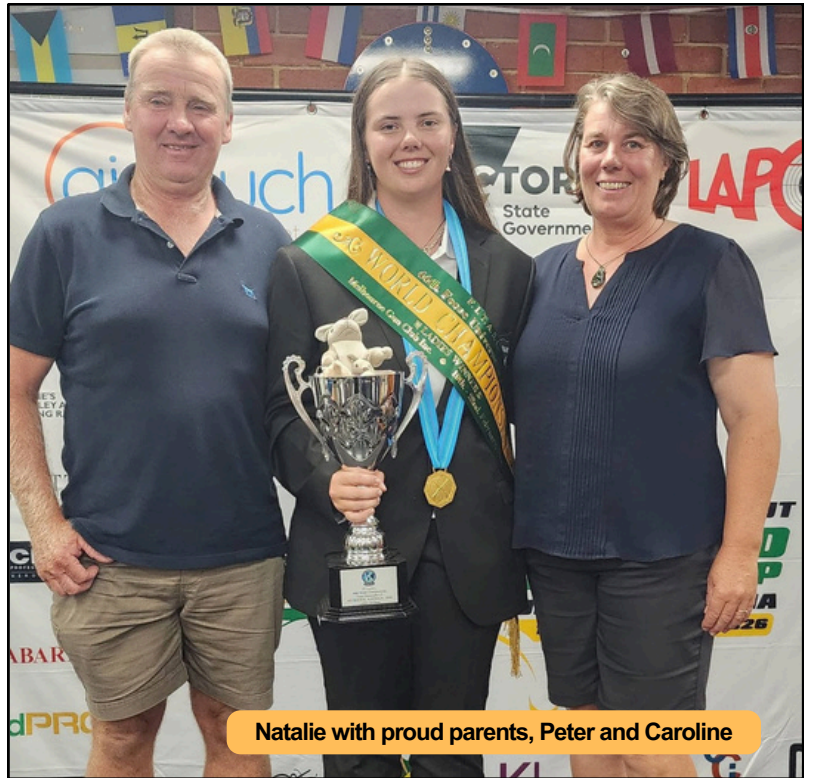
When it comes to her sport, Natalie says she enjoys the environment and the people.

“The culture, the atmosphere, the people - it’s an insane environment to be part of,” she said.

“Being around people who enjoy shooting as much as you do makes a big difference.”

But at the centre of it all are the shots themselves.

“Just watching targets as they disintegrate when you hit them and you go, yeah, I probably couldn’t hit that any harder.”



Natalie with proud parents, Peter and Caroline



Natalie; victorious



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# Piopio Ambulance update



IT WAS, for us, a busy January and February.

We were dispatched to eight medical, five ACC, and 10 motor vehicle crash incidents.

Statistically over 70% of these incidents occurred between 8am and 8pm which corresponds to the times when we have low staff availability. As a minimum we maintain cover over five nights and four days, but would like to increase our officer numbers to improve that response, particularly during day shifts.

We continue to look for volunteers who could contribute part or whole days and even nights.

If any local readers have toyed with the idea of serving our community take the next step and join us.

Mike Johnson

# Piopio Retirement Trust update

THANKS to wonderful support from our community, all three stages of the double-glazing project have now been completed at Paearuhe Village. All rentals are now fully double glazed, (retrofit), wooden frame French doors replaced with sliders and three other rancher-sliders replaced - two of them very large.

It has raised the level of quality of the units, which will also be easier to heat in winter.

We are grateful for the support from Piopio Lions Club, Piopio & District Charitable Trust, King Country Christians, and the Hurley family. We also acknowledge Brewer Joinery Ltd (t/a DUCO) who we feel gave us a good deal.

Our special thanks from the rest of the Board to Liz Morgan. Liz managed the project from concept to completion. Without Liz's energy and persistence it wouldn't have happened.

On another note, a heads up to get in touch if you may be interested in joining our team. Quite a few of us are getting a bit 'long in the tooth' so we are naturally looking out for younger people who would eventually be willing to take on leadership roles.

