

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

THE NEWSPAPER OF PIRONGIA  
WINTER 2010

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## PIRONGIA'S HISTORY RICH AND RUGGED

Mount Pirongia stands at an impressive 959 metres and makes its presence known above the surrounding hill country west of Waipa River. It is the highest and most extensive of a series of ancient volcanic vents that erupted along a line that runs south-east from Karioi Mountain to Tokanui Hill. The precipitous bush-clad slopes of Pirongia are deeply eroded remnants of a much larger volcano that spread its basalt and olivine-andesite lava flows as far as Kawhia Harbour. King Tawhiao's Maori supporters used the eastern foothills of the mountain as a retreat between skirmishes during the Waikato Wars.

Pirongia (the name means "like a bad smell") and the neighbouring, distinctively shaped, lesser peak of Kakepuku (450 metres) figure in Maori folklore. Pirongia is one of the mountains associated in Maori lore with the patupairehe who were white-skinned "little people" (fairies), usually feared, for they were dangerous to mortals. The patupairehe were supposed to inhabit large fortified villages in the cloudy summits of the hills, and frequented certain localities throughout New Zealand, even as far south as Foveaux Strait. At times their presence was revealed in the ghostly piping of flutes and the sound of fairy songs heard in the misty forest heights.

## MAKING THE MOST OF THE MOUNTAIN

How many of us live in Pirongia and never visit the mountain – not even the 'easy' walk around the bottom!? It would seem that most of us live here for the view, not the climb, but there are many great walks and other outdoor pursuits, not all for the experienced mountaineer, right on our doorstep. The mountain has no less than 14 different tracks, from an hour-long stroll to a two day/one night trek to the summit. On a clear day, Mt Pirongia's summit provides fine views of Mounts Taranaki and Ruapehu. For those wishing to stay the night near the top of the mountain, Pahautea Hut and campsite are close by. There are also some 'hidden secrets', such as the Kaniwhaniwha Caves. These are two limestone caves, and you can walk through the 20 metre long main cave, except for a short hands-and-knees crawl. The cave is wet underfoot and torches are required. The second smaller cave is tight and narrow. Further along from here is our tallest kahikatea tree. Walk along the Nikau walk to Kaniwhaniwha Caves then follow the Bell Track to the tallest recorded kahikatea tree, a mighty 66.5 metres high. There's a small camping area with basic facilities at Kaniwhaniwha, more suitable for a summer holiday, and also picnic areas at the end of

both Corcoran and Grey Roads and alongside Kaniwhaniwha Stream on Limeworks Loop Road. For those with a bent for hunting, pigs, goats and possums are present, although in low numbers. Pigs are found mainly on the western side of Pirongia and permits to hunt in the Park are available from DOC in Hamilton. And if you're really keen, brown and rainbow trout can be found in Kaniwhaniwha Stream. Fly fishing only is permitted ...with a licence.

There's lots more information at [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) about the tracks and tramps available. Also check out [www.mtpirongia.org.nz](http://www.mtpirongia.org.nz) for heaps of information, folklore and gorgeous pictures. To find out more about staying safe on the mountain, visit [www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz).

## TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

In the scant three months since the last issue of The Village Voice, there have been a number of changes on the business horizon of Pirongia. On 17 May, with quiet efficiency, the Four Square was taken over by its new owners. Volunteers from Pirongia Playcentre worked into the night to complete the required stocktake, so DJ and Susan could open for business on Monday morning. The main addition to the shop has been the Lotto booth, and there have been a number of modest wins already claimed (although no big ones...yet). The shop has extended its hours to close at 7:00pm on Saturday, with the other opening hours of 8:00am to 6:30pm remaining the same. The shop continues to stock quite a range of gluten free and other special dietary based foods – and they will gladly order in something specific if you can't find it on the shelves. There are also a number of PO Boxes still available for rent.

