SNOWFED

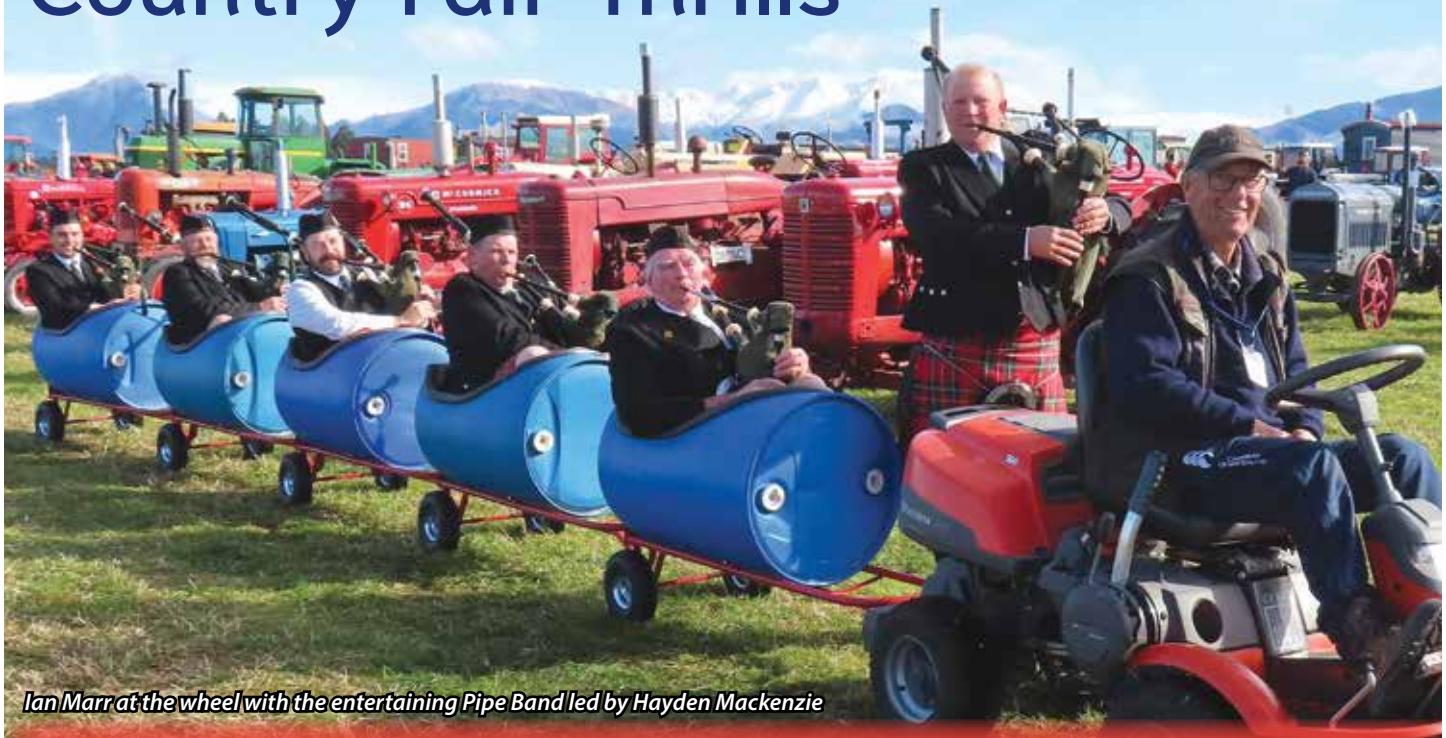
Snowfed 40 years since 1986

Methven & Foothills Newspaper - *owned by Mount Hutt College*

Rāpare 23 Paengawhāwhā 2026 Putanga 12
Thursday 23rd April 2026 Issue 12

NZ Ploughing & Country Fair Thrills

Annie Jacobs



Ian Marr at the wheel with the entertaining Pipe Band led by Hayden Mackenzie

Crowds thronged to the NZ National Ploughing Championships and Methven Country Fair at the weekend.,

The event kindly held on Andrew Currie's property, was a culmination of regional ploughing competitions around the country, with winners eligible to compete in the Worlds in 2027.

Over 30 plough men and women converged into Methven for the event which attracted contestants from all over New Zealand.

The well-run event was organised by Methven Ploughing Association and Methven Vintage Club, which featured the competitions, a country fair, loads of activities for families and enough to entertain people of all ages.

The ploughing community had a number of events over the course of the days leading up to and including the competitions, culminating with a special dinner.

"Dinner at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall was a great night, said Sandy Redmond, a leading organiser and wife of Methven Ploughing Association Chairman Bruce Redmond.

Sandy had been busy everywhere over the weekend and did a stint on parking, when a car pulled up and a small boy jumped out.

"I've just come to the Dinosaur Dig, whereabouts is it?" he asked.

"He thought there would be real dinosaur bones," laughed Sandy. The Dinosaur Dig was an extremely popular activity amongst the children who hunted for plastic dinosaurs that had been buried in a pile of wood chip. When children found ten dinosaurs in five minutes, they got to choose a prize.

It was one of the biggest New Zealand Finals that some had ever attended and while it would have been lovely if it had been warmer, it was great that it wasn't bucketing down with previously forecasted torrents of rain.

Many of the public were amazed at the size and scale of the event and were surprised at the different types of ploughing, the skill and level of precision required.

continues on page 3

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PUKA RATAKA Daily Diary

This space is available for events that are advertised in Snowfed - to advertise, see below.

