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

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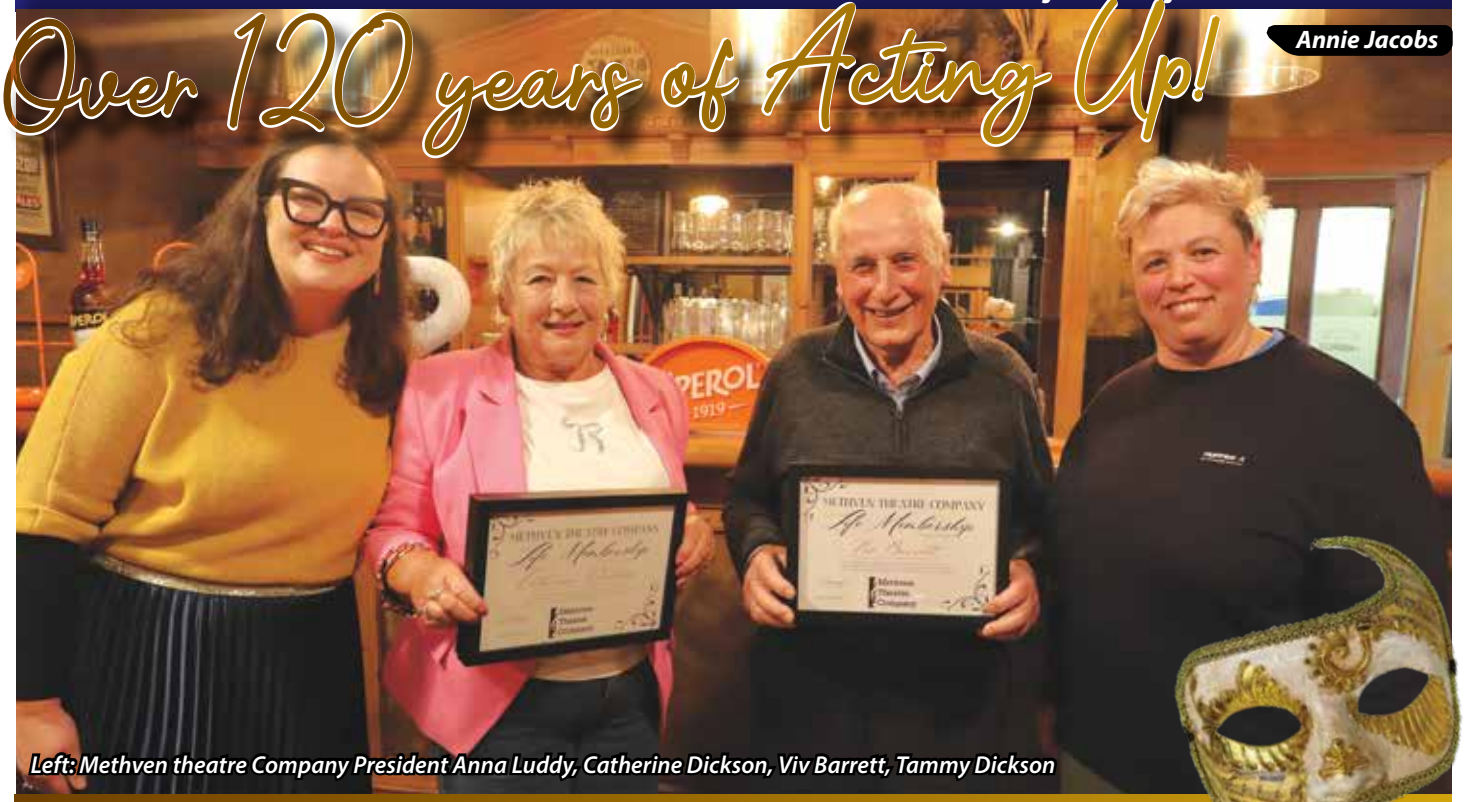
Thursday 28th May 2026

Putanga 17
Issue 17

Over 120 years of Acting Up!

Annie Jacobs



Left: Methven theatre Company President Anna Luddy, Catherine Dickson, Viv Barrett, Tammy Dickson

Viv Barrett and his daughter Catherine Dickson have had over 120 years of involvement in Methven Theatre Company between them!

Last Friday night in a move out of the theatre, Methven Theatre Company gathered at The Blue Pub to honour two of it's thespian legends, Viv Barrett and Catherine Dickson, with Life Memberships.

Viv and his wife Marion have had a long involvement with what started as the Methven Choral Society, later renamed Methven Theatre Company.

Viv's involvement started in 1957, when Marion needed him to look after the children so she could take roles leading and directing. Later their two children Catherine and Julian and Viv would take on roles too. Viv went on to assist John Gray in making the sets and would help out front of house, where he has continued.

"I just like to help out and do what I can," said 93 year old Viv, who also helps to get the hall ready with the chair set out and pack up.

Catherine's first acting role was in "Carousel," nearly 60 years ago.

"I was 10 years old and was the ballet dancer and one of Mr Snow's children. The song I vividly remember is "You Will Never Walk Alone," she recalled.

Later, after marrying Murray, when she was three months pregnant with Tammy, she had a part in "The Great Waltz." The very talented Wardrobe Mistress Bernie McCloy had to make adjustable waistlines in Catherine's costumes to accommodate her growing tummy.