Contact:  
Chairperson Gavin Todd  
021 870 0545,  
Secretary Liz Morgan  
027 284 6653  
Treasurer Jenny Brodie  
021 141 1243  
or email  
piopiretirement@gmail.com

# Anzac 2026



THIS YEAR, please assemble for the parade at 10.45am at the corner of Tui and Weka Streets.

The parade is at 11am with formalities and service to follow. Our small RSA group are keen to try a new format which is still in the planning stage.

Any major changes will be informed via social media, website or school newsletters closer to the time.

Everyone attending needs to be mindful of safety as the State Highway through Piopio will be open to traffic.

At this stage Pam Voyce will be MC, Gordon Simpson RSA lead, and Thomas Roy Guest Speaker.

All groups and individuals are very welcome to participate in the March and wreath laying ceremony.

Following the service, all attendees are welcome to share in food and refreshments at the Piopio Cosmopolitan (and RSA) Club.

Contact:  
Jenny Brodie  
021 141 1243 email  
jenbrodie63@gmail.com  
or Bill Wana  
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## FEEDBACK & ARTICLES WELCOME!

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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# Piopio Fruit & Veg Stand

AS I write this, we've been through the seasonal bounty of plums and peaches, kamokamo, potatoes, green beans, and zucchini and squash, with apples, heritage beans, butternut and pumpkins coming on. Still a bit early to talk about the kumara crop, feijoas and figs.

Some in our community even managed to get a decent harvest of heirloom tomatoes this season, of which I am very jealous!

We got some, but not nearly enough thanks to all the rainy weather. My always reliable Cherokee Purple disappointed, prompting consideration of adding other varieties into the mix for next year.

We'd thought our Golden Queen peaches were decimated by brown rot from all the rain this year, and while the fruit was hit with lots of brown rot, we are managing to get enough to poach and bottle for winter use. The heritage climbing beans are drying out and getting shelled when time permits. They dry out further before being put in glass jars for longer term storage out of direct light in the pantry for use in soups, casseroles and even pumpkin enchiladas!

It's not too soon to be thinking about planting late autumn and winter veggies; just remember to net against white butterfly for your brassicas (kales, cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli). Nets can be removed once consistent cold weather arrives and the

butterflies disappear.

Silverbeet and spinach are also good to plant, and it's cool enough now to get a crop of coriander going. I always try to give the beds a good boost with compost, blood and bone, manure and lime to revive them before putting new crops in; they get a rest period between winter and summer crops.

We grow spinach, silverbeet, Italian parsley and spring onions in planters in the glasshouse over winter, but you could also grow them outside in planters if you don't want to mess around in the ground over winter.

Our Community Stand has been very busy the past few weeks. I get reports from people concerned about camper vans, contractors and passersby cleaning things out and taking more than their "fair share." I can honestly say that in the mornings when I am checking the stand and dropping off contributions I meet a cross-section of locals: people who live or work in the area or are heading off to school, who both drop contributions and grab a bit of fruit or veg. Or more than a bit in some cases, as in a local who complained about people cleaning out the stand while grabbing three pots of jam! I rest my case with tongue firmly in cheek.

My belief continues to be that "we don't have too many bad eggs in Piopio," after almost eight years managing the Community Stand. I'm happy for our garden and orchard

**Karen Barrett**

struanfarm@gmail.com

0275 727 407



surplus to get taken and put to good use. Hope you feel the same.

Please check our Facebook page for posts on weekday offerings plus growing tips and recipes. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or issues. And thanks for your continued contributions of garden and orchard surplus - it makes a difference.

## Te Kuiti & District's Pony Club update



**OUR SMALL** but mighty pony club is enjoying a fantastic season following recent arena upgrades, made possible through the generous support of sponsors, locals and the hard work and dedication of the club committee.

The newly improved arena was officially opened on December 18, with local councillors and sponsors attending the event to celebrate the milestone with our members and supporters.

Since then, the grounds have been used regularly during our rallies and by users far and wide.

The upgraded facility is already making a real difference, providing a safe and enjoyable space for riders and their ponies to train and develop their skills.