APRIL

25 ANZAC Day, details below
Open Day at Methven Library, 2-4pm
28 U3A Ashb. Future of RSA in NZ

MAY

6 First Aid Training
7 Lions Golf Tournament, 10.30am
11-12 A&P Winterfeed Competition
15 Lions Machinery Auction

UPCOMING

19 June Mens Health Night, MHMH

COMMUNITY

RUBBISH BINS ***red bin, glass recycling.***
SCRAP METAL DROP OFF ***opposite the Police Station***

TUESDAY
Methven Toy Library 9-10.30am
Methven Bowling Club 1.30pm
Methven Public Library 2pm-4pm
Methven Museum 2pm-4pm

WEDNESDAY
Methven Green Waste drop off, Vaughans Rd, 12.30pm-2.30pm

THURSDAY
Tai Chi, All Saints Church, 9.15am
Methven Bowling Club 1.30pm

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

SATURDAY
Methven Toy Library 9-10.30am
Methven Public Library 10-11am
AA Meeting All Saints Church, 6pm

SUNDAY
Methven Green Waste drop off, Vaughans Rd, 12pm-4pm

Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground.
Theodore Roosevelt

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Go to: **www.snowfed.co.nz**
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ANZAC DAY

National Anthem of New Zealand

Māori / phonetic English

E Ihowa Atua,
Ear Ee-hor-waa A-too-a
(Oh Lord, God)

O ngā iwi mātou rā,
Or na ee-wee maa-toe-ra
(Of nations and of us too)

Āta whakarongona;
Aaa-taa faa-kaa-ror-nor-naa
(Listen to us)

Me aroha noa
Mare a-ror-haa nor-aa
(Cherish us)

Kia hua ko te pai;
Kee-aa hoo-aa kor tear pie
(Let goodness) flourish,

Kia tau tō atawhai;
Kee-aa toe tor aa-taa-fai
(May your blessings flow)

Manaakitia mai
Ma-na-a-kee-te-a my
(Defend)

Aotearoa
Aa-or-tear-a-ror-a
(Land of the Long white cloud {NZ})

God of Nations, at thy feet, in the bonds of love we meet,

Hear our voices we entreat,

God defend our free land.

Guard Pacific's triple star, from the shafts of strife and war,

Make her praises heard afar, God defend New Zealand.

ANZAC Day
in the Foothills and Plains
Saturday 25th April

Lauriston

10am ANZAC Community Service at the Lauriston Memorial Hall - please bring a plate for morning tea which will follow the service

Mayfield, Mt Somers and Districts

9.30am Assemble at Panthers Rock carpark, Mayfield
9.45am Parade leaves for the Memorial Hall
10am **Service:** Donna-Marie Lever, Mayfield Memorial Hall
Guest Speaker: Barry Austin. Ashburton Silver Band in attendance. Pictorial Roll of Honour for our fallen. Collection for Dear Effie Charitable Trust and Canterbury Cancer Centre - Cancer Society
11am Artillery Gun Salute in Mayfield Domain
11.30am Morning tea to follow in the Hall, a plate is appreciated
12.30pm Golf match at Mayfield Golf Club, 12.30pm start
1pm Panthers Rock open for refreshments

Methven, Alford Forest, Highbank and Districts

9.10am Assemble at Methven Memorial Arch, McDonald Street, Methven
9.30am Laying of wreaths and poppies. Organisations are welcome to lay wreaths and members of the public are welcome to lay poppies at the Arch.
9.40am Parade/walk to the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall (outside)
Raising and lowering of the flag and speeches (in Hall if wet)
National Anthem led by Mt Hutt College and community joining in
Morning tea will be served in Mount Hutt Memorial Hall

All welcome

Tractor Spud in the Bucket Competition

John Booth and Paule Crawford

Photo courtesy of Andrew Keeley

Magnificent traction engine ploughing

A highlight for many was watching the horses in action and they did not disappoint. Three teams made up of John Booth and Paule Crawford of Ashburton, John and Sharon Chynoweth of Oxford and Ian and Kathy Cummings of Waiouru showcased how beautifully and skilfully horses can plough.

One local contractor commented that he could not get such a straight neat furrow using GPS in their tractor, compared to what the horses could achieve.

Paula Jordan received the highest points for straightness overall, ploughing using her Granddad's Farmall Tractor.

"It was a really well run event, I wished I had more time to look at the vintage displays," said competitor Derek Houghton who had come from Hamilton. "I really enjoyed it. We're all friends and rivals, yet we all get on really well together.

The vintage machinery displays and games were outstanding. In the centre of the ring were displays of various harvesting equipment ranging from a Case Tin Mill to a Wooden Mill.

Games were held with a Spud in the Bucket competition and a Clothesline competition. On the Saturday Lanz Bulldogs lit their fires in front of the crowd then took off in the Spud in the Bucket competition to the delight of the crowd, who lined the ring in places 5-6 people deep!

Traction Engines did the same competition, surprising the public that traction engines could go so fast backwards! The Clothesline Competition involved drivers racing down to the clothesline and unpegging or repegging all of the washing on the line. Barrel racing and rolling the barrel also entertained, along with the Traction Engine Trek around the barrels.

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Golf Champs at Methven

Methven Golf Club hosted the South Island Championships last week for the Under 19's.

Over 100 students from all over New Zealand attended the event, with the youngest Olivia (11) from Christchurch playing, who has an incredible handicap of 4!

Olivia started playing after going out with her Dad, Andy. "As she got better, I gave up, so now I am her not very professional caddy," he laughed.

Olivia's coach, NZ PGA Pro Peter Davis said, "She's very good. She's the best young girl I've taught and I've been doing this for 58 years." He had told Olivia about the tournament, but she had to get a special exemption to be permitted to play, as she was too young.

Methven Golf Club President Graham Shaw recalled one student that had yesterday shot 65 out on the course. "This is excellent. Our course record for a male at Methven is 64!"

Andy and talented golfer, 11 year old Olivia

On the day Snowfed visited, Olivia had already played her game and shot 81.

"Playing in this level of tournament means she is very good," said Peter.

