PIOPIO BIRDTALK

Bi-monthly community newsletter covering Piopio, Aria and Mahoenui districts Oct/Nov 2026

# Case dominates at Nationals

**THE** NZ 2-Stroke Nationals delivered two huge days of racing, four intense rounds, and riders travelling from every corner of the country, and once again, Case Wilson proved he's one to watch.

Competing in the 8-11yr 85cc class, Case put together a flawless performance across all four rounds, finishing 1,1,1,1 to secure first place overall. This marks his second consecutive year taking out the national title, an incredible achievement for a young rider.

Hosted by the Central Motocross Club, the event featured a fast flowing natural-terrain track which Case said he enjoys. He admitted his starts on Day 1 were "average," but by Day 2 he had them sorted.

"The track was mint, good, fast natural terrain. I love those tracks because I can race them as fast as I can get my bike to go," Case said.

RB Bikes prepped his bike, giving him the confidence to push hard every race. "The bike didn't miss a beat," he said.

A huge thank you to Case's sponsors. Case knows he couldn't chase his dreams without the people and businesses backing him.

Shout-outs to: RB Bikes, Crown Kiwi Enterprises, Fat Pigeon Café, Simpson Tree Works, Louver Logging, Wilson Drainage, Johnstone Moto, Parau Farms. Their support makes weekends like this possible, and Case is very grateful.



Case Wilson (centre) on the podium





**Not sure if this will hit your mailbox in time, but if it does...**

**PADDY'S MARKET**

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# Piopio's new website

**A REMINDER** to people advertising accommodation available on the Piopio website... You can email photos to *projectpiopiotrust@gmail.com*

We are aiming to have the website looking great and as up to date as possible at launch in early November.

If you have any queries give me a call... Jenny 021 141 1243.




# Lions update

**THE CLUB has had the Lions Cancer bus in Piopio recently. This was well used with 44 people going through on the day. Along with the Piopio Lions contribution to the Cancer Lodge in Hamilton, this is another worthwhile project that the Club is involved in.**

**We had police officer Ryan Morehead as a speaker at our recent tea meeting. He talked about his involvement in investigating old cases. Very interesting. Ryan and his family have recently moved to Piopio from Australia and he has joined the Fire Brigade.**

**Paddys Market is coming up on Saturday, October 3, so keep this date free and come and have an enjoyable day at the Piopio College Gymnasium. We look forward to seeing you there.**

***Gavin Todd***

# KC Hunt AGM

**KING COUNTRY HUNT is holding their AGM at 7pm on Wednesday, November 11 at the Senior Citizens Hall, Piopio.**

**If you are interested in getting involved in a great family sport come along to the meeting.**

**Our annual Trek is to be held at Te Wharua Station, Matiere from October 30 - November 1. Limited spaces available.**

**If you have any questions on hunting feel free to call me, Joy Hurley 027 5777 881.**



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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

**Karen Barrett**
struanfarm@gmail.com
0275 727 407



**JUST ABOUT** out of winter mode at our Community Stand, heading towards garden and orchard bounty!

I trust you're busy on sunny days doing the prep work on your garden soil (compost, manure, blood & bone, lime, etc.) and orchards (too late now for copper on the peaches, but give everything a good feed).

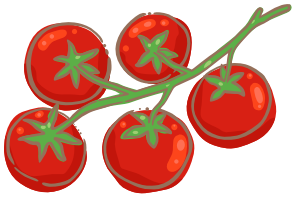
I've got potatoes chitting in the garage ahead of planting and kumara tipu starting in damp sand in the glasshouse. Got a bit sore overdoing it out in the garlic, shallot and onion beds. There were no weeds until there were.

As we head into October most will know it's getting onto heirloom tomato time. The seedlings for our annual seedling plant distribution around Labour weekend are germinating and growing away in the glasshouse as I write this. Varieties this year include Cherokee Purple, Pink Berkeley Tie-Dye, Koanga's Oxheart Dalmatian and Croatian, Black Cherry, Vintage Brandywine, and Big Heirloom.

I'll post info on when plants will start to appear (I'm always nervous about the risk of a late frost, so I do keep an eye on forecasts), as well as varieties going out the day before on our FB page. I know there are passionate afficionados of particular varieties, but these are all good, meaty, delicious heirlooms. Cherokee Purple isn't purple and Pink Berkeley isn't pink, by the way, so give them a try and you won't look back!

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 many thanks for your continued contributions and support — it makes a difference.



