

Playcentre celebrates 60

THANK YOU so much to all those who attended Piopio Playcentre's 60 year celebration recently.

What a memorable day that was had by adults and children. We had a great turn out of 70 people, from past to current members, as well as other locals who were there to support us.

The Paw Patrol bouncy castle was up and children were playing in there almost non stop! Bubbles were floating around, play-dough creations were being made, sand-castles were being built and the swings and bikes were moving. A big thank you goes to Krissy Ballantyne for painting so many little ones faces for over three hours; she did an amazing job!

We had the eldest past Piopio Playcentre member, Jean Dickinson, and our youngest member, Theo Brier, cut the cake together. Thank you to Melanie at the Fat Pigeon for making the cake!

Also a thank you goes to PGG Wrightson for letting us use their BBQ trailer, New World Te Kuiti for their donation towards the food, and to Siobhan for painting our fabulous play house. What an awesome job she has done.

Thank you to our current members and their families for putting such a special day together, especially to Jo Stockley for being the driver behind it all.

A lot of hard work went into making this day a success, from gardening to organising all the special touches, and all the bits and pieces in between.

As Jo our current president said, "a small but mighty team".



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ANZAC commemoration

SLIGHTLY LESS people turned out for our ANZAC commemoration this year.

A special touch was that we had live music expertly lead by John Darke and a group of strong singers and accompanied by Anita MacKenzie. We were also extremely lucky to have Bob Dawson piping, and bugler (cornet player) Nathan Cocks (who used to work in Piopio) who came down from Kihikihi to play.

As always our own modern service heroes, fire and ambulance brigade members, were immaculately turned out in honour of the occasion.

The Parade Commander was Sergeant Thomas Roy. Thomas is nearing the end of his one-year leave from the army and so we were lucky to have him.

The guest speaker was Piopio College head student, Marian Robata, who spoke of the horrors and implications of war and the extreme sacrifice made by our men and women, so that we can enjoy the freedom we have today. This was followed by the beautiful waiata Tai Aroha.

Our thanks to the large number of people who contributed in many ways. Special thanks to the Rao's for the road closure, the RSA and Cossi Club for the refreshments after the service, and our expert MC Pam. Rural Women were not the coordinators this year but turned up anyway.

It was disappointing that numbers were down this year and we wouldn't want the trend to continue. The date is awkward with school holidays and we totally understand that. Any smaller though and it could be difficult to justify closing the road considering the cost and disruption. We welcome any feedback and suggestions. We would particularly like to see a lot more school students to be

present to support their leaders.

On a positive note to end, \$675 was raised locally for the poppy appeal, impressive!

Jenny Brodie

On behalf of the Piopio ANZAC Committee.



Lions update

It is a big disappointment this year that we have lost our Fieldays site. It's bad luck that we were in the food site that the Fieldays Society has chosen to do without.

There were four food sites and each site had a Lions Club caravan – Te Awamutu, Ngahinapouri, Ngaruawahia and Piopio.

It is unfortunate that ours was deleted and it is not practical to have two clubs in one food site.

We do have an arrangement with Ngaruawahia Lions that will give us some income and hopefully we can work out something better for next year.

During the year we have managed to sponsor some young locals to various events.

Ross Smith has done an out-



standing job as President – he also organises the caravan. Stuart Darke will be elected President at our next Change of Officers.

The club has had a pretty good year.

We are always looking for new members to join our Club. If you think this is you, or would like some further information, please contact us.

- Ross Smith – 877 8880
- Gavin Todd – 877 7700
- Paul Jones – 06 752 9765
- Bob Dawson – 877 8297

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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

WE'RE HEADING into that time of the year when the autumn fruit has done its dash and the winter citrus hasn't kicked in just yet. If you have any surplus pumpkin, kumara, potatoes, silverbeet or winter veggies, feel free to drop them off to the Community Stand. They will be much appreciated.

I am heading off to California to see friends for a wee break in June, back Matariki weekend. Karen J. will be looking after the stand in my absence, please do what you can to support her with contributions. I've asked my assistant to remember to drop off silverbeet, spinach and surplus eggs while I'm away. If he forgets please don't hesitate to remind him!