Murray recalls bringing their babies to the Hall for Catherine to breastfeed and then minding them during rehearsals. Both Tammy and Nathan have had involvement with Methven Theatre Company.

"I think a highlight and proud moments for me is that theatre has involved our family for many years over three generations of us, with the fourth generation (our grandson Cooper), now attending shows and cheering on, which is so cool," said Catherin.

Murray has also played a huge part apart from babysitting; helping with front of house, chairs out and away and bar duties.

Both Viv and Catherine were presented with Life Membership Certificates by the Theatre Company's Anna Luddy and Merine Dumte.

Methven Theatre Company

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MAY

23-30 Footloose, Ashb Event Centre
26 U3A Ashb. Helen Trappit, 10.15am
30 Ski Scholarship Applications close

JUNE

2 Seafood Mkt, outside iHub, 3-5pm
5 MHC Open Morning, 9am
Bike Methven AGM, 7pm,
19 Mens Health Night, MH Memorial Hall
20 Fire and Ice Hot Air Balloon Glow

COMMUNITY

RUBBISH BINS ***red bin, yellow 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

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Jessica Hagedorn

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Breaking the Records

Annie Jacobs

Methven's Connor Jenkins has the winning stroke and is breaking long-standing swimming records again and again.

Connor had infant swimming lessons as a youngster, but it wasn't until later that he started showing promise as a competitive swimmer.

"I remember other local children establishing their fabulous swimming ability from a young age, but Connor came through later - he was around 11 years old when he started his competitive swimming journey," said Natasha, Connor's Mum.

"Mum always wanted me to swim so she signed me up for squad swimming in Ashburton.Rugby was my main sport and swimming helped me to keep really fit," explained Connor who is now 16 years old.

He started doing morning Squad swimming around April 2025 and was still playing rugby, at that time.

Natasha said that Connor hadn't really taken swimming seriously as a main sport, however he went to Division 2 Nationals and got a first place in the breaststroke! He realised he was quite good and was doing very well! Connor then made a commitment to swimming and the athlete training lifestyle of eating well, getting enough sleep, going to the gym and taking training seriously.

This meant a big change needed to happen so that Connor could train at his new club at Wharenui, so a change of school followed. He now boards in Christchurch with a family whose son also trains at the Club.

"He has to take care of his sleeping, eating, training and then go the gym and do his dry land training and focus," Natasha said.

"It doesn't give me much time to get school homework done. I try to do that in study periods at school. I don't really have enough time to hang out with friends in the weekend - I have to sacrifice a lot of that. But it's definitely worth it - I love the sport!" said Connor. "And swimming is my main sport now."

Breastroke is Connor's main stroke and he holds the NZ Record for Breastroke for the short course (25 metre) event for 16 year olds.

"This was pretty impressive as he did it at home in Ashburton which he had come home to do," said Natasha. The record breaking time was 28.28 seconds (previous record was 28.64 in the 16 year old Male Short Course). Connors's Long Course (50 metre) record is 29.31 seconds, (the Canterbury record before Connor broke it was around 29.91 - and that was a really old record from 1994)!

Connor also does the 100 metre and 200 metre events - Connor holds a Canterbury record for the 100 metre (102.49).

When Connor went to Nationals, he came away with National Champion for the 200 m Breaststroke in his age group and then he placed second in the 50 and 100m Breaststroke, then received three gold medals as part of the relay teams. He was selected after the Nationals for the Oceanias.

"Swimming NZ has recently put out a Progression so that swimmers have an international pathway to represent NZ," said Natasha. "Connor was selected for the Oceania's in Fiji held earlier this month. That was a development meet for swimmers entering NZ representation. We weren't expecting to have him selected for the the tri series as that is really the next step up. But Connor was doing so well - top in his breaststroke teams that he was projected to make the team.

We were so excited and immensely proud," said Natasha.

The expense meant that sacrifices had to be made and despite both parents working, the family needed to call on family and friends to help fund Connor to get to the Oceania Competition in Fiji. Connor was sick for the whole meet.

"It was a bit rougher than usual, but I still managed to make three A Finals. I got a Bronze Medal in the 4x50m relay where I swum the breastroke leg. Connor was away seven days without his Mum and Dad. "I had a lot of mates there so found it okay. The family I board with, their son was away with me too," Connor said.

Just last Friday, Connor was offered a place on the NZ team travelling to Perth for the Tri Series! The family had until Sunday to accept or decline and then had until Tuesday to pay the $5,600 required for it - Connor is desperately hoping they can find the funds for him to go.

The New Zealand team's Perth trip is different to others in that they have elected 39 swimmers across NZ which will be split into two NZ teams. This is for the Tri Series giving the opportunity for NZ swimmers to swim against their selected state teams.

"The swimmers don't know yet what they'll be swimming, as the coaches select the event. I'm looking forward to it as it will be good race experience on the international scene," said Connor.

But that is not the end of the lane for Connor.

"My big goal is going to the Olympics - in the Olympics, I would like to swim in the 200m, 100m, and the 50 m breaststroke events," he said.

Again and Again

There is a Givealittle page to help fund Connor to get to Perth.

If you