



Nelson in Vantage Black Sticks squad

HOCKEY New Zealand is pleased to announce the Vantage Black Sticks Men's squad for the upcoming Summer of Hockey series in Hamilton, marking the team's return to home soil as they begin a critical build-up toward the 2026 FIH World Cup.

Included in the squad is our very own Gus Nelson of Aria.

"Getting to wear the fern and play in front of a home crowd is a dream come true." says Gus.

"The support and messages I have received from the King Country has been unbelievable and very appreciated. I would especially like to thank the people who coached me during my time at Aria School and playing for King Country Hockey for the impact they had on not just my hockey career but also who I am as a person.

"Also thank you to the Piopio Charitable Trust for their generous support during my time with the NZ Under-21 team."

The Summer of Hockey series will be held at the Gallagher Hockey Centre which will now host a four-test-match international series between New Zealand and Japan.

The series also marks the first time the Vantage Black Sticks Men have played on home soil since the Oceania Cup in Whangārei in 2023 and comes off the back of a strong end to 2025, including a bronze medal finish at the Sultan of Azlan Shah Cup in Malaysia and a gold medal finish at the FIH Nations Cup also in Malaysia.

Fans can expect fast, physical and highly competitive hockey as the team takes important steps forward in a World Cup year.

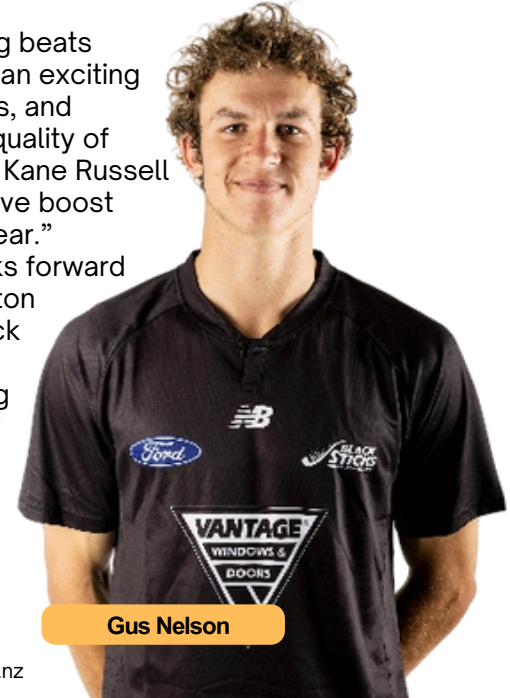
Captain Sam Lane says starting the new cycle at home is a huge boost for the group. "It's exciting to start our very important 2026 World Cup year at home playing in front of our fans again. Although we love travelling

together as a squad, nothing beats playing at home. We've got an exciting squad, despite a few injuries, and having the experience and quality of players like Nic Woods and Kane Russell back in the group is a massive boost heading into a World Cup year."

Hockey New Zealand looks forward to welcoming fans to Hamilton to support the Vantage Black Sticks Men as they take on Japan and launch an exciting year of international hockey on home turf.

The Summer of Hockey series runs from January 30 to February 4.

Tickets are available at www.blacksticksnz.co.nz



Gus Nelson

Source: www.blacksticksnz.co.nz

Santa back on main street

Ho Ho
Ho
Homies!

It's good
to be
back...
see
back
page
story.



Piopio Hall Update

THE Piopio Hall committee is working to get everything up and running again.

Last year, the council reached out to ask whether we would be willing to get back on board, and we've agreed to take a more active role.

Our first priority was updating the booking system and pricing. We're pleased to confirm a new rate of \$180 per night.

All bookings must now be made through the council website: www.waitomo.govt.nz.

Before each booking, the council will arrange for cleaners to service the hall, and a committee member will meet you for a pre-inspection.

To make things easier, keys will once again be available from PGG Wrightson Piopio.

After your event, a final inspection will be completed - and that's it.

Something New

We now have six newly made wine-barrel leaners available for hire at a rate of \$25 each.

As before, tables, chairs, cutlery, crockery and glassware are also available for hire.



HeartSaver
AED | FIRST AID | TESTING | TRAINING

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

PIOPIO TOWNSHIP:
Fat Owl Motel, Bar & Eatery
Piopio College

SURROUNDING DISTRICTS:
Mahoenui (Coleman's Woolshed)
Aria Cosmopolitan Club
Waitanguru Hall

A free App is available on Google Play-store to locate machines throughout NZ.

Piopio & Districts Charitable Trust Update

GRANT Applications Due by March 31, 2026

Group and Individual grants are available again this year, so if you are currently fundraising for a project or are into your second or third year of University we may be able to help you out. Check out our application forms online at www.piopio.net.nz. All the information you might need to know are on the forms. Our forms are easy to fill out so anyone can complete them.

We have a set amount of funds we have set aside to give away and they will be shared out to all applicants we feel benefit our community the most. It always amazes me so many people in the community do not realise we are here!

The Trust was originally formed with the assets realised from the sale of the Piopio & Districts Vet Club which was owned by member farmers, to Imber & Atkinson in 1996.