I will plant our garlic, shallot and Pukekohe Long-Keeper onion crops before

departing. I'm netting them this year to deter the pheasants. Hadn't expected pheasants to be pests but it seems they are. Some people have problems with pukekos and do the same. The white butterflies have disappeared with our early frosts so the netting will be removed from the broccoli, hooray.

We're always needing clean ice cream containers and containers returned to the stand. And with winter comes jam making and the need for small, clean jars. With thanks.

Upon my return the Facebook posts will ramp back up with what's on offer daily. Trust you will all hold down the fort!

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07 877 8012



Gavin Todd
Rural Ward Councillor
Waitomo District Council

Busy time for council

THE LAST couple of months have been an exceptionally busy time for the council, developing the Consultation Document for the Long Term Plan. We have had over 100 submissions so far.

Council staff and elected representatives had drop-in centres in Mokau, Te Kuiti, Benneydale and Piopio. Overall these were not well attended by the public, but those who attended hopefully left fully informed.

Another process we have been going through is meeting with local ratepayers to discuss the future of local halls. I have been to meetings at Aria, Waitan-

garuru, Mapiu, and Mokauiti so far, and the attendance has been great. People obviously want to retain their halls, and I am quite sure we will come to a suitable arrangement for all concerned.

Council also has decisions to make regarding Marokopa Camping Ground and funding for Waikato Tourism.

Good to see some of the road repairs either underway or about to get underway for the damage done from last years storms.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns or queries you might have.

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Aria Toy Library update

WHAT'S been happening at the Aria Toy Library??

The Aria Toy Library has seen a lot of new members join in the last year and three new committee members appointed at the AGM held in March.

Thank you to everyone who supported our photo fundraiser with Charlotte Purdie. We raised over \$2000, which all went towards new toys for our Tamariki at the Toy Library!

We would also like to thank the Piopio Aria Mokau Co-operating Parish and the Mustard Seed Opportunity Shop for their kind donation, along with The Lines Company and our generous landlord – it is all greatly appreciated.

Some of the new toys purchased include Magentix sets, a Pikler triangle and ramp, a 3-wheeled scooter, a Tee-Pee tent, new cosy coupes, and a trailer. So come in and try them out!

Thanks must also go to COGS and the Lotteries Commission for the yearly grants given which are essential to help cover our operating costs.

To join it costs \$60 per year and there are no additional charges to hire each toy, like some other toy libraries. You can keep each toy for four weeks.

We also have special fees for grandparents, so come and see us to find out more!

Opening hours are 10:30-12:30 on a Thursday and you will find us on the main street in Piopio. We are always welcoming new committee members if you would like to be a part of a group of young ladies.

The toy library is a valuable resource for our wider community with the importance of children learning and developing through play is our main focus.

A current member says, "The toy library is a great resource for my children. Not only does it keep them occupied (as new toys do), I also see the learning and exploring of new ideas with each different toy. We recently hired the wooden wheelbarrow and chainsaw and they were pretending to chop up firewood for winter!

"The toy library is especially great for those big toys such as the tractors and cosy coupes which my boys enjoy, and the toys that aren't used all the time like the doctor's kit and puzzles. The big slide is definitely on our list next!"

We are looking forward to the year ahead. For further information please email us at ariatoylibrary@gmail.com or pop in on a Thursday at the Aria Toy Library.

Toy Library Committee



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HAYDEN CODY

King Country Honda
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KC Rivercare update; FAP to FAP Plus

WORMWISE, Drench Resistance and Prevention Strategies event was held May 16 at Rotomata; a knowledge filled afternoon with plenty of discussion and questions. Thank you to Ginny Dodunski, Wormwise Programme Manager for your expertise and our sponsors King Country Vets and KC Vets.

An information summary of the day's discussion will be included in June's KCRC's newsletter.

Upcoming Events:

Our Land and Water - Food, Farming & Freshwater Roadshow will be coming to Te Kuiti May 30. Presenting local scenarios with practical applications, speakers will look to cover water quality, land use and the current challenges to the NZ export sectors. RSVP via our facebook event if you are keen to come along.

First Aid

As the first round of first aid certificates expire this year. We are running an expression of interest to keep these updated and capture any newcomers.

X2 sessions to be run late June and July.