A little further up the road there has been a flurry of activity at the Craft Shop and Gallery. Recently sold by Kathie to a collective of artists from Kawhia, this has reopened as 'Birdsong Gallery'. The store aims to stock and display only New Zealand made art and products, and already has an impressive collection of ceramics, paintings and jewellery waiting to find new homes. They are keen to hear from other local artists and artisans interested in selling their work. The shop will be open Wednesday to Monday from 10:00am to 4:00pm during the winter, and Carol tells me this may well be extended in the summer. For more information contact Carol on [cshepheard@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:cshepheard@slingshot.co.nz)

There's also been some major digging going on at the Mobil Petrol Station this month, as huge holes have been made outside the store to replace the petrol pumps. Owner Steve tells me this is stage one of the long awaited renovations to the shop and forecourt, with a canopy next

## EDITORIAL

### NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

Who hasn't had enough of the doom and gloom reported in the newspapers, proclaimed from the six o'clock news, and splashed across the internet...businesses failing, redundancies, spiraling food costs, inflated insurances...and the usual outcome of surges in crime.

In light of this, I thought it might be timely to check out how Pirongia was faring with it all. Yes, many of us are at times struggling to 'keep heads above water', with constant bills to be paid (ouch, winter's coming and the heater is on!), and we all know someone who has lost their job, or closed their business.

But there's a brighter side. So many of us are committed to being part of this community - someone notices when a strange car (or stranger!) is in town. They watch out for each others children, or pets; they actually notice when a car alarm goes off. And the upshot of this, and all the other small deeds performed, largely unnoticed and nearly always without thanks, is that we live in one of the safest places in New Zealand. In fact, to date, other than the odd 'petty burglary' (and more than a few speeding tickets from Franklin St!) I was unable to find a single crime statistic attributed to Pirongia in the last 12 months.

This is a great place to raise a family, a great place to live. Let's keep it up

Susan Trodden - Editor  
[susanft68@gmail.com](mailto:susanft68@gmail.com)

### 50<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY FOR ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH BUILDING

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of St Saviour's Church will be celebrated on Sunday 4 July. That means it has been 50 years since the current church building was declared a sacred or holy place. It is important to note, however, that the St Saviour's church family goes back much further than 50 years. The first St Saviour's Church was built in 1866 on Redoubt Hill and survived until 1893. The second was built in 1900 on the same site, and is now the Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre building. Construction of the present St Saviour's commenced late 1958 on a new site in Franklin Street. The Church opened the following year and was formally consecrated on 3 July 1960. The anniversary thus marks yet another moment in history, not only for regular worshippers of St Saviour's but also for the whole Pirongia community.

#### SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Consecration of  
St Saviour's Anglican Church with

Archbishop David Moxon.

Sunday 4 July 2010 at 9:30am.

All welcome.

## A MESSAGE FROM ..... ST SAVIOUR'S

You may remember the old story about the mother who was trying to get her son out of bed so he would get ready for church. "I don't want to go to church," he complained, "It's boring. The music is boring, the sermon's boring, and nobody likes me. Give me one good reason why I should go to church." The mother paused for a moment thoughtfully, then replied, "Well son, you are the vicar!"

It's an oldie, but a goody. But for me, as I journey towards becoming a vicar, this serves as an important reminder of the risk of making the most wonderful event of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection, something which is boring. Certainly the Bible is anything but boring, for within its pages are accounts of war, blood and guts, romance, betrayal, love, relationships, sacrifice, hope and much more. The challenge I'm facing is how to interpret and convey Scripture, within the Anglican tradition, without making it boring.

In trying not to be boring, there is a risk of trying to entertain. Entertainment is about performance, amusement and diverting the audience away from their own daily issues. And whether it is going to the circus, listening to music, or watching a film, it is a form of escapism, which I'm sure we all need from time to time. However, I believe church should not be trying to help people *escape* reality, but to *engage* with it. I've heard it said that God doesn't work within the realm of fantasy but within the reality of people's lives. This didn't mean much to me until I related it to experiences I'd had while hospital visiting. I witnessed patients with brave faces disguising what was really happening inside for them. Through prayer the masks melted away and the real issues could be faced and placed before God.