The objective of the Trust is to help organisations and individuals carry out charitable, cultural, philanthropic and recreational work which is of benefit to the people of Piopio and the districts of Mairoa, Mangaotaki, Mahoenui, Aria, Mokauiti, Mapiu, Kopaki, Benneydale, Oparure, Rangitoto, Mokau and Awakino. Te Kuiti Borough is not included.

KC Hunt Update

THE 2026 Hunt season is due to kick off in April, with a 50 year celebration being held at Easter.

Hunting is a fantastic 'family friendly' sport and I encourage all equestrians to come give it a try.

We are holding a self-catered trek at Piripiri Station on March 7-8; this is also aimed at families but all are welcome. There will be riding for all abilities over this stunning property.

At the end of March we will be running some practice/puppy hunts which is a great opportunity to come and give hunting a try in a very relaxed environment.

If you would like to host the Hunt on your property we would love to hear from you. We also run a stock scheme, if you are able to graze a beast for us please give me a call.

The Hunt also take aged/injured animals, if you have anything please call Shane Neill on 021 033 5541.

If you would like any information regarding the Hunt please give me a call, Joy Hurley 027 577 7881.

ATM machine

- Piopio Cosmopolitan Club

Piopio Transfer Station

Cnr Aria & Kahuwera Rds
Open Mon 9am - 1pm
Sat 9am - 1pm
Sun 1pm - 5pm



Tony & Paula Buckman
t.pbuckman@xtra.co.nz



06 752 9713
SH3, MOKAU

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.

ADVERTISE IN PIOPIO BIRDTALK!

- Local Business: B&W Business Card Size \$40
- Local Business: B&W Double Bus Card Size \$75
- Annual Package \$215: 6x Bus Card Size and 1x 1/2 page 'My Business' article annually
- Annual Package \$405: 6x Double Bus Card Size and 1x 1/2 page 'My Business' article annually
- Out-of-Area Casual: B&W Business Card Size \$45
- Full Colour Strip Ad Front Page \$130
- Full Colour Strip Ad Back Page \$110
- Classifieds: Clubs & Orgs: Free up to 20 words

piopiobirdtalk@gmail.com

Piopio Fruit & Veg Stand

SUMMER abundance from our orchards and veggie gardens is in full swing, woohoo!

At the moment it's bumper crops of local heritage and other plums, zucchini and green beans at the Community Stand.

I'm curious as to how everyone's heirloom tomatoes are doing this season. My crop so far has been just okay, due to a "greasy spot" fungus on some fruit from all the rain. I am picking fruit as it ripens and remain optimistic.

Wish I could say the same for our peaches and onions, but we can't have everything, can we!

The rain did deliver an early small crop of proper paddock mushrooms, and the heritage climbing beans, pumpkins, butternut, lettuces and potatoes are doing well. Along with the apples and quince. It was also a good season for the blackcurrants for those jam fans out there: eleven containers picked and in the freezer for winter jam making. Garlic is pulled and drying in the garage. Talking to others around who grow things it sounds like different microclimates in our area have had different things happen to fruit trees (plums, peaches, quince) this year. It's looking okay for figs, feijoas, hazelnuts and walnuts at our place so far but we're months away on those.

Thanks to everyone for taking the time to drop your garden and orchard surplus off at the Community Stand. I know it takes time and effort. Your contributions are used and appreciated by a diverse demographic in our wider community.

I had someone say to me recently that people contributing to our stand get "nothing" in return. I don't see sharing that way at all, especially when it's something we can't use ourselves. People appreciate it. We're reducing food waste and helping others eat fresh home grown fruit and veg they might not otherwise have available to them. I've had several notes left in the stand saying thank you! On a more philosophical note, it's also a reflection of our values as a community that we're happy to share. It says a lot about Piopio and surrounds.

We managed to distribute almost 60 large Agee preserving jars out to various locals before Christmas. These were donated by a local lady who helped clean out a friend's pantry. Hopefully a few more people will experiment with bottling, not a bad skill to know and learn in these uncertain geopolitical times. For me this season it looks like Satsuma plums and poached spiced quince, not quite

Karen Barrett

struanfarm@gmail.com

0275 727 407



so many Golden Queen peaches, alas.

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.

Time for a Summer Hair Refresh at Hairloom

Book your appointment with Heidi to receive discounted apprentice rates.

Our hours:
Tuesday - Friday
9am - 5pm

Late night Wednesday
open until 7pm

1 Kea Street, Piopio Phone: 07 212 1475

AFTER a summer of sun, swimming and long days outdoors, now's the perfect time to give your hair a little extra love. The team at Hairloom are ready and waiting to help get summer hair back in shape — especially hair that's taken a bit of a beating from sun and water.

There's some exciting news at the salon too. Heidi is now in her final year of her apprenticeship, which means clients can take advantage of discounted apprentice rates while supporting a talented local stylist as she completes her final year of training.

