

MacDonald helps lift NZ's ranking

THE 2025 Beach Volleyball World Championships were held in Adelaide, Australia from November 14-23.

Teams from 40 nations battled for the crown. Piopio's Olivia MacDonald, along with teammate Shaunna Polley, represented New Zealand.

It was the first time in 24 years that NZ women have made the world champs, and by no means did they disgrace themselves. The pair beat the world number 8 ranked team (Italy), as well as Canada to advance to the next round, where they lost to Germany by the smallest of margins.

MacDonald and Polley lifted their world ranking from 33 to 17 in the process.

Olivia's mum, Donna MacDonald, says she is so proud of the way both the womens and mens teams showed how formidable they are at this level of competition.

Previous to this the pair achieved four podium finishes including two Golds and two Silvers at Beach Tour events worldwide.



Shaunna Polley (left) and Olivia MacDonald



Local wins big

NO, unfortunately we're not talking about the recent multi-million dollar Lotto draw... rather, Matthew Darke of Rockland Farms (Aria) is pictured with his brand-new RAM, which he won after purchasing a Case IH Maxxum 125 from Giltrap Agrizone.

The purchase earned him a place in the 'Buy Red, Win a RAM' draw.

Many congratulations!

Source: Giltrap Agrizone Facebook

Piopio Ambulance Update

A BIG CHANGE in July has been the NZ-wide decision by St John to have all volunteer Station ambulances to be designated as First Response Units with transporting vehicles — in our case, hopefully coming from the paid crews of Te Kuiti, Otorohanga or Te Awamutu.

Generally we have crews available five nights of the week and between 2-5 daytime cover. This is due to several of our 10 officers being unavailable as they work in either essential occupations or away working outside of a realistic response area.

Our 10 officers, though, have together accumulated in excess of 100 years service for Piopio. Recently, three of them have received Certificates of Service plus the appropriate bar or badge from our Group Operational Manager.

Ken Perry was acknowledged for his 20 years; Suzanne Downey 15 years; and Ana Wiseman her 5 years. (See photo with Senior Officer Mike Johnson).

However, as some of our readers will be aware, there have been occasions when — despite us having cover — we have not been able to respond. If you are calling for an ambulance, ask where it is coming from and how long its ETA is.

Despite this, to date in this operational year, we have been despatched to 45 medical incidents, 17 accidents, 15 motor vehicle crashes and provided cover at other stations seven times.

However, to maintain or increase our cover we do need more volunteers. Full training would be given and the only cost is your time.

For informal information feel free to contact
mike.johnson@stjohn.org.nz



Project Piopio Trust Report

OUR 2025 Christmas Parade has certainly put Piopio back in the spotlight again! NZTA's new risk-based Traffic Management rule changes, introduced on September 1, sparked an uproar, not only in our small town, but also in Woodville and several other communities.

Because our annual Parade is funded through grants secured 1-3 years in advance by Project Piopio Trust, along with proceeds from our raffle and generous sponsorship from local businesses and community members, there was simply no way we could cover the substantial increase in this year's predicted costs.

Over the past two months, PPT has been working hard to understand these new requirements and how they apply to us. We have consulted with WDC, spoken with traffic management companies, and sought clarity wherever we could. But the real progress began when our story hit the front page of the King Country News, followed by interviews with Radio NZ and TVNZ featuring our representatives, Melanie and Carley Simpson.

Thanks to this media attention, we've since been contacted by additional traffic management providers, the Chief Advisor to the Chief Executive of the Ministry for Regulation, the NZ Herald's morning programme 'Herald NOW', and most recently NZTA's Programme

Director for Road Works Safety, Ryan Cooney.

Our meeting with Ryan was extremely valuable and has given us renewed confidence that Piopio will be able to continue its 50-plus-year tradition of holding the Parade on SH3.

Ryan has outlined in detail how the new risk-based system will operate, and it appears to offer a far more practical, common-sense approach—without the hefty price tag. While there is still work to be done, we are hopeful that by the time you read this, we will have confirmed the updated plans for this year's Parade.

So start planning—get your float ready to show, once again, what Piopio can do!

We will be keeping the community updated through our Piopio Community Information Facebook page, our website www.piopio.net.nz and on the Community Noticeboard in the Village Green.

You can contact us via email: projectpiopiotrust@gmail.com

Donations towards the Christmas Raffle can be left at PGG Wrightson.