Practical Training Solutions
South Central
First Aid Training
South Central (formerly Meditrain) are once again conducting full day First Aid and half day refresher training in Methven on:
Wednesday 6th May 2026
To enroll onto these courses or for further details, please contact us on 0508 428 428
Or book on-line at:
www.fasc.nz/bookings.html
PTS is registered with NZQA as a Private Training Establishment (PTE). Our courses are recognised by the Ministry of Education and meet the minimum workplace requirements specified by Worksafe NZ

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Rural

Foodstalls and carts did a roaring trade, as did go-carts and animals to pat. There was a fantastic lineup of vintage tractors, stationary engines, harvesting machinery and vehicles on display.

Andrew Keeley Chairman of Methven Vintage Club said, "The weekend went really good. There were people who had come on Saturday and came back on Sunday. On the Saturday, the Vintage Club had a meal in the marquee and fed just under 100 people. The vintage displays were great. The stand out for me was the Pipe Band Major and the pipers in the Noddy Train! Brilliant weekend - a lot of hard work in the build up, but worth it. The other highlight was seeing Grant Henderson ploughing with his traction engine."

NZ National Ploughing Championships 2026 Winners

Fern Energy Silver Plough Conventional: 1st Mark Dillon (Riversdale), 2nd Derek Houghton (Hamilton), 3rd Shane Burnby (Temuka).

Pioneer Brand Products Reversible: 1st Malcom Taylor (Putaruru), 2nd Murray Baird (Balfour), 3rd Henry Williams (Darfield).

Rural News Horse Plough: 1st John And Sharon Chynoweth (Oxford), 2nd John Booth and Paule Crawford (Ashburton), 3rd Ian and Kathy Cummings (Waiouru).

Holmes Solutions NZ Vintage Ploughing Champion: 1st Paula Jordan (Blenheim), 2nd Ian Cocker (Palmerston North), 3rd Robert Weavers (Geraldine).

Holmes Solutions Contemporary Ploughing: 1st Josh Rushton (Marlborough), 2nd Richard Cooke (Blenheim), 3rd Keith Marychurch (West Melton).

Special Prize Alistair Rutherford Memorial Trophy for Outstanding Contribution to the sport of Ploughing: Alan Begg (ploughed to a high standard at the World Matches and since retiring has help lots of young girls and boys learn the art of ploughing.

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It's Our Birthday

Snowfed 40 years since 1986

Annie Jacobs

It is with much joy we announce that April is the month of Snowfed's 40th Birthday.

It was in 1985, that secondary school teacher Bruce Dickson thought of starting a newspaper which for three issues was called the Diamond Press, Snowfed Schooline (for a number of years) and finally landing on the Snowfed. Bruce had seen a similar idea at a previous school he had taught at in Reefton, where students who either had an interest in Media studies or were keen to learn, wrote articles, booked advertising from local businesses and garnered community support. The newspaper's profit would go towards the student's education at school.

At the then Methven High School, (now Mt Hutt College), Bruce was looking for funds to pay for students' Geography field trips. A newspaper could pay for itself, make a profit to help pay for the field trips and help the community feel connected, keeping them up to date. Students and others could help to write articles and gather up news stories. Armed with this plan, Bruce canvassed the community to gauge support, with a questionnaire.

In 1986, a competition was held at the school to choose the name for the newspaper and it was Chris Staples's name - Snowfed Schoolline that won. Chris continues to live and work locally with his wife, Rana (who used to write as a student for the Snowfed). Rana is a teacher at the College.

The first edition of the Snowfed Schooline was dated 7th April 1986 and printed using a hand-wound Gestetner (this was in the days before photocopiers).

It was largely up to Bruce to organise everything every week and he called on others in the community to contribute. Later on, up to 16 Media students from Bruce's class would learn to write articles, with each student taking a turn to be the Editor.

Two years later Higgins Print in Ashburton printed editions on broadsheet, with a brief interlude on foolscap. This changed to A3 folded in the centre for a new photocopier purchased with donations from the Methven community in 1990, which meant that photos could be printed.

By 1992, Snowfed had an office space in A Block at the College and in 1993 Snowfed changed from using Microsoft computers to Apple to enhance the quality of production and due to the size of the files.

After eight years at the helm, Bruce resigned and Dianne McTigue became the Editor and four years later an updated photocopier was purchased. In the intervening years, there were nine other editors who all improved the paper in many ways, making changes that would continually elevate the Snowfed.

On 24th March 2003, the name was officially changed from Snowfed Schoolline to Snowfed and by 2006, Snowfed was leaping into the future, being the first at the College to establish a website and email address. This enabled the Snowfed to be read from anywhere where there was internet and readership from overseas increased. With Methven having a strong association with tourism and the ski industry, many wanted to stay in touch with the town after they returned home.

It's Our Birthday

Snowfed 40 years since 1986

Two years later, Snowfed had a new logo and was able to print blue on the cover and it was around 2012 that the cover was finally able to be printed in full colour. This was a major job each week for the two part-time staff as colour covers were printed on one photocopier with the interior pages printed on another machine, then the two had to be integrated. During the years, due to curriculum changes and production and print time constraints, there was no longer the input from a whole media class, but quality writing from students continued to feature in Snowfed as did news from the schools in the district.

It was around this time that Heartland Design and Print in Ashburton were enlisted to use their commercial photocopiers to print the Snowfed as it had got too large for the two photocopiers in the tiny back room of the Snowfed office. With not being part of a large corporate organisation that had it's own print factory, Snowfed valued the wonderful support from Heartland. They provided years of excellent service to Snowfed and it was through them that the Snowfed was first stapled, which stopped pages falling out when reading it and made it so much easier for the delivery teams. They also were able to meet rural delivery deadlines.

Snowfed continued to employ three part-time staff; a Graphic Designer, an Editor and an Accounts person.