So what does this mean for church? It seems I'm caught between making things too boring and making things too much fun! Should I be looking for something in between? What is coming apparent to me is that church needs to be a place where people are able to be real before God. And if we are real before God, then the service becomes more relevant. We are able to praise God from our heart, we are able to confess our stuff-ups honestly and openly to God, and the message preached and the receiving of the bread and wine becomes more meaningful. The Bible is filled with mystery, but is also grounded in the reality of human life. Therefore, the message for me is to make sure church services are also well grounded and relevant, so that hopefully even the vicar will want to get out of bed and bound off to church!!

Your servant in Christ  
Tim Lloyd

027 209 7440      A/h 07 854 1529

Email: [timl.stsaviours@live.com](mailto:timl.stsaviours@live.com)

## A CRAFTY WAY TO SPEND THE DAY

Are you new to the village? Interested in making new friends? The Pirongia Church Craft Group is looking for people interested in handcrafts of any sort. Maybe you sew, paint, enjoy flower arranging? Do you have a knack for making toys, something for the patio or garden, or just pottering with bits of anything. If you enjoy meeting people, having fun, and perhaps have a spare hour or two then come along on Mondays between 10:00am and 2:00pm to see what we do. You can enjoy a cuppa and a chat with the friendly ladies in the lounge at St Saviour's Church in Franklin Street. We would love to see you. For more information, please phone Barbara Preece on 871 9494.

## *Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society*

The Department of Conservation have supported our plans to extend our bait station grid on Mt Pirongia by 182 ha, so we are seeking funding to undertake this work prior to spring. Our bat training in late summer tapped into the keen enthusiasm of some new volunteers, but we had only one night where bats were detected - walking a transect down Grey Rd, Te Pahu. We are really grateful for the support of Kessels and Associates from Te Pahu who made their bat expert available for this - Anneke Hermans, and also for Meridian Energy and DoC for making it all possible through equipment etc.

The response to our requests concerning Northern Rata sources was encouraging and we now have a good number of cuttings which will hopefully strike.

Saying 'thank you' to those who sponsor our pest control work is important to us. We did this recently by putting on an afternoon function at the Pirongia Community Centre Chapel to present certificates and to inform the recipients of our plans for the coming year, and providing a home-made afternoon tea and cuppa. Bruce Clarkson from Waikato University and botanist extraordinaire was our guest presenter and he shared his recent research findings with us.

The relocation of the old Pirongia School building to Rangimarie Reserve is still awaiting further consents regarding the reclassification of part of the reserve. We are hopeful the consents will be received in the near future.

Anyone wishing to join our volunteer team should contact Clare St Pierre on 07 871 9133 or [stpierre@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stpierre@xtra.co.nz).

## VISION FOR PIRONGIA TUI FESTIVAL TAKES FLIGHT

At a recent Ratepayers meeting about the annual Craft Day, a discussion, focused on how we could keep visitors in the village for longer than just a day. The result was the idea of developing a Tui Festival in the Village. As well as a wonderful opportunity to promote local businesses and attractions, this has the potential to be a real Village affair. The reputation of Pirongia as a Tui 'hotspot' is growing, and this is a unique feature, so far untapped by other places around NZ. If you would like to talk about this more, or would like to be involved, please contact John Wood of the Residents and Ratepayers Association, or Heather-Anne Lang of Pirongia Tourism.

