

The SNOWFED

For 35 years

Methven & Foothills Community Newspaper - Owned by Mount Hutt College

Taite 9 Hepetema 2021
Thursday 9 September 2021

Putanga 32
Issue 32

Annie Jacobs



Getting the chop for a great cause!

Before the chop

You may no longer recognise this man.

Last week, all for a great cause, a member of the local Police, Ross Watson lost his hair, and we're not talking about his temper, or what was on top of his head!

Recently, the Methven Rugby Club held the Gorge Match. The proceeds from the match and subsequent auction that followed are used as a fundraiser, which the Rugby Club sends in the direction of Methven St John.

In the aftermatch banter that ensued, Craig Carter was the bright spark who came up with the good idea of the beard coming off for St John's.

"I was at the Rugby club for the Gorge Match. Afterwards there was an auction of things for sale. I had had a few drinks and made a purchase at the auction," said Craig,

more inside



The new Ross Watson



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Artist's impression



Artist's impression



Artist's impression



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PUKA RATAKA (Diary)

COMMUNITY

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TUESDAY and FRIDAY

Methven Public Library 2pm-4pm
Methven Museum 2pm-4pm

WEDNESDAY

Methven Toy Library 10.30am-1pm
Busy Bees, Mt Hutt Elim Church 9-11am

SATURDAY

Methven Toy Library 9.30am-12noon
Methven Public Library 10-11am
AA Meeting Methven Primary School Library, 6pm

SEPTEMBER

- 18 Peak to Pub
- 20 Methven Community Board, 10.30am, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall
- 25 Miss Methven
- 27 Boulevard Day, Ashburton Domain
- 27 Sept-2 Oct Bookarama

UPCOMING

- 3 October Methven Mud and Steel
- 14 October St Johns Garden Fete, Rakaia, 10am-4pm, tickets on Eventfinda
- 16 October Relay For Life, Ashburton Domain
- Farmstrong Comedy, Mt Hutt Memorial Hall
- 17 October Jackson Holmes Salmon Run, Rakaia Domain, tickets on Eventfinda
- 31 October Methven Motor Show

Information inside this week's Snowfed may change due to Alert Levels.

Stay safe!

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Getting the chop for a great cause!

continued from the
front page



Courtney armed with the clippers for the first cut



Nearly there



What do we do with the hair?

"I saw Ross at the auction and asked, How much to have your beard taken off?"

"How much will you pay?" joked Ross.

Craig offered \$1,000, and the deal was sealed!

Under COVID 19 Level 3 safety conditions, the beard was carefully shaved off by daughter Courtney. Half way through the cut, Ross was already noticing the difference.

"Gosh, it's a lot colder with it off," he laughed.

"It took about a year to grow it that long," said Ross, who was really happy for it to be removed for a good cause. "Methven St Johns do a great job, and it's good to be able to help them out."

"With the current rules around mask-wearing, and wearing them safely, Police were advised not to have long beards," he said.

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Farewell to a

Annie Jacobs

Notably marked by the arrival of a beautiful blue letter in the post, Heather Robinson's birth on 13 September 1933 was announced by her Parents, Cuthbert and Jean Robinson, who lived at Staveley near the Red Cottage.

Heather was the eldest of five children, having one brother and four sisters. She was known to be a very responsible child whilst growing up, who loved to do cartwheels, and enjoyed fresh flowers. Her family moved to Highbank, where Cuthbert was working for the Ministry of Works on the Rangitata Diversion Race/Highbank Power Scheme. Heather started at Highbank School in 1938, (later attending the school's 50th Jubilee).



Her firm friends were Dulcie Thomas (Lyttle), and Zeta Williams (Church). Heather was Dulcie's bridesmaid, and have remained friends until this day.

After leaving school, Heather worked in the local bakery (where The Green Parrot is now). "Mum used to answer the fire bell for the fire brigade. I think Mum had to go down and ring it if there was a fire. I believe Selwyn Allred's Dad was fire chief at the time," said Shirley Fitzgerald, one of Heather's daughters.

Heather also worked in a hotel in Timaru, and it was there she would meet Clem Mellish who was a high country shearer. The couple went on to marry, (Clem was 20 years older than Heather), and have

Wayne, Shirley, Gerald (Wuffy), Wendy, and Mutu. Mutu had double pneumonia as a baby, and had to go into an oxygen tent), and Maree.

With his tough start to life, Mutu was the only baby in the family who was christened.

"Our family lived on Carr Street in Methven, moved to Lampard Street, and then 15 Blackford Street where we spent most of our childhood. Because Dad was a shearer and was away a lot, we grew up as a tight family unit.



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Special Lady

Mum was the matriarch. We loved Mum to bits, and were very close to Dad.