Our young riders are progressing well and, just as importantly, enjoying the

camaraderie and friendships that pony club offers.

A busy summer of local shows has seen members out and about with their ponies, gaining valuable experience and achieving personal milestones along the way.

A huge congratulations goes to former pony club member Tessa Bradcock, who has recently been selected to represent New Zealand in the Young Rider team at the Oceania Championships in Adelaide this April. Tessa and her horse *Ceremony* will compete in the CCI3\*-L class — an incredible achievement and a truly inspiring example for our younger riders.

If you would like to join our fun and welcoming local pony club, or make use of our wonderful facility, please contact Ranae Duder on 027 878 8641.

New members are always welcome!

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## OUR COMMUNITIES

# Piopio Lions

**THE CLUB** has had quite a busy time since the last birdtalk report.

Starting with a most enjoyable senior citizens dinner attended by approximately 100 local people. (See photos right)

Once again, thanks to Cheryl Johnson for putting on a lovely meal. Thanks also to Waitomo District

Council for use of the Hall.

The Lions Club took the opportunity to present Mike Johnson with a Melvin Jones award given to him in recognition of his outstanding service to St Johns

Ambulance and our local district over a long period of time. This is the highest award that Lions International present.



The food caravan was taken to the Christmas Eve parade, Aria Sport Day and Aria Bike Ride.

All these events are always fun days out for members and those who help.

Recently Dr Lee Spencer from the Te Kuiti Medical Centre was our guest speaker at one of our tea meetings and spoke of his experience with the Canadian Army working in many different countries.

The Club as been able to donate funds to the Piopio Fire Brigade for the purchase of training equipment, Mokauiti Hall for roof repairs, and Piopio Pony Club for work on their arena.

The Fieldays are coming up and the club will be on site again this year so will be looking for groups to help.

Gavin Todd  
Secretary



Peter & Caroline Foss

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# Local pools upgraded

THE Piopio Community Pools would like to thank all the families, businesses and clubs that donated by sponsoring a brick. The sponsors wall looks magic!

With your help the small pool was relined successfully and steps were put inside the shallow end.

All primary school children and Piopio Swim club - learn to swim children were all able to participate in lessons this season. Thank you all once again!

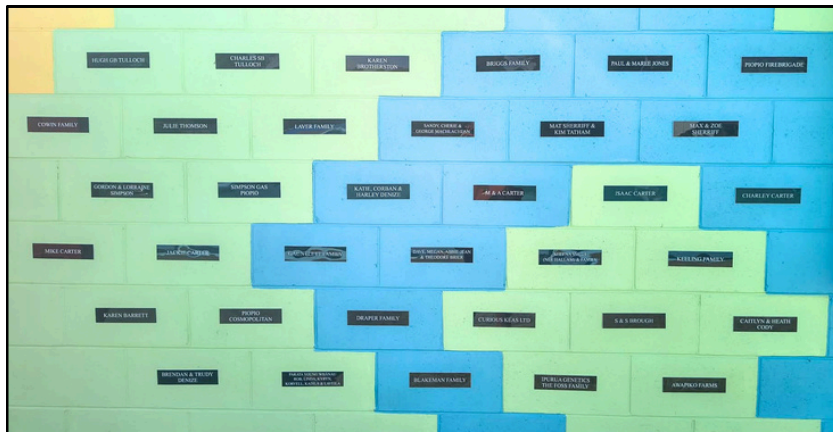
Update: the big pool had a new doser system installed; this system puts the chemicals in automatically and accurately.

The small pool has funds for a automatic doser system but the old changing rooms its housed in has planned to be demolished. Watch this space!

The existing changing rooms requires a new roof - fundraising for this is underway. If you are a trade person that can help with this or would like to make a donation, please get in touch.

Once again thank you to our super stars Sheryl and Kimberley for running the Aria Sports day kitchen fundraiser. Also, thank you to all those who supported by donating food. It was a busy fundraiser!

The committee is raising funds by running the kitchen at up and coming rally in May.



