

Junior Black Sticks for local lads



Gus Nelson in action



Owen Brown on the ball

A TRIP to Malaysia for the Sultan Johor Cup was a recent highlight for two local men, Owen Brown and Gus Nelson from Aria, who played for the NZ U21 Junior Black Sticks in the international competition.

The national team placed fourth with two wins and four closely drawn games.

Both Gus, who plays for the South Island Alpiners team and Owen, who plays for the Waikato/Bay Of Plenty Mavericks, are enjoying playing in the NZ Premier Hockey League which is under way now.

Owen is now based in Christchurch where he has just completed his first year studying a bachelor of industrial product design, however he is back in the King Country for the summer holidays to work and save money. He is grateful for all of the support he has received from home and especially thankful to the coaches who taught him throughout his childhood.

Gus has just finished his BComAg degree at Lincoln University and has started a shepherding job near Darfield. He is very grateful for the support he has received from the Piopio Charitable Trust over the last two years.

Both men are hoping to make the Junior World Cup team for the tournament in India next year.



KC HUNT

The Hunt is again feeding meat to our hounds due to the ever increasing cost of dog food. If you have any animals you need to have put down humanely please give myself or Shane a call.
Joy Hurley
027 5777 881
Shane Neill
021 033 5541

Christmas Carols on the Village Green

On Sunday December 22 at 6pm, the community is gathering for traditional Christmas Carols on the Village Green, to celebrate Christmas. Bring a picnic and enjoy the Christmas carols that you remember and love. There will also be a sausage sizzle available. If it rains, wet weather venue will be the Piopio Memorial Hall.

Make Piopio a better place to live . . .



As Coordinator of Daffodil Day held on 30/08/24, I would like to thank the people of Piopio and Aria who helped on our Cake Stall and the table at Fat Pigeon Cafe and, of course, those who donated. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for making it a huge success. None of this would have been possible without you. If anyone is interested to be involved next year please contact me on 022 632 8260.
Nga mihi nui,
Paddy Coffin

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Piopio College

SURROUNDING DISTRICTS:
Mahoenui (Coleman's Woolshed)
Aria Cosmopolitan Club
Waitanguru Hall

A free App is available on Google Play-store to locate machines throughout NZ.

Piopio Community Survey

Project Piopio Trust is back up and running again. The first thing we want to do is hear what you currently like about the Piopio community and what you think we could do to make it a better place to live and work in the future. Just a couple of minutes of your time to complete the survey please. Visit the link below and share your thoughts.
<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8057760/Piopio-Community-Survey-2024>
We welcome any feedback or questions. Email: projectpiopiotrust@gmail.com
Jenny Brodie: 021 141 1243
Nicky Atkinson: 021 429 985
Donna Pari: 021 545 026

WELCOME TO

PIOPIO

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Project Piopio Trust are back up and running again. The first thing we want to do, is hear what you currently like about the Piopio community and what you think we could do to make it a better place to live and work in the future.

JUST A COUPLE OF MINUTES OF YOUR TIME
- TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY -

PAPER COPY

Pick up a paper copy from
PGG Wrightsons - Moa street
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ONLINE

Or double click the below link
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SCAN THE QR CODE

You can complete the survey using the QR code

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS - NO IDEA IS TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL

Nicky Atkinson: 021 429985
Jenny Brodie: 021 1411243 Donna Pari: 021545026

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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

I'M SURE everyone has planted out their spring/summer veggie gardens by now and is starting to see those green shoots if not flowers and fruit.

While there might be a few people out there growing their own food to prepare for the apocalypse, most of us are optimists, with hope for and belief in the future. I know you're committed to pinching those laterals on your heirloom tomatoes, re-tying and feeding them, plus protecting the heritage climbing beans from slugs and snails! Everyone has their preferred method for that, whether it be crushed eggshells, saucers of beer, fine metal/sand, copper tape, stalking them at night with a torch, or using those boxes of stuff you need to be careful about. And often the slugs and snails outsmart us regardless.