Please get in contact with the coordinator team below to register. KCRC - First Aid Course

Chem Handler Certificates

Certified handler compliance certificates last for five years. If you handle acutely toxic (class 6.1A and 6.1B) substances, explosives, fumigants and vertebrate toxic agents you may need to be a certified handler. Please get in contact with the coordinator team below to register interest in running a refresher course and becoming a certified handler.

Exploring Carbon Neutral pilot days are in development for June and July located on the 3 pilot farms around the region. Keep an eye on the facebook page and June newsletter for details.

Freshwater Farm Plans (FW FP)

Changes are coming ...The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management NPS-FM is currently being reviewed. The Government has announced it intends to improve the freshwater farm plan system to make the system more cost effective and practical for councils and farmers. The changes are intended to enable farmers and growers to find the right solutions for their farm and catchment, and

to make sure the time and cost of completing a farm plan matches the level of risk.

Work is underway to integrate existing farm environment or industry assurance plans into the freshwater farm plan system, as well as the certification and auditing requirements of the system. In the areas where the freshwater farm plan rollout has started, the Government may look at whether current requirements to complete a freshwater farm plan within 18 months, could be paused while improvements are developed.

We will keep you updated on this as development progresses so make sure you're on our mailing list - reach out to kcrivercare@gmail.com to subscribe.

Expression of Interest:

In light of the proposed changes towards freshwater farm plans we are looking to kick start a new pilot group supporting the transition from New Zealand Farm Assurance Programmes NZFAP to NZFAP Plus. NZFAP Plus is a higher-level voluntary sustainability standard with three components additional to NZFAP; being People, Environment and Biosecurity. Working with NZFAI we are looking for approx 10 farmers keen to upskill from FAP to FAP Plus in an intensive fortnightly workshop programme.

Email us if interested.

Our next committee meeting is June 17 so get in touch if you would like to

attend or there's something we need to discuss.

Lana McCormick 027 817 2111

Anna Nelson; 0274 900 501

Robyn Williamson; 0274 182 946

Reon Verry, Chairman; 027 278 8678

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Reflections on early years in Piopio

by Jean Toms

I WAS BORN Margaret Jean Sinclair in Piopio at the nursing home on November 25, 1929. Nurse Rule was the midwife and the Home was where the Curious Keas pre-school is now, on Kea Street.

I attended the Piopio Consolidated Primary and Secondary School for most of my education. It was an experimental school in those days.

In the Piopio township there was a dairy factory, doctor, two grocery stores, butcher, bakery, post office, three churches, bank, blacksmith shop, draper, picture theatre, and several garages. My father, John Sinclair and Jim Smythe opened the first garage, Sinclair and Smythe, later Piopio Motors, now King Country Honda.

I started school in 1935 so I did not travel regularly on the very first bus as by that time there were too many children. The early bus was used as a spare on our run. Here are some of my memories; probably not as exciting as you may think:

- Although we lived only about 3kms from the school I was the first on in the morning and last off at night as the bus went right around the loop. This was so the Brickland boys had time to finish milking the cows before the bus in the morning and get home in the afternoon for the evening milking. It was a long day for a five year old as I also had to walk 1.5 kms each way.

- The road was all metal so the trip was very slow.

- I remember the horn on the bus. It looked like a balloon and had to be squeezed to make it work.

- On our bus route there were a lot of small farms mostly milking cows and running sheep and pigs. The bus was very full by the end of the run.

- Mary Coyle, now aged 98 rode on our bus. She is related to Mrs Coyle's husband. The Coyles lived on a dairy farm on Kahuwera Road where the Browns are now.

- Instead of glass windows we had 'roll up' canvas blinds.

- The bus driver would wait for kids if they were late. He knew they would have been busy working in the mornings.

- As soon as I was old enough I rode my pony to school. During the day it stayed in the horse paddock just behind where the swimming pools are now. If it needed shoeing I could ride to the blacksmiths shop in Piopio and after school my pony would be waiting for me in the yard at the blacksmiths.

I have a few other memories of those early school years you may find interesting:

- Arriving at school we were greeted with a lot of noise from Piopio; a hive of activity. There was always the clatter of the cream cans and machinery at the dairy factory and also Mr Glasgow at the blacksmith shop shaping metal using the anvil.

- Where the college is now was a dairy farm.

- Our house had no kitchen sink and the toilet was outside at the bottom of the garden. It was scary going to the toilet after dark.

