

# Local women smash world shearing records

## SACHA BOND

Piopio shearer Sacha Bond ended 2023 on a high note, breaking the world women's nine-hour strong wool lamb shearing record at the end of December.

She sheared more than 700kg of shorn wool and 720 strong wool lambs at Centre Hill Station near Mossburn, breaking the previous record of 661 shorn in January 2021 by Megan Whitehead.

After starting her run at 5am, she had three breaks throughout the day but sailed through with the world record.

Family and friends who were there said it was incredible to see how she maintained her stamina throughout the entire process. Sacha said she trained intensely for the event, doing workouts a personal trainer from the UK sent her.

Next up for Sacha is the ewes record of 452 in February, where she attempts to become the first female to hold the solo record for nine hours on both lambs and ewes. Good luck Sacha!

## CATHERINE MULLOOLY

Another Piopio shearer and one of New Zealand's most successful female competition shearers Catherine Mullooly, has set the new solo women's eight-hours strongwool ewes record of 465, as well as passing the women's nine-hour record of 452 in the last quarter-hour.

Shearing at Nukuhakari Station, in what Shearing New Zealand said was one of records-shearing's most stunning displays, Catherine smashed the World shearing record by almost 10 sheep an hour.

She had a quality rating of 10.4, well within the threshold set by the World Sheep Shearing Records Society, and considered by most onlookers as "amazing" considering the struggle with "stopy" sheep during the day. The previous record was 386.

Starting at 7am, Mullooly shore successive two-hour, above-record-pace runs of 116, 117 and 116 before passing the target about 3.40pm and magic-number 400 soon afterwards, with still over an hour to go to the finish at 5pm.

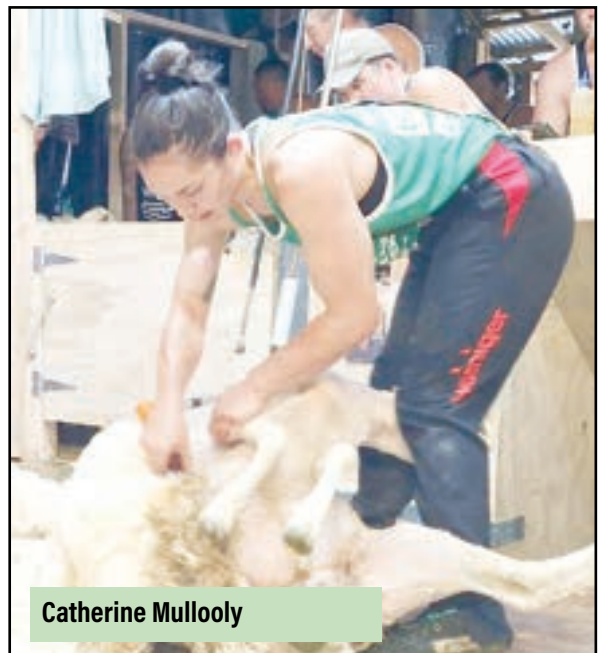
She had a big team of supporters, including timekeepers and now fellow record-breakers Coel L'Huillier and Daniel Langlands, another record-holder in Kaleb Foote monitoring the gear, and farmers Hamish Nelson and Bridget St George, along with support from father Myles Mullooly and partner Audrey Tamanui-Nunn, and her own partner, Ardy Donnelly and sons Brynn, 3, and Coel, 1.

There was also a team of woolhandlers and others helping with her physical well being during the day.

Congratulations Catherine!



Sacha Bond



Catherine Mullooly

**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.

# Hot rods and bikes visit club

THE Piopio Cosmopolitan Club hosted the Quota Club Poker Run Programme on Saturday, January 20.

\$700 was raised and the day was enjoyed by club members and community.

A big thank you to all club members who helped make this event a successful day.



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# Piopio Fruit & Veg Stand



IT'S THAT TIME of the year when our veggie gardens and orchards are into peak production, woo hoo!

Currently zucchini and plums are leading the charge, but soon it will be potatoes, tomatoes, beans, peaches, pumpkins, chillies, apples, quince, etc.

You know it wouldn't be me writing this if I didn't remind you to take the time to share your surplus with our community.

Please don't let it go to waste. It only takes a few minutes to fill a bag or box with fruit and drop it off to the stand.

And that way it doesn't get eaten by birds, rats, possums, whatever. Or even worse, rot to spread disease to your trees.