# Laver Marine update

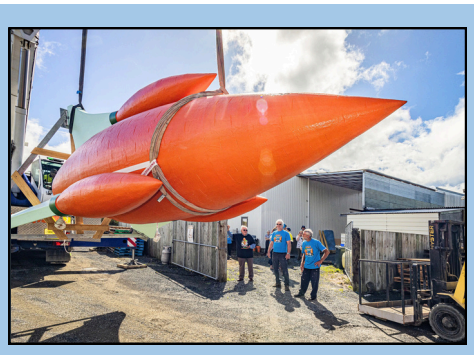
**BACK IN 2013**, Max Laver and his family arrived in Piopio and set up a workshop in Moa Street, offering boat building and repairs, along with fibreglass repairs. Throughout the years, Max continued to make and sell his signature small dinghies, while the business evolved in many interesting and unexpected directions as people discovered the wide range of skills he had to offer.

Over the years, Max has taken on some varied projects, including building a historic school bus, mending Otorohanga's Buzzy Bees, making helicopter fertiliser spreaders, and creating a giant carrot rocket with Tony Williams for the Ohakune Adventure Park.

After many years of interesting and varied projects, Max has decided to offer a more scaled-down service. During the week, he has taken up a position working in building compliance between Waitomo and Otorohanga District Councils. However, Max will still be found tinkering away in his workshop, working on projects such as creating furniture from swamp kauri and continuing to invent and develop ideas for the aviation fertiliser-spreading industry.

Max has always enjoyed the 'get-the-job-done' attitude of the local businesses he has partnered with over the years.

Max and his family would like to thank all the local businesses, customers and community groups who have supported them from those early beginnings right through to the more recent projects. A special thank you goes to Max's friend Tony Williams, Pari Transport, for their encouragement and 'support local' philosophy, and to Ben Price for his massive efforts while working alongside Max.



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# Why so tired?



**FATIGUE** has been coming up a lot in clinic lately. At this time of year, there are pretty obvious reasons for feeling tired. Spring is busy. Farming hours are long, winter sport rolls into summer sport, and for many families there hasn't been much of a break.

But what if you're now getting enough sleep and you're still exhausted? I've been sending quite a few clients for blood tests recently as we try to get a clearer picture of what might be contributing to their fatigue, because while feeling tired is incredibly common, there can be a lot behind it.

Not all fatigue looks the same either - some of us wake tired despite a full night's sleep. We might start the day well but crash in the afternoon or keep going all day only to have absolutely nothing left by evening.

Then there are the other pieces of information that can start to build a picture - are you feeling the cold? Getting headaches or restless legs? Has your concentration changed? Are you getting sick more often? Have your periods become heavier? Are you more breathless than usual?

From there, we can look a little more broadly at what has been going on. How are you sleeping? Are you eating enough? Are you getting enough protein and key nutrients? How is your digestion? Are you under significant stress? Have you been unwell? What medications are you taking?

Blood tests can also help us investigate further. Depending on what's going on, we might look at iron status, B12 and folate, thyroid function, vitamin D, blood glucose, liver and kidney function, inflammatory markers or a full blood count. Sometimes we find a clear explanation, but other times the results help us rule things out so we can keep looking at the bigger health picture.

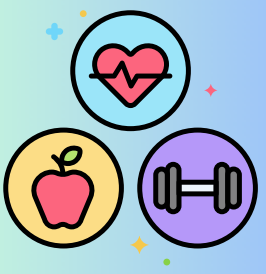
With all of this information, we can work out what support actually makes sense. That might mean correcting a nutrient deficiency, making changes to nutrition or sleep, supporting recovery, or using targeted nutritional or herbal support. Sometimes the appropriate next step is further investigation with your GP.

There isn't one answer to fatigue, which is why taking the time to understand what's contributing to yours can be so useful.

**Laree Rauputu**
Naturopath
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**We welcome your stories!**
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# A good move for SJ Mechanics

**LOCAL MECHANIC** Stacey James has relocated his workshop to the heart of Piopio village, taking over the space behind the petrol station on Kaka St following the closure of Davis Automotive.

Stacey had been working from his home-based workshop on Tikitiki Rd for about eight years, but with his children now older and moving on from school, the timing was right to make the move into town.

"Being central is good," Stacey says. "And now I can close the doors and leave work at work."

The workshop offers general mechanical servicing and repairs, along with warrant of fitness work once Stacey completes the additional requirements for his warrant inspector ticket. He hopes to be up and running with warrants by Christmas.