I remember as a child, Mum was always so busy – we didn't have a washing machine," Shirley said. "There was curve in the hedge where she'd chat with the neighbour after they'd pegged out their washing. My Dad was a very good-looking man. He passed in 1983. Mum was 51. I was 51 when my husband Gerard died, and Mum said, "it's a very long time to be on your own."

Clem never seemed to be an older man. He coached rugby, and frequently travelled around to watch sport everywhere. He went eeling in Bowyers Stream, would go rock hunting, and "kept young" because of his family.

Heather cleaned at Methven High School, (while Clem was still alive).

"All of us kids would go and help Mum clean at school after school had finished," remembers Shirley.

Later Heather got a job as a cook at The Brown Pub, and worked there for a long time.

Heather was involved in Methven Red Cross, and went to 206 in Ashburton – a social group where they played games and had lunch. She did Housie at Methven House, was involved in Methven Friendship Club, and attended the Methven Foot Clinic. Heather loved Housie, was an avid reader, loved teaching kids card games, had time for others, and had loads of patience.

"I watched Mum sitting on a seat outside near the Methven roundabout doing 'Round and round the garden' with a wee child for ages, one day while I was at work," said Shirley.



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Heather is warmly remembered as having a wonderful sense of humour, a great booming laugh, which endeared people to her and is a wonderful testament of who she was. She helped lots of people, and loved to do it! Living in Chapman Street, Heather would cook meals for two men who lived nearby, up until six months ago. For the four months prior to Heather's passing, she lived at Radius Millstream Ashburton in assisted living.

"Mum wasn't just a Mum (to us), but Mum to many. Old friends have said their hearts are broken at Mum's passing - that's the calibre of who Mum was," said Shirley.

Heather is survived by her four sisters, Jeanette, Wendy, Karen and Margaret, who all live in Ashburton.

*A warm farewell to
Heather Mellish*

aged 87

13.9.33 - 15.8.21

Snow White asleep at the moment

Annie Jacobs



With not many weeks until the dates that Methven Theatre Company's pantomime was due to hit the stage, true to the story, Snow White has fallen asleep, albeit early.

With Alert Level 4 affecting rehearsals, the Theatre Company decided to send Snow White to sleep now – making the most of Alert Level 3 and 4 time when rehearsals cannot take place.

This has placed the show on hold while they look for new dates that will work in with when she wakes up.

One of the dwarfs has been called away to a diamond mine elsewhere, but will be back soon.

Keep an eye on your Snowfed, as when Snow White wakes up, and the new dates will be advertised as soon as they have been set.

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"Lean on a gate, call a mate"

The above number eight wire awareness campaign has struck a chord and taken flight – because it really is that simple.

Rural advocate and Rural Communicator of the year "Wiggy" (Craig Wiggins), recently launched his grassroots campaign encouraging people from across the regions to take five minutes out of their day to "lean on a gate, talk to a mate."

"It's a straightforward message aimed at urging people to stay connected, while also raising mental health awareness," said Wiggy.

"Yep, life is busy, and we all know it is easy to get buried in work commitments, but along with being a positive and practical action, this is an easy thing to perform and can make a world of difference."

Wiggy's Facebook video has racked up thousands of views all over the country, especially amongst the rural sector, as the slogan "Lean on a gate, talk to a mate," resonates. Communities are genuinely getting behind the need to stay connected, just like we used to do before people got too busy to stop and have a yarn.

Communities are resourceful, we see this all the time and Wiggy says the video is targeted at rebuilding community spirit and generating a nation-wide connection across rural and urban sectors.

"I want to encourage people all over the country to take five minutes out of their day, and ring a mate and check in, talk to a neighbour, family member or a colleague. Whether they have been having a rough time, or you just haven't spoken for a while, make time to ring them ... now."

"I want this to be seen as a call-to-action because we know that often, just a quick chat can make a huge difference."

While the campaign has a light-hearted vibe, the slogan undoubtedly has a serious undertone too. It's aimed at taking steps to reduce stress and anxiety by being proactive, sharing the load and checking-in on people you care about. With 40,000 plus views, the "Lean on a gate, talk to a mate" video has gone viral.

Wiggy is hoping the phone calls go viral also ... so what are you waiting for, pick up the phone!



Community Board Meeting Date Change

Methven Community Board's September meeting has been changed to Monday 20 September at 10.30am, at the Mount Hutt Memorial Hall.

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Staying alert at Level 2

I want to thank everyone here in Mid Canterbury for all the hard work over the past few weeks as together, we've stayed home to keep COVID at bay.

It's been great to see so many people following the Alert Level 3 and 4 rules and to see some of the creative ways you have brightened up life in your bubbles.

As we make the move down to Alert Level 2, it's important we all continue to play our part to stamp out COVID. Delta is more infectious than the original virus, and it can move faster, so while we are no longer at the higher alert level, that doesn't mean we can take our eyes off the ball. We all need to stay alert and keep up those key health behaviours that have helped us beat COVID in the past.