At our place I finally managed to get the rest of the kumara tipu, seed potatoes and pumpkins/butternuts planted out. So the major jobs in the veggie gardens are done for now; I'm

onto daily watering, lateral patrol and re-tying the tomatoes as they grow. I do "sequential" plantings of dwarf green beans, zucchini and lettuces throughout summer to have fresh crops on a regular basis.

It's looking to be a good season in the fruit orchard, with lots of plums, peaches, feijoas, figs and apples coming on the trees.

At the community stand we're once again in seasonal transition. The annual heirloom tomato extravaganza is over and done with, phew. (PS: Still needing those pots back.)

Lemons get us through this time of the year, along with fresh eggs, spinach, broccoli and seedling veggie plants and seeds. I need to remember to cut and contribute more rhubarb, which is wonderful with Piopio Berry Orchard strawberries.

Yes, we'll have goodies and decorations out for the Christmas parade. The stand will also get a

Karen Barrett

struanfarm@gmail.com

0275 727 407



seasonal tidy-up so it looks respectable too.

Check out our Facebook page for updates on what's on offer most weekday mornings, recipes and growing tips. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or issues.

And, lastly, but importantly, your efforts to take the time to drop off contributions of home grown surplus are truly appreciated. Everything gets used by someone happy to have it, it doesn't go to waste.

Ladies raise \$11k

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO Cathy Dellow and Liz Morgan decided to invite some friends for dinner to support the Fat Pigeon Cafe that had just opened. It became so popular that the numbers grew rapidly, because everyone wanted to see what Melanie Simpson was going to cook for each dinner.

Rose Young decided to call the dinners 'Critique Club', as we all commented on the fabulous food that Melanie had cooked for us. Rose was in charge of running the Critique Club until she got sick. Rose was a big loss to the Piopio area, so we did a fundraiser 6 years ago for the local St John in memory of Rose.

Cathy and Suzie Hoare met up recently and decided they could do another fundraiser to celebrate the lives and remember all those in our community that we still treasure and are missed beyond measure, who have

passed over, and to also acknowledge all the Emergency services that are so important for all rural people. We value especially our volunteers in the community who give many hours to St John and the Fire Brigade so that we have the emergency services we need to keep here in Piopio.

So, 73 ladies in October got together at the Fat Owl and we celebrated life with a beautiful meal, friendship (yes it was quite loud with everyone talking) and we had an auction which was made possible by our amazing sponsors so that we could raise \$11,000 on the night.

We have donated the funds raised to Piopio St John, Piopio Fire Brigade and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter. Thank you to Glen Lane for auctioneering the items.

We thank our sponsors – Smyth family (Pioi Station), Poole family, Atkin



ABOVE: Cathy Dellow with Westpac Rescue Helicopter crew.

family, Jo Collins, The Floral Studio, Spellbound – Libby and Peter Chandler, Jo Gallagher, Rotor Work Ltd, Fat Owl Eatery, Fat Pigeon Cafe, Blooms and Brews, along with many donations on the night.

See you all next year.
Cathy Dellow, Suzie Hoare, Alison Ferris, Jo Barnett and Joy Jeffries

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Brothers' riding successes

PIOPIO MOTOCROSS champs Heath and Case Wilson live and breathe the sport, and both boys are destined for great things if their recent wins at the NZ Mini Nationals are anything to go by, with Case (9) coming second and Heath (10) in at tenth.

With these placings, the boys have now finished the mini mx racing and have moved up to the big boys track racing in the junior league. This is a big step up for them, and they are both looking forward to an exciting season with that change.

Their mum Kim and dad Paul - himself a former motocross champion - say they are both very proud of Heath and Case's achievements.

Kim says motocross is an awesome family sport, with the four of them travelling to events together making great new friends all over New Zealand.