## CENSUS REVEALS FASCINATING FACTS

Recently published information from the last Census (2006) gives us some interesting insights about our Village. For example, did you know that 15.8% of people in Pirongia were born overseas? Or that our average incomes are higher than those in neighbouring parts of the Waikato? You might be surprised to learn that 44.6% of our population comprises couples without children living with them and that 17.8% of households have more than one family living in them! We're a technological lot too, with 71% percent of households having an internet connection, and nearly 81% having a cellphone. And, 22.7% of our households have access to three or more vehicles! For more interesting facts, check out [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz)

## *SING YOUR HEART OUT*

Paula McWha was one of the attendees at Carols on the Redoubt last year and was struck by the enthusiasm of the singers in the crowd. She's keen to get a group together - at any level of skill and experience - to join their voices and even their instruments on a regular basis. "I saw this idea in Hobart on a recent trip to Australia and thought how wonderful it would be to see this happening in Pirongia too", says Paula. If you're interested in being part of this, you can contact Paula on 871 9585.

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## COMMUNITY CENTRE OFFERS WARM WELCOME

After six months of hard work the first phase of renovating the Pirongia Community Centre and Chapel is nearly complete. A renovated kitchen in the hall, new carpet and a new kitchenette in the chapel, upgraded toilets and a good overall spring clean has transformed the buildings into a space the whole community can enjoy. The chapel in particular is looking fantastic and to complete this we are looking for a large quantity of red velvet to replace the current curtains. Perhaps you have some languishing in a cupboard? Next on the to-do list is new signage, repainting the roof and putting down some pathways.

Current users include a community church, the Creative Fibre Group, ICONZ, the Ratepayers Association and Aikido classes. Both hall and chapel are available for rent, either on a casual or permanent basis and there is scope to hire the buildings for private functions. There are also storage rooms available for long term rent. We are especially interested in hearing from you if you need a very low cost home (from \$10 per hour for hall hire) for your organisation or if you have 'bright ideas' for the Centre's use.

For more information, please phone Susan on 872 8128.

## PIRONGIA SCHOOL FUNDRAISER SET TO SPARKLE

Pirongia Memorial Hall will be alive with the sound of money on Friday 25 June, when the School PTA host a Las Vegas Style Casino evening.

The purpose of this fundraiser is to replace the pea metal that is currently ground cover in the school's playground. Jan Cullen, School Principal, approached the PTA after noticing the dangers of stones getting on the grass and being mown over and windows broken, both in the school and neighbouring properties. Shelley Vincent, PTA President tells of the solution: "We are looking at replacing the pea metal with Natural Playground Chip (approved by the Waikato District Council) at an estimated cost of \$6,000. As a decile nine school we are granted limited government funding so are continually raising money for the good of our school and children."

Featuring a live band, supper and a cash bar, this should be a fine night out and a chance to get your 'glad rags' on. Tickets are \$25, including funny money and supper. Doors open 7:00pm, Gaming starts 7:30pm. Tickets on sale from TimeOut, Pirongia Hotel or the School Office.

## PIRONGIA PLUNKET NEWS

Gypsy Day has been and gone with families moving to and from our district. If you have recently moved to Pirongia and would like to join our mailing list to receive our newsletter, or meet some local families by joining a coffee group, please contact Coralie Barton on 870 2448.

We are sad to advise that our fantastic Plunket Nurse Michelle Madgwick will no longer be working in our area. Michelle has contributed invaluable to Pirongia Plunket and local families and we will all miss the advice, laughs, and care that she has given to our children and ourselves. I'm sure her replacement will enjoy working in our supportive and friendly community.

## PIRONGIA TOURISM ASSOCIATION

We are slowly progressing with the project to enhance the toilets and working through some issues with Council. We hope to source funding soon for the first stage.

The Pirongia Trails fliers are in good demand and so continue to promote the featured Pirongia businesses. Our website, [www.pirongia.org.nz](http://www.pirongia.org.nz) seems to be accessed frequently, judging from the queries we get about things happening in Pirongia. If you have a new business in the area targeted for visitors/travellers/tourists then get it added to the Pirongia Tourism website!!

Our AGM is at 7:30pm, Monday 28 June at the Historic Visitors Centre, Franklin Street. Come and find out what else is going on. All welcome.