Nano straightening continues to be a popular treatment choice with fabulous results. Clients are loving how smooth and manageable their

hair feels - and the bonus of no more straightening hair in the mornings is a big win. If you're keen to hear more, get in touch.

Late-night appointments on Wednesdays and after-school appointments, always fill up fast, so please book ahead to avoid disappointment.

Kim's appointments are fitted in around her nursing shifts, and her available days are shared on Facebook — so keep an eye out for her availability.

To make an appointment, message through Facebook or give the salon a call.

With love,
Paige, Heidi & Kim
Hairloom Hair Design

www.stayatripples.co.nz
Trudy 027 826 8500
LUXURY RIVERSIDE CABINS
Honeymoons · Family Stays · Special Occasions - Right here in Piopio

We are pleased to be able to supply accounting and taxation services to farmers and businesses in the Piopio area.

BAILEY INGHAM LTD

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIA · NEW ZEALAND

info@baileyingham.co.nz
07 873 7325 or freephone 0800 482 928

Ryan Prescott
CEO/Director
ryan@patprescott.co.nz
T 07 873 8522 0800 858 522
F 07 873 7683 A/H 07 873 1771
M 0274 898783

Prescott Toyota
152 Maniapoto Street, Otorohanga 3900
prescott.toyota.co.nz

Piopio Tennis Club serves a comeback

YOU MAY have noticed that the Piopio Tennis Club has been rather dormant in recent years but that is about to change... we are delighted to report that this summer has brought us a vibrant group of tennis enthusiasts who have joined the club and are determined to revive it.

This week we have established a Facebook page (Pio Pio Lawn Tennis Club) and already 32 people have registered their interest. In here you will find a community survey asking what people are wanting from the tennis club. It is also calling for registrations for Evening Tennis which will start in February.

The club is proudly over 100 years old now and has been nurtured through the generations to become the amazing community facility we have today. It includes three artificial courts including one with lights making it possible to play tennis at night, year round, weather permitting.

The clubhouse is a modern, well

equipped purpose built facility.

The club is always family friendly and welcoming to new members. As with all clubs we have expenses such as rates, insurance, power and maintenance regardless of the number of members, so we need a decent and active member base to keep the club financially viable.

Over the years, the club has been a great place to meet people and make friends; there have been countless events, BBQ's and pot-luck dinners held here and many a laugh enjoyed.

At its peak not so many years ago, business house tennis would use all three courts at the club plus those at the Piopio Primary and College courts.

Also, when we held the famous annual UBP tournament we would use up to four nearby private courts to get through all the games in a day. We see absolutely no reason why our club can't reach that level of activity again and we can't wait to see that happen.

Like all the best games, tennis is easy

to learn but difficult to master. You can play it at any age and to get started it is not expensive, all you need is a pair of shoes and a racquet and we can probably arrange for you to borrow one of these to get you started.

If you are interested in finding out more, joining the club or just want to be a casual member for evening tennis we can accommodate you and have many very affordable membership options. We also welcome any ideas the community may have to keep the club thriving and relevant to the next generation.

For more information you can contact: Matt Buckley (president) Ph 027 231 8088 or email matt@eightmilefarms.co.nz Paulette Johns (secretary) Ph 021 1133 743 or email paulettejohns2@gmail.co.nz or connect with Hayley Neal and register your interest on our facebook page (Pio Pio Lawn Tennis Club)

See your there!
Matt Buckley (President)

Paypal @ Davis Auto

We are happy to let customers know that we now offer 'Afterpay' for the convenience of customers.

After all the requests to do, so we finally have it set up and running.

This is an option to pay in 4 instalments.

Also please feel free to contact the workshop as we are on the lookout for a mechanic asap.

Thank you
Davis Automotive Ltd

Aria School performing at the Maniapoto Festival held in November 2025 at Les Munro Centre, Te Kuiti.



JOSHUA DAVIS
OWNER / OPERATOR
davisautomotive.piopio@gmail.com

3 KAKA ST PIIPIO
PH/FAX: (07) 877 8132
MOBILE/A-H: 027 4874218
MTA MEMBER - AA CONTRACTOR

DAVIS AUTOMOTIVE LTD
SERVICING - MECHANICAL REPAIRS - LIGHT ENGINEERING -
BREAK DOWN SERVICE - W.D.F

CBB

- New Homes
- Decks
- Alterations
- Renovations
- Design & Build

COREY BARNSDALL BUILDERS LTD

Registered Master Builder

COREY BARNSDALL
T/F 07 877 8933 • M 027 488 9847
E: cbbldp10@gmail.com

KING COUNTRY CHRISTIANS
FOLLOWING JESUS

King Country Christians meet every Sunday
in the Piopio Senior Citizens Hall, Weka Street, Piopio, at 10.30am
Phone Judy 021135946
Everyone is welcome!