Other recent races and wins include: Case 1st Taranaki 65cc club champs 7-8 years

Heath 1st Taranaki 65cc club champs 9-11 years

Case 1st Woodville 65cc New Zealand Grand Prix

Case 1st 65cc north king country club champs 7-8 yrs

Heath 1st 65cc north king country club champs 9-11 years

Case NZ 2-stroke Nationals 65cc 5th In Battle of the Schools, Piopio

Primary took out 2nd place overall Valley champs Patetonga, with Case 1st 65cc Case mx feat Taupo 65cc 8-11 years, 5th.



Heath Wilson

How do you feel when you win a race?

Heath:

"Excited, because if I get two wins out of three races and a top ten, I'll get first and then I can add another trophy to the collection!"

When I got tenth in the Mini Nationals, I didn't really think I was going to get it because I had too many bad races, but the next morning I woke up feeling better and I got a seventh in the first race and a tenth in the last."

Where would you like to take your motocross career?

Heath:

I would like to go to America to ride for Yamaha Star Racing team for Supercross and try and win over there."



Case Wilson

How do you feel when you win a race?

Case:

"Excited, because then I know that I can beat everyone that comes down from all the big classes. I was really surprised that I would get to NZ Mini Nationals, I thought I would get tenth but luckily I came up with second."

Where would you like to take your motocross career?

Case:

"I would like to ride for Yamaha Star Racing and go overseas and ride somewhere over there and try and win."

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Cloverleaf evolves into a bakery

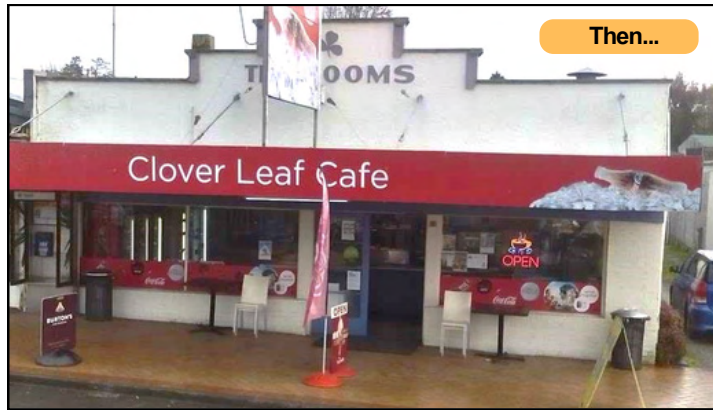
THE Cloverleaf Cafe is no more.

The familiar cafe has had an overhaul. A bright new facade and signage, as well as a complete new build inside, has seen The Village Bakery Cafe recently become one of our community's hot spots.

Tour Khin and his family are the new owners of Piopio's arm of the national franchise, and Tour says they have

received a lot of support from the community in this new venture, with many saying it is good for the town.

[Editor's Note: see P6 "A Letter to Piopio's Past" which tells of the building of the Cloverleaf Tearooms. We would have liked to have included more history here, however time was not on our side. If you have any info, please get in touch.]



MISSING DOG



JACK

Missing from Piopio area, last seen November 2.

Jack is registered and microchipped. We are desperate to have Jack back (dead or alive). - any information on his whereabouts would be greatly appreciated.

Please phone Emily on 021 0879 0443.

JOIN OUR MERRY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

PIOPIO CHRISTMAS PARADE

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FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2024
6.45PM

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Domain playground good to go

EXCITING news, everyone... the playground is officially ready for the community to enjoy!

A massive thank you to Des Gibbs for his incredible work in building it. Big shoutout to the Lotteries Community and Urenui Festival Organisation for their generous support and funding. Also, a heartfelt thank you to Chris Wise for delivering the builders mix, Phillip Gudopp for unloading, and to Matt Faull and Jenny Manson for all their planning efforts. We couldn't have done it without you all. Come and check it out!