- Our bath was a wooden tub beside the copper which heated the water for laundry and the bath.

- I remember sad times when children died from childhood illnesses such as diphtheria. There were no vaccinations in those days. We also had a five month break from school in the early 1940's due to an outbreak of polio, a nasty virus that often left people paralysed for life.

- The small swimming pool at the school now was built before I left school. Before that we swam in the river.

A little older family history

My mother, then Beatrice Keith, came to Piopio from Auckland in 1911, that's about 113 years ago,

to work for family friends, the Hattaways at the boarding house. The boarding house was a two storey wooden building right on the main street where the Village Green is now. The boarding house was where several single men lived, and my mother was employed as a housekeeper and cook.

Transport in 1911 to Te Kuiti was by horse-drawn coach owned by Mr Stagg who had stables at the north end of Piopio. The trip was slow and in winter it was boggy. When the wagon became stuck the passengers used to have to push.



Photo source: www.piopio.net.nz



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Project Piopio Trust Update

FIRSTLY, a little background...

The Trust was formed in 2006 in response to a marked decline in business and buildings in Piopio. It followed a number of public meetings and became the umbrella organisation for progress, with sub-committees such as communication (Birdtalk), marketing and tourism, (logo design and website), social events/hall committee, arts/creative, and a main street group looking at landscaping and appearance.

The project to research and set up the now Fat Pigeon Café was an early initiative of the Trust, and then carried on by a group of 15 local families.

A new group has recently formed including Melanie Simpson, Jenny Brodie, Maree Jones, Donna Pari and Nicky At-

kinson. We are looking for another two people keen to proactively bring a renewed vision for our community.

With the majority of the original planned vision almost complete, the next steps to ensure the Piopio district is a destination of choice for families, employment and visitors is ready for a fresh approach.

Our community has changed a lot since the early days of the Trust and a priority will be to consult again; watch this space!

We ask all in our district to think about ideas for the future and how we can tap into our potential to make this an even better place to live.

We welcome your ideas and energy.

Contact email: nickyatkinson04@gmail.com

Getting serious about wool

THE government's Woolshed Roadshow, which visited Taranaki and King Country last month at the start of a nationwide tour, is not just a well-defined and meticulously planned initiative but a beacon of hope for our economy.

It represents our best chance to restore wool as a significant export earner and contributor to New Zealand's Gross National Product, paving the way for a brighter future.

The government has invested heavily in the Roadshow, a three-month-long tour that covers the entire country, including key wool production areas, both big and small, from Northland

to Southland. The participation of all three senior agriculture ministers, Todd McClay, Hoggard, and Mark Patterson, underscores the importance of this program.

The ministers' unwavering commitment to engaging with the grassroots, actively listening to their concerns, and discussing practical solutions, is a testament to the government's dedication to addressing the issues of sheep farmers and the agricultural sector.

Todd McClay said the [wool] sector makes a critically important contribution to the fabric of our rural and re-

gional communities.

"New Zealand's food and fibre sector is the backbone of our economy, contributing over 80 per cent of our goods exports. A robust and thriving agricultural sector is vital to the New Zealand economy."

As the minister responsible for wool, Mark Patterson is working with farmers to rebuild a more robust and resilient wool industry. "It has been a challenging period for farmers, so we will interact with people from Northland to Southland, meeting in woolsheds to discuss grassroots solutions."

Minister Hoggard said that addressing unworkable and overly prescriptive regulations will enable farmers to focus on being the most efficient food and fibre producers globally.

The good news for these ministers and our country is that wool is an incredibly resilient and agile industry. Despite economic and market pressures and fragmentation, our farmers and manufacturers retain the core ability, critical mass, and technical skill to take wool in new directions and open untapped markets. The Woolshed Roadshow is the first step on the road to making it happen.



Barbara Kuriger
MP for
Taranaki-King Country






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News from Aria School

An hilarious musical adventure!

A castle full of colourful characters join in the fun, including precocious princesses, a talking dragon - and not forgetting Merlin and his magic mirror!