# Aria Squash Club news

2026 Squash is upon us as we head into the cooler months.

Membership subs at Aria are for the whole year and support those who are wanting social squash opportunities through to a competitive membership.

Social nights are a good way to see you if would like to join up. Starting at 6.30pm Fridays, you can come out to Aria Squash Club for a hit. There are racquets and balls available to use - all you need is some non-marking sports shoes.

The bar is always open to quench your thirst after a game, and food is available on request.

Squash Waikato have released their Competitive Tournament calendar, and there are plenty to choose from this season for both Seniors and Juniors.

We would like to again offer junior training for Term 2, however we are on the look out for a Junior co-ordinator to be able to deliver junior training opportunities like last year - so if you are interested, please get in touch....

[ariasquash@gmail.com](mailto:ariasquash@gmail.com)

Come along and try out Squash - its a great work out, affordable membership options, and safe for the kids while the parents play too.

Lee Alcock

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# Aria School news

**THE YEAR** has started well!  
**Community Bike Ride Success**

We are very grateful to the community for their amazing effort in running yet another successful community bike ride fundraiser last month.

**House Swimming Sports**

A lovely sunny day and warm pool made the well-attended House Swimming Sports a fun day for all, on February 27.

The fun events of the day were enjoyed by all participants, especially the House Chant competition.

**Next Term**

We look forward to again hosting the Interschool Orienteering event at the Aria Domain on June 19. All local schools will be competing and we always welcome adult teams with open arms.

Contact Aria School office for full details.

**Science Celebration**

We will also host our annual interschool Science Celebration in the Aria Hall on July 1. All science boards will be open to viewing on June 30 from 1.30-5pm and July 1 prior to Prizegiving at 10.30am.

Feel free to drop in to see the work from our local primary schools.

More information regarding these events will follow next term. We will also begin our annual school production preparations in readiness for performances mid-term 3 (August 20 at the Aria Hall).

Keep safe everyone!

Pam Voyce

Principal, Aria School

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# Piopio Swimming Club kicks off

**PIOPIO** Swimming Club's 2026 season kicked off at the start of the school term, with 70+ local children registered in our Learn to Swim and Club Squad programmes.

We are very appreciative to have most of our experienced volunteer coaches return and share their knowledge and passion for swimming this season. This allowed guidance for our newer coaches and pool assistants and offered quality training sessions for our swimmers. A big thank you to those who give up their time to provide this valuable skill to our community.

Due to many Club swimmers leaving school last year, we were able to accommodate new families into our programme this season. We have not been able to do this for a number of years. The number of swimmers we can accommodate depends on the number of volunteers we have to facilitate our programme, so we are always keen for more volunteers (even other committee roles not involving getting wet!) If you are interested, please get in touch with our Learn to Swim Co-ordinator by emailing [piopiotts@gmail.com](mailto:piopiotts@gmail.com)

2026 conditions have not been favourable, with heavy rain fall and cold winds throughout making the lessons challenging for many. However, we breed

them pretty tough around here and know that there have been many improvements and skills strengthened during this short time.

School swimming sports and Interschool competitions displayed confidence and technique from all of our swimmers and highlighted the depth and growing number of younger swimmers achieving club level capabilities.

Many of our swimmers attended our Carnival held Saturday 28th February and were matched against swimmers from Marlin (Taumarunui), and Tekuiti Swim Club. Thank you to all those who helped make this day the success it was!

We are fortunate to have received a grant from Grassroots Trust and donations of spot

prizes for the event from local community businesses: The Fat Pigeon Cafe, PGG Wrightsons, Hairloom Hair Design, and Foraged - homeware & gifts. Thank you for your support!

And finally, a huge thank you goes out to the Piopio Pools Trust, who have faced constant operational issues due to the age of the pools and the systems needed to operate the pools. There is a small, but dedicated group that work tirelessly to keep the facility open and functioning for our School, Club, and community to use.

There are many people in our community that have contributed to do what they can to assist. There is still lots to do and we urge the community to get behind any fundraising efforts that go towards the pools.