We also want to thank our new sponsors: Toi Foundation for their donation to the Mokau Polooza event and Piopio Lions, who will be bringing their food truck. We truly appreciate this support, thank you!

Lastly, a big thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who have helped us throughout the year. We really appreciate the time you've given to help us.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, and we hope to see you enjoying the Domain over the summer months!



A letter from Piopio's past



IN mid-October Birdtalk received a lovely email from Owen Larsen which we'd like to share.

It will, no doubt, awaken some memories for our senior community.

It was so lovely to receive, thank you Owen and we hope to hear from you again soon.

Hello to whoever receives this, my name is Owen Larsen, a 95-year-old who was born and lived on my parents' farm on Mangaotaki Road. I was at Piopio school until 1946, then was a carpenter working for L.G. Foster doing Schools for six years, and then moved back to Piopio to build the Cloverleaf Tearooms for my now late sister Val Killery and during that time I married Julie Godward who was a teacher at the school. My lovely wife passed away in August of last year after suffering Alzheimers, and I miss her so much. This is something that I have been going to do for quite some time, but finally I have touched base, so to speak. I got a pleasant surprise when I was watching a replay of the All Blacks and the new number nine came off the bench and was named and the world were told that he went to Piopio School - how good was that? I still keep reasonably good health but I know that the end is not very far away when one reaches the late nineties, but I may keep in touch while I can. Cheers for now, Owen.

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- EARTHWORKS - DRAINAGE - METAL -

KC Rivercare; 'The Bitches' are back

YES, it's nearly that time of year. Our last hurrah is happening December 11 from 6pm onwards. The world-famous-in-rural-NZ comedy duo The Bitches' Box are back! Once again, Emma and Amelia promise to conjure up a hilariously imaginative world that throws the spotlight on the dogs we live and work alongside. Their new show EPISODE 4 revisits their most iconic characters from The Bitches' Box universe.

Set on a local farm, the show follows a format that will be instantly recognisable to any kiwi farmer, and guarantees to raise a smile from even the saltiest of sea dogs.

EPISODE 4 is a fantastic, hilarious

romp through the long grass. See you there!

When: Wednesday, 11th December
Where: Raupuha Stud's Woolshed - Mahoenui (Russell & Mavis Proffit's BBQ Dinner supplied, BYO drinks

Thank you to event sponsors PGG Wrightson, FMG, King Country Vets, Independent AirSpread, Ballance, BNZ, Waikato Tractors, UBP, Greenlea, Coast Accounting, Farmlands Te Kuiti, OTL, Gallagher, Mahoenui Stock Scheme. Special mention to Karen Barrett and John Robertson from Struan Farms for hosting the Bitches Box Team

Your support is greatly appreciated
Tickets available via the below QR code.

Doing great things

We'd love to celebrate and share your stories - be sure to tag @kcrivercare on facebook.

Merry Christmas

KCRC wishes you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous new year. Our next committee meeting is February 2025 at Te Waitere so get in touch if you would like to attend.

Any enquiries please via email or to any of the coordinators below:

kcrivercare@gmail.com

Lana McCormick; 0278172111

Anna Nelson; 0274 900501

Robyn Williamson; 0274182946

Tim Stokes, Chairman; 07 876 7810

kcrivercare@gmail.com

Episode 4

NEW LIVE SHOW

THE BITCHES' BOX

TICKETS \$25

World famous in rural New Zealand, comedy duo The Bitches' Box are back!

NIGHT ONE

Wednesday 11th December,

Where: Raupuha Stud's Woolshed, Mahoenui

Join us from 6pm onwards, BBQ Dinner supplied, BYO Drinks

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WESCT update

THE TLC Discount is on its way. It is hard to believe that we're nearing the end of 2024 – where has it gone?

The end of the year means the second TLC Discount will appear on beneficiaries' power bills. This will show as a credit in December/January (depending on when you get your bill), so keep an eye out!

We own The Lines Company on behalf of our beneficiaries - the community, and advocate for the discount each year.