Donations towards parade costs can be left at King Country Vets or paid online to:

- Project Piopio Trust
- 02-0448-0033484-00
- Reference your name
- Receipts can be issued upon request.

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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

THE BIG STORY this month has to be heirloom tomatoes, since I write this the day after the finale of our annual heirloom seedling tomato distribution.

This year *Big Heirlooms*, seeds saved from big meaty tomatoes grown the previous season, *Koanga Heirlooms*, seeds saved from NZ heritage varieties by the Koanga Institute, *Black Cherry*, *Purple Cherokee*, *Vintage Brandywine* and *Pink Berkeley Tie Dye* were grown in the glasshouse and shared with the community.

I didn't kick off putting plants out until well after Labour Weekend given the cold temperatures.

Our grand total this year was 1137 plus a few bits and bobs. I was able to stagger varieties given different seed growth rates and cooler temperatures, potting up more as space became available in the glasshouse.

So now it's over to you to grow good tomatoes: stake, tie, water, pinch those laterals. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, and please return those pots to the stand for reuse next year.

We've had some generous donations of quite a few Agee Utility and Special bottling jars following the progressive clean out of a

local pantry. I've been farming them out and posting when extras are available. These jars are compatible with the Perfit rings and seals still sold at the food store. If you're interested in some or have unused jars you're happy to pass along, let me know.

Christmas at the Community Stand will come on two nights this year, just because it should: Sunday night, when Carols in the Village Green is meant to happen, and Christmas Eve, when the Piopio Christmas Celebration with floats is held.

Your continued contributions to our Community Stand are greatly appreciated, with thanks. Rest assured everything gets taken and used.

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.

Karen Barrett
struanfarm@gmail.com
0275 727 407



Recent Lions happenings

A RECENT HIGHLIGHT for the Club has been the visit of the Lions Cancer bus to Piopio and Te Kuiti which saw 124 people have free checks for any signs of skin cancer. Approximately 25% of those who visited the bus were referred on for further treatment or checks.

This bus is based in the South Island and a new one is being built at present to cover the North Island, paid for by generous sponsors and Lions Clubs such as Piopio and Te Kuiti. Once the bus is completed we hope to have more regular visits.

Coming to us on Saturday, December 6 is the Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner. Once again Cheryl Johnson is catering for this event. She always puts on a delicious spread.

Invites have been sent out, but if you are aware of anyone in the district who has



not been invited please contact a Lions Club member and we will arrange an invite.

Piopio Primary School Pet Day was once again a pleasant day with great weather, lots of pets and wonderful arrangements on display created by the school students.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a look forward to a Great New Year.
Gavin Todd
Secretary

Thank you

We would like to acknowledge and thank all the people and businesses from the Piopio community who supported us when our farm flooded in October. The phone calls of support and the donated silage was very much appreciated at a time we really needed.

Thank you also to our wider community for the gifts of food, meals and support. It has been very humbling.

Thank you,
Paul and Maree Jones



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Festive Season Wellbeing

AS WE HEAD into the festive season, many of us feel the familiar pull in two directions. One is toward sunshine, family, friends, and all those small soul-nourishing moments. The other is toward the long list of end-of-year commitments, late nights, last-minute organising, and the pressure to “fit everything in.”

This time of year doesn't have to be all or nothing. In fact, from a naturopathic perspective, the simplest foundations of health are the ones that make the biggest difference to how we feel heading into January.

Give Your Nervous System a Breather

A couple of minutes is enough. Slow breathing, stepping into the sunshine, or even kicking off the Redbands and resting your feet in the grass can shift your body into a calmer state.

Research shows that these micro-breaks reduce stress and support digestion and mood. Easy, free, and surprisingly effective.

Keep Your Energy Stable

When days get busy, it's easy to rely on whatever food is closest. Adding protein to each meal and snack helps stabilise blood sugar, which supports energy and mood. Leftover meat, eggs,

yoghurt, nuts, seeds, or a quick smoothie all count.

Drink More Water Than You Think You Need

Fatigue and irritability are often dehydration in disguise. Summer heat, socialising, and long outdoor days increase fluid needs. Aim for regular sips throughout the day, and consider adding electrolytes on hot days for better hydration.

Support Digestion

The festive season often brings a few richer meals, nibbles, and late dinners – and these are meant to be enjoyed.