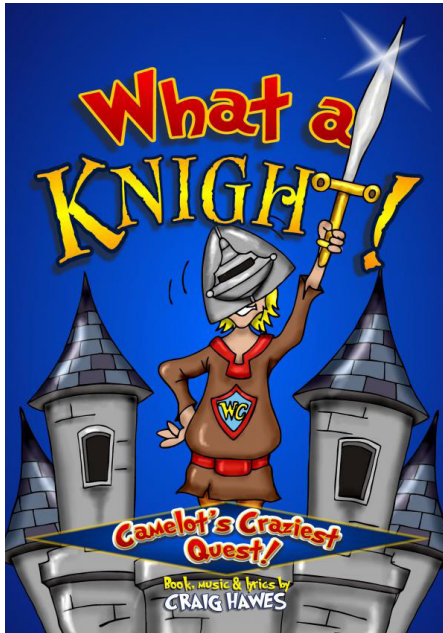
When young squire Watt Cobblers is expelled from Knight School, he reluctantly becomes Merlin's new apprentice.

But trouble is never far away, and soon Camelot Castle collapses into chaos.

Merlin has lost Excalibur, King Arthur's daughters have been kidnapped and his brave knights have turned into chickens.

Watt and his newfound friends Dusty Dragon and wayward Princess Alice set off on the biggest quest of their lives.

But can our unlikely heroes rescue the princesses, save Excalibur and defeat the evil Black Knight? The answers are found in this magical production, where everyone is guaranteed to sing a lot, dance a lot and laugh a lot... at Camelot!



Mark the date for Āria School's annual production on your calendar now!

Two performances -
Matinee at 11am and evening at 7pm on

Thursday 22nd August

in the Āria Hall.
All welcome!

Please contact the school office for further details or to book a front row seat!

Many thanks to the Waitomo District Council Creative Communities Scheme for their generous assistance with funding.

Science Celebration 2024

On Wednesday, July 3, Āria School will again be hosting the Science and Technology Celebration at the Āria Hall which is an initiative to encourage schools to promote science investigations and technology problem solving.

It is a way for students to investigate and problem solve in practical situations and is open to students from year 1 to 8.

Everyone is welcome to come and have a look at the wonderful projects that will be on display; it's a good chance to come and learn from our children.

The displays will be set up prior to judging which takes place on Tuesday morning.

The hall will be open to the public from 12:30pm – 5pm on Tuesday 2nd July and also Wednesday 3rd from 8am – 10.30am when Prizegiving will be held.

Although the projects are judged, the emphasis is on participation.

For more information, please phone Pam Voyce on 021 255 7548 or 07 877 8254.

Orienteering Challenge 2024

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Kerbside Collection Date Changes

Waitomo District Changing Kerbside Collection Schedule

The Waitomo district is changing its kerbside collection schedule to improve service quality and processing efficiency.

Commencing from Monday, 1 July 2024, a revised timetable will be implemented. This will affect a substantial number of households across Te Kūiti, Piopio, Mōkau, Awakino, and Waitomo Village, with adjustments to the day of the week their recycling and blue refuse bags are collected.

Waitomo District Council General Manager Infrastructure Services, Shyamal Ram, says modifying our waste collection routes is essential for improving the service we provide to

our community.

"These changes not only address the needs of our current customers but also ensure the efficiency and reliability of our kerbside service demands in the district."

As of 1st July, these are the revised collection days for our area:

Mondays: Mokau / Awakino / Piopio

Residents are encouraged to visit the WDC website www.waitomo.govt.nz to access further details and determine how these changes may affect them specifically, based on their address.

Aria School to host orienteering day

On Friday 14th June, starting at 11am sharp, our annual inter-school Orienteering event will be held at the Āria Domain.

This year we anticipate in excess of 350 primary age students from years 4-8 to be competing. Adult teams are always very welcome. Lions Caravan canteen available. See you there!



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Aria School proudly hosts the
Inter-schools'

“ORIENTEERING DAY”

Friday 14th June 2024
at the St Helen's Domain – Aria

Start Time: Briefing at 11:00 SHARP...
(Please have teams assembled on the tennis court by 10:50 am).

Finish Time: 2:15 pm... (Schools that have to travel the furthest will be early in the programme)

Your school is invited to enter this great FUN DAY!

COST... Absolutely Nothing!

Teams of SIX pupils...

<u>GROUPINGS...</u>	<u>DISTANCE...</u> (Approx.)
Year 7 & 8	2.5 km
Year 5 & 6	2.5 km
Year 4	1.8 km

*Adult teams or individuals are welcome to join in!