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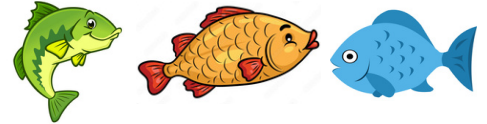
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## WILD FOOD AND BAR FACILITIES

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 Proceeds will support the Piopio Fire Brigade and St Johns


**PIOPIO COSMOPOLITAN CLUB**  
 42 Moad Street, Piopio

# Mokau Fishing Club News



**WELL**, the year is certainly flying by. If you're like me, the opportunities to take advantage of the conditions have been limited to small windows, and work always seems to get in the way. That said, autumn has so far been better than summer, and hopefully we'll all get a few more chances to get out there on the water.

Don't forget the Summer Competition is still running until Easter Monday so make sure you weigh in a fish to be in the running for some prizes.

We recently held our TAKF Day. Unfortunately, due to road closures not everyone could make it, but we still had a great turnout of keen young anglers, and it was a really fun day.

Ladies Day was also held, and like most of our competitions this year, we just couldn't catch a break with the weather. The boating section had to be cancelled, but the ladies weren't going to be stopped and got straight into the land-based sections, catching some decent fish.

Well done to all the ladies! There were some great prizes given out and it was an enjoyable day for everyone involved.

One of the important things we like to do for our sponsors is invite them

fishing. Once again, this day was a huge success. It's a small way we can say thank you for the support they give our club. It was great to see so many members turn up for the BBQ at the hotel, mingle with our sponsors, and thank them personally.

Not all sponsors can make the day, and I often get calls from those who are disappointed they can't attend due to other commitments, but they still really appreciate the invitation and enjoy the day when they can make it.

A big thank you to everyone who helps make this day a success — without our sponsors, we wouldn't be able to do what we do.

We now have the bar camera set up as a live option, which can only be accessed by members. This seems to be working well so far. We will look at changing the login code once the financial subscription year ends on November 30.

We're also looking for some bowlers for the Annual Tournament against the Awakino Bowling Club. It's always a fun day, so if you'd like to play on the Fishing Club team please get in touch and let us know.

- Details:
- Saturday 28th March
  - 9:30am start

- \$15 per person (including lunch)
- That's about it from me. Time to get some fishing done and get a fish weighed in for the Summer Comp!

**Dates to remember:**

- Summer Comp ends – Monday, April 6 (inclusive)
  - Summer Comp Prize Giving – Saturday, April 18. (Remember: Adult members must attend prize giving to claim their prize.)
- Good luck out there!  
Cheers, Wal



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- EARTHWORKS - DRAINAGE - METAL -

# PP College athlete on the rise

**PEDRO LLOYD** has arrived! And he made sure everyone knew it.

On Tuesday, March 18, Pedro stepped onto the runway at the Waikato Bay of Plenty Athletics Championships and delivered a statement performance in the Junior Javelin — launching a massive 34.43m throw on his very first attempt.

One throw. One mark set. One title secured. That's what they call "One & Done."

But Pedro didn't pack it in after that — he kept pushing, chasing even more distance and showing the mindset of an athlete who's only just getting started.

1st Place – Junior Javelin (34.43m). That performance has now earned him qualification for the North Island

Secondary Schools Athletics Championships, taking place March 28-29 at Papakura Athletics Stadium, Auckland. And he's not done yet... 4th Place – Shot Put (10.56m)

Pedro's effort in the circle also sees him qualify to compete in the Junior Shot Put at North Islands — doubling his opportunity to represent Piopio College on the big stage.

A huge acknowledgement to:

- his whānau for their unwavering support
- our school for backing his journey
- the wider community who continue to lift our young athletes

From Piopio to the North Island stage... Pedro Lloyd is just getting started.

Source: Piopio College



**Pedro Lloyd**

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- Local knowledge stays within the business.
- Decisions reflect the interests of local consumers.
- TLC contributes to local economic growth and regional stability.