He is also offering welding and smaller engineering jobs.

Born and raised in the area, Stacey attended Piopio Primary and College before heading to Gisborne to complete a pre-trade course.

He went on to complete his apprenticeship with Excelsior Nissan in Te Kūiti in the 1990s, spent time shearing and pressing before heading to Australia.

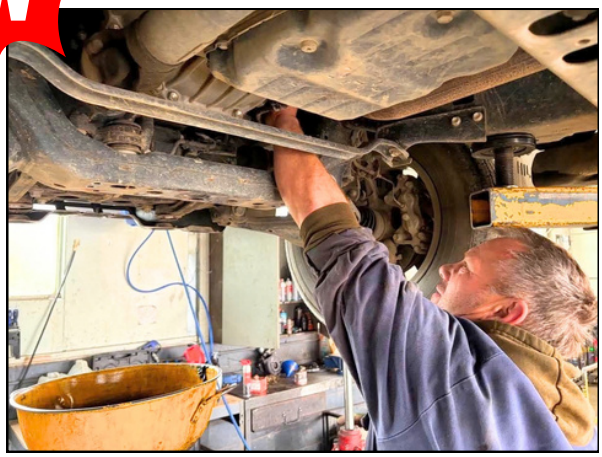
It was his young family that ultimately brought him home.

"The mining industry didn't really suit the family," Stacey says, with the long hours and weeks away from home prompting the move back to Piopio.

Now, with his own workshop in the village, Stacey is looking forward to continuing to provide a local mechanical service for the community.




NEW



**ABOVE:**
**Stacey James at his workshop.**

**RIGHT:**
**Doing the mahi.**

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# Why backing our schools and kids is good for the country



**FOR ME,** education in New Zealand has always been about far more than passing exams. It's about every young person gaining the skills, confidence, and sense of belonging they need to succeed and give back to their communities. From small rural schools in places like Piopio, Te Kūiti, and Ōpunake to our larger town schools in Hāwera and New Plymouth, I see teachers, families, communities, and the Government working together to make classrooms places students want to be and where they get the support and encouragement they need to shape their future.

And ours.

A big part of this is going back to the basics: reading, writing, and maths. When a child feels confident reading, can express themselves clearly, and is comfortable with numbers, everything else becomes easier. With those strong foundations in place, our young people can approach science, technology, the arts, farming, and the trades with real self-belief — whether that's on a dairy farm in South Taranaki, in an engineering workshop in Te Kūiti, or at a polytech in New Plymouth. Across our region, schools are putting extra energy into literacy and numeracy, using clear teaching methods and regular practice to help students lift their achievement. Going back to basics isn't new — but sometimes we need to return to what works before we can move forward.

Improving school attendance is another crucial part of the picture. When students turn up regularly, they build stronger friendships, keep pace with their learning, and stay connected to the opportunities education provides, whether they stay local or move further afield. Here in Taranaki and the King Country, many schools are taking practical steps that make a real difference: flexible start times for older students who travel long distances by bus, breakfast clubs and school lunches, better transport options, and working with families. These changes recognise that every student's situation is different, and that lifting attendance often means supporting the whole whānau.

None of this happens by accident. It takes dedicated teachers, supportive parents and caregivers, and communities that stand behind their local schools. As the MP for Taranaki and the King Country, I'm determined that we keep backing student success and student wellbeing. When we back our kids, we're backing stronger communities here in Taranaki and the King Country — and a better future for all New Zealanders.

*Barbara Kuriger*
*MP for Taranaki/King Country*

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# Pony Club update

**OUR NEW SEASON** is upon us, with our opening rally held on September 13.

The kids were certainly keen to get back into it after a winter of rugby, netball and hockey. It was great to see some sunshine, get outside and be back out and about on the ponies.

Those who know ponies will know that spring grass and ponies aren't always the best combination. Thankfully, the kids all seemed to have their mounts looking fabulous and, for the most part, well under control. One of our riders has her pony so well trained that, after she came off during cross-country, she simply carried on jumping by herself before heading back to the horse float.

We'd love to see some new faces come along this season. Whether you're an experienced rider, a complete beginner, or simply keen to get involved, new members — riders and non-riders — are always welcome.

We have a great programme of rallies planned this season, with a real focus on having fun and giving the kids a chance to experience their ponies in different settings. We're looking forward to cattle roping, a polocrosse day, farm treks and a trip to the beach.