We know that the Delta variant of COVID-19 has changed the game, so in order to beat it, we've had to adapt our game plan too. Level 2 is different to how it's been before. Here are some of the golden rules:

with the rules around customers being seated and tables being separated, reduces the risk of super spreader events.

For outdoor venues, you can have up to 100 people in that space, alongside the rules of being seated and separated.

The second change relates to indoor public facilities like gyms, museums and libraries. Previously these venues have had no hard limit on how many people are allowed to be in a space, but a one metre distancing rule as a proxy for how many people could be inside. We're now bringing this into alignment with the rules for retail and supermarkets, which is two metres.

The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones is to get vaccinated, and our vaccination rollout is continuing safely at

Level 2. Everyone aged 12 and over is now able to book their vaccine, so if you haven't already done so, I'd really encourage you to head to: bookmyvaccine.nz or call 0800 282 926 to make your appointment.

Thanks again for doing your bit. By staying home and sticking to your bubble, you've helping to save lives and now by adhering to the new rules of Level 2 we can ensure that everyone here in Rangitata can get back to Alert Level 1 sooner.

Please feel free to contact me anytime:

jo.luxton@parliament.govt.nz

or my EA Jess:

jessica.hurst@parliament.govt.nz

...too many people in a shared space with poor ventilation, increases the risk of transmission.

Face coverings are now mandatory at Alert Level 2 whenever you are inside most public venues, such as shopping centres, libraries or retail shops. However, you can take your mask off in hospitality venues so that you can eat and drink. Staff at these venues, and at any public-facing businesses open at Level 2, must wear face coverings.

People should be scanning everywhere they go. However, record keeping is also mandatory under Level 2 for some venues, including bars, restaurants, cinemas, concerts, churches, and close-contact businesses like hairdressers.

Because Delta is more transmissible, we're much more worried about big groups of people. It's now no longer a matter of enough space between you and others; but a matter of too many people in a shared space with poor ventilation, increases the risk of transmission.

For indoor venues, there is a limit of 50 people for indoor gatherings, hospitality settings and event venues. This, coupled

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Do you want a new town clock?

Annie Jacobs



For many years, Methven town centre has had a working digital town clock.

The clock was sourced by Ian Fowler, on behalf of the Methven Lions Club.

Ian has continued to service the clock and change the time for a number of years, free of charge. The positioning of the clock is convenient, central, and easily viewed. When working well, it also showed the temperature. The clock has had complimentary use of the Methven Medical

Centre roof and electricity for its lifetime here, but now is malfunctioning and past its use-by-date.

Do you, the community, want a town clock, or should the current one just be removed? Who should own it or pay for it?

Email:

letterbox@snowfed.co.nz or phone 03 302 8437, ext 3.

Skifields set to open in Level 2

Mt Hutt, Coronet Peak, and The Remarkables are preparing to open to guests this Wednesday when the South Island returns to Alert Level 2.

NZSki has welcomed today's changes in alert levels by the Government, which will allow its ski areas in Canterbury and Queenstown to reopen, albeit with restrictions.

NZSki CEO Paul Anderson says, "The past few weeks have been challenging for everyone throughout New Zealand, and we look forward to being able to welcome people back to the snow this week."

"The team have been working to ensure the mountains are ready for our guests to return and that we can operate safely following all public health advice. The snow's in good shape with more forecast later this week so we expect some great spring skiing conditions for the remainder of the season," Anderson adds.

A FAQ web page has been set up for mountain guests explaining these in detail.

The links to these pages are:

Mt Hutt: <https://www.mthutt.co.nz/our-stories/covid-19/>

Coronet Peak: <https://www.coronetpeak.co.nz/our-stories/covid-19/>

The Remarkables: <https://www.themarkables.co.nz/our-stories/covid-19/>

All three mountains are introducing a "scanning gateway" on the access road where guests will be asked to scan in using the Covid Tracer App on their way up.



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Week 1

What is a Carbohydrate?

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Carbohydrates are further grouped into starches, sugar and fibre. This week our focus is on fibre. Fibre comes from plant sources, and it is carbohydrate that cannot be fully digested and absorbed. You may have heard of the terms “soluble” and “insoluble” fibre.

Soluble fibre soaks up fluid in the gut for our stools to make a smooth transit. It also lowers blood cholesterol and stabilises blood sugars.

Insoluble fibre bulks the stools and is helpful for digestive issues like constipation and diverticular disease.

Therefore fibre is important not only for bowel motions and protection of bowel diseases, but as you can see also help lower risks of cholesterol/heart disease and development of diabetes.

In New Zealand, most of us are getting less than half of our daily recommended intake.