1st SCAFFOLDING

Les Te Kanawa Director 027 271 6167
Lorrene Te Kanawa Director 027 333 8531
les.tk@xtra.co.nz • www.1stscaffolding.co.nz

SITWISE
Scaffolding & Formwork

Curious Keas
Early Learning Centre

Open Monday - Friday 8am-5pm

- Age 0-5 years
- Winz approved
- 20 hours free for 3-4 year olds

Ph: 8778224
Em: curiouskeas@yahoo.co.nz

cultivate HEALTH
Naturopathic Clinic & Herbal Dispensary

Piopio | Te Kūiti | Online

Book online: cultivatehealth.co.nz
laree@cultivatehealth.co.nz | 021 502 617

Piopio College duo awarded scholarship

TWO DEDICATED Piopio College educators are set to bring internationally recognised coaching expertise back to their rural community, after being awarded a scholarship to undertake advanced training through Authentic Education Australia.

Deputy Principal Leigh Anselmi and Careers Advisor Jessie Jo Ball will soon begin the Accelerated Coaching Certification, an intensive programme accredited by the International Coaching Federation (ICF).

The scholarship, supported by Margaret and Brian Tegg, the Piopio College Trust, and the Board of Trustees, will fully fund their course fees and learning materials.

Leigh, who has taught English and Mathematics at Piopio College for a decade, said the opportunity will strengthen both leadership and classroom practice.

“The training focuses on coaching, communication, and mindset skills that we can directly apply across our school. Once we complete the eight-day online intensive, we’ll begin the supervised practical phase toward ICF Associate Certified Coach accreditation.”

That next stage includes 100 hours of coaching practice, sessions with at least eight clients, 10 hours of mentor coaching, and a formally assessed coaching recording.

The full programme will take approximately 12 months to complete, a commitment both teachers will undertake while continuing their full-time roles at the school.

Jessie Jo, who teaches English and Social Studies, says the programme aligns perfectly with their shared passion for supporting student growth.

“This qualification builds powerful skills in goal-setting, confidence-building, and communication. These are essential for helping students shape meaningful futures. It will deepen how we support learners, staff, and whānau, strengthening wellbeing and resilience across our school community.”

Both teachers say the sense of community at Piopio College is what makes their work special.

“We genuinely love working here,” they said. “Our students and colleagues feel like family, and we’re proud to bring new skills back to a place we care so deeply about.”

Despite the challenges of balancing advanced study with full-time employment, Leigh and Jessie Jo remain driven by a clear purpose:

“Our goal is to do everything we can to help make Piopio College one of the best rural schools in New Zealand. This qualification will allow us to strengthen our school culture, wellbeing focus, and leadership capability in meaningful and lasting ways.”

The pair also expressed their gratitude for the leadership of Principal Ben Draper, whose mentoring and encouragement have been invaluable. “Ben’s guidance and support make a huge difference. He creates an environment where we feel inspired to come to work each day and make a meaningful impact for our students. We’re extremely fortunate to work under a leader who believes in us and in the potential of our school.”

Leigh believes achieving ICF accreditation will give Piopio College and the wider community a significant advantage.

“We’ll be able to offer professional



Jessie Jo Ball & Leigh Anselmi

coaching not only within our school but also to people in our community who may need support, clarity, or direction. These skills will help young people and adults alike to build resilience, develop purpose, and navigate challenges. By embedding these practices into our work and sharing them more broadly, we hope to guide others toward personal and academic success.”

They also acknowledged the donors and supporters who made the scholarship possible, including Margaret and Brian Tegg, the Piopio College Trust, the Board of Trustees, and Senior Course Advisor Nathan Pacanowski of Authentic Education Australia.

“We’re incredibly grateful for the belief shown in our professional growth, and we’re excited to bring the benefits of this learning back to our community.”

FINE WOODWORKING
Kitchens & Joinery
Te Kaitiaki NZ

Planning a new kitchen or renovating an existing one? We design & manufacture all styles of kitchens for all types of budgets

We guarantee a quality job with excellent workmanship and great customer service

David or Alison
ph 878 6194 // 0508 456 463
alison@finewoodworking.co.nz
www.finewoodworking.co.nz

piopio strawberries raspberries blueberries

Mike & Angela Roy

P 07 877 8490 F 07 877 8397
E maroy@xtra.co.nz
Piopio Orchard
SH 3 Piopio New Zealand

struan farm
FARMSTAY ACCOMMODATION

Karen Barrett & John Robertson

942 State Highway 3
Paemako RD 2
Piopio 3970

P: +64 877 8012
E: struanfarm@gmail.com
W: www.struanfarm.co.nz

Locally Owned & Operated
AARON BEVEGE & LEE ALCOCK

A & L EARTHWORKS

- BOBCAT
- 3 TONNE MINI DIGGER
- 5 TONNE TIP TRUCK
- AUGER, UP TO 3M DEEP
- LASER LEVEL & CONCRETE SAW
- LEVELLING BAR & FORKS

IDEAL FOR: Section Work, Clearing
Calf Sheds & Covered Yards, and
Stacking Bales

Phone/Fax: 07 877 7754
Mobile: 021 412 486

TYREPOWER PPIOPIO GAS PPIOPIO

g.a.s. Petrol, Diesel LPG

New Tyres, Puncture Repair
Wheel Alignment
All major brands available.
Competitive Prices
Mower, Sales & Service

Tyrepower

OPEN 7 Days

Night pay available after 6pm
Service Station - Farm Road - Monday - Sunday
Telephone: 07 877 8159

Piopio Playcentre news

WE'VE HAD a busy term at playcentre, from welcoming new families, events, natural disasters and parades!