Investing in the community

In addition to the TLC discount, TLC has invested more than \$800,000 per year in recent years into:

- Community grants and sponsorships
- Scholarships
- Maru Energy Trust and energy hardship support
- Food banks
- Solar projects and education programmes

This investment supports resilience, opportunity and wellbeing across communities including Piopio, Mokau and Aria.

To learn more about how community ownership works and what it means for you visit: [wesct.org.nz](http://wesct.org.nz).

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## LOCAL FACILITIES

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ariacosc@gmail.com

**Carley Jane Beauty**  
021 042 4493

**Cloverleaf Café**  
07 877 8368

**Fat Owl Motel, Bar and Eatery**  
07 877 8767  
fatowl@xtra.co.nz

**Fat Pigeon Café**  
07 877 8822  
fatpigeon@xtra.co.nz

**G.A.S. Piopio & Tyrepower Piopio**  
07 877 8159

**Hairloom Hair Design**  
Paige Brooks  
07 212 1475

**King Country Chiropractic**  
Dr Scott Mouatt  
07 873 7376  
027 330 1339  
kcchiro@xtra.co.nz

**Piopio Berry Orchard**  
07 877 8490

**Piopio Cosmopolitan Club**  
07 877 8204

**Piopio Dental**  
Dr Kim Tatham  
07 877 8864  
smilingkiwi@piopiodental.co.nz

**Recreation Centre**  
Kimberley Cody  
07 877 8700  
027 210 1860

**The Ferret's Nest**  
Grace Cortes Montecinos  
022 154 9745

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**Aria Playcentre**  
Hannah Bodger-Kearns  
07 877 7898

**Aria Primary School**  
07 877 7857

**Aria Toy Library**  
ariatoylibrary@gmail.com

**Curious Keas Preschool**  
Stephanie Brough  
07 877 8224

**Kohanga Piopio**  
07 877 8185

**Mainly Music**  
All Saints Church, Moa Street  
Music and movement for children 0-5yrs & caregivers.  
Thursdays @ 10am  
Cara 027 345 3389

**Piopio Playcentre**  
Jo Stockley  
021 148 7556

**Piopio Primary School**  
07 877 8103

**Piopio College**  
07 877 8173. Meeting rooms available for hire

## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

**Piopio Police**  
07 877 0490  
Crime Stoppers  
0800 555 111  
We live in a great community so let's stop these few who are taking from us.  
Tony.schrafft@police.govt.nz  
www.crimestoppers-nz.org

**All Saints Church Co-operating Parish of Piopio, Aria & Mokau**  
Main Road, Piopio.  
Worship service 10am

**King Country Christians**  
John 027 422 2250  
Every Sunday at 10.30am  
Senior Citizens Hall

**Community Fruit & Vege Stand**  
Karen Barrett 0275 727 407  
struanfarm@gmail.com

**Housie**  
Thursdays 1pm Senior Citizen's Room All welcome.  
Paddy Coffin 07 877 8367

**Justices of Peace**  
Vikki Hall 07 877 8058  
Clive Fredericks 07 877 8048  
Katrina Hudson 0274 762 843

**Piopio Garden Circle**  
Visits are 3rd Thurs of every month except Jan & Aug  
Gillian Hooper 07 878 7880  
027 345 9603

**Laver Marine**  
07 877 8484 or 021 105 4737

**Opportunity Shop/ Mustard Seed**  
Cara Bryant 027 345 3389

**Mahoenui Hall**  
Lynette Adams  
lynadams@xtra.co.nz

**Piopio College Community Library**  
07 877 8173  
library@piopio.school.nz

**Senior Citizen's Organisation**  
Meetings first Monday of the month, 11am. All welcome.  
Wendy Weinberg  
021 0826 5622