## NAU MAI, HAERE MAI TO PIRONGIA

### PLAYCENTRE'S NEW BILINGUAL SESSIONS

The Pirongia Playcentre will be offering a Bilingual Playcentre session from noon to 2:30pm every Wednesday from 16 June. This session will offer more te reo Maori, waiata, and tikanga than other sessions and will allow parents and children to increase their knowledge and use of te reo Maori at the Centre and at home. The sessions will follow standard Playcentre format and will introduce te reo Maori in fun, meaningful, and practical ways that will assist in making the learning of te reo Maori easy and fun. All whanau are welcome.

Contact Kathie Rifle on 872 8121 for more details.

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## PIRONGIA FOOTBALL CLUB KICK OFF

Kickoff was just over a month ago and we have just completed the four grading games. This is the Clubs tenth season and we have just this year changed the name 'soccer' to 'football'.

The Club has seven teams of boys and girls, ranging from 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (5 and 6 year olds) through to Open Grade (12 and 13 year olds). Our coaches and managers (some qualified, some still learning) are parents that love the game, fitness and competitive team spirit. Our committee are parents who, over the years, have organized and purchased all the equipment and gear required for our club.

Our grounds are at Pirongia School, and we have always enjoyed fantastic playing fields. Most of our players are Pirongia School students but a few are from surrounding districts and thrive on our club spirit.

We are affiliated to Waikato Junior Football Association that covers Matamata, Huntly, Raglan to Te Awamutu and play on a home and away basis. Over the years we have had some great success with teams winning their division and individuals representing Waikato and New Zealand. It's all exciting stuff!

On 28 August 2010, our Club will be celebrating ten years of playing the beautiful game in Pirongia. All past and present players and parents will be invited to a celebration that will include fun, food, friendship, music plus probably a couple of speeches. Put the word out as we don't have everyone's current address.

In the meantime... GO PIRONGIA SMALL WHITES!  
For enquiries about the Club, or Anniversary, phone Julia Mellsop on 871 9962 or Sue Ranstead on 871 9105.

## GIRLGUIDING NZ SEEKING SUPPORT

Girls and women across NZ are digging deep into their wardrobes to support a new initiative. The BraChain is a GirlGuiding NZ Guinness World Record attempt. Currently the record is held by the Australians, with 166,000 bras. As the largest female-only organisation in NZ, GirlGuiding NZ is working to raise awareness of breast cancer, and the obvious link between breast cancer and bras inspired this campaign. Pirongia Guiding are collecting for this cause and bras can be in any condition, and any quantity. They can be delivered to Pippins, Brownies or Guides. Once the World Record attempt has been achieved, all the highest quality bras will be sent to

women in Africa, Haiti and the Pacific Islands. For more information please contact Carolyn Storey on 871 9145.

There are still boxes of Girl Guide biscuits for sale. If you would like some, please phone Susan on 872 8128

## VISITOR CENTRE AGM AND

### PIRONGIA CLYDESDALES HITCHING TOGETHER

The Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 22 June 2010, 7.30pm at the Centre. The AGM will be followed by an illustrated presentation on "**Traditional Carriage Driving**" by **Nick van der Sande of Pirongia Clydesdales**. The presentation will cover early methods of traditional carriage driving and coach building, including the skills of reign handling still used today. The talk will end with reference to coaches and coachmen who drove their horses through Alexandra on their mail runs in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Nick is listed in the Hall of Fame of the National Shirehorse Centre at Plymouth, England; an acknowledgement of his skills in both driving and horse management.

*Light refreshments will be served afterwards.*

Pirongia Historic Visitor Centre

798 Franklin Street, Pirongia 3802

Ph: 871 9018 email: [pirongia.hvc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pirongia.hvc@xtra.co.nz)

## LIVESTOCK ON THE LOOSE

Recently around 35 cows took an opportunity to break from their paddock and ended up on Frontier Road. There was no farmer to be seen and so the cows ran freely along the road for about 20 minutes. During this time only one person stopped to try and guide the cows safely off the road, and many drivers barely slowed down as they approached the clearly spooked animals. After much cajoling, and some horn blowing, the cows were herded back to the race they had escaped from, by which time the owner had arrived.

