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PIKO NEWS



Yes it is great to be home! Since the end of 2015 we have been back at 229 Kilmore Street we are thrilled with our new, 'green' building. It's a bit bigger than the original and the office is now on the lower floor with the upstairs now used as a workshop space and yoga room for hire.

Happy 40th Birthday Piko Wholefoods!

What a significant birthday to celebrate in Christchurch!

As a workers co-operative, we are stoked to have reached such an incredible milestone. It's all thanks to our tremendous customers and our exceptional suppliers, with whom we could not have such a diverse, delicious and ethical range of produce and grocery products.

Our ethos is as strong now as it was in 1979; to include environmental concerns in food choices, to make organic and wholefoods available and affordable and to pay our growers/producers fairly for their hard work. That is why we are so unique, so adaptable and here for the long term.



We are celebrating!

From **11 - 24 March** we will have a huge range of specials in store. The specials have been offered by our suppliers to say "Thanks!" to our customers. There will be tastings, and giveaway hampers to win for those shopping with us over this festive time!

The tastings give you a chance to meet our suppliers directly and see who is behind the scenes of the products we house in our delicious store. The giveaway hampers are from our suppliers and from Piko to you, our customers and our suppliers, who we thank dearly for being part of our epic journey. May you feel enriched and inspired by being part of our organic story.

We want to thank all of our suppliers offering to be a part of our birthday celebration.

Special thanks go to businesses that have been on this road along side us, **Ceres Organics**, **Chantal Organics**, **Kings Seeds** and **Trade Aid**.

How it all began....

Back in March 1979 Piko Wholefoods Co-operative began trading in a small shop at 225 Kilmore Street. In February 1981 Piko moved to 229 Kilmore Street. The shop aimed to place people before profit.

One of the reasons for starting Piko was to provide an outlet for organically grown produce, vegetables, grains, beans, dried fruits, nuts, herbs and spices. Hans, the co-operative's full-time worker at the time, grew most of the vegetables on empty sections in the Avon Loop area.

Piko was committed to bulk purchases and simple, self-packaging to keep prices down. The shop provided and still does provide space for community notices. By operating collectively, the co-operative provided flexible working hours, part-time work and an interesting alternative to the boss-worker relationship. Knowledge of tasks was to be shared so that all members understood the different functions and were given the opportunity to learn new skills.

As we grew the Piko group formed **Te Whanau Trust ('the family' in Maori)** to be an umbrella structure, to co-ordinate its activities in the Northeast inner city of Christchurch. This trust was able to look after the political side of things so that the Piko meetings could focus on the business side without feeling overwhelmed.

The **Otakaro Land Trust** was established (**Otakaro means 'the place of play'**) to deal with all transactions concerning land. It was set up as a common ownership organisation with aims to provide accommodation and property to further the wider objective of Te Whanau Trust.



Piko Wholefoods first shop at 225 Kilmore Street (1979).



Piko Wholefoods second store at 229 Kilmore Street (1981).

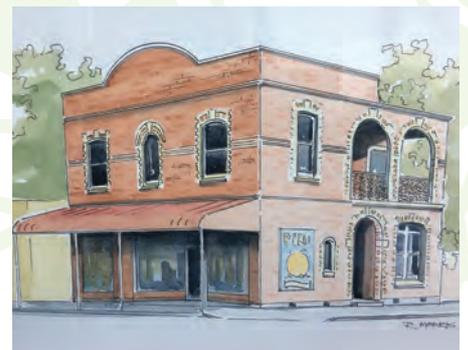


Some members of the co-operative many years ago: Rebecca, Aishling, Tineke, Brigette, Sabina, Kiri, Rich. Standing outside the south facing front door under the veranda.



Piko Wholefoods second store at 229 Kilmore Street.

The present Piko building was bought in 1980 and late in 1978 a large site in Peterborough Street was bought by the land trust. The **Peterborough Street Community Living Project** was founded with the aim of enabling people to live, work and grow some of their food on the site. It still thrives as a community with many of its original ideals.



The original 229 Kilmore Street building as depicted by R Morris, historic building artist.

Christchurch Earthquakes

The shop itself was destroyed by the Christchurch Earthquakes. Very luckily, earthquake strengthening repairs had been finished on the historic building which meant that no one died. It could have been very bad had the building not had its renovation.



The original 229 Kilmore Street building was historic and well loved by our co-operative and customers. The upstairs office also had spaces for consultation rooms where health practitioners worked.



The 22nd February 2010 earthquake in Christchurch could have killed shoppers and workers. But with the recently completed earthquake strengthening we had no casualties, despite Brigette working upstairs in the office at the time of the quake!

The event sent our workers to a temporary building on Stanmore road. This had great parking, but was in no way an ideal shop for our collective.

Fortunately we had customers who sought us out amongst the chaos of Christchurch and we continued to trade. Thank you to all of those who shopped with us at this time, we could not have survived through this time without you.

Piko ran out of the temporary site for four and a half years before moving into our lovely new shop back at home on Kilmore Street. The design of the building was to have a low environmental impact, utilising natural wood finishes, solar power to run the shop and ethically sourced wood.



The temporary building on Stanmore Road 2010 to late 2015 was terribly cold in winter and too hot in summer. It had great parking but was not ideal for our co-operative. Still we are an adaptable group and we made good of it.



Our new building on our original site at 229 Kilmore Street.



Piko Co-operative 2019: Hannah, Eroica, Elena, Kiyomi, Brigitte, Katy, Tineke, Sal, Sally, Bonnie, Laura and Rene. Absent - Lisa was on honeymoon.

Over 40 years the organic industry has changed a lot!!

The vegetarian sector has also changed a lot over this time.

There are so many more products and supply lines open to us, so much variety to choose from. People are choosing a broad range of eating styles to improve their health and wellbeing.

We have always been a vegetarian store and in 2014 we became **Christchurch's first BioGro Certified Organic Retail Store**. This means we are audited by BioGro to ensure that our systems are robust and our customers can trust the provenance of everything in store.

As a **low-profit charitable trust**, a chunk of our profits are dished out to various groups within our wide community! Checkout our website www.pikowholefoods.co.nz for an updated list of the various groups we have donated to most recently. For example **Otakaro Orchard, Cultivate Christchurch, Christchurch Women's Centre**. And many many fundraisers and community groups. It's a real pleasure to be able to provide resources to some fantastic groups here in Christchurch.