Bottlers and jam makers are standing by. Most of us put a stash of seasonal

fruit into the freezer for winter when there's more time for that sort of thing.

Trust your tomatoes are doing okay. Mine are starting to come on but I'm unsure at this point how good the season will be, beyond knowing it's better than last year.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions/issues. Updates are posted pretty much daily on our FB page.

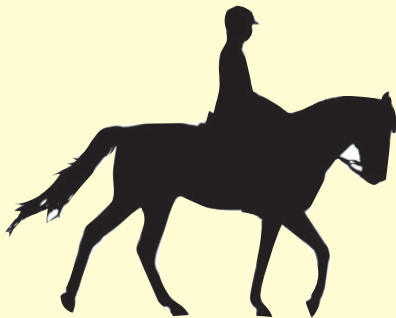
And lastly, we're needing clean ice cream containers and containers returned to be able to keep putting out fruit. With thanks!

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## Calling all horsey people!!!



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**If you have ever wanted to come give Hunting a go then please feel free to contact me to have a chat. Joy Hurley 027 5777 881.**

**We are having two pre-season days, one without hounds on the 24th March and then a puppy Hunt over Easter.**

**Opening Hunt is to be on April 6.**

**We look forward to hearing from you!**

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# Amazing Xmas Parade

What a great night the Piopio Christmas Parade was. The village looked immaculate, and we were treated to a feast of amazing floats. Well done to those who made the effort to enter a float. It was a lot of fun and a great opportunity to catch up with family, friends and neighbours.

Specialized TM provided the traffic management for the parade at no charge. Thank you very much for a job well done.

A big thank you must go to Roger Buckman who has for many years picked up rubbish along the roadside and emptied overflowing bins at Kara Park when needed. Roger has voluntarily done this work and we are lucky

to have someone who takes such pride in our town.

The Piopio Cosmopolitan carpark improvements are underway and once completed will not be available for parking of heavy trucks or vehicles.

Please remember to keep a look out for water leaks and keep storm water inlets clear of any debris and notify the Council of any problems.

Hope you have all had a great Christmas and New Year and are making the most of the wonderful summer weather that we are enjoying at the moment

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

*Gavin.Todd@Waitomo.govt.nz*



**Gavin Todd**  
Rural Ward Councillor  
Waitomo District Council

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# Playcentre leaping into the future

Piopio Playcentre: 'Leaping into the Future', was the theme for the Piopio Playcentre Christmas float entered in the Christmas Parade – very appropriate for our cool organisation. The kids were little frogs if anyone was guessing!

Our future will change this year as we farewell Nicola Kloeten (and family) as her youngest child starts school. Nicola's contribution has been enormous over many years and we will miss her energy and enthusiasm. Thank you Nicola.

We start the new year on February 5.

At this stage we have sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays both running from 9.30am until noon.

We have a lovely group of families and welcome more. Children learn through child-led play in 16+ different areas including messy play, puzzles, books, clay, paint, water, sand and outdoor physical play.

There are also opportunities for adults to gain learning and qualification in early childhood education through the Playcentre network. The obligations on parents/adults have been reduced over more recent years, recognising the pressures on families with young children.

Our Piopio centre has recently purchased some exciting new play equipment, with more to come, and is in the process of installing a new heat pump to complement our existing system. The upgrade will make the building more pleasant on either very hot or very cold days.

Roll on 2024 and welcome back everyone!

If you aren't sure if playcentre is for you feel free to pop in to either of our sessions for a cuppa, meet the families and see if it's for you. Bring a change of clothes and a bite to eat for your little ones.

There is the opportunity to attend either or both of the weekly sessions to add flexibility for busy families. The cost is \$25/family per term regardless of how many sessions you attend.

For further information you can email us at piopio@playcentre.org.nz or contact Jo on 021 148 7556



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# King Country River Care Update

IT'S TIME for a change of personnel at KCRC – we are excited to welcome Lana McCormick (pictured) from Aria to the role of Catchment Coordinator.

Lana shifted from the Hawkes Bay to the King Country with her family and has always enjoyed helping on the family farm in the Paraheka Valley. She has a degree in architecture with a career background as a property strategist. A lot of this revolves around compliance, regulations, standards and delivering effective workshops, systems and designs. This has provided her with a great foundation for planning and information technology skills.