This financial year, TLC has budgeted \$5.2 million to be paid to beneficiaries, which we think is pretty great news.

Elections in the New Year: If you're passionate about making a difference in your community, becoming a Trustee is a fantastic opportunity. It's a chance to help grow and look after TLC, ensuring it continues to benefit everyone for generations. You can visit the website or talk to an existing Trustee to learn more about the role and keep an eye out for nominations in early 2025.

As we close out 2024, all Trustees wish you and your whānau a safe and happy festive season. Whether you're relaxing or working hard, enjoy this special time. Meri Kirihimete! Check out our website: wesct.org.nz

To market, to market, to Mokau market

MERI KIRIHIMETE from the Mōkau Museum!

We warmly invite you to pop in over the holidays to check out our exhibitions, including the Mt Messenger flyover.

We're super excited to share that Claire Lynch is our new artist displaying in the Art Gallery for December and January, plus we have a fun scavenger hunt for kids with awards! And don't forget to catch our local movies in the jailhouse, featuring the Tainui Rugby Club, Awakino Dog Trials and many more local stories.

Entry is by donation, and we can't wait to see you!

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New roof for Piopio Cossie Club

The Piopio Cosmopolitan Club roof got an upgrade. In October the club had the old roof tiles removed and was replaced with Colorsteel. Thanks to Level Up Roofing.



Piopio Primary PTA's Wild Critter Day

ON SUNDAY, September 15 Piopio Primary School was a hive of activity for the Wild Critters Day. This is the main fundraiser this year for the PTA. Planning began several months ago with sponsors being found and getting the word out to the community.

Leading up to the event the weather had been very wet, so hunting was opened a day early. Luckily the sun shone for the weigh-in.

There were a lot of activities for the children to take part in, including a lolly scramble through hay, ring toss onto a set of antlers, a photo booth, and the always popular carry-the-pig race.

The Lions caravan provided yummy hot dogs, chips and steak sandwiches. The cold drinks and juices were enjoyed by all.

The cake stall with beautiful home baking was a popular space to be. It was great to see so many sitting around catching up and enjoying some lunch.

The weigh-in tent was one of the busiest areas. There were many turkeys, possums, hares, and goat heads entered. Winners received bags of goodies including t-shirts, bags hats and drink bottles. There were some excited children receiving their prizes, from preschool to college students.

This year for the first time the overall winner was presented with the Harvey Briggs Memorial Champion trophy. The trophy was presented to the winner by Harvey's brothers, Carter, Fenton, and Riley.

The PTA were very thankful to the sponsors who donated a wide range of items that were used in the prizes, raffles, and the auction. The final total raised is approximately \$5000. Piopio Primary are very fortunate to have such a dedicated, hardworking PTA. They provide lots of extras for the school.



Fenton, Carter and Riley Briggs presenting the Harvey Briggs Memorial Champion trophy

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Happenings at Piopio Primary

PIOPIO PRIMARY

has been a busy place over the last few months, with lots of activities and events happening. They have included several sporting, cultural events and of course the annual Pet Day.

In September we had four teams compete in the North King Country Rugby Rippa tournament. One of the year 5/6 girl's teams won. This qualified them for the King Country Rugby Rippa tournament in Taupō on October 23. The team was coached by Jacob Hiriaki and managed by Kurt Houghton. The team, their supporters, and the rest of the school were very excited with the result.



Rugby Rippa



At the beginning of term 4 Miss Ruth Stokes took the Ki o Rahi team that had been practicing for several weeks across to Piopio College for the annual Ki o Rahi tournament.

Piopio College hosted a great day and our team competed well. Piopio Primary were the winners of the year 5/6 competition. Again, we were very excited about their success.