We've welcomed four new families to our playcentre this term: Kimberley Black and Charlie, Claire Broderick with Audrey and Maybelle, Charlotte West and Rhyleigh, and Toni Broderick with Evie and Lila.

New families bring new passion, energy and ideas to our little playcentre, which is very welcomed.

On the business side of things, our playcentre decided to stop being a charity, and become a branch of playcentre. Instead of parents having to do the admin side of playcentre, the organisation is looking to employ a Kaimahi, who will oversee our, plus two other, local playcentres. This role has still not been filled, so if you're interested get in touch.

To more fun things, we went to Ninja Valley (pic below) as our outing for term 4. This was a fun experience for both

our kids and parents. It offered ball pits, obstacle courses, slides, trampolines just to name a few.

The playcentre was affected, like much of Piopio, by the October

flooding, with the flood waters covering most of the centre grounds. This is becoming an ongoing issue, with the bark getting contaminated, making it unsafe for the kids to play on the playground. We are in discussion with the playcentre organisation about what to do.

There has been suggestion of building a small retaining wall. We voted to replace the bark with softfall material but that was deemed too expensive.

So, the most recent idea, is to build up the area that the playground is on to keep it out of the flood waters. Hopefully something is going to get done sooner rather than later so we can reopen the playground.

We finished our year with a visit from Santa who brought all the kids some awesome books, and we enjoyed a Christmas shared lunch.

We also participated in the Piopio Christmas parade (below), which was a great success and very fun with our float driving away with the highly recommended rosette.

We're all looking forward to playcentre kicking off again in term 1, with our first day back being February 2 starting at 9.30am.

New families are welcome.

Christin Kjestrup

Contact: piopio@playcentre.org.nz or Jo 021 1487556.



MOKAU FISHING CLUB

LADIES FISHING COMPETITION

SATURDAY | 21 FEB

Register at www.mokaufishingclub.co.nz

\$25 entry (online until 5pm, 18 Feb)

- Rego closes: 9am, 21 Feb
- Fishing starts: 9:30am
- Weigh-in: Awakino Hotel | 4-5pm
- Prize Giving: Follows weigh-in

\$250 prize for best-dressed crew

- Prizes 1st to 5th for Snapper
- 1st to 5th for heaviest combined weight of 2 species (Gurnard, Kahawai)

Fishing options: boat | surfcasting | longline | drone

Members & non-members welcome
— 16 years and over —

Enter now at www.mokaufishingclub.co.nz

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: www.mokaufishingclub.co.nz

Barbara Kuriger

MP for Taranaki-King Country

Backing Rural and Provincial New Zealand

Inglewood Office 06 756 6032
80 Rata St, PO Box 124, Inglewood
Kuriger.Inglewood@parliament.govt.nz

Te Awamutu Office 07 870 1005
196 Alexandra Street, Te Awamutu
Kuriger.Teawamutu@parliament.govt.nz

King Country Virtual Office

Kuriger.Kingcountry@parliament.govt.nz
Otorohanga - 021 815 017
Te Kuiti - 021 832 734



KING COUNTRY

PARI TRANSPORT

EST. 2007

LIVESTOCK CARTAGE
FORESTRY & LOGGING
METAL & FERTILISER
RURAL FARM SUPPLIES

Steven & Donna Pari
027 554 6064
parilivestock@gmail.com

85 Mangaotaki Rd, Piopio

OTOROHANGA

COLLISION & REPAIRS

- Courtesy cars
- Quick turnaround
- Latest technology & equipment
- One stop shop panel & paint

Phone Scott or Paul for a FREE no obligation quote
P: 07 873 8832
Scott: 027 414 8121 • Paul: 021 120 1406

Approved lifetime warranty on spray painting. ALL WORK 100% GUARANTEED

pd

PIOPIO DENTAL

Dr. Kim Tatham
BDS Otago

Ph. 07 877 8864
E smilingkiwi@piopiodental.co.nz

NEW BUSINESS FEATURE

Parkes Plumbing Solutions; here to help

KIA ORA! I'm Bradley Parkes, owner of Parkes Plumbing Solutions.

I was born and raised in Te Kūiti, married into the Pari whānau, and now call Piopio home. I'm married to Renee and I have two children.

We established Parkes Plumbing Solutions on Christmas 2024 - it was a 'helluva' time to start a business from the ground up, but we did it!

My plumbing journey began in 2005 as an apprentice at Otorohanga Plumbing, where I spent five years learning the trade properly.

From there I worked with McIndoe's for seven years, JMark in Hamilton for two, and then finished up with six years at NPG.