Lana has been involved in helping her family develop compliance plans in the past few years working with KCRC and QCONZ. And has developed an interest in farm compliance. She aims to work with farmers and make the ever changing compliance regulations less of an overwhelming experience.

"I am constantly upskilling my knowledge of compliance and farm systems. I am currently working towards becoming appointed as a Freshwater Farm Plan Certifier. My goal is to develop functional systems that comply with environmental regulations whilst also being relatable and manageable for King Country farmers. I look forward to working with farmers through King Country River Care."

Anna wont be going far and will stay involved to ensure a smooth transition. Robyn Williamson will continue to look after our "Coast" catchment groups.

We have a few events in the pipeline - three "Exploring Carbon Neutral" fielddays, and a "Trees on Farms" fieldday. These are likely to be held in March and April.

"Kick Start" 1BT Fencing & Planting funding - FINAL YEAR!!

Together with Te Uru Rakau, KCRC continues to offer "Kick Start" funding for fencing and planting projects to local farmers and community groups. 2024 is the last year this

funding will be available and we would love to see it all used for local projects so if you have any ideas please get in touch.

## Freshwater Farm Plans (FW FP)

Coast (Marokopa & Kawhia catchment) farmers remain outside the "go live" area until July 2025 however all other KCRC farm businesses over 20ha are now in the area required to prepare, certify and submit a FW-FP. Regarding the new government Waikato Regional Council have stated "There is no indication at this stage that a farm planning system will not progress, though changes to aspects of the current framework are possible."

We are anticipating the requirement to complete these Plans within 18 months timeframe may be extended however encourage landowners to not wait until the very last minute to look to complete their FW-FP as that will likely be a costly option.

KCRC are waiting on confirmation of funding to support a series of workshops and associated resources over the next 18 months - we will let our community know as soon as we have more information.

We plan to support farming businesses with existing Plans to upgrade those with required information and will also support those who have yet to start a Farm Plan.

More info is on the WRC website here:

<https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/community/your-community/for-farmers/freshwater-farm-plans/>

Our next committee meeting is mid February 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; 0272 788 678**

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# Xmas dinner enjoyed by many

The Piopio Lions Club hosted a Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 2. It commenced at 11am with a social catch-up time, and was followed by a wonderful meal, once again prepared by Cheryl Griffin and her able helpers. Approximately 90 people attended and were treated to great entertainment by local lad Trae Aitken. What a great talent he is. A big thank you to all who assisted in setting up the hall etc. The Lions Club has also recently donated \$2000 to the Lions Skin Cancer bus.

If you are aware of a local organisation that might need some funding assistance for a project, the Club has some funds available. Please contact one of our members. There will be criteria to be followed.

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.



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**!** The two supplied news items below, provided by Piopio Primary School, were not printed in their entirety in the last Birdtalk issue. Here are the completed versions, albeit a little smaller as space allowed in this edition. Piopio Birdtalk team.

### Combined Kapa Haka Performance.

On the 9th of November, many months of hard work was showcased when Piopio Primary and Āria School kapa haka groups came together in the Piopio College gym for the Mokau Ki Runga performance.

The tamariki were all dressed in their Mokau Ki Runga shirts with the logo that had been given to them a number of years ago. It is a mirror image representing both kura, including all our Maunga and Pae Maunga within Piopio and Āria. In 2014, a combined schools kapa haka group was formed and they were given the name 'Mōkau Ki Runga' meaning Mōkau to the South, which is a reference point within the Tainui compass and it is a tribal marker/ boundary.



Whānau gathered ready to hear some stunning waiata, watch some great poi action and be moved by the strong haka.



No one was disappointed, the tamariki performed with pride and confidence. They were led by senior students, Kadius Young from Āria School and Aria Bourke from Piopio Primary.

The group performed a number of waiata, including the girls using poi. It was lovely to see all the poi moving at the same time and the confidence that the poi were used with. To conclude the performance the boys performed a strong haka, which the audience enjoyed immensely.



A change from tradition where kapa haka performances are accompanied by the guitar, the group performed with the piano. Beth Dalton was unable to be there on the day, so had recorded the piano prior. Both kura are very grateful to Beth for her support of the kapa haka

A change from tradition where kapa haka performances are accompanied by the guitar, the group performed with the piano. Beth Dalton was unable to be there on the day, so had recorded the piano prior. Both kura are very grateful to Beth for her support of the kapa haka group. The voices of the tamariki when singing to the piano had a beautiful sound that was a pleasure to hear.