We have participated in two cultural events alongside other schools in the area. We were humbled to be invited to the Waiwaia festival, the secondary Kapa haka festival, which this year was hosted by Piopio College. This was an amazing day. Our tamariki were part of the powhiri to welcome the manuhiri (visitors) to our place. Our group performed their bracket and then joined Āria School for a combined performance. Our entire kura were able to support and watch our Roopu perform. Whaea Linda had certainly done a great job preparing our tamariki for this special event.

The second cultural event was the Waitomo Music Festival. Again, Whaea Linda had spent many weeks preparing our group for the performance. The group sang with pride and the audience's feedback was very positive.



Kapa haka



The annual MYSC Pet Day was held on Friday, October 25. This event is a highlight for the Piopio community with multiple generations of families attending. It is an opportunity to connect with neighbours and old friends. The judges have been coming to this event for many years and always do a terrific job. The indoor exhibits of flowers, crafts, and baking were of a high standard which made the judges decisions on the Thursday night very difficult.

Trailers and utes drove up to school at 9am. There were goats, lambs, calves, and companion animals.

The day started with the auction. Piopio Primary is very grateful to all the sponsors who support our pet day. Ribbons and cups were presented to the tamariki. The day finished with pets in costume being led by their owners in the parade. Then the 'Great Race' takes off. Animals are let off their leads and run to the end of the pen. The fun is catching them. By the end of the day there were some tired tamariki, pets, parents, and teachers. It was another highly successful pet day.

Pet Day



PPT update

GREETINGS to you all.

The promised Piopio and District (meaning all outlying districts serviced by Piopio) Community Survey is operational now and we urge you all to take part. The results will be analysed by Versus Research in Hamilton and will be used to plan projects to benefit our district in years to come. The survey will close on December 15. Please see article and advert on P2 for more details.

Piopio now has a new facebook page titled 'Piopio Community Information'. No doubt it will take a wee while to get it operating to the optimum benefit for the community. You can help with this by liking and following this page. The purpose of the page is to be a community noticeboard, informing us of local events, supporting businesses, services and social groups and general community well-being. Local

Piopio Primary happenings

Continued from P10

ATHLETICS DAY

On Monday, November 18 it was our athletics day. This is a community event with Āria School joining us.

The sun shone and the tamariki all tried their best running, jumping, and throwing.

Ribbons were proudly worn on chests as placings were decided. It was lovely to have so many parents, and grandparents cheering their tamariki on.

LOOKING AHEAD

As Piopio Primary looks forward to 2025, we are excited about some new initiatives that will be introduced. These include bush school where the focus will be on the environment, communities, and learning about the place we live, the school gardens to learn about planting, compost, and inquiries into enviro school projects.

In addition, there will be STEAM challenges (wero). This is on top of our core curriculum of reading, writing and mathematics.

Piopio businesses are welcome to advertise on this page. It is definitely not intended for buy and sell. There is also a link there to complete the survey online.

Watch this space!

As part of a four stage community Art Project, a childrens' art competition is planned for the school Term 1 next year. Students at Piopio and Aria Primary schools and Piopio College will be offered tuition and support in creating works of art to ultimately be displayed in the Piopio Village. More details next issue.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

From the PPT team.



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Waitomo Interschool Athletics

RECENTLY 16 students from Piopio College attended the Waitomo Interschool Athletics event at Te Kuiti High School.

It was a fabulous sunny day, where our students represented us with pride and passion. They displayed excellent skills and sportsmanship.

A huge thank you to Lisa Lyford and Michelle Carter for your efforts to ensure our students made it to their events and also supporting them during the duration of the day. Greatly appreciated!

We also had some fabulous results, however I will wait to publish the official ones once I receive them.

Ngā mihi, G Draper



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Mokau Fishing Club



HI ALL

Summer is on its way and great to see sea conditions improving with some more frequent settled spells allowing us to get the lines wet with some great fish being caught on boats or at the beach.

Our Ice Breaker competition was held Labour weekend and unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate, and the committee made the decision to cancel the boat section due to sea conditions and people's safety. Although, given these circumstances we still had a fantastic prizegiving night, with surfcasting, beach longline and drone sections going ahead and all prizes for boat section spot drawn.

