

PIOPIO BirdTalk

Bi Monthly Community Newsletter covering Piopio, Aria & Mahoenui Districts

RAD - RIDE AGAINST DEPRESSION

Spreading this message, a former New Zealand Soldier and Veteran from our community, Blair Benefield has almost completed his adventure with the intent to raise awareness for youth mental health and suicide prevention services and community support services.

At the start of February 2018, he began riding the entire length of New Zealand on his skateboard which he designed and constructed, covering roughly 3000km starting at the base of Stewart Island then travelling up the South and North Islands to finish at the top in Cape Reinga.

This Ride Against Depression (RAD) is an adventure to raise funds and to date the Give a Little Fund has raised in excess of \$11,000. Blair believes, "Our youth are most vulnerable as they begin to find themselves and their place, as they learn about life, about love and happiness but also the darker side of life traumatic experiences, loss and things no child or human should learn about, like abuse and neglect".

Highlighting these dark secrets, Blair is well aware of the major issue in New Zealand surrounding mental health and suicide, and he notes this event is not just about keeping awareness but about inspiration, positive motivation and action for youth. Recalling on his own encounters, he too has been inspired and motivated by countless kiwis stepping outside their comfort zone and overcoming great challenges.

With the evolution in communication technology and the ability to connect, communicate, share knowledge and positive messages, he hopes his adventure can also inspire others who might be struggling with a mental illness as he and literally half of our

countries population have. Having been medically discharged from the New Zealand Army-Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, 4 years ago with PTSD and severe depression, he lost his purpose in life just like a lot of people suffering from mental illness do. After sourcing many treatments, anti-



depressants, counselling, group therapy he became anti-social, uncontactable, reclusive and eventually suicidal.

"When the thought of my life ending was no longer terrifying but relieving I understood how it felt to lose the will to live. I like many others have lost loved ones to suicide and I used to think suicide was the most selfish and cowardly thing anyone could do. But when you find yourself in that position; when you're in the deepest darkest states of depression, you tell yourself your loved ones would be better off without you, that you're a burden, a failure, unlovable. These thoughts and feelings run through your mind over and over and the mind being so powerful you really start believe it. I knew if I didn't find a purpose I would not survive'. Expressing this through social media and now in the public eye, Blair has been empowered to overcome this and to support others.

Just like all physical activities and sports, skateboarding can also teach you the power of perseverance and

strengthen your mind. Blair likens this to the satisfaction and sense of accomplishment when mastering a new trick, and he believes this transfer to life's experiences.

Blair recalls reading John Kirwan's book, All Blacks don't Cry and these few words dispel many myths around mental health illness. "Depression doesn't discriminate. It has no prejudice. You can be young or old, rich or poor, unemployed or in charge of a company, black or white, male or female - it doesn't matter. It's not an indication of weakness, it's an illness and it can strike anyone."

New Zealand ranks second worst in the developed world for suicide in those aged 25 and under. It is the worst in the world for suicide in those aged 15 to 19. The suicide rates have remained largely unchanged for two decades. With such horrific statistics at hand, Blair hopes that his efforts can open the way for more discussions and get local communities talking amongst each other.

If you are worried about your own or someone else's mental health, the best place to get help is your GP or local mental health provider.

- **FACEBOOK:** RAD-Ride Against Depression
- **LIFELINE:** 0800 543 354(available 24/7)
- **SUICIDE CRISIS HELPLINE:** 0508 828 865 (0508 TAUTOKO) (available 24/7)
- **YOUTHLINE:** 0800 376 633
- **NEED TO TALK?** Free call or text 1737 (available 24/7)
- **KIDSLINE:** 0800 543 754 (available 24/7)
- **WHATSUP:** 0800 942 8787 (1pm to 11pm)
- **DEPRESSION HELPLINE:** 0800 111 757

WWW.GIVEALITTLE.CO.NZ/FUNDRAISER/RIDE-AGAINST-DEPRESSION-RAD

WWW.PIOPIO.NET.NZ

UPCOMING

Events



Aria Primary presents
A hilarious musical adventure!
Thursday 16th August
Aria Hall
11am & 7pm



ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Co-operating Parish of Piopio,
Aria and Mokau.
Main Road, Piopio
Worship service 10am
every Sunday

Reverend Jekheli Singh
8788026



Within our district
several defibrillators
are on hand in the
event of an
emergency.