I always knew I'd go into business one day, I just didn't know how or where to start. It was my wife Renee who gave me the push to do it - and I am so glad she did! I was also fortunate to have the support of a great mentor and advocate in Nigel from NPG, who helped me a lot to get started. I am forever grateful for his guidance and support.

I've worked locally for years, so I know the people and the area well.

Parkes Plumbing Solutions services Te Kūiti, Piopio, Mokauiti, Aria, Mahoenui, Mokau, and surrounding areas. Give me a call day or night. From farm to whare, big job or small - I am here to help. And if you're keen on rugby yarns, fishing stories, or pig-hunting chats, I'm always up for those too!



Renee & Bradley Parkes

Happy New Year from the Birdtalk team  Send us your stories! piopiobirdtalk@gmail.com

Social Touch wraps up a strong season

THE 2025 season of Piopio Social Touch has come to a successful close, marking the fourth year running of this much-loved annual competition.

Once again, it proved to be a highlight on the local sporting calendar.

This season saw nine teams compete, with approximately 126 players taking to the field throughout the season.

Each week, the grounds were filled with a fantastic mix of friends, families, and familiar local faces, all enjoying the chance to stay active, socialise, and have some fun. It was great to see players of all ages and abilities getting involved.

Congratulations to The AB's on taking out the 2025 Piopio Social Touch title - a well-earned win after a great season of teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Piopio Social Touch would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Piopio Rugby Football Club for the use of their fields and club rooms throughout the season.

Thanks also go to everyone who played, supported, and helped make the competition another success — your ongoing support plays an important role in keeping Piopio Social Touch running each year.

With four strong seasons now behind it, Piopio Social Touch is already looking ahead with excitement to the next season and looks forward to welcoming both returning players and new faces alike.



Ipurua GENETICS
 Peter & Caroline Foss
 495 Potaka Road, RD 1, Aria 3979
 P: 07 877 7881 ■ M: 021 1135 400
 E: pcfossy@xtra.co.nz

Pukewhau FARMSTAY ARIA
 Daryl & Jules
 027 664 1816
 h.tuckerextra.co.nz

POWER FARMING
 Mike Whitburn 0274 824 614
 Ryan Haine 0272 937 031
 Murray Barclay 0274 753 690
 200 Benson Road
 Te Awamutu
 www.powerfarmingteawamutu.co.nz

Business Computer Services
 Computer Sales, Servicing & Support
 Printers, Accessories & Devices
 Freeview Satellite Installations

Ross Smith
 IT Technician

Onsite at workshop 9am – 4pm
 Monday, Tuesday & Friday
 Other times by appointment

12 Kawana Street.
 P.O. Box 87
 Piopio 3942
 Workshop: 07 877 8880
 Cellphone: 027 285 1703
 Email: bcsp@xtra.co.nz

SIMPSON TREE WORKS
 R & R SIMPSON

Roy Simpson | **Ross Simpson**
 021 266 0735 | 027 494 5540
 roysimpson09@gmail.com

FIRE WOOD • TREE REMOVAL • LOGGING

Smith Mitchell
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

127 Rora Street | PO Box 159 | Te Kuiti
 P 07 878 1098 | F 07 878 1097
 www.smithmitchell.co.nz

ADAMS CONTRACTING
 Dion Adams

22 Main Road
 Mahoenui 3978

027 2765276
 07 8778877
 adamscontracting@xtra.co.nz

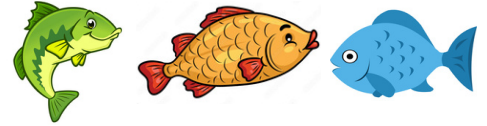
ROTOR WORK LIMITED

AGRICULTURAL HELICOPTER OPERATORS
 THE COMPLETE ON FARM HELICOPTER COMPANY

King Country Honda

DARREN LUPTON
 33 Moa Street, Piopio 3912
 P 07 877 8054
 M 021 202 9749
 E kchs@kchonda.co.nz
 honda.349@hotmail.com

Mokau Fishing Club News



HI ALL,

It's been a busy few weeks for the club, with our annual Christmas Competition attracting a fantastic turnout of 210 anglers. A huge thank you to everyone involved, including our sponsors, for making the event such a success.

The weather certainly challenged us, with three of the four days mainly fished by boat anglers, while land-based anglers battled strong winds on the first day.

There was a great turnout for prize-giving, followed by a BBQ meal enjoyed by all.

Reports of land-based fishing have been positive, while boat fishing around the full moon has been average for some. We're now hoping for some flat seas over the coming weekends as most unfortunately return to work or head home during the weekdays.

Competitions

The Summer Competition is now underway and will run through until Easter Monday, April 6 (inclusive). Please note that you must be a current financial member to weigh fish at weigh stations. End-of-year prize-giving will be held on April 18.

Memberships

Memberships were due on December

1, 2025. Please contact us to confirm that your membership has been paid. If it has not, the payment may not have gone through or there may have been an issue with your form. If so, please email us and we will investigate the matter. A confirmation email is sent to the address provided on your membership form once payment has been successfully processed.