A very special thanks goes to Dave Dynes and his team of bus drivers. For many, many years, the bus drivers have delivered Snowfeds free of charge to Mayfield Store, Mt Somers Store and Staveley Store on the same day that Methven receives their Snowfed - something that has always been done so that those further out of town don't have to receive delayed service. Many thanks Dave to your and your drivers - your years of kindness are much appreciated!

Throughout the years, the profit made from Snowfed enabled student field trips, contributed to teachers professional development and supported the educational endeavour of Mt Hutt College.

Social Media hit the world and had a major impact on how news was shared. Many newspapers closed down. Others shared their news on social media forums and found the paper copy of their newspaper eventually dried up. At Snowfed, it was glaringly noticeable that advertising and news had changed, yet we still had and continue to have community, business, advertising and readership support.

Change was in the air and Julie Sergeant who had worked at Snowfed for eight years in graphic design and later editing stepped down, having done a fantastic job. In accounts, Bethany Gibbs took over from Sarah Robertson who had done stirling job for a number of years.

At the beginning of 2020, Snowfed had it's first full time staff member with Annie Jacobs who had previously done the graphic design and layout, continuing with that and taking on the Editor role. This was the year that COVID made it's presence felt in the world and despite lockdowns, various restrictions, businesses closing their doors and really tough times, Snowfed grew. Circulation increased. Readership demand increased and the paper thrived. Staff had been looking for

continues on page 8-9

It's Our Birthday

Snowfed 40 years since 1986

The original front page

THE SNOWFED
SCHOOL LINE
April 1986

Hello again and welcome to the first edition of the "Snowfed School Line" Pages. The change in name is due to the recent competition, which was won by Chris Staples. Well done Chris and Thanks to all those who entered.

Why the name? The Board felt that the name of the paper represented the Methven community and schools, hence the paper was going to be "pro-Snowfed" when it came out.

This week we introduce a new regular section, news from our local politicians, Councillor Bayon Harpin. Students please read. We like expecting good news.

Next week we hope to bring you an interview with Stuart McFarlane.

The High Seas

From April 22nd to May 2 Richard Neuze will be participating in the "Spirit of Adventure" programme. Some of the aims are to develop a sense of teamwork and leadership qualities, friendships which will last longer than the project itself, will be made.
Richard was lucky enough to be the boy nominated from our school. He is rather apprehensive as what it will be like but he is looking forward to it.
Congratulations Richard and enjoy yourself.

NOSTALGIA WEEKEND

During twelve a successful reunion was held by the winning Methven Rugby team from the 1986 era. The team was entering for the 8th attempt at winning the Mathews Cup many of the members of the team represented Mid Canterbury. A get-together was held on Friday night, Golden Oldies game on Saturday with the dinner on Sunday during which the guest, Jamie Lean was heard with interest.
"Snowfed School Line" would like to congratulate the 1978 and beyond. This season will see the return of the Mathews Cup to Methven. The M/C Alastair Thomson commented that the reunion was a great success with the team spirit from the playing days still evident.

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clothing
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den Baars Butchery
The Mall - Methven
small goods and friendly service
Phone 28-517
Try us for procedure made beef, sheep and pigs in your freezer

Advertisers/Businesses

As there is only 2 more of school time available on a Friday we will endeavour to pick up most of the advertisements on Wednesday from 1.30pm to 4.30pm especially large adverts. Community news and adverts can be left at the Bookshop or at the High School Phone 28-611

a number of years at options to move the paper to full colour as the demand was increasing, but the cost was out of reach.

In 2022, the Snowfed Internship and Scholarship programme was set up enabling a Mt Hutt College student interested in pursuing a career in media to have a taste of what it is like, with a significant scholarship at the end of the year. It was so thrilling to present the first student, Jess Bleach, with that scholarship. Jess went on to do a degree in Media Studies at Victoria University in Wellington.

It was in 2022 that Snowfed sadly farewelled Heartland Design and Print and moved printing to Christchurch company, Canprint who could offer full colour and work with Snowfed's tight turnaround times. This was a game changer. Advertisers and readership loved it! More changes occurred as rural delivery services were decreased. This meant that Snowfed's production, print and distribution turnaround times needed to be earlier so that rural readership (Snowfed's largest demographic), could receive their newspapers by a Friday and not miss out on advertised activities occurring at the weekends. Canprint, New Zealand Couriers, Post Haste Couriers and our Rural Delivery teams deliver admirably on that score! It was around this time, we learned that farms on the south side of the Rakaia Gorge who do not receive rural mail, were not getting a Snowfed. With many thanks to Philip Wareing Ltd, they now do. Their trucks go up there weekly, so deliver the Snowfed free of charge. Methven Pharmacy puts the Snowfed into post boxes free of charge - another wonderful community kindess - thank you!

By 2023, with the growth in the paper, another staff member was needed and Lucy Tombleson joined Annie in a part time role, supporting with administration and advertising. Snowfed continued to grow and by 2024 had over 500,000 hits on it's website - a higher number than the population of Christchurch! The new website launched in 2025 was thanks to Lucy's brilliant handiwork.

Into 2026, Snowfed continues to be much loved and well-read by our wide age-range readership. The Snowfed has always paid it's way - not always easy in this age of social media, so an enormous thank you to our businesses and advertisers who intentionally choose to advertise in Snowfed - we appreciate you and love to assist in sharing your business's message with our readership.

Our longest serving article writer is the lovely Mary Ralston. Week after week she inspires and guide us in her friendly, down to earth manner, on all things gardening. A very special thanks to you Mary.

An enormous thanks to our incredible residential delivery team. For around 49 weeks of the year, they deliver in rain, snow or sunshine to the 23kms of letterboxes around Methven township. We have always had a great team of willing, reliable, responsible young people who do a fantastic job each week for our community - thank you team! And on that note, I thank all who have helped and contributed - named and unnamed. You have supported our cool newspaper!