**Our New Arena**

Our upgraded arena is looking great and has been really well supported by the community. A huge thank you to Rick Pullman for regularly grooming the arena and keeping it looking beautiful. We really appreciate the time and effort that goes into keeping it in such great shape.

**One Day Event — October 31**

Our Pony Club One Day Event is coming up on October 31. This is a great opportunity for the wider community to come along, watch the action and see what Pony Club is all about.

We are still looking for a few volunteers to help make the day happen — and you don't need to know anything about horses! There are plenty of jobs behind the scenes, and it's a great way to support local kids and get involved in a fun community event.

At its heart, our Pony Club is simply a group of parents and volunteers wanting to give our kids opportunities to get outside, learn, compete, build confidence and, most importantly, have fun with their ponies.

**Pony Club Camp**

We're also in the early stages of planning our Pony Club Camp, which is expected to be held around the second week of January. More details will follow as plans come together, but we're hoping to get the ponies to the beach and, weather permitting, get them into the water!

New members and volunteers are always welcome — we'd love to see you at the Piopio Domain.


























# Piopio College at AIMS Games 2026

**THIS YEAR**, 23 of our students represented Piopio College across netball, Rippa rugby, mountain biking, and badminton. For our small rural college, it was pretty special to have 23 students competing amongst 14,506 athletes from 467 schools. Athletes travelled from throughout New Zealand, as well as international schools from Australia, Rarotonga, and Fiji.

AIMS is the largest International Intermediate multi-sporting event in the southern hemisphere and our students certainly made the most of the opportunity to compete, challenge themselves, and represent Piopio College on a much bigger stage.

**Netball**

Our netball girls took their place amongst an impressive 132 teams. They were drawn in a tough pool and faced a busy week of competition against teams they would not normally get the opportunity to play. The girls continued to turn up, compete hard, and work together throughout the week. There were plenty of challenges along the way, but also plenty of opportunities to learn and grow as a team. The girls showed perseverance, teamwork, and MANA, representing Piopio College proudly throughout the tournament.

**Rippa Rugby**

Our Rippa rugby team joined 99 teams from around New Zealand for a full week of competition. The team faced a range of opposition and plenty of tough games. They continued to work together, communicate, and give their best each time they stepped onto the field. Playing against schools from around the country gave our team a great opportunity to experience a different level of competition and continue developing their skills as both individuals and a team.

**Mountain Biking**

Tyler Brice and Charlie Ronaldson represented Piopio College across two mountain biking disciplines: Enduro and Cross Country Mountain Biking.

In the Enduro event, the boys competed in a field of 110 riders and produced some excellent results. Charlie finished 21st overall, with Tyler close behind in 25th place. The boys then returned to the trails for the Cross Country Mountain Biking event, competing against 88

*[continued on Page 9]*







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# AIMS games 2026

*[continued from Page 8]*

riders. Tyler finished an impressive 22nd, while Charlie finished 27th.

Across both events, Tyler and Charlie produced four strong placings against large and competitive fields. Competing in two different mountain biking disciplines also required the boys to adapt to the different demands of each event. Their results were a fantastic achievement and something for both boys to be proud of.

**Badminton**

Josh Morgan had a fantastic week representing Piopio College in both singles and doubles badminton. The Year 7 singles competition featured 204 players, with Josh making it through to the semifinals of his division. During pool play, Josh also had the opportunity to take on the number one seeded Year 7 boy. Although the match resulted in a loss, Josh managed to take five points from the top seed and came away with some valuable experience playing against one of the leading competitors at the tournament.

Another special part of the week for Josh was meeting players from Rarotonga. He was lucky and very grateful to receive some souvenirs from his opponents—a lovely gesture and a great example of the friendships and sportsmanship that are also part of the AIMS experience.

Josh then teamed up with Mikel from Waikirikiri for the doubles competition, which featured 72 pairs. Despite coming from different schools, the boys formed a great partnership and worked their way through to the final of their division. Josh and Mikel finished second, which was an awesome achievement for the pair. Following their final, the boys were acknowledged with a haka from the Waikirikiri players and supporters. It was a fantastic display of support and whanaungatanga, and a very special way for the boys to finish their competition and our final day at AIMS Games 2026.

**Cross Country**

Laci Kendrick got her AIMS Games campaign off to a fantastic start on Sunday morning, competing in the Cross Country event alongside a large field of 154 runners. Laci gave it her all out on the course and displayed great determination representing Piopio College, before turning her attention to the field for the week as part of our Rippa rugby team.