**Seniors' Exercise Classes**  
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021 0826 5622

**Marriage Celebrants**  
Clive Fredericks  
027 280 3867  
Heidi Preston  
027 679 1931  
John Darke  
027 422 2250

**Piopio Lions Club**  
Stephen Cooper 07 877 8711  
027 205 9460  
Gavin Todd 07 877 7700  
Ken Perry 07 877 8035

**Piopio Memorial Hall**  
Book venue or facilities through Waitomo District Council 07 878 0800

**Piopio/Paearuhe Retirement Village**  
Jenny Brodie  
07 877 8033

**The Old Piopio Post Office Art Gallery** 022 437 0789

**Waitanguru Rural Women**  
Maree Jones 027 475 9805  
06 752 9765

## ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS

**Piopio POP (Tui Park)**  
Waitomo District Council  
07 878 0800  
Key for toilet available from the Cloverleaf tearooms or Snow Nicol

**Piopio Market Day**  
3rd Sunday of each month  
Alison Turner 027 615 8754

**Piopio and Districts Museum**  
Saskia Buckman  
07 877 8665. Key available from Piopio Superette.

## SPORTS & RECREATION

**Aria Squash Club**  
Secretary  
Lee Alcock  
ariasquash@gmail.com

**Light Horse Club**  
President Helen Potter  
helen.neilpotter@gmail.com

**Line Dancing Club**  
Jenny Brodie  
021 141 1243

**Piopio-Aria Golf Club**  
Hamish Roach  
027 578 5905

**Piopio Bowling Club**  
Alan 021 0845 4198  
Wendy 021 0826 5622

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

**Piopio Rugby Club**  
President Peter Hurley  
021 117 2973

**Piopio Swimming Club**  
Matt Carter 021 569 311  
piopioswimclub@gmail.com

**Pony Club**  
President Dani Darke  
021 168 0220  
Secretary Rebecca Were

**Tennis Club**  
Reon Verry  
07 878 8678

**King Country Hunt**  
Master: Joy Hurley  
027 577 7881

**Trail Bikes & Moto Cross Track**  
Darren Lupton  
07 877 8054

**Waitomo Ski Club**  
Kim Tatham  
07 877 8820

**Waitomo Aero Club**  
Pete Voyce 07 877 8254  
John Carter 07 877 8290

piopiobirdtalk@gmail.com

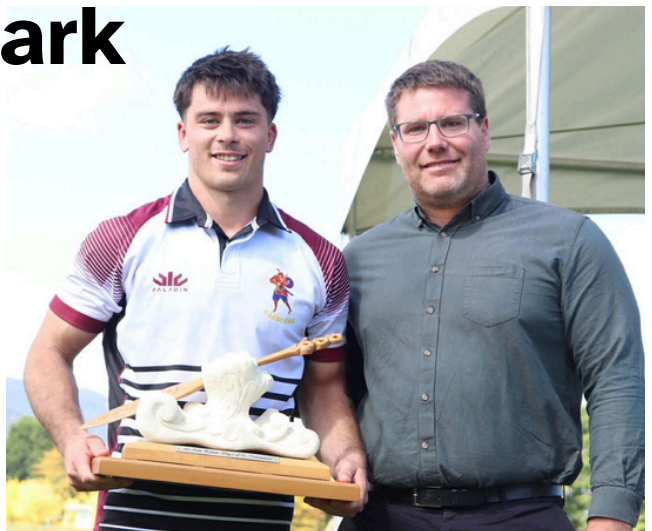
# Haki - making his mark

A HUGE achievement for Haki Wiseman, who has been named the 2026 NZR Under-20 Player of the Tournament, and awarded the Sir John Graham trophy.

He rounded out an exceptional tournament by co-captaining Saracens to a thrilling win, sealing the final in the closing minutes.

Haki is the son of Gerald and Ana Wiseman.

Clockwise from right:  
Haki with Mark Ranby, the national practice manager at NZ Rugby Players Assn;  
the victorious Saracens team;  
Haki receives the Sir John Graham trophy



## Did you know?

The Lines Company (TLC) is owned by Waitomo Energy Services Customer Trust on behalf of its beneficiaries - the community!

**Making TLC**

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The PIOPIO COMMUNITY  
WISH TO **Thank** JAN YOUNG

We invite you to share an afternoon to farewell Jan as she leaves our District.

APRIL  
SATURDAY **18** AT 2 PM

2026  
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