As far as we know, Snowfed is still the only community newspaper owned by a secondary school, not only in New Zealand, but the Southern Hemisphere! Our advertising rates are community rates and the small profit we make, goes back into the education of students at Mt Hutt College - a win for everyone!

Snowfed has been described by readers as the glue that helps the community be and feel connected. Thank you for your wonderful support for another 40 years and more as we continue to grow.

It's Our Birthday

Snowfed 40 years since 1986

A message from Bruce...

Wow! Congratulations "Snowfed" on turning 40 years old and what a technology change from black and white to colour pages.

It only seems like yesterday that I took the first "Snowfed Schoolline" pages, printed by using a gestetner, to be stapled together, around to the Waterreus Family on Sunday 6 April 1986. The first edition was delivered on Monday 7 April. (the name had been submitted by Chris Staples in a naming competition).

Snowfed Founder Bruce Dickson

The first three editions were printed on A4 newsprint and run off on the Mount Hutt Ski Compny's gestetner (in the Ski hire room amongst the boots, skis, poles and publicity brochure boxes). The office was then in the building on the corner of McMillan Street and Forest Drive.

Printing was then done on the Methven High School staff gestetner. Occasionally there was a breakdown, so the Our Lady of the Snows hand turning gestetner had to be used to print the 1000 copies!

The production team in the early years included Geography students working in the Clubs period on a Friday afternoon along with typing students and office staff – Nan Leask and Margaret McLeod plus volunteer adults helping with proof reading, typing, collecting advertisements plus delivery students, rural mail operators and Waterreus Family in the Bookshop.

Later Media Studies students produced the Snowfed.

Thanks to the many local businesses the money raised went towards the 5th Form Geography five day Field Trip to Reefton, the three day 6th and 7th Form Geography trip to Lilybank Station (Lake Tekapo) and the three day History Field Trip to Arrowtown.

By the end of 1994 circulation had reached over 1500 copies and the Snowfed office was shifted to where it is today.

It is great to see that the support I received from local businesses, community organisations and you the readers has continued to today.

I find it hard to believe that Snowfed is produced each week by only two dedicated people; Annie and Lucy, and the printers in Christchurch.

Congratulations.

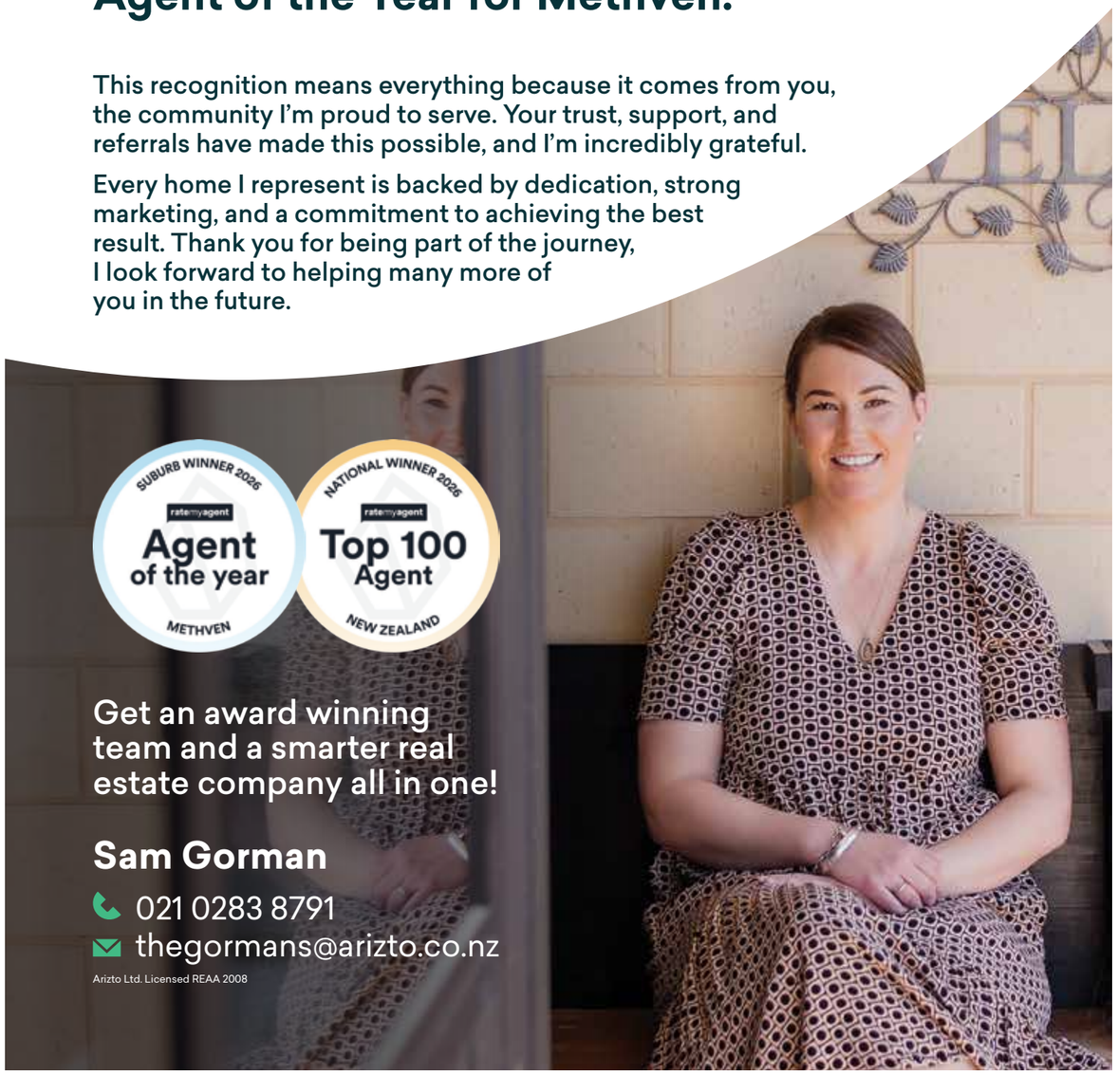
ARIZTO

THANK YOU, METHVEN!