It was disappointing to see the driver behavior during this time, and frustrating for the unnamed driver, that not one other person offered to assist. It was after 3:00pm and at least 20 cars passed by without stopping.

Should you ever be confronted by livestock on the road, please slow down, and if at all possible, stop and help.

## Te Pahu Country Bed & Breakfast

Looking for a relaxing break? The Te Pahu B&B is a 2 bedroom fully self-contained unit set on 10 acres, high up Mt Pirongia. With outstanding views over the countryside and a scrummy breakfast to start your day, this really is a wonderful getaway. Special weekend rates! See our website: [www.tepahu.com](http://www.tepahu.com)

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## BAFFIN STREET GALLERY

Watercolour classes continue on Friday afternoons (\$15 a session) and starting on the evening of Monday 26 July is a Bookbinding course, where you can learn to make concertina and sewn books (\$90 for six weeks). During both weeks of the school holidays there will be a programme on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:30am to noon (\$30 for the week including all supplies). In week one students will be drawing and painting and week two is focussed on clay work. Pre-enrolment is essential.

Later in the year there will be a two-day workshop on box assemblage with Australian artist, printmaker and book-binder, Glen Skein. Participants bring along any small scale prints, objects they may want to include and collected materials: leaves, feathers, fabrics, etc. The workshop will be on 30 September and 1 October at a cost of \$140. There are limited places, so please enrol early.

**Gallery Exhibitions:** **June:** *'Dawn to Dusk'*, watercolours of Kawhia Harbour by Hilary Ramage. Julienne Francis is the featured printmaker. **July:** *'Stitch and Print'*, an exhibition to coincide with the Embroiderers' Guild Conference. Work from Laura Hudson, Kate Hill, Jane Siddall and Carole Shephard.

In September there will be an open exhibition entitled 'Manuscripts and Artist Books'. If you have a piece you would like to include, please contact Hilary.

For more details phone Hilary on 871 9890 or visit the gallery. Hours: Friday to Monday 10:00am – 4:00pm.

## PUTTING YOUR BEST FEET FORWARD

In our last issue we looked at deep tissue massage; this time we're heading south, to the parts of our body that often get the most use – and abuse! Angela Elvin is a practitioner of the ancient and natural form of healing known as Reflexology. This works by getting rid of poisons and toxins in the body, and giving it a good 'housecleaning'. Pressure is applied to various parts of the foot, stimulating the internal organs and circulation, relieving nerve tension and relaxing the whole body. This is not just about feet, it's a whole body experience! After a hard game of rugby (or netball...or golf...) this sounds a great way to treat the feet. Angela can also provide therapeutic and sports massage. The clinic is open some late



nights and weekends by appointment. Phone: 871 9312.

## THE PERSIMMON TREE CAFÉ WARMS UP FOR WINTER

At last! Saturday night dining is now available at The Persimmon Tree Café. Owners

Andrew and Michelle are delighted to offer a bistro style menu with old favourites and new ones too. "We are now licensed and have beer and wine available to complement your meal" says Michelle, "and we can also accommodate large group bookings with a minimum of 15 people up to 50 people any night of the week." Day-times continue to be popular with both locals and those coming from further afield to enjoy great food with the mountain as a wonderful backdrop. Bookings are recommended for Saturday nights, or large groups.