The group have been tutored by Miss J (Shahnee Johnston) and teachers from both kura have been supporting the group with practices, and organising Mokau Ki Runga shirts. Everyone is proud of the tamariki and appreciative of whānau for coming to support this special occasion. We can't wait for next year.

### A New Generation of Little People at Piopio Primary School



There have been lots of events happening at Piopio Primary recently. These include; calf club (an annual community highlight), year 5 and 6 camp at Finlay Park, athletics day and our combined kapa haka performance with Āria School.

Something that has been quietly happening behind the scenes is the creation of new mini mes. Many Piopio locals may have noticed as they have driven past the school that the little people that

have had pride of place for a number of years along the front fence have disappeared. They have been taken down because many are broken and rotted.

Earlier in the year, some of our little people (mini mes) were vandalised. This was upsetting to the students, staff and community. Max Laver from Laver Marine offered to cut some new mini mes. We said, yes please!



Mrs Price and the students from room 6 (year 5) took on the challenge to create new mini mes for our front fence. Mr Laver got plywood kindly donated from Te Kuiti Placemakers. It took 15 hours of labour for Mr Laver to cut out the mini mees shape.

The students in room 5 visited Mr Laver at his workshop at Laver Marine to see what machinery was used to make the shapes.

Mrs Price contacted Resene for a huge range of test pots for the students to create their mini me. The PTA helped pay for the additional paint and brushes needed. Then the design phase started.



The students drew what they wanted to paint and chose 5-6 colours to use. They thought about skin and hair colour, what colours worked together and then got painting. The class has learnt about mixing colours and using masking tape for straight lines. There have been



setbacks, when getting eyes painted and when the painting didn't go quite as planned.

Thanks to Lee Alcock and Mrs Price the class have persevered, so after almost 3 terms the mini mes are almost ready to hang on the fence as a new generation of little people welcome our whānau and visitors to Piopio Primary. The old mini mes that are able to be saved will be hung in the school garden. Piopio Primary School is very grateful to everyone who has helped.



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MOKAU FISHING CLUB

**MISS JAY**  
HEALTHY LEO  
0800 MISSJAY

FEBRUARY 10

**LADIES FISHING COMP**

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10TH

Register online [www.mokaufishingclub.co.nz](http://www.mokaufishingclub.co.nz)

\$25 Pre-entry, register online until 12 pm 9th Feb  
\$40 rego on the day at the north boat ramp 8am to 8.30 am  
Fishing starts from 8.30 am  
Weigh-in at Awakino Hotel 4 to 5 pm  
Prize giving to follow 5.30 pm  
Prizes 1st to 3rd for Snapper  
1st to 5th of the combined weight of 2 species (Gumard, Kahawai)  
16 years and over to enter

\$200 Prize for the best-dressed crew at the prizegiving  
Fishing options; boat, surfcasting, longline, drone.

Members and non members welcome

**Mokau Fishing Club**

*Thank You!*

Big shout out to our wonderful club members and the following sponsors Popio Lions Club, The Warehouse Te Kaiti and Whitebait Inn for supporting our "Take a Kid Fishing" the kids had a blast!

Check out our website for more photos and information [www.mokaufishingclub.co.nz](http://www.mokaufishingclub.co.nz)

Follow us on Facebook for upcoming events

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

**Inglewood Office**  
80 Rata St, PO Box 124,  
Inglewood 4330  
06 756 6032  
[Kuriger.Inglewood@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Kuriger.Inglewood@parliament.govt.nz)

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Te Awamutu 3800  
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[Kuriger.Teawamutu@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Kuriger.Teawamutu@parliament.govt.nz)

National NZ Government  
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85 Mangaotaki Rd, Piopio

# Mokau Fishing Club news



HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone, I hope Santa was kind to you all.

Wow, what a turn out for our 10th Annual Corson's Tyres Xmas Competition... we had over 220 anglers registered for the Comp!

The first couple of days were good for the boats to get out, and some good fish were weighed. The third and fourth days saw boaties get the dust off their surfcasters to try get amongst the prizes in land based categories, as the sea turned for the worse.

Thankfully, the weather was on our side for prize-giving, with over 300 people attending. \$17,000 worth of prizes were received by place holders, followed by an enjoyable barbecue.

Big shout out to our awesome sponsors, the Awakino Hotel for hosting us, the Fishing Club committee and other helpers involved for

making the competition a great success.