Eating slowly, including plenty of fruit and vegetables for fibre, and stopping when comfortably full rather than stuffed all support digestive comfort. A short walk after meals is also one of the most effective ways to reduce bloating and support blood sugar balance.

Choose a Pace That Suits You

Some people thrive on a full social calendar. Others are ready for a quieter summer of gardening, swimming spots, and doing as little as possible.

There's no “right” way to do December. Choose the version that leaves you feeling refreshed, not overwhelmed.

Wishing you and your whānau a peaceful, nourishing, and joy-filled festive season. May you all enjoy good food, sunshine, connection, and the small rituals that help you stay well.

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Ki o Rahi fun

ON FRIDAY, November 7, Piopio College proudly hosted the annual Ki o Rahi Festival, welcoming 10 kura from across the Waitomo region to participate in a celebration of sport, culture, and values.

The festival placed strong emphasis on the key kaupapa of Manaakitanga (care and respect),

Whakawhanaungatanga (building relationships), and Kotahitanga (unity). This year's event saw 23 teams compete — 8 in the Year 5/6 grade and 15 in the Year 7/8 grade.

The sun was shining, the atmosphere was vibrant, and the students were fully engaged, showing enthusiasm as they embraced the challenge of learning and playing the complex and fast-paced game of Ki o Rahi.

Throughout the day, teams displayed impressive skills, sportsmanship, and teamwork, embodying the true spirit of participation.

After every match, players came together to reflect on the game and nominate someone from the opposing team who best demonstrated the three key values. These players received the Ngākau Mahaki Tohu — meaning the gift of a big heart and humble attitude. At the end of the day, the players with the most nominations were recognised for their outstanding attitude and contribution.

Year 5/6 Grade: Beau Riley – Aria Primary School

Year 7/8 Grade: Praise Putaranui-Wikio – Te Wharekura O Maniapoto.

Additional spot prizes were also awarded to students who consistently demonstrated positive values and sportsmanship throughout the day.

While the festival continues to grow in popularity, challenges around time and transport mean teams are generally limited to three to four games per day. Despite this, the enthusiasm and energy from all participants ensured another successful event. Which highlights the need to continue the concept of a festival rather than a competition.

We look forward to hosting the festival again in 2027, with hopes of even greater growth, leadership, inclusion, and sportsmanship both on and off the field.

The Ki o Rahi Committee

G. Draper, M. Butler, A. & P. Muraahi, and F. Bourke.

See pic back page

Alcock nabs Volunteer Coach of the Year

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ARIA SQUASH CLUB is beaming with pride as Lee, our club secretary and coach, has been named the Waikato Volunteer Coach of the Year. Lee received the award at the Waikato Squash Awards on Friday, November 7.

This well-deserved recognition celebrates Lee's extraordinary dedication, leadership, and impact on junior squash development in our rural club.

Lee's coaching style is both innovative and deeply personalised. She tailors sessions to meet individual needs, making squash enjoyable and accessible for children of all skill levels. Her commitment to professional development is equally inspiring — Lee completed formal coach training to deliver the Squash Stars programme and co-facilitated it with another club member, fostering a culture of shared learning and confidence.

Over the past year, Lee has contributed more than 50 volunteer coaching hours, running structured junior sessions, supporting players in the Waikato Junior Interclub series, and accompanying them to competitions.

Notably, she does all this without having children in the programme herself — a testament to her genuine passion for the sport.

Lee's impact goes far beyond the court. She embodies the spirit of community sport — empowering young athletes, inspiring fellow volunteers, and building pathways for future success.

Her recognition as Coach of the Year is not just a personal accolade, but a celebration of what's possible when passion meets purpose.