Proud to be named RateMyAgent Agent of the Year for Methven.

This recognition means everything because it comes from you, the community I'm proud to serve. Your trust, support, and referrals have made this possible, and I'm incredibly grateful.

Every home I represent is backed by dedication, strong marketing, and a commitment to achieving the best result. Thank you for being part of the journey, I look forward to helping many more of you in the future.



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METHVEN A&P ASSOCIATION EST. 1910

2026 Winterfeed Competition

11th and 12th May

Competition Classes

1. *Rape*
2. *Kale*
3. *Turnips*
4. *Swedes**
5. *Mixture of any winter feed*
6. *Greenfeed cereals (oats, ryecorn, triticale)*
7. *Fodder Beet*

** Target Crop*

Conditions

- Entries are limited to one entry per class and no more than three entries in total.
- Minimum area two hectares.

Entry Fees

Methven A & P Association Members	$50 / class
Non members	$60 / class

For enquiries, please contact Convenors

Mark Lock 027 221 9887 and Ben Streeter 027 614 3374

The Methven A&P Show District, as per Association Rule 13, is the area bounded by the Rakaia River in the north, the Mitcham, Winchmore Dromore and Black Roads in the east, the south branch of the Ashburton River in the south and the Southern Alps in the west.)

Entries close Monday 27th April

Entry Form

Name: ---------- **Phone:** ----------

Address: ----------

Email: ----------

Location of paddock/s

Please provide a detailed farm map showing paddock location/s

	Class No.	Crop	
EXAMPLE	1	*Leafmore*	*Run off block, G Buckley, 54 Carters Road, Greenstreet. OR Home Block 747 Aerodrome Road, Methven*

Email entries to: **methvenshow@gmail.com**

Invoices will be sent on receipt of Application Form

Interested in being a member of the Methven A & P Association? YES / NO

$30/year entitles you to two members tickets to Methven A & P Show plus one ticket to 11 other A & P Shows

Upcoming Race Closures

Two more race closures were confirmed by Council in March, with Limestone Creek intake to close by July this year and Alford Forest intake to close by July 2027.

The later date for Alford Forest gives a property owner time to further investigate their plans to enhance the environmental value of the waterway by creating a wetland using the Alford Forest spring-fed water.

Staff from Council and Environment Canterbury also met recently to discuss how the Pudding Hill intake exit, and possible augmentation of Mt Harding Creek, could be managed in the future.

Water from Pudding Hill Stream feeds Mt Harding Creek, along with the Methven Auxiliary race network, which Council is proposing to close – feedback received from the community shows strong support for retaining water to feed Mt Harding Creek, which passes through Methven town.

Group Manager of Infrastructure Neil McCann said the ongoing discussions meant the proposed closure for Methven Auxiliary had been delayed.

Council is also still in discussion with irrigation groups about the future of the Brothers, Cracroft and Klondyke intakes and race network.

"This may result in some of these networks remaining in their current form or a different form, though the outcome is not clear yet," Mr McCann said.

"We are still providing regular email updates on progress of the Stockwater Exit Transition Plan and encourage everyone with an interest in the races to sign up via our website."

The online user survey for Remmington Creek is currently open - if you've received the survey letter, please respond as soon as possible.

Four intakes are still to be investigated - Lagmhor Creek, Winchmore, Rokeby and Acton.

Ashburton DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHURCH SERVICES

All Saints Anglican Church
1 Chapman Street
10:30am Sunday

Mt Hutt Elim Church
112 Main Street
10:30am Sunday

Our Lady of the Snows
Catholic Church Main Street
8.30am Sunday

Three Peaks Mission
(previously Presbyterian)
Jackson Street
10:30am Sunday

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Michelle Parkin
Investment Adviser
michelle.parkin@forsythbarr.co.nz
DDI: (03) 307 9541
M: 027 598 1655

Mark Grenside
Investment Adviser
mark.grenside@forsythbarr.co.nz
DDI: (03) 307 9542
M: 027 233 3195

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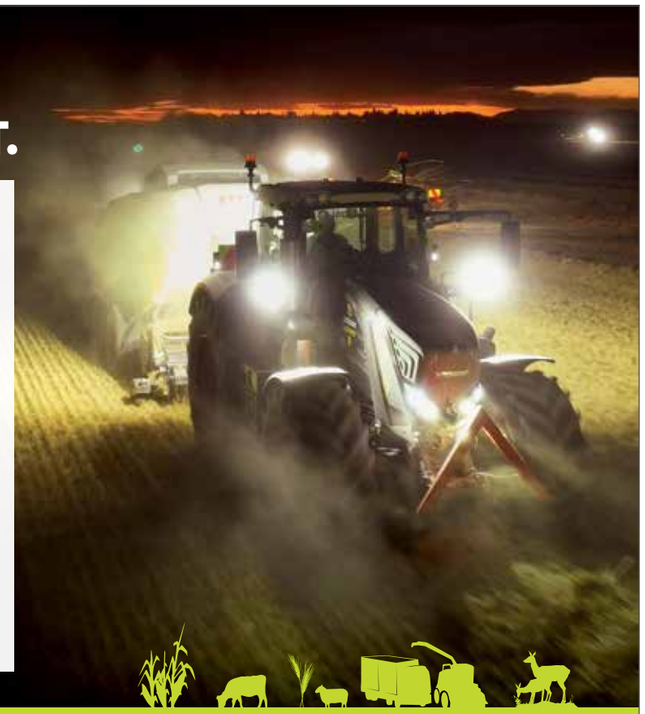

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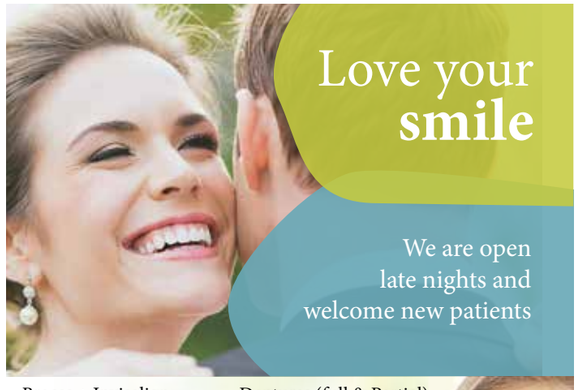

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NATIONAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
Unlocking High Country Opportunity *James Meager*

High country farming has long been the foundation of the Mid Canterbury and wider South Island economy.