We held our Take A Kid Fishing on January 13, which turned out to be a great family event and a good way to get kids off electronics.

Keep an eye out for coming events on our website including our lady's comp and our sponsors day.

Our summer comp has also started. Remember, you must be a member to weigh fish so jump online to become a member, and get your friends and family to join too! You have until Easter Monday to weigh fish for this competition; all info is online.

Well, that's it from me. I hope you get some time on the water or on the beach watching rods in the next couple of months.

Good luck, and see you at our next event.

Cheers, Wal.

**COMING UP:**

Summer competition: 31 Dec - 1 Apr  
Ladies competition: 10 Feb  
Sponsors Day: 24 Feb



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Tracey 021 137 7118

Email: [potawa488@gmail.com](mailto:potawa488@gmail.com)

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127 Flora Street, Te Kuiti, 3910  
PO Box 159, Te Kuiti, 3941 New Zealand

*Local Facilities*

**Aria Cosmopolitan Club**  
(07) 877 7812

**Carley Jane Beauty**  
M: 021 042 4493

**Cloverleaf Café**  
(07) 877 8368

**Fat Owl Motel, Bar and Eatery**  
(07) 877 8767  
www.fatowl.nz  
E: fatowl@xtra.co.nz

**Fat Pigeon Café**  
(07) 877 8822  
E: fatpigeon@xtra.co.nz

**Hairloom Hair Designs**  
Paige Brooks  
(07) 877 8975

**King Country Chiropractic**  
Dr Scott Mouatt  
(07) 873 7376  
M: 027 330 1339  
E: kcchiro@xtra.co.nz

**Oily Rag Garage and Tyre Service**  
(07) 877 8159

**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  
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  
Music and movement for children 0-5yrs & caregivers.  
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**  
0800 555 111  
We live in a great community so let's stop these few who are taking from us. E: 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

**Community Fruit & Vege Stand**  
Karen Barrett (07) 877 8012  
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  
Gillian Hooper (07) 878 7880  
M: 027 345 9603

**Laver Marine**  
(07) 877 8484  
M: 0211054737

**Opportunity Shop/ Mustard Seed**  
Cara Bryant 027 345 3389  
Tasha Bryon 027 324 6016

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

**Piopio College Community Library**  
(07) 877 8173  
E: library@piopio.school.nz  
18 Aria Road

**Senior Citizen's Organisation**  
Meetings first Tuesday every month, 1.30pm. All welcome.  
Wendy Weinberg  
021 0826 5622

**Seniors' Exercise Classes**  
Wendy Weinberg  
021 0826 5622

**Marriage Celebrants**  
Clive Fredericks  
M: 027 280 3867  
Heidi Preston  
M: 027 679 1931  
Tuituia (Ripeka Price)  
M: 021 464 000

**Piopio Lions Club**  
Stephen Cooper  
(07) 877 8159  
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**  
Maree Jones 027 475 9805  
(06) 752 9765

*Activities & Attractions*

**Piopio and Districts Museum**  
Mark Verry (07) 877 8842  
Key available from Piopio Superette

**Piopio Market Day**  
3rd Sunday of each month  
Grace Cortes Montecinos  
M: 022 154 9745

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

*Sports & Recreation*

**Aria Squash Club**  
President Mark Anderson  
(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**  
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

# Yet another amazing Xmas parade

PIOPIO, you've done it again! A huge shoutout to everyone who put in the time and effort to create incredible floats. Congratulations to the Pari whanau for winning the Piopio Christmas Parade Float shield. Special thanks to Vinny and his team at specialized TM, Tony Schrafft, judges John Darke and Rakesh Govind, the Lions caravan, Piopio Trust, and the local Piopio businesses for helping to organise the parade. We also want to give a big congratulations to the overall winners of the Christmas lights/theme competition. Zoe Simpson, you absolutely rocked the mailbox theme, and Hairloom Hair Salon, you nailed the business theme. And a round of applause to Caitlyn Cody, the overall winner of the home theme. And let's not forget Emma Thompson, the lucky winner of the raffle! There were some amazing ideas and tough competition this year! Can't wait to see what creative ideas come up for next year's parade. Let's keep those thinking caps on!  
*Carley Simpson*

'Moana' themed float



Curious Kea's fairytale float



Piopio Christmas Parade Float shield winners: Pari whanau.