A special mention goes to our senior students Deago, Imogen, and Putiputi, who came along to support and mentor our junior athletes. They were there on the sidelines encouraging our students and were a great support throughout the week.

A huge thank you also goes to Cam Kendrick and Rob Young for their support of our Rippa rugby team. Their time, encouragement, and support throughout the competition were greatly appreciated and helped give our students the opportunity to compete on the AIMS stage.

Getting 23 students from Piopio to Tauranga and through a full week of competition takes a team effort. A huge mihi goes to all of our coaches, parents, whānau, and supporters who gave their time and energy to help make the week possible.

A huge thank you also goes to Mrs Draper, Miss Butler, and Mrs Carter for all the mahi behind the scenes before, during, and after the Games. From the planning and organisation to supporting our students throughout the week, there is a lot that goes into making an AIMS campaign possible.

Congratulations to all of our 2026 AIMS Games athletes. There were some fantastic results, new friendships, valuable sporting experiences, and plenty of memories made along the way.

We are incredibly proud of you all.



Josh Morgan (second from left) representing Piopio College at badminton

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# Celebrating our junior stars




**AT** a recent Piopio College assembly, we proudly recognized our outstanding Year 9 and 10 students.

Year 10s: Congratulations to our Year 10 students who have already completed all three CAA exams in Literacy and Numeracy. Clearing this milestone early is a massive achievement.

Year 9s: Significant Academic Progress. A huge shout-out to our Year 9s honoured for their incredible growth and hard work this year in their different subject areas.

Well done to you all.

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**Aria Cosmopolitan Club**
028 465 8143
ariacosc@gmail.com

**Carley Jane Beauty**
021 042 4493

**Cloverleaf Café**
07 877 8368

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

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

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

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

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

**Piopio Berry Orchard**
07 877 8490

**Piopio Cosmopolitan Club**
07 877 8204

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

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

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

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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

**Aria Primary School**
07 877 7857

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

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

**Kohanga Piopio**
07 877 8185

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

**Piopio Playcentre**
Jo Stockley
021 148 7556

**Piopio Primary School**
07 877 8103

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

## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Seniors' Exercise Classes**
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** 022 437 0789

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

## ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS

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

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

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

## SPORTS & RECREATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Tennis Club**
Reon Verry
07 878 8678

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

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

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

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

**piopiobirdtalk@gmail.com**

# An evening with local legends

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**A GROUP** of Māori sporting champions who whakapapa to three Maniapoto marae will come together in Piopio on Labour weekend to celebrate 30 years of the Maniapoto Sports Festival.

Descendants of Mōkau Kohunui, Napinapi and Te Paemate Marae who have represented Aotearoa on the national and international stage will be honoured at a special celebration on October 24, 2026.

Confirmed guests include Cortez Ratima, Jenny-May Clarkson (Coffin), Haki Wiseman and Dame Farah Palmer, alongside other accomplished sportspeople connected through whakapapa to the three marae.

Buffet dinner, bar facilities and entertainment provided.

Mōkau Kohunui marae trustee Keith Ikin says the event is about more than celebrating sporting success.

"It is about acknowledging the whānau, marae and communities behind these athletes, reconnecting through whakapapa, and inspiring the rangatahi who will carry that legacy forward."

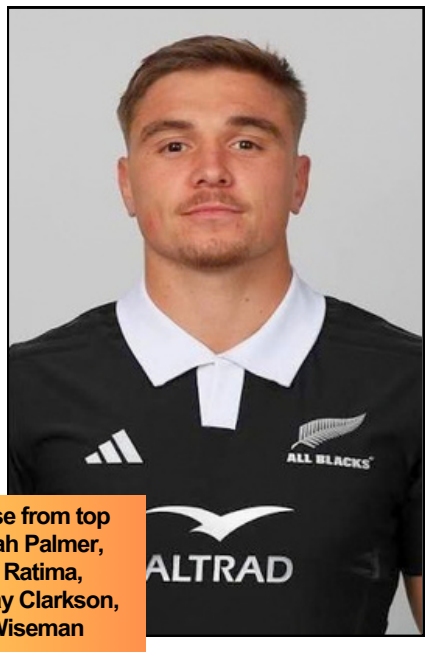
The evening will also raise funds for the three marae.

To buy tickets please email *parihaulage@gmail.com*

*(See advert this page)*






Clockwise from top left: Farah Palmer, Cortez Ratima, Jenny-May Clarkson, Haki Wiseman





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