Proposed changes to Crown land rules could significantly expand what these farms are able to deliver for local communities. High country farmers are not only producers, they are also custodians of unique landscapes and ecosystems, balancing productivity with environmental stewardship in some of New Zealand's most challenging conditions.

In my role as Minister for the South Island, I'm pleased to share the Government's move, now led by Land Information Minister Mike Butterick, to progress legislation modernising the Crown Pastoral Land Act and the Land Act. These changes are designed to give leaseholders greater flexibility to diversify beyond traditional pastoral farming.

Minister Butterick, who was born and raised in Mid Canterbury, brings a strong regional understanding to this work. He knows firsthand the opportunities and challenges facing rural and provincial New Zealand.

The proposed reforms would allow complementary activities such as horticulture, beekeeping, small-scale farm shops, hospitality ventures and renewable energy projects on Crown pastoral land. For regions like ours, the opportunity is substantial. Modelling shows pastoral farming typically returns around $80 per hectare, while high-value horticulture can generate returns closer to $2,000 per hectare in supplementary income. Renewable energy projects, in some cases, could deliver even higher returns.

These changes have the potential to lift farm incomes, create jobs, and strengthen the resilience of regional economies. Pastoral farming remains the primary land use, while farmers gain practical options to respond to changing markets, rising costs and climate pressures using land they already manage.

The changes also aim to reduce unnecessary red tape by clearly defining which everyday farming activities can proceed without approval, and which require consent. That certainty helps farmers plan and invest for the long term.

With 1.2 million hectares of Crown pastoral land across the South Island, enabling well-managed diversification could boost local businesses, attract visitors, and increase returns for taxpayers, while maintaining strong environmental protections for future generations.

To contact James:
03 307 1729 JamesMeagerMP
james.meagerMP@parliament.govt.nz
James Meager MP for Rangitata

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Dianne Prendergast 027 235 7227

Lyndhurst
James Anderson 03 302 4943

Methven
Jennie Coleman 027 222 4214
Julie Cunneen 027 341 5978
Paul Dixon 03 302 8767
Martin Nordqvist 03 302 8717
David Wright 021 531 830

Mount Somers
Wendy Millichamp 03 303 9743
Anne Parnham 027 767 6056
Robert Schikker 021 186 6107

Springburn
Rob Withers 03 303 0901

Please do not sign any documents before you see the JP. The JP service is free.

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What's Up 0800 942 8787
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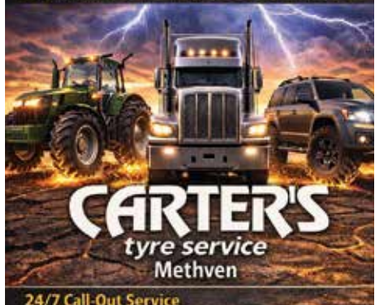

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METHVEN GOLF CLUB

9 Hole Results 17th April

2nd Stableford: *Annette Maw* 49-22-27, 27 Stablefords. *Jan Lane* 47-15-32, 23 Stablefords. *Hiromi Ikehata* 40-9-31, 23 Stablefords. **PGG Wrightson Best Player:** *Annette Maw*. **Methven Travel nearest the Pin:** *Jan Willis*. Methven Travel 2nd Shot *Annette Maw.*

4 FOUR SQUARE

23 - 29 April

Hannah Wareing 20
Kylie Fitzgerald 41
Xavier McDonnell 10
Matthew Talbot
Sarah Robinson 39
Karen Jones
Ben Payne
Isaac Stewart 16
Holly Benet 18
Lee McLintock (Gigi)
Robbie Wightman 12

CONGRATULATIONS
Sarah Robinson
Pop into Methven 4 Square Supermarket for your surprise!

Mens Results 18th April

Best Score: *Richard Houston* 85-17-68.

Other good scores: 69 *Paul Middleton*, 70 *J Johnson*, 71 *M Davis*, *P Rolton*, 72 *G Gunn*, *P Thomas*, 73 *D Potter*, *A Maxwell.David Potter* Eagle on No 2.

Nearest the Pins: No 6 Hunters Wines *P Rolton*, No 4 Charterhouse Farms *M Davis*, No 13 Skitime *D Potter*, No 17 Brown Pub *P Middleton*.

Twos: *D Fisher*, *G Hargreaves*, *P Middleton*, *J Johnson*, *D Potter*.

EMPLOYMENT

Methven Area Bus Group Coordinator (re-advertised due to change of term)

Hours: 25 hours per week
Start Date: By negotiation
Term: Fixed Term 2026. There is scope for this role to become permanent at the end of 2026.
Remuneration: Support Staff in Schools Collective Agreement: Grade 4 / Step to be negotiated

The Methven Area Bus group (which serves Lauriston Primary School, Methven Primary School, Mount Hutt College and Our Lady of the Snows School) is seeking a new Bus Coordinator to support the day-to-day running of the school bus network. The successful candidate will work closely with the Methven Area Bus Group Chairperson and the wider group, as we look to review all of our current bus routes and further strengthen network provision.