- **2 x Teams per AGE GROUP per SCHOOL (you are welcome to enter more – please contact us)**
- Schools can combine to make up numbers
- Suitable footwear (recommended) and change of clothing (necessary)... metallised tracks, lots of mud and 'other stuff' are in the paddocks, and it usually rains!
- Please register your school and number of teams entering to Aria School by... **Friday 7th June 2024**.
- To help the recorders, could ALL participants please wear a name tag with the following details on it...

School Name:	e.g. Competitors College
Student's Name:	e.g. Abel Pupil
Boy/Girl	e.g. Boy
Team Year/Name:	e.g. 7/8 A

- All other equipment will be provided.
- A 'mock' copy of the map, including symbols, has been attached.
- This event will go ahead... whatever the weather - so please come prepared, **bring your own shelter**.
- **Canteen:** will be operated by the Piopio Lions Caravan. A notice regarding items for sale will be sent out at a later date.
- **NO POSTPONEMENT!**

To register your entries, please contact the school office on

Phone: (07) 877-7857

email: office@aria.school.nz by **FRIDAY 7TH JUNE 2024!**

KARAOKE NIGHT!

Saturday 22 June
7 11

Kitchen on road
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Aria Squash news

A NUMBER of scheduled events for the Club in 2024, with our Annual B grade and below Singles and Doubles Tournament held in April. There were some incredible squash matches being played, as well as some very strategic doubles combinations. A successful tournament with thanks to those who sponsored this event: Greenlea, Westpac, Silver fern Farms, Ipurua Farm, C & M Carter, Farmlands, King Country Vets and PGG Wrightson.

Junior Squash Training is running on Monday afternoons during Term 2, with good numbers involved. This season we hope to contest the title for the Waikato Junior Interclub Trophy after taking the win last year.

In June we will host a Werder Series 1-day Junior Tournament, with Juniors attending from all over the Waikato as

part of a larger competition. Hopefully hosting this at home, a few more of our Juniors will make the most of this opportunity!

Waikato winter Interclub competition is well underway, with one Men's team entered and 3 ladies in a Aria/Taumarunui team.

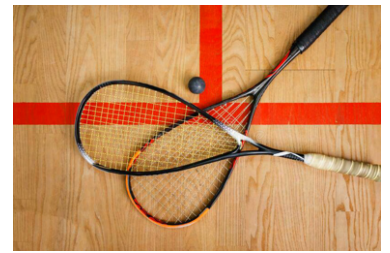
A few of our very keen members are making the most of the many Tournaments taking place around the Waikato as well.

Aria Squash Club Social Fridays are from 6.30pm onwards and provide a safe and child friendly place to be. Everyone is welcome to come along, see what squash is about and have a go (we have some racquets available to use), and socialise while you to enjoy a cold drink and meal afterwards.

Keep an eye on our Aria Squash Club Facebook page, for updates.

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Piopio Swimming Club 2024

FIFTY-ONE swimmers were involved in our Learn to Swim Programme this season, with near perfect weather conditions for the duration. An assessment day at the end of January, followed by 12 lessons (3 days per week) gave the swimmers lots of time in the water, focussing on improving technique and water confidence.

We were lucky to have a Volunteer Coach and an Assistant in the pool with each group to give extra support to the swimmers.

We are fortunate to have the support from our many volunteers, to continue to provide the programme in our community.

As many already know, we have a number of families on our waitlist to enter the Learn to Swim Programme. We would like to be able to accommodate everyone, but unfortunately pool space and time restraints mean we do have to prioritise how places are filled.

If you are interested in being a volunteer coach and/or assistant in the pool, or even taking on a role on the committee, this will ensure your child/ren a place in our programme. Please get in touch with one of the committee to let us know.

Our 29 Club level swimmers had a short and intense 6 weeks of training this season. The pool temperature began to drop significantly at the beginning of March, which made trainings and Club nights challenging at times, but our 'tough rural kids' still got in and swam despite this.

Swimmers from our Programmes proved successful again this year in both School Swimming Sports and Interschool competitions, with many new ribbons to add to swimmer's collections.

A special mention to our Senior Club swimmer and volunteer LTS coach – Caitlyn Cody, breaking 6 records in the pool this season. One of those being held for 35 years!