## MARKET STALLHOLDERS FROM FAR AND WIDE

As usual, I took a stroll around the monthly market. I am always amazed at the variety of stallholders, and one of the newest I have come across is possibly the only producer to provide his own music, bringing guitar and voice to attract the punters! American born, but Kiwi in heart, Lott Larsen combines his love of bluegrass music and his passion for organic growing, and has been carefully nurturing bees at his Oparau property for the past three years. "Super Bee Liquid Honey is now available fresh out of the hive" Lott told me. He then hastened to add, "We're not implying that our bees are special, we think all bees are super! But the place where these bees live is special. Oparau is a wee village nestled between Mt Pirongia and the Tasman Sea, surrounded by thousands of acres of flowering trees in old growth native bush. Yummy yummy honey!" Bee pollen is also available. Labelled a super-food by some, bee pollen from your local area can help build up an immunity to local airborne pollens and hayfever! And fresh bee pollen is a tasty treat! Packaging is recycled jars; this small enterprise relies on local support to supply clean jars with lids. If you'd like to try some honey, pollen, or have jars you'd like to pass on to Superbee, contact [superbee@xnet.co.nz](mailto:superbee@xnet.co.nz)

At the same market I bought some fantastic locally grown and cured bacon, a bottle of Pirongia's own Olive Oil, and enjoy another awesome cup of Origin Coffee – all the



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## HOME BIRTH...NATURALLY!

For well women birth is a normal, healthy, active process that in the majority of cases should not require medical or technological intervention. In 2002, the World Health Organisation stated that 80% of women should be able to have a normal birth with no intervention.

Birth is a powerful, affirming, normal physiological process – if allowed to proceed naturally, birth reinforces family bonds, empowers women and enhances their self confidence – all of which they need to effectively mother their babies (Donley 1986). Evidence shows that home birth supported by Home Birth midwives provided the best possible opportunity for women to regain responsibility for their own reproduction and to have a normal, natural birth. Birthing women and their partners have the right to retain ultimate control over their birth and the decisions which affect them and their bodies/babies.

Karene Clark has been a midwife for 20 years – and in this time has worked as a midwife in hospital and birthing unit settings and with women at home. “Both of my babies were born at home, the second here in Pirongia, a community we have been a part of for the last 15 years”, says Karene. “I am passionate about providing midwifery care to women and their families planning to home birth.

I believe that pregnancy and birth are normal healthy processes and I work to support and encourage women through this wondrous journey into their early parenting weeks.”

Karene can be contacted on 871 9114.

## TUPPERWARE

For busy mums a Tupperware party is fuss-free way to have a great time catching up with friends and family, and as the host you can earn some fantastic gifts. There are themes ideal for mums such as cooking demonstrations, cocktail or chocoholic. Also, the new Kids Kitchen, an interactive cooking demonstration, is popular because it's a fantastic excuse to get together with your kids, create some delicious treats with Tupperware products, pick up some expert tips and techniques, and have a lot of fun.

For more information, a catalogue or to book a party contact Kylie on 871 9622 or [pkoutdoors@gmail.com](mailto:pkoutdoors@gmail.com)

## 145 Years Ago in the Village

Yes, we know this is one of your favourite articles but we found Alan in Scotland and, understandably, he hasn't been able to produce an article in time for this edition.

## BUSINESS OR FARM OWNERS

You're in business? Maybe you've just started a business? Chances are its hard to find the time for those time-consuming administrative jobs like the bookwork, GST returns and all those other duties that have to be done. Janine Monk of Smart Business Support Services Ltd can help by providing assistance with whatever needs doing in a minimal amount of time. Janine started her business support agency seven years ago in Tauranga.

“I can help you with accounts payable and receivable, stock control, GST, payroll, PAYE, cash flows and any other administrative requirement”, she says. Offering confidentiality and competitive prices, Janine can either come to your office or work from her own office. Until the end of June any new weekly client to sign up will receive two complimentary business support hours. Contact Janine on 07 871 9557, 0273 216 720 or [info@sbss.co.nz](mailto:info@sbss.co.nz)

## CUPCAKE CRAZE COMES TO THE COUNTRY

If lately you've been following cooking competitions on TV, or flicked through a magazine, you won't have missed the growing trend for beautifully decorated cupcakes.