The committee has decided to run two membership prize draws this year. The first draw was held on December 15, 2025 — congratulations to Isabelle Ogle who received a Mokau Fishing Club clothing pack. The second draw will be held on January 15, so please make sure your membership is paid to be in the draw.

Live Bar Camera

We have launched the live bar camera, with all members sent a unique login code via their membership confirmation email. Please keep this code for future reference. The camera is currently set up in snapshot mode, with images up to five minutes behind real time, and we will look to trial a live view shortly. A massive thank you to Gary Mills for installing the camera, JP for helping get it up and running, Jeff and Sheryl Wallis for providing a site on their property, to Toi Foundation and

everyone who contributed to funding the project.

Upcoming Events

TAKF Day – January 17: Although the road south is closed, this event has been planned since the start of the season and scheduled around other community events, so we will go ahead and enjoy the day with the children who are able to attend.

Ladies Day – February 21: More information will be sent out closer to the date.

Sponsors Day – March 7

One last word: Skippers of boats, please be mindful of land-based anglers using longlines and drones when heading north up the coast. Please give them plenty of room — they are enjoying their hobby just as you are. Being too close to shore increases the risk of lines being cut off and potential damage to your prop or motor.

Cheers, and good luck out there.

*Tight lines,
Wal*



YOGA CLASSES

BREATHE - MOVE - REST

Improve mobility, strength & balance | Manage stress | Help with sleep, posture & digestion | Classes suited to all levels

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Te Kuiti 6.15pm	Piopia 6.30 pm	Otorohanga 5.30pm	Piopia 9am

Book via our website www.iamyoga.co.nz or email ainslie@iamyoga.co.nz

Our Friendly Team Take Pride in Ensuring the Wellbeing of Your Livestock and Pets

- On Farm Service & Advice
- Animal Health Products
- Sheep & Cattle Scanning
- Animal Health Planning
- Small Animal Clinic
- X-Ray & Ultrasound
- Pet Supplies
- Dental Services

53 Moa Street, Piopia Ph: 07 877 8106
32 Taupiri Street, Te Kūiti Ph: 07 878 8137



07 877 8822
fatpigeon@xtra.co.nz
www.fatpigeon.co.nz

07 877 8767
fatowl@xtra.co.nz
www.fatowl.nz

Beauty and Relaxation Services for Women

- ✓ HOT STONE MASSAGE
- ✓ GENTLE TOUCH/RELAXATION MASSAGE
- ✓ FACIAL TREATMENTS
- ✓ EYE & BROW TREATMENTS
- ✓ WAXING
- ✓ SPRAY TANS
- ✓ SKINCARE & MAKE UP PRODUCTS
- ✓ CRYSTALS & EAR CANDLES
- ✓ GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

PLEASE MESSAGE OR CALL CAREFULLY FOR MORE INFORMATION 0210424495

KJHoughton BUILDERS

KURT HOUGHTON

HOME (07) 877 7846 MOBILE 027 274 3918
EMAIL kjhoughtonbuilders@gmail.com
ADDRESS 489 Owen Rd, RD1, Te Kuiti

- NEW HOMES
- ALTERATIONS
- FENCES
- WOOLSHEDS

- EXTENSIONS
- SHEDS
- DECKS
- COOL STORES

HUIA STREET • PO BOX 38 • PIO PIO
PH (07) 877-8058 • FAX (07) 877-8061

Ken & Rebecca Haywood

07 877 8586

Quality genetics with proven performance and eczema tolerance

WHITE RIDGE CONTRACTING

Mark & Jenny Bradbury

767 Aria Road
RD 2, Pio Pio

Phone/Fax: 07 877 7788
Mobile: 0275 929 665
Email: whiteridge@xtra.co.nz

- EARTHWORKS - DRAINAGE - METAL -

Happy New Year from WESCT

THE Waitomo Energy Services Customer Trust (WESCT) would like to wish everyone a very happy New Year.

Great news for beneficiaries

If you're a WESCT beneficiary hopefully you noticed a welcome boost over December and January with the TLC summer discount appearing on electricity bills. \$3.9 million in total was paid to beneficiaries, taking the total TLC discount this financial year to \$6.9 million (GST inclusive).

On average, this summer TLC discount for residential connections, is about \$178 (including GST), helping families during the busy summer period.

Over the past four years, these discounts have added up to \$22.6 million, which is something the Trust is proud of. The TLC discount is a great example of the benefits of community ownership of The Lines Company — when the network is community-owned, the benefits stay local.

2026 is shaping up to be a big year for the Trust. There will be an ownership poll, along with an election for three

trustee positions, with voting beginning in August. If you're curious about what the Trust does, or have ever thought about getting involved, now's a great time to take a look and find out more on their website.

In March, two trustees, Brian Hanna and Yvette Ronaldson, will be heading to Wellington to attend the Downstream Energy Conference. This is a chance to learn what's happening across the energy sector around Aotearoa, connect with others, and bring back fresh ideas and insights to support the Trust.

As always, WESCT remains focused on supporting the long-term wellbeing of beneficiaries and the communities it represents.