How much fibre should we be getting? Men 30grams daily, and Women 25grams daily.

Easy ways to increase your fibre:

- switch white breads, pasta, rice or flour with wholemeal options, you might try half and half first
- increase vegetable and fruit intake, leaving the skin on
- add or switch out for chickpeas, kidney beans or lentils in your meals
- snack on a handful of nuts or seeds

Remember, when increasing your fibre, do it gradually and increase your water intake.

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We have a lot to be grateful for!



Kia ora Koutou. Alert Level 3 and 4 has been a great time for us to reflect with less time amongst the hustle and bustle of the classroom. We have a lot to be grateful for!

Technology for keeping us connected: We are so lucky to be able to video chat with our classmates. We have baked cakes, made ice-cream together and have observed science experiments. We have

been taken on a virtual farm tour and shared stories of our experiences learning from home. Hero (our school app) has been an awesome tool which helped us share photos about what we have learnt at home.

Whānau for keeping their children healthy, entertained and educated: Thank you parents, caregivers, grandparents, big brothers and sisters for putting your teacher hat on, for looking after each other and your hauora, wellbeing. There has been a lot of quality, creative and hands on learning going on at home. Students have been collecting eggs, measuring rainfall, creating collages, visiting Dad on the farm, helping feed the lambs, making gingerbread men, writing stories, practicing counting with cereal, doing yoga, acting out stories and so much more.

Our community for all their support: Thank you to our local community for supporting each other during this uncertain time. To the essential workers for keeping us fed and safe. To those out walking or biking who are generous with their smiles. To my colleagues for supporting one another and making online learning fun. To our school community for staying connected by tuning into the online baking lessons and for your supportive comments on our MPS Facebook page.

Me mahi tahi tātaou mo te oranga o te katoa - we should work together for the wellbeing of everyone.

Take care and I hope to see you soon!

Erica George

Methven Primary School

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GROW YOUR OWN

Mary Ralston

There's been some lovely lockdown spring weather, as well as the windy days. It's time to get started in the veggie garden.

The highest priority would be to pull out any weeds that are starting to flower or go to seed. Remove the flower or seed heads and put the green part in the compost. Pull out other weeds too – if there aren't flower or seed heads, just leave on the soil surface as mulch or put in the compost bin. Cut down and dig in green manure crops if you grew them, or bury bokashi-treated scraps, or add compost before planting to give fertility and soil structure a boost.

The veges that can be planted now are the hardy and cold tolerant brassicas – cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage. The leafy green brassicas; pak choy, rocket, mesclun, etc can also be planted and grow easily from seed. Onion, lettuce, silverbeet and spinach seedlings, or seeds, can be planted now although anytime in the next month will be okay too. There are good quality seedlings available at Hammer Hardware. Don't plant carrot or parsnip seeds yet – we may as well wait until the soil has warmed up a bit; any time lost by sowing later will be caught up, and the plants will grow more vigorously when the soil is warm.

Peas are very happy to be planted early – they don't mind cool soil temperatures or the on and off weather of spring. They are a great thing to grow in the home veggie garden as, unlike a lot of veges, you can't often buy fresh peas in the shops, and the frozen ones are like Greggs instant coffee compared to a good espresso. I like to sow several different varieties of peas. My favourite are sugar snap peas – the seed and the pod are cooked and eaten together. Snow peas are the ones that are just the pod. "Normal" peas need to be podded first and you eat just the seed.

I planted climbing sugar snap peas against a wire netting frame and ordinary (not climbing) ones nearby. These will also need some sort of support. I'll also plant "normal" peas. Hopefully they will be ready at different times.

Birds are often an issue with peas – you may need to cover them with hoops and bird netting.



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To apply for this position (or for further details) please email your CV and cover letter to the Principal's Secretary, Sheree McKay: college@mthutt.school.nz

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Applications close on
Friday 24 September
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7 Mays Lane, Methven

4 2 2 2

Sunny and inviting, the central of hub of this large family home is the open plan kitchen, dining, living area. Three bedrooms have built in wardrobes and the large master bedroom has an ensuite and walk in wardrobe with sliding doors that open onto a private patio area with a spa pool. In addition to the ensuite in the master bedroom, there are two separate bathrooms, a separate office and a double garage.

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30001

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Deadline Sale
closing 2pm Wednesday,
22 Sept
(unless sold prior)

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by appointment

Shirley Fitzgerald
027 220 1528

9 Alma Place, Methven

4 2 2 2

Built in 2019 this modern home has all you could wish for. Executive kitchen in neutral timber tones with all the extras. Family room has a high stud and feature gas fireplace. The colour palette is soft green giving the feeling of warmth and comfort. This area opens out to an entertainment area with an outdoor fireplace. Convenient office space, separate media room. Four spacious bedrooms. 795m2 section.

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