More decadent than any muffin or brownie could ever be, they will have divine 'frosting' and can be adorned with silver and gold leaf, miniature sugar shapes and flowers. A single cupcake makes a gorgeous gift, a plateful make an incredible centrepiece for an old-fashioned (or ultra-modern!) tea party. A quick 'google' reveals corporate cupcakes, cupcake wedding cakes, and even cupcake bouquets to deliver to the sweet tooth of your dreams!

Jenny Taylor of The Te Pahu Country Retreat is offering a chance to learn how to make some of these confections for yourself. A 'cupcake class' is being held at the Corcoran Road property on 17 July. “We have more great news too”, says Jenny. “The Retreat now has a 4\* Qualmark rating and is a self contained two bedroom apartment, perfect if you have guests coming from out of town and no room to host them – or feel like a weekend away yourself.” Contact Jenny on 07 825 9812 or see [www.tepahu.com](http://www.tepahu.com)

## Acorn & Rye

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John & Jenny Mortland

## Somersal B&B / Wedding Venue

1724 McClure Street, RD 6, Pirongia  
Te Awamutu 3876, New Zealand

Ph: 871 9199 or 021 232 3981

and see [www.somersal.co.nz](http://www.somersal.co.nz)  
for information and photographs.

# DIARY

Regular fixtures and special events in Pirongia. For more information and contact details, refer to your Local Directory.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Location</b>
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Pilates	Topsey 871 9290	Memorial Hall
Monday	Craft Group	Barbara 871 9494	St Saviour's Church
1st & 3rd Thursdays	Plunket Clinic	Penny 871 9113	Sports Centre
1st & 3rd Tuesday	Mt Pirongia Lions	Lesley 871 9664	Pirongia School Hall
3rd Tuesday	Creative Fibre Group	Gaylene 871 9572	Community Chapel
1st Wednesday	Pirongia Senior Citizens	Jessie 871 8802	Bowling Club
3rd Wednesday	Ratepayers Meeting	John 871 9548	Memorial Hall
2nd Wednesday	Women's Institute	Beryl 871 9618	Memorial Hall
Every Sunday	Anglican Church Service	Tim 027 209 740	St Saviour's Church
Friday Evenings	500 Card Club	Jessie 871 8802	Mangapiko Hall
Friday Mornings	Playgroup	Kate 871 9570	Te Pahu Preschool
Last Sunday	Pirongia Country Market	Shirley 871 9536	Memorial Hall
Monday Evenings	Table Tennis restarts April	Brett 07 847 7569	Te Rore Hall
Tuesdays/Thursdays	Outdoor Bowls	Office 871 9784	Bowling Club
Weekly on Thursday Morning	Mainly Music	Susan 871 8128	St Saviour's Church
Weekly on Tuesday	Pippins, Brownies, Guides	Sonja 871 9517	Sports Centre
Fortnightly on Wednesday	ICONZ	Graham 870 2400	Community Centre
Third Sunday Evening	Interdenominational Service	Trevor 872 8102	Community Chapel
<b>OTHER CONTACTS</b>	Pirongia Golf Club	Murray 871 9880	<a href="http://www.pirongiagolfclub.co.nz">www.pirongiagolfclub.co.nz</a>
	Historic Society	Alan 872 8088	
	Playcentre	Office 871 9669	
	Fire Brigade	Office 871 9986	
	<b>Sports Clubs</b>	Office 871 9898	
	Chairman	Layne 021 179 7824	<a href="mailto:chipkerr@xtra.co.nz">chipkerr@xtra.co.nz</a>
	Pirongia Rugby Club	Te Oti 027 590 2435	
	Junior Rugby	Malcolm 871 9171	
	Netball	Audrey 027 500 3024	<a href="mailto:audrey.kaihe@twoa.ac.nz">audrey.kaihe@twoa.ac.nz</a>

Is your event missing? Email us in time for our Spring issue: [susanft68@gmail.com](mailto:susanft68@gmail.com)

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kylie, corner of crozier st & mcclure st, pirongia, ph 07 872 8073