AGM and Prizegiving held 19th May 2024 - Results:

Age Group Winners:

- 9 year olds - Waitaria Bodger-Kearns
- 10 year olds - Isabelle Houghton
- 11 year olds - James Webster
- 12 year olds - Eleanor Laver
- 13 year olds - Kayleigh Webster
- 14 year olds - Levi Pari
- 15 year olds - Caitlyn Cody
- 16 year olds - Olly Bevege
- Junior Boy - James Webster
- Junior Girl - Isabelle Houghton
- Senior Boy - Logan Lyford
- Senior Girl - Caitlyn Cody
- Most Improved Learner - Laura Carter
- Most Improved Intermediate - Fred Carter
- Most Improved Senior - Olly Bevege
- Most Improved Open Points - Mackenzie Webster
- Most Improved Breaststroke Points - Charley Carter

Open Winners:

- 25m Freestyle - Olly Bevege
- 25m Butterfly - Caitlyn Cody
- 200m Freestyle - Caitlyn Cody
- 400m Freestyle - Caitlyn Cody
- 100m Freestyle Handicapped - James Webster
- 100m I.M Handicapped - Mac Carter
- Junior Sportsmanship - Kaea Rauputu
- Senior Sportsmanship - Lynden Brough
- Sport Award - Caitlyn Cody
- CLUB CHAMPION** - Caitlyn Cody

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Big winners at Aria Roar Comp



Mike Cox

A FANTASTIC evening was held recently for the Aria Cosmopolitan Club's inaugural Roar Competition.

A number of 'beauty heads' were brought in, with two that took the cake.

Mike Cox came away with the biggest Red.

Ben Draper took second place, and Sam Brooks third.

Ben Draper and daughter Lily received the prize for biggest Fallow, with Ross and Roy Simpson second and third respectively.

Big ups to all our hunters who entered and participated in our

local hunt that we will run bi-annually, in between our Aria Hunt.

Special thanks to Mark and Keith Walker from Big Game Artistry for coming out and judging the heads.

Thank you to Lynne Aldridge and Dave and Lyn Barnsdall for providing spot prizes.

Each head brought in gave hunters an extra entry into the draw, and the lucky Mike Cox received that prize also.

A big thank you to Oliver Barnsdall for bringing his passion for the locals and organising this event



Ben Draper and daughter Lily



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Looking back at Waimiha

An excerpt from a returned Gallipoli soldier's story of balloted land and the struggles of two pioneering farm families, published in *The Waimiha News* / Source: www.soldiersclaim.co.nz

THE YEAR is 1920. The Peterson and McNeights were looking towards a new future having suffered the losses of the First World War.

The government of the day had made a tough, but fair offer to returned New Zealand servicemen under The Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act of 1915 Special Tenure on soldiers' ballot land. It was to support returned soldiers with land packages with the rights in perpetuity of an on-going 66 year lease, plus right of purchase.

Waimiha presented such an opportunity for both families.

The Peterson and McNeights had already put down roots in the King Country as dairy farmers in early 1900's as one of the first pioneering families in Mokauiti Valley. Henry and Ruth Peterson arrived after the McNeights around 1910, as experienced farmers, both sought to establish a foot-hold and break in the land.

Many families throughout New Zealand had suffered the loss of loved ones as a consequence of Gallipoli and the European conflicts during the Great War. So it was for Hugh and Fanny McNeight whose only son William George had lost his life (1/10/1918) in France. This left only their remaining daughter, Marjorie.

My great grandparents' son, William Magnus Peterson, followed his fellow patriots to sign up for the first expeditionary forces with the 13th Auckland Mounted Rifles, 1914, destined to fight in Gallipoli.

Upon his return in 1916, and because of the close relationship between families, William Magnus Peterson was to marry Marjorie McNeight.

The McNeights, having lost their only son during the war, made a decision to lease their existing property in Mokauiti Valley and combine with the Petersons in an endeavour to start afresh in Waimiha.

With the Soldiers' Ballot, land was

allocated to William and Marjorie Peterson in 1920 under The Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act of 1915 with Special Tenure.

The particular acreage that William and Marjorie had been allotted in Waimiha was virgin native forest, it bordered the Pureora State Forest of today.

My father, now of 96 years of age, Noel William George Peterson, was born on the 25th of December 1918. My dad was named after William George McNeight who had died in France on 1/10/1918. Dad witnessed the hardships that both families went through, the troughs and the highlights. King Country life was robust.