We're proud to call her ours.
Congratulations, Lee



Lee Alcock

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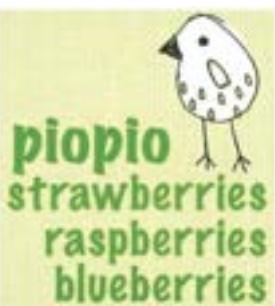
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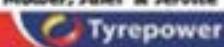
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A poster for the 2025 Xmas Fishing Competition. The top half features the text '12th Annual 4-day' and 'CORSON TYRES' in large letters, with 'New Plymouth' written in a script font below it. The year '2025' is prominently displayed in large white numbers. In the center, there is a circular logo for 'Mokau Fishing Club' featuring a fish and a hook. Below the year, the text 'XMAS FISHING Competition' is written in a large, stylized font. To the left, a circle contains the text '\$20,000 worth of prizes'. To the right, another circle contains the text 'MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS WELCOME'. At the bottom, there is information about the competition dates (December 21st, 22nd, 28th, and 29th), the average weight of fish (Mahi and Gurnard), and the draw times (2:30 PM and 6:30 PM on the 28th and 29th). There is also a section for 'PRIZEGIVING AND BbQ TO FOLLOW'. The bottom left corner contains a QR code and the text 'Enter Online' with a link to 'http://www.mokaufishingclub.co.nz'. The bottom right corner features the 'Mokau Fishing Club' logo.

PP Primary blooms

VISITORS driving past Piopio Primary School may have noticed fresh additions to the grounds: a new greenhouse, compost bins, and seven raised garden beds.

The tamariki are buzzing with excitement as the school's garden space transforms into a hub for sustainability and learning.

The project was made possible through a grant from Air New Zealand, supporting initiatives for a more sustainable Aotearoa.

The greenhouse will allow students to raise seeds and grow produce during the winter months, while each class will manage its own garden, planning crops throughout the year. The harvest will be shared with the wider Piopio community, promoting healthy living.

They have also been hard at work moving soil to prepare the new garden beds. Once the bases are filled, the school hopes to source quality topsoil — and welcomes contributions from the community.

Students are also learning the science of composting, layering organic material and saving food scraps from morning tea and lunch to reduce waste from the kura.

The school extends its thanks to Countryside Projects Ltd for constructing the gardens and greenhouse. Principal, Sue Coyle, and staff say the initiative reflects Piopio Primary's commitment to environmental responsibility and active participation in the local community.



Ho-ho-ho!

And that's a wrap for
Birdtalk for another year.
Jules (left) & Hannah (right)
wish you all a lovely-dovely Christmas
and a fabulicious New Year!

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Pool receives new lining

THE SMALL school pool has finally had its day but we can confirm the new lining will be installed early January 2026. We are very pleased to know swimming can continue in the small pool.

Thanks to Jean Toms who confirms the age of the small pool is 82 years old.

A special thanks to Max Laver for patching the pool in 2023 to keep the small pool going for 2023-2024 season.

The interim pool used will be sold once the lining has been installed, so please get in touch if you wish to purchase it.

The small pool has been a place to learn to swim for many generations. Some families can boast they have had four generations learn to swim in that pool.

The pool committee has been fundraising, applying for several grants and are catering at the Lions Christmas dinner. A special thanks to Sheryl Johnson for all fundraising efforts. Also, thank you to Kimberley Cody for her diligent work maintaining the pools.

The new lining is major project and requires a significant amount of trust money, leaving us with a shortfall to maintain the pools.

We are currently selling sponsors bricks (pictured) that are embedded in the wall outside the changing rooms. It's a great way to enshrine your grandparents, parents or even yourselves into the history of Piopio. Or we would gratefully accept any donations.

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Power Farming T.A. reveal new premises

IT'S BEEN in the pipeline for 10 years... With a couple of market down turns, it couldn't be put off any longer and with a great professional local company like WCML Coresteel Buildings Waikato doing the build we have moved into our new building right on schedule. We have hit the ground running, as the season has

kicked off and the workshop is full. No time to ease in, it's all go!

Just a few statistics to get your imagination going: We have gone from a tired 370m2 workshop where you had to move two machines to get your machine out, to a 1000m2 workshop that is light and roomy, you almost need your sunglasses on inside. There is a full-length gantry which is making life easier and more efficient. The new Parts store is 5 times larger than the old and large enough to run the forklift in with parts orders on pallets. The showroom is huge and big enough to display a JCB 435S Wheel Loader as well as a Kioti Tractor and several other pieces of machinery. No queuing up for the toilet now, we have gone from one male toilet to three and a couple of urinals, the guys are pretty relieved, if you know what I mean. We have gone from 6 small offices to 10 good sized ones and all air-conditioned. No more hugging a heater in the winter in my puffer jacket or sitting in front of a fan in summer that just pushed the hot air around.

The existing showroom and offices have been demolished to make room for the car park and display area for our machinery and WCML are still in the process of completing this... February should see it completed.

The old existing workshop is being renovated. Our engineer Logan will move into 2-bays and the rest will be allocated for undercover stock display.

Come in and see us when you're next in Te Awamutu. Parking is on the street in front of the building (for now). We would love to show you around.



Murray Barclay (Dealer Principal) and Geoff Maber (Landlord/Business Partner)

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Mokau Fishing Club News



HELLO everyone,

Well, it finally feels like summer has arrived! The past week has given us exactly what we've all been waiting for through those winter months — flat seas and sunshine. If you were lucky enough to get out and make the most of the perfect conditions, good on you!

There have been some great stories of fantastic fishing, both out on the water and from landbased anglers. It's awesome to see everyone back out there after what's felt like months without a chance to cast a line.

Unfortunately, our Ice Breaker Competition was plagued by rubbish weather this year. The committee made the tough call to cancel the boat section for everyone's safety. Despite that, we had a fantastic turnout for Prizegiving, and the land-based fishers gave it their all — well done to everyone who stuck it out!

All prizes not won in those categories were spot-drawn amongst those who entered the comp and attended the prizegiving. It turned into a great afternoon with a BBQ, plenty of laughs, and a good catch-up.

A big thank you to Hynds for once again sponsoring this competition, and thanks to everyone who entered, supported, and helped run the event.

A quick reminder — club subs are due on November 30 for the 2025/26 season. Please jump online to renew your membership. If you know anyone keen to join, invite them along!

If you're unsure how to navigate the website or fill out the forms, just ask your kids, grandkids, or a committee member — between us all, we'll get you sorted.

The committee is already busy planning the Xmas Competition, so keep an eye out for more details soon.

And if you're wondering what to get your partner for Christmas, how about some Mokau Fishing Club gear? Shirts, singlets, and hoodies are all available online, but get your orders in quick!

A massive thank you also goes out to our club sponsors — please jump online to check them out and support them where you can. Don't forget to mention you appreciate them backing our club — it really goes a long way.

Cheers Wal

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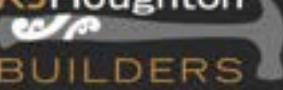


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Japan Cultural Tour; a heartfelt thank you



A GROUP OF Piopio College senior students embarked on a Japan Cultural Tour a few months ago.

To everyone who contributed in any way, shape, or form — we could not have done this without your support!

On behalf of Piopio College, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the local businesses, organisations, and individuals who supported our Japan Cultural Tour. Your generosity was instrumental in making this once-in-a-lifetime experience possible for our students.

This journey was truly transformational. Our students were immersed in a culture rich in tradition, respect, and humility. Highlights such as the Samurai encounter, Tea Ceremony, and ramen noodle-making workshop offered unique insights into the customs and artistry that define Japan.

Even the simplest moments left a lasting impact. Watching the calm order of bustling train stations, admiring the beauty of the temples and gardens, and experiencing the warmth of Japanese hospitality all reflected the deep values of respect and harmony that underpin Japanese society.

This experience has broadened our students' worldviews, deepened their appreciation for cultural diversity, and strengthened their sense of global citizenship.

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of our community and for the belief in the importance of providing authentic learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Your contributions enabled our students to grow, explore, and immerse themselves in different cultures.

From all of us at Piopio College — Arigatō gozaimasu.

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021 042 4493

Cloverleaf Café
07 877 8368

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

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07 877 8822
fatpigeon@xtra.co.nz

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Piopio Cosmopolitan Club
07 877 8204

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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
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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
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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

Wendy Weinberg
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

Waitanguru Rural Women
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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

Linda Oliver
07 877 8313

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

piopibirdtalk@gmail.com

A frightfully successful Halloween



HALLOWEEN was another wonderful success this year, with so many local kids out enjoying themselves in the beautiful weather in a safe, fun, and family-friendly environment. A huge thank you goes to the Fat Owl, Simpson Treeworks, and the Project Piopio Trust for their generous sponsorship and all the hard work that goes into making this event possible. Their support helps us create a day that is not only enjoyable, but truly memorable for our families. We understand everyone has their own views on Halloween, but this event was created with one purpose in mind: to keep our kids safe, happy, and able to enjoy their time together. We're already looking forward to bringing the community together again next year.



Trick or Treaters descend upon Piopio township, including little Paxton (right)

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Ki o Rahi festival fun

See story P4



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