

# Ablution upgrade almost there

THROUGH sheer determination, creative fundraisers and a strong community effort Piopio War Memorial Hall's ablution upgrade will be completed next week.

Renovations began on May 5, and and it is hoped they will be completed by June 21, in time for the community's annual Stars in Your Eyes event.

Hall committee chairwoman Vikki Watson says the toilets – which are the original ones from the 1950s – were well past their use by date and needed a major overhaul.

"It (the toilet block) was pretty rundown so the whole shebang is being upgraded and while it is always good to have a deadline, it is going to

be tight," says Miss Watson.

"It might not have the finishing touches by June 21, like mirrors and the fancy rubbish bins, but the toilets and walls will all be completed."

But without the community's help in raising \$60,000 during the past three years, Miss Watson says none of the work would have been possible.

Locals have helped raise funds by supporting events such as the Hall to Hall relays and Stars in Your Eyes.

The committee also received monetary support from Trust Waikato (\$5000), Piopio and Districts Charitable Trust (\$9000) and the Waitomo District Council's Community Partnership Fund (\$7000).

During the past two months Miss



**ON A MISSION:** Vikki Watson (left), Tracey Neal, Kristen Pari, Layla Benton, Stephanie Brough and Emma Thompson have worked hard since forming the Piopio Hall committee in 2008, raising \$60,000 in the past three years to fund the ablutions upgrade.

Watson says contractors have worked tirelessly to get the refurbishments completed.

"There is a huge difference between what the hall was being used for in 2008, when the committee was formed, compared with how it is used today.

"We definitely have more people using it for all sorts of occasions, and we have four to five bookings in August which is unheard of and that's great

because it is a great venue."

She says the revamp has also benefitted local builders, plasterers, painters and plumbers.

"It was a definite priority for us to use local contractors.

"All the money came from fundraisers and locals so it is good to use their money locally and put it back into the community."



**FLUSHED WITH SUCCESS:** Piopio Memorial Hall committee member Stephanie Brough (left) and chairwoman Vikki Watson are thrilled the hall's original ablution facilities are being upgraded thanks to excellent community support with fundraising.



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