A massive thank you to our sponsors and everyone involved in making it happen - we couldn't do it without you.

Membership subs are due end of month, please jump online to our website www.mokaufishingclub.co.nz to renew or become a member. Spread the word so family and friends who are non-members can join as well and be part of our fantastic club.

Our next competition is the Xmas comp December 27-30. The committee are organising this as we speak so keep an eye out for competition details and entry (flyer to the right).

Well, that's all from me and I, along with the committee, look forward to seeing you all over the Christmas period. Cheers, Wal

HYNDS ICE BREAKER COMPETITION

Boat section – no fishing (all prizes drawn)

Surf Casting

Snapper: Kelvin Walker 1, Ryan McNeice 2

Gurnard: Steve McEwen 1

Kahawai: Jade O'Hearn 1, Geoff Preston 2, Andrew MacInnes 3

Beach Longline

Snapper: Chris Johnston 1, Murray Reed 2, Mark Fraser 3

Gurnard: Emma Carmichael 1, Laurel Reed 2, Vanessa Mitchell 3

Kahawai: Ian Baker 1, David O'Neill 2, Jeff Davis 3

Drone

Snapper: Lucas Rose 1, Carey-Lee Cook 2, Remi Fairhurst 3

Gurnard: Andrew Cook 1, Stuart Rose 2



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Keas learn a bit of te reo

RECENTLY a number of Piopio College students visited Curious Keas to perform kapahaka, and teach the littlies how to pukana, a waiata (Haere mai Ki Maniapoto) with the actions, and a haka (Toto wera).

It was a wonderful success and the tamariki enjoyed themselves immensely.

Our tamariki sang Tutira mai for our visitors. We shared some yummy Kai before the students headed back to kura.

Big thanks to Whaea Āmana, Whaea Jo and students who came - we truly appreciate it. We have promised to keep practicing our waiata and send a video at the end of the year or early next year.

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YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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Hannah Bodger-Kearns
07 877 7898

Aria Primary School
07 877 7857

Aria Toy Library
Librarian: Karen Jones
021 038 5153
ariatoylibrary@gmail.com

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07 877 8224

Kohanga Piopio
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All Saints Church Co-operating Parish of Piopio, Aria & Mokau
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(07) 877 8048

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027 345 9603

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Gavin Todd 07 877 7700
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The Old Piopio Post Office Art Gallery 022 437 0789

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Secretary Lee Alcock
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Linda Oliver
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Piopio-Aria Golf Club
Hamish Roach
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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
07 877 7577

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
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Trail Bikes & Moto Cross Track
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07 877 8054

Waitomo Ski Club
Kim Tatham
07 877 8820

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

PIOPIO BIRDTALK

Natalie on target

NATALIE FOSS (19) of Aria only began clay target shooting four years ago, but already she has become one of our top shooting sportspeople, recently representing New Zealand at the 2024 International Shooting Sports Federation Junior World Championships in Peru.

Natalie says the sport has taught her invaluable life skills including discipline, focus and perseverance.

"It is a sport that demands precision and mental resilience, skills that have shaped my approach to both my athletic career and everyday life."

To qualify for the international event, she was required to shoot two Minimum Qualifying Scores (MQS) plus an additional score at either the

zone, island or national championships.

Natalie competed in seven qualifying events throughout the country, including all three championship events, shooting four MQS.

The ISSF Junior World Championships comprised rifle, pistol and shotgun events, with Natalie selected for the Junior Women's Trap event and the Mixed Pair Junior Team. She placed 32nd equal in the Junior Women's and 16th in the Mixed Pair Trap.

She says representing New Zealand on the world stage was an honour. "It was a wonderful experience and very cool to see how other countries approach the same competition.



Natalie Foss

The range was amazing and overall, the competition as a whole was very beneficial to my shooting going forward."

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