This role is a diverse one and will require a candidate who is organised, has solid ICT capabilities, strong communication skills and a strong work ethic.

The Job Description (in working draft form) provides greater detail around the key elements of the role. This, together with an Application form, is available on our website **(https://mounthuttcollege.co.nz/contact-us -** (under "Job Vacancies") or by emailing: **vacancies@mthutt.school.nz.**

Applications close at 12 noon on Friday 24th April 2026

Applications should be sent to:
vacancies@mthutt.school.nz

Secretary Part-time Role
Methven Trotting Club

The Methven Trotting Club is looking for a part-time Secretary. If you are someone who can combine secretarial, administrative and bookkeeping skills with flexibility to attend to race day tasks at our seven Sunday race meetings, we would love to hear from you.

If you would like more information or would like to apply please email the Methven Trotting Club Manager.

Apply with a covering letter and CV to
manager@methventrottingclub.co.nz

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Flu and COVID Vaccine Clinics

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The COVID vaccine is free for all people, but it must be over six months since your last vaccine or infection.

Please phone reception to book into one of our clinics, you cannot book via our portal at present.

Patients under 16 need to book an appointment with one of our Nurses, outside these clinic times.

METHVEN MEDICAL CENTRE

Phone 03 302 8105

Room for rent?

The end of May will see an influx of winter workers arriving in Methven ready for another season at NZ's Best Ski Resort!

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Rachelle Stockdill
Ross Watson
Emma Milburn
Rosa Dekker

Rosa Dekker

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METHVEN BRIDGE CLUB

North / South:

Colin Clemens	Jane Helmore	65.63%
Jennifer Hooke	E Wallace	34.38%

East / West:

Willie Ensor	Bob Todhunter	53.13%
John Barwell	Murray Hawkes	46.88%

BAYLEYS

Methven and Surrounds

Methven 1A Lochhead Crescent

Invest, nest or escape

Positioned in the vibrant heart of Methven, this contemporary 127sqm (more or less) residence delivers a superb blend of modern comfort and lifestyle appeal in one of Canterbury's most sought after alpine destinations. Thoughtfully designed for effortless living, the heart of the home is the open plan kitchen, dining, and living area.

bayleys.co.nz/**5530268**

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Methven 2 Gleniffer Place

Cosy easy living

Enjoy the light-filled open plan kitchen, dining and living area, the heart of the home and perfect for everyday living or entertaining. The kitchen has been designed with hosting in mind, offering a spacious layout and a walk-in pantry. From the dining area, sliding doors lead out to a private and secure patio. A separate cosy snug or second living area is a further feature of the home.

bayleys.co.nz/**5529903**

3 | 2 | 2 | 2

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Rakaia 19 Bowen Street

Easy-care living

Built with low-maintenance living in mind, this permanent material home on 515sqm (more or less) section offers the perfect blend of comfort, space, and convenience. Centrally located within the Rakaia township. Featuring three double bedrooms, one bathroom and an open-plan living area.

bayleys.co.nz/**5530024**

3 | 1 | 1 | 2

For Sale offers invited over
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4 Pattons Road and 7 Ashburton Gorge Road

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1,000sqm

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By Negotiation
View
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021 751 009
Shirley Fitzgerald
027 220 1528

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30143
Real Estate Mid Canterbury Property Ltd Licensed (REAA 2008)

37 Sam Holmes Drive, **Methven** 4 4 3 2

- Timeless at Thyme Stream
- Elegant brand new build set on 4044m2 amongst extensive plantings & landscaping
- 371.85m2 home with an emphasis on low maintenance
- Multiple living options
- Superb rural & mountain views

Price on Application
View
by appointment

Margaret Feiss
021 751 009

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30104
Real Estate Mid Canterbury Property Ltd Licensed (REAA 2008)

96 Ashburton Gorge Road, **Mount Somers** 4 3 3

* This stunning 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom property is designed by the owner and built by Joseph builders in 2021
* Offers open concept living and dining filled with natural light
* A separate art room adjoined to large separate garage

By Negotiation
View
by appointment

Margaret Feiss
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Shirley Fitzgerald
027 220 1528

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30136
Real Estate Mid Canterbury Property Ltd Licensed (REAA 2008)

25 Sam Holmes Drive, **Methven**

* The last water edge section available at the popular Thyme Stream subdivision
* 4087m2 fully fenced with tree and shrub planting commenced ready for that keen gardener
* Power, water & fibre to boundary

For Sale
Price by Negotiation
View
by appointment

Margaret Feiss
021 751 009

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30121
Real Estate Mid Canterbury Property Ltd Licensed (REAA 2008)

Lot 3 Hobbs Road, **Methven**

- Attractive 1.0596 hectare block located down a private laneway just off Hobbs Road right on Methven township boundary
- Waste water system required
- Town water & power

Price on Application
View
by appointment

Margaret Feiss
021 751 009

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30037
Real Estate Mid Canterbury Property Ltd Licensed (REAA 2008)

2969 Methven Highway, **Methven**

- Lot 2 DP 308461
- Expansive 16.745 ha parcel of Residential D pristine bare land
- Situated on the fringe of the Methven township
- Magnificent views of the Southern Alps from Mt Somers to Mt Hutt

Price on Application
+ GST (if any)
View
by appointment only

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027 220 1528

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119 Forest Drive, **Methven** 5 3 2

Welcome to your dream retreat! Nestled in a serene and picturesque setting, this magnificent 5 bedroom, 3 bathroom home offers the perfect blend of luxury, space, and tranquility. Set on an impressive 6969m2 of lush land, this property is an oasis of comfort and style.

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1/178 Main Street, **Methven** 2 1

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* Gable ceiling making a spacious living room
* Bedrooms are roomy
* In a complex with 7 other similar chalets

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Business Owner:
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