To find out more, visit the WESCT website: wesct.org.nz.

Do you have a yarn from times of old?
 Our readers love a bit of history about people of our district
 Email us please ...
piopiobirdtalk@gmail.com

Raupuha Studs
Where every day is an open day



Russell & Mavis Proffit

P: 07 8778977
 M: 0273552927

Facial Eczema Tested
 Perendale & Romdale
 Shorthorn Cattle
 Suffolk & SufTex

2033 State Hwy 3
 RD Mahoenul 3978
 E: mmwproffit@xtra.co.nz
www.raupuhastud.co.nz

**Piopio Christmas
 Winners 2025**

The Piopio Christmas Parade Shield
 Piopio Primary School

Lights Theme & Decorations
 Mail Box Theme:
 Zoe Simpson

Home Theme:
 Sadie Mortensen

Business Theme:
 Piopio Dental

Stocking Raffle
 Linda Langlands

Congratulations To You All
 Merry Christmas & Happy New Year


For Sale

Tony Foreman
 027 654 7434

SELLING FARMS & LIFESTYLE

PGG Wrightson Real Estate Limited, licensed under the REAA 2008

TE REO MAORI EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

PIOPIO
 TE WHANAU O KOHANGA REO

AGES 6 MONTHS - 5 YEARS
 OPEN 8.30 - 3PM
 MONDAY TO FRIDAY

Low or NO fees
 FREE PICKUP & DROP OFF
 Piopio, Te Kuiti and Aria

FREE 20HRS ECE 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

KRISTEN PARI PH: 8778185 MB: 0274713788
 EM: WHANAU@K04D025.KOHANGA.AC.NZ

PIOPIO MECHANICAL SERVICES LTD



♦ General Engineering ♦ Truck & Tractor Servicing ♦ Hydraulic Hoses
 ♦ Mechanical Repairs

17 Ruru Street, PIOPIO

Contact Moose ph: 07 8778238

DENIZE PLUMBING LTD

07 877 8399 / 021 266 7768

Warrick Denize
 Craftsman Plumber

FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS

▪ Roof & Spouting ▪ Drainage
 ▪ New Homes & Renovations
 ▪ Solid Fuel Heaters ▪ Pumps

Get better returns for your wool

As a Carrfields Primary Wool client you can expect great service from a nationwide team of wool experts who will support you with the advice and expertise to deliver improved returns for your wool business.

Maximise your wool returns, talk to CP Wool today.



Daryl Croad: 027 241 3913
 Peter Lange: 027 241 6483
www.cpwool.co.nz

MJ Barrowcliffe Shearing Ltd

07 877 8759
mjbarrow@xtra.co.nz

THREWAY MOTORS LTD
 School Bus Contractors



Snow Nicol
 June Nicol
 Peter Nicol

Kiwī Street
 P.O. Box 96
 Piopio
 Phone (07) 877 8153
 Fax (07) 877 8177

LOCAL FACILITIES

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

Xmas parade returns to main street

AFTER a very tricky start and months of careful planning, it was incredibly rewarding to see the Piopio Christmas Parade return to Moa Street once again.

It was another wonderful evening celebrating Piopio Christmas, blessed with beautiful weather and an amazing community turnout.

The effort and creativity put into the floats was outstanding, with so many individuals, families, schools, and businesses giving their time and energy to make the night special.

This year's parade featured a total of 14 floats, plus the pipe band, creating a fantastic spectacle for all ages.

A huge thank you to our judges, who had an exceptionally difficult task — the quality of entries made separating the top five floats no easy feat.

The beautiful evening flowed on into relaxed family time on the Village Green, where the community came together to enjoy the festive atmosphere.

Special thanks to Jenelle Coxall, Tony Schrafft and a number of local volunteer marshals for their support on the night.

We would also like to extend a massive thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible: Ryan Cooney (NZTA), Jenny Bradbury and Whiteridge Contracting (for planning support and onsite TMP), Lissa

Whiteman (Peninsula Traffic Works – Traffic Management Planner), Kiel Harris (Traffic Management Co-ordinator, Waitomo District Council), Darren Laycock (WDC Roading Manager), and Sarah McElroy (Community Development, WDC). Your time, dedication, and hard work were instrumental in getting our planning across the line and bringing the Christmas Parade back to SH3.

A very special thank you goes to the

Traffic Management team — Jenny Bradbury and Darren King and crew from Whiteridge Contracting, the Piopio Fire Brigade, and Gemma Jones — for volunteering their time and helping keep everyone safe on the roads during the parade.

It was truly heart-warming to see so many people out enjoying the evening. Thank you, Piopio, for another memorable Christmas celebration.

Xmas results P10



Did you know?

The Lines Company (TLC) is owned by Waitomo Energy Services Customer Trust on behalf of its beneficiaries – the community!

Making TLC

100% community owned.



wesct.org.nz

RORISONS
FERTILISER & LIME

**King Country Lime
and fertiliser blends**

FREE PHONE 0800 40 10 40

sales@rorisons.co.nz • rorisons.co.nz