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Authorised by
Barbara Kuriger MP,
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Wellington.



College cross country competition

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone who participated in our recent Cross Country. It was super successful due to the student's willingness and ability to get involved. It was awesome to see so many parents/whānau supporting. I know our rangatahi appreciate it! A huge thank you to the team behind the scenes that made it all happen.



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smilingkiwi@piopiodental.co.nz

Recreation Centre
Kimberley Cody
(07) 877 8700
M: 027 210 1860

The Ferret's Nest
Grace Cortes Montecinos
M: 022 154 9745

Youth Activities

Aria Playcentre
Hannah Bodger-Kearns
(07) 877 7898

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

Aria Primary School
(07) 877 7857

Curious Keas Preschool
Stephanie Brough
(07) 877 8224

Kohanga Piopio
(07) 877 8185

Mainly Music
All Saints Church, Moa Street
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Thursdays @ 10am
Alyson Singleton
(07) 877 8840

Piopio Playcentre
Jo Stockley
M: 021 148 7556

Piopio Primary School
(07) 877 8103

Piopio College
(07) 877 8173. Meeting rooms available for hire

Community

Piopio Police
07 877 0490

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

Community Fruit & Vege Stand
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E: 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

Piopio Garden Circle
Visits are 3rd Thursday of every month except January & August
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M: 027 345 9603

Laver Marine
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M: 0211054737

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Tasha Bryon 027 324 6016

Mahoenui Hall
Lynette Adams
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Piopio College Community Library
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E: library@piopio.school.nz
18 Aria Road

Senior Citizen's Organisation
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Heidi Preston
M: 027 679 1931
Tuituia (Ripeka Price)
M: 021 464 000

Piopio Lions Club
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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
M: 022 437 0789

Waitanguru Rural Women
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Activities & Attractions

Piopio and Districts Museum
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(07) 877 8950
Secretary Lee Alcock
E: ariasquash@gmail.com

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

Line Dancing Club
Linda Oliver (07) 877 8313

Piopio-Aria Golf Club
Hamish Roach
M: 027 578 5905

Piopio Bowling Club
Nigel 027 255 0898 or
Wendy (07) 877 8686

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

Piopio Rugby Club
President Peter Hurley
(07) 877 7577

Piopio Swimming Club
Matt Carter M: 021 569 311
E: piopioswimclub@gmail.com

Pony Club
President Olivia Buckley
Secretary
Amanda MacLachlan
(07) 878 7182

Tennis Club
Reon Verry (07) 878 8678

King Country Hunt
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Waitomo Ski Club
Kim Tatham (07) 877 8820

Waitomo Aero Club
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John Carter (07) 877 8290

Aria hosts social netball tournie

ON June 2, Aria Hard Netball Club hosted a netball tournament played between three teams: Aria, Hui Hui Kotahi from Hamilton, and Southern Horizon from Papakura.

The social tournament was first played in 2022 when Papakura hosted, Hamilton then hosted in 2023, and this third year here in Aria.

A trophy has been made (pictured), and named Ariakirikura Tapatoru, which derives

from Aria, 'kiri' from Kirikiriroa (Hamilton), and 'kura' from Papakura, with 'tapatoru' meaning triangle.

And the triangle is now literally complete as HHK won it in 2022, Aria won it in 2023, and Southern Horizon won it this year.

The weather played its part too with the sun coming through, and the players and spectators thoroughly enjoying the games and after function.



Players from Aria Hard, Hui Hui Kotahi, and Southern Horizon netball clubs

The crowd goes wild at Piopio Club



TO all our sponsors, committee members, club members, volunteers and staff, thank you all for contribution to our recent annual hunting competition. It was a huge success with lots of spectators and hunters, as well as the community enjoying the weigh-in.

We received 132 entries in the main hunting section and 144 in the critters section. This year we introduced a new category of ducks and peacocks.

Thank you to the Lions who cooked delicious steak and venison sandwiches. Thanks also to the Ridgeline judges who turn up every year and do a great job.

A special mention and thanks to Barry Stott for all his time and passion he contributes.

Looking forward to seeing everybody next year.

*Waide Jones
President
Piopio Cosmopolitan Club*



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