Piopio Township: Owls Nest
and Piopio College.

In the **surrounding districts:**
Mahoenui - Proffits woolshed,
Aria Cosmopolitan Club, and
Waitanguru Hall also have these
on hand.

A free App is available on google
Playstore to locate machines
throughout New Zealand.



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

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SAVE THE DATE
Saturday 29th September
Piopio Memorial Hall

Rural Round Up Challenge

Teams of 4-6 members needed
* 12 teams to enter

Register to:
Kirsten 027 206 8513
kirstenb@ppp.school.nz

More information to come

COMPUTER SKILLS

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

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

Senior Net rooms 51A
King Street West, Te Kuiti

Dave Walton
022 1935 711



Piopio Police
07 8770490

Crime stoppers
0800555111

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these few who are
taking from us.

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www.crimestoppers-nz.org

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PIOPIO HALL

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booked and paid for through
the Waitomo District
Council.



- Bond \$500.00
- Full Day hire 8am-8am \$200.00
- Rental per hour (max 4 hours) \$35.00
- Audio Equipment - Hire Fee \$65.00 per day
- 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)

WAITOMO DISTRICT COUNCIL
PH: 07 878 0800

TE KUITI GOLF CROQUET

Wed 10am / Sat 10am
Heather and Brian
Richardson 07 8778486

MAINLY MUSIC
Thursdays @ 10am

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

Allison 877 8840

HOUSE

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

FOR HIRE

Meeting Rooms
available at Piopio College
(07) 8778173



PIOPIO PLAYCENTRE

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Monday (birth - 6years)
Wednesday (3.5 - 6years)
9.15-12.15 pm

OPEN
★ Hillary 8778876 ★

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES

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.

5 REASONS TO COME TO PLAYCENTRE

LIONS CALL FOR DONATIONS

As the Lions Club continue to proactively raise funds for our community, it is now time our district supports them to refurbish the well loved hot food van which is in need of replacement.

A stock drive is currently in progress as the committee request donations of livestock or monies to contribute towards the upgrade. If you wish to support this the Lions Club would be grateful of any offers.

With Spring just around the corner and the promise of more daylight and sunshine, the committee welcome any used goods for resale at the annual Paddy's Market on Saturday 13th October.

Traditionally the committee seek any items large or small in which they can auction to raise funds. In recent years

they have had success with selling cars, tractors and furniture on behalf for a commission. Antique and collectable items are also found amongst other treasures. If you have working order and good condition appliances please contact the committee.



Paddy's MARKET
A COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER
13 OCTOBER 2018
PIOPIO COLLEGE GYMNASIUM
 HELP US TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY WE ARE SEEKING ANY SALEABLE ITEMS OR PRODUCE, LARGE OR SMALL.
We also sell on commission and reserve, cars, tractors, furniture etc.
 ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES
JEFF ANDREWS 8778346
ROSS SMITH 8778880
GAVIN TODD 8777700
STEVE COOPER 8778159

RUKUHIA DOMAIN

Piopio Community Sports Incorporated would like to thank many local supporters of the new water system at the domain.

- Piopio Charitable Trust for their generous contribution to the project.
- Piopio's NZ Farmsource and staff for their quality pipe and obliging help.
- Hynds Te Kuiti for their generous donation of other products to the project.
- Robinson's Water Services for their

KATE CARTER



expertise and overall job.

- The local volunteers that gave their time, Thank you!
- The new water system is hopefully going to minimise the water wastage we were encountering, as the existing system simply wasn't able to cope with inadequate size/ quality and placement of the pipes. An additional 4 stock troughs were also placed.

TRUMPING UP AT CLAIMS TIME

We've been with Neil since 2007 when our accountant saw our life insurance premiums were taking off. Neil reviewed everything and made our premiums comfortable to work with. He also became part of our team. Now when we need him he's only a phone call away.

In 2010 I went to get a funny looking skin sore on my right ear checked out by my GP. He took one look and said "I'm not touching that - you're off to see the specialist!" Within two weeks I had had the growth operated on and removed in day surgery. We rang Neil's office and dealt with Julie for the surgery claim of \$6,000. Julie made things really easy for us.

A few months later it was our insurance policy renewals time and I was concerned that the premiums were starting to creep up again. This time I was talking to Neil and he



started asking me about the operation I had had on my ear. When I told Neil that the follow up treatment included radiotherapy he said to me "Charles what would another \$21,000 look like in your bank account right now?" To which I replied "Brilliant!" We didn't know we had trauma cover that paid out for this.

Neil then assured me that he would get the ball rolling, that I would be dealing with and hearing from Julie in his office (who I think is worth her weight in gold!). "Expect the money to be in your account within two

weeks. And it was!

Why do we deal with Neil? Because he is easy to deal with and for someone who does not understand this insurance stuff Neil puts things in a lingo Maureen and I can understand. And then at claims time Neil (and his staff) dealt with the insurance company for us. They were willing to help to get claims done and also followed up to see how we were afterwards. You really can't ask for better service than that. For a free review of your life insurance options (this includes Life, Health, Trauma, Income and Mortgage Protection) please contact me today:

NEIL SCHROEDER
AUTHORISED
FINANCIAL ADVISER

A Free disclosure statement is available upon request.

SHARE



neil.schroeder@sharenz.com // 027 222 6345 // www.no8life.co.nz



Olivia MacDonald daughter of Hamish and Donna MacDonald, has recently graduated

from the University of Arizona with a Sports Management degree in May.

Olivia competed in Beach Volleyball at the world university games in



Munich for New Zealand earlier in July, however due to injury her volleyball partner Alice Bain from Mount Maunganui suffered an injury during their game against Switzerland and they had to pull out of the competition. Next she will head off to Italy to play the Italian pro tour with Francesca Kirwan from Auckland for the next couple of months before returning home to New Zealand to play the New



Above Left: Olivia MacDonald with sports partner. Right: Hamish and Donna with daughter Olivia Macdonald



You're invited to a South America Information Evening including Patagonia and Antarctica with Flavio from Viva Expeditions – Thursday the 16th August 5.30 = 6.30pm . call Donna to reserve your seat.

Don't let your Fly Buys expire you can redeem Fly Buys at helloworld Te Kuiti 300 points = \$50.00 and 3000 points = \$500.00.

The 2019 World Shearing Championships will be held in the beautiful Southern France village Le Dorat, join my tour, it is such a beautiful part of the world and I would love to share it with you.



P: 07 878 8184

W: helloworld.co.nz/tekuiti

E: Lorrene.tekanawa@helloworld.co.nz

Donna.pari@helloworld.co.nz

NEW FILM

RELEASE: *She Shears - A Heartland story* with a lot of heart.

In the gruelling world of competitive sheep shearing there is no women's section. Women and men compete together. *She Shears* is the story of passion, purpose and determination and five women for whom shearing is not just a job.

Local shearer Catherine Mullooly has worked with Mark Barrowcliffe shearing for the past two seasons and features within this film.

"While the Golden Shears compares freestyle with verbal flair on a flying fleece or a kicky ewe, director Jack Nicol applies camera poetry to the agility, strength, skill and rhythmic grace of women wielding blades of steel."

NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

She Shears will screen in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin as part of New Zealand International Film Festival during August.



OPENING SOON

PIOPIO'S

"COMMUNITY FRUIT & VEG STAND"

You may have seen Mark Dennis recently profiled on TV1's "Good Sort." He came up with idea of organising communities around New Zealand to share their surplus fruit and vegetables so it doesn't go to waste. Check out the Facebook page to learn more.

We've decided to give this a go in Piopio. Our community stand will be located right outside the Mustard Seed Op Shop.

Piopio's stand is for everyone. For it to be sustainable it is important that everyone in the community benefits from it and is able to enjoy and share the surplus fruit and veg grown in our backyards. The initiative is about making sure the food people grow doesn't go to waste.

Please support the stand by dropping off surplus from your garden, and definitely enjoy what's on offer—it's free. The stand will be checked every day or so to sure everything is fresh and tidy, and the "Community Fruit & Veg Stands" FB page updated as to what is on offer as often as possible. If anything you drop off is unusual, please

leave a note or wee sign describing what it is. And if you have time to post about it on the "Community Fruit & Veg Stands" FB page, that would be great.

Basic Guidelines for the Stand:

- Anyone dropping food off must ensure that it is fresh and suitable to eat at the time it is dropped off.
- If you drop off eggs please write the date on them when collected.
- If you drop off any baked goods please write the time and date when made.
- Please do not drop off any cooked meals.

Anyone collecting food from the stand must make a reasonable attempt to check that they are happy with the quality and freshness of the food before they eat it. The person managing the stand, and the person who dropped the food off, accept no responsibility for the safety of the food once it has been collected.

Any questions/problems/ volunteers wanting to help:

RING KAREN 877 8012/ STRUANFARM@GMAIL.COM

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The **KING COUNTRY HUNT** held it's closing Hunt on the 14th July. We have had a wonderful season with around 30 adult members and 7 juniors. We pride ourselves on being 'family friendly'. Our Opening Hunt was held back in early April and since then we have enjoyed some great sport. Pre-season we held a free day at the Bevege property where people could come along and see what we do. There was an awesome turnout, with a number of new members joining. It was a hugely successful day and we intend to hold more in the future. We have our annual fund-raising Trek

coming up 2nd-4th November and this year it is being held on the beautiful Nukuhakari Station near Waikawau. This is an awesome chance to ride over gorgeous coastal land and if interested please register early as numbers are limited and places fill up fast. Check our the facebook page 'King County Hunt Trekking Group' for more information. We held our Hunter Trials in June with some great competition from both young and old. Molly Nelson and Bubbles took out the Champion Hunter with Janet Harre and Ziggy our Reserve Champion. The Hunt is always keen to promote our sport and encourage new

members. We would love to see some new faces out next season. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful landowners who allow us to ride over their land. Without you there would be no Hunt. Also, our awesome sponsors Atkinson & Assoc, Famlands, Farm Source, TA Saddlery Progress Transport, Super Air, Fencer Dan, Totally Vets and PGG Wrightson, thank you for your continued support of the Hunt.



JOY HURLEY - PRESIDENT

2018 Mahoenui Pig Hunting Competition



THURSDAY 6th - SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2018

WEIGH IN: 12 - 3pm SATURDAY 8th

@ THE MAHOENUI HALL

Midway between Mokau & Piopio SH3

PRIZE GIVING

JUNIOR 3.30PM // OPEN 4PM

MAJOR SPOT PRIZE \$1000

[cash prize]

Personal Locator Beacon - RES & LINK Raffle

Tarangower Stud/ Hunting & Fishing / Barrowcliffe Shearing

Open CATEGORY	PRIZE
AVERAGE WEIGHT Rorisons RMD	\$1000
HEAVIEST BOAR Rotor Work Helicopters	\$500
2ND Fraei Contracting	\$300
3RD Simpson Contracting	\$200
BEST TUSKS Sika Country Taxidermy	Voucher Worth \$600
2nd BEST TUSKS Bevege Contracting	\$200
MYSTERY WEIGHT Adams Contracting	\$200

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MOBILE FOOD VAN is coming soon to the former Piopio Saleyard site.

Baby G's will provide hearty food for travellers, truckers and of course locals.

A hit for customers has been the Twirly Potato Stix, Boss Burgers and Loaded Fries.



The mobile van will also feature Boilup nights and offer Hangi once established.

Home baking, savouries and drinks will also be on hand to tempt your taste buds.



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CONSTRUCTION OF A HOME FOR ARAPAE TO PROCEED

The signing of a contract with Totalspan and its associated partners of NZ Steel and

Allied Concrete to build a Display Garage to house Arapae, the replica of New Zealand's 1st school Bus, was approved at the Piopio College Trust Bus Committee meeting on 16th July.

Sited between the Piopio – Aria-Mokau Co-operating Parish's Opportunity Shop and the Memorial Hall this site will maximise public access and observation of the bus.

The planned Photographic Display panels, text and AV commentary will provide an outline of the History of

the 1st buses and the journey the Trust has made over the past four years in replicating the 1st School bus.

Funding for this final stage of the project is presently being sought from various Trusts and donors.

Should all consents be obtained from the Waitomo District Council completion by the end of October is anticipated.

Trust Chairman, John Carter said it was particularly pleasing to finally get to this stage.

The Trust was most grateful for the generosity of locals in providing sufficient funds for the contract to be

BRIAN TEGG



1987 YEAR 8 CLASS WAS TAKEN FOR A SURPRISE RIDE DURING THEIR REUNION.

PIOPIO SENIOR CITIZENS

For our June and July meetings we held games mornings followed by the meeting and a shared lunch. What a lot of fun! They took us back to our childhood.

Twenty-two of us thoroughly enjoyed our mid-winter lunch at the Piopio

Cosmopolitan Club. What a great cook Eileen is.

We drew the Winter Warmers raffle and Jenny Howie at the Vet Club was the lucky winner. Many thanks to all who donated goods and bought tickets. Silverados exercise is now every Monday at 9.30am.

ARIA SQUASH CLUB A

Fun Business House competition was run in March/April with 6 teams entered. Lots of laughs were had, and it was great to see some new faces come along for a hit. Our next round of Business House will be happening very soon - get your

Team in (or we can put you in a team). Friday nights from 6pm. In May we held our Annual B Grade tournament. Although the number of entries were on the low side, there were some great games played. Thank you to all who supported this. Aria Squash Club entered one Mens, and One Ladies Team for Winter Interclub. The Ladies battled through a semi-final and a final at opposing Clubs to come out on top in their Division. These same teams have entered in the Spring Interclub Competition which will start early

Mark Anderson mlanderson@xtra.con.nz Lee Alcock shellalcock@hotmail.com

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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THREE LITTLE BIRDS. . .

BIRTHDAYS were celebrated in June: the Fat Pigeon turned 9 and the Owls Nest turned 4. At the Fat Pigeon we offered patrons some chockies, and at the Night Owl we offered diners lucky-dip vouchers (fastened under their dining chairs) ranging from 25% off their dinner, free main, dessert or entree, to a complimentary drink. It was a great night and everyone appreciated their little 'gift'.

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 ... on Tuesdays only (funny that).

THE NIGHT OWL: Soon we are going to bring you 'Friday Night Cider & Tapas'. As the name suggests, these will be available Friday nights – our thoughts are a sort of 'after-work get-together' with your colleagues or friends to share a mixture of delectable tapas. We'll iron out the full details and pop it up on facebook.

As you probably know, we now stock Good George Ciders available either by the glass or by the squealer. It's Peach Cider recently won gold at the Beer & Cider Awards.

We also now stock Peter Yealands Sauvignon Blanc. Yealands recently won four trophies at the 2018 International Wine Challenge.

Now, we know it's a bit chilly out at the moment, but we have a lovely

warm, cosy restaurant for you to bring family or friends for a lovely meal, complimented by award-winning drinks!



OWLS NEST MOTEL: We have enjoyed good occupancy at the motel – a mixture of contractors, tourists and travellers. If you have friends or family requiring accommodation, please contact Zoe on 07 877 8767 or 021 113 5010, visit our website www.theowlsnest.co.nz or email theowlsnest@xtra.co.nz

CRAFTY PIGEON: New items, including some gorgeous furniture items, are now on display so please pop in and see Lynne or Kim for the perfect gift.

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

BADMINTON HOLIDAY PROGRAMME A SUCCESS



On Monday 16th July around 30 kids, parents and nannies from the Piopio/Aria area enjoyed an active afternoon at the Piopio college gymnasium playing badminton and table tennis. The fun 'Throw-a-Wobbly' game was also brought out for the littlies creating lots of fun and laughter.

The afternoon was run by Sport Waikato's Dede Downs and local sport volunteer Carolyn Webster with fantastic support from Piopio College.

Dede and Carolyn said 'Everyone enjoyed themselves, a little bit of coaching made a lot of difference and the standard of skills at the end of the day was outstanding'.

There was keen interest in reviving weekly badminton and maybe also table tennis in Piopio so if you are interested, contact Dede 0274853692 or Erin Barclay 877 7842.



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER LOOKING FOR NEW EDITOR

Since the first issue of this community newsletter in late December 2006, I think we can say this community has certainly fulfilled its purpose to provide both locals and visitors with news in our district.

I believe Jenny Yates, Nicky Atkinson, Colin Payne and Ellie Voyce were the founding few to compile the first few issues.

Since I have been handed the Birdtalk from Ellie Voyce in 2011, the newsletter has had a few changes and with an increasing number of advertisers making contact, it's pleasing to see the Birdtalk is now a self-funded community newsletter. It's always exciting to hear of news

that we can share with our local community that is truly of interest to our people.

"My role as Editor during this time has been enjoyable, however I now feel it's time to pass this role onto someone who can bring a new view and perspective to the Birdtalk. This has been a great project for me to develop however as other projects progress I will be looking for someone to fill this role". If you are interested or know of anyone willing to volunteer and to proactively promote our community, please feel free to send them my way.

DONNA PARI
EDITOR - PIOPIO BIRDTALK
EM: PIOPIOBIRDTALK@GMAIL.COM

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Piopio Rugby Club is having another successful year and they have managed to go one better than last year by making it into the finals. Whilst the boys were defeated, the unity both on and off the field was felt, with a large contingent of supporters backing the team during the game also. In the first round the boys qualified third which set them up well for Round two. They have had to dig deep over the season with a number of season ending injuries to some of the senior players. The seasons results so far speak volumes for the young side who have had the backing of the remaining senior players, the coaching staff and our supporters. The second round was a very competitive round, with most games being very close and seeing Piopio having to defend the Hetet shield at every home game. They did this twice but Waitete managed to lift this from us at the last home game of the season, Waitete winning 16-11. This also meant that Waitete remained the holders of JR's Shield, a new inter club challenge in memory of James Ritchie. This day saw a huge turnout of supporters with many saying it was the most anyone had seen there for a long time.

The last game of the round saw us play Waitomo at Waitomo and there we lost a hard fought game 17-11. This left Piopio finishing third and in line to play Waitomo in the semi-finals at Waitomo again, as they had qualified second. This was a must win game and right from the start, Piopio set about their business with accuracy and determination and won by a very convincing 18-3 taking them to the final – the first time in many, many years. Piopio has always been very privileged to have huge support both at home and away and the semi final at Waitomo was no exception. The side-lines were packed with supporters and the players definitely noticed and appreciated this support. It is a huge achievement for this Club and one that has been building over the last few years. Driven to take the Meads shield, the team can stand staunch as the memories from the 1990's were close at hand. The season has proven a success with the teams development and we look forward to next year, where we will fight again to challenge the shield. Receiving their blazers for 50 games this year were Ben Hince, Josh McCormick and Sandy Pari. We congratulate these players on their continued commitment to Piopio Rugby Club and are very happy to

reward this milestone with the Club blazer. The Committee is very grateful for the sponsors and supporters who have helped the club to where we are now. This year we have replaced the carpet and vinyl and the new field lights are up and running, the club is in good spirit.

This year we also welcomed the restart of the Rugby Club Netball Girls team and have enjoyed their enthusiasm and involvement in the Club. They play weekly on Thursday nights in Te Kuiti in the Premier Reserve Grade, having won some and lost some too. Final rounds are 16 August with Closing Tournament 18 August. The girls would like to thank everyone who helped fundraise to get their full kit of uniform.

To celebrate the success of the Club, **Prize giving** is on **Saturday 25 August 2018** at the Clubrooms. For your tickets, please see Shona at KC Honda or ring Joy 0273 439243. Tickets are \$20 per person.

Piopio Rugby Clubs 1st **Annual Beerfest** is being held on **Saturday 27 October** at the Clubrooms, so get dressed up and come down to the Rugby Club for live music from The Bush Buds and a great nights entertainment. Contact Andrew Blackmore 027 8564866 Scott Bradley 021 2852571 or Joy Jeffries



Term three is underway! We hope everyone enjoyed their holiday break and you are easing back into the term routine without any hassles. Many of our dairy farming families will be getting into calving now so we hope the season goes well for you all. At such a busy time of year a reminder to all our families that if you can't make Thursday morning to hire or return

toys, there are other options. The new trike and trailer is proving to be a popular addition to our selection of bikes, trikes, scooters and ride on toys available for hire. Definitely gets the tick of approval from these two!



The Darke boys enjoying the new trike

In Toy Library news - We are planning a mini garage sale in conjunction with the Piopio markets and would love any donations you may have! So if you have any old unwanted toys cluttering up your house & backyard please get in touch! Thanks in advance for your support

Please contact Lulu on our Facebook page or at ariatoylibrary@gmail.com.

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CHANGING ROOMS

Last summer seems a distant memory but rest assured it was a good one, with near record public swimming numbers, supported by use from our very strong swimming club and primary and secondary school users.

Over winter we have been planning upgrade and maintenance works so that the pool complex will be ready to dive in when the sun comes out again. Current projects include a revamp of the changing room facilities including the addition of a

heated shower in the male and female changing rooms. The toilet facilities will also be getting a birthday. Non-slip flooring and a brighter paint job are also included.

The filter pump for the big pool has been disconnected and will be taken to Hamilton for a general overhaul.

A new solar pump for the small pool has been ordered and a new handle will be fitted onto the small pool's cover roller. This will assist in keeping the small pool at a more temperate temperature for our littlies.

We are pleased to announce that we have secured Rob Waddell as this year's speaker for an event to be held on the 12th of October at the Piopio Aria Golf Club.



As we have in the past, a meal will be included with your ticket. Further details will be announced closer to the time.

Can't wait for the sun.

Piopio Community Swimming Pools

A PROUD SUPPORTER OF RURAL AND PROVINCIAL NEW ZEALAND

When I was first elected as the MP for Taranaki-King Country in 2014, I served as Deputy Chair on the Health Select Committee for 3 years. I considered it a real privilege to sit on this select committee with my cross party colleagues to consider legislation and discuss best practices to support the health needs for the New Zealand public. It was an honour to meet members of the general public and read submissions called for on a wide range of issues where a change in legislation may affect them.

The Government's cancellation of the National Health Targets is a concerning step that will cost lives in Taranaki-King Country.

Research shows that the Shorter Stays in ED (Emergency Department) target which aimed to have 95 per cent of patients admitted, discharged or transferred from EDs around the country within six hours resulted in a

57 per cent reduction in the death rate of ED patients - saving around 700 lives a year across the country.

Not only do these targets save lives, they also make a big difference to our communities. For example, Waikato DHB delivered 82.1 per cent on the Shorter ED stays measure when it was last reported under the previous National Government. Research published in the New Zealand Medical Journal confirms that this does not come at the cost of patients' wellbeing.

The National Health Targets drove improvement in the areas that New Zealanders care about. Significant increases in the number of elective surgeries and immunisations, as well as faster cancer treatment and improved children's health were all partially driven by these targets and the health sector's commitment to them.

These targets not only let us see exactly the kind of difference the money we invested was making for real people, they also gave public servants a clear focus on what they needed to do to improve lives.

It's particularly disappointing because the Waikato DHB has been working hard on these measures, and the publically-available targets are easy to follow for every New Zealander interested in their own DHB's efforts.

Health isn't the only area that Labour has abolished targets in. They have also abandoned the whole of government Better Public Services targets. This Government is trying to avoid accountability by refusing to publish important information about the delivery of public services.

The Government's decision to abolish the health targets will cost lives if the focus and public scrutiny on better, faster healthcare in specific areas is lessened.

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E: ariatoylibrary@gmail.com

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E:shellalcock@hotmail.com

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We reserve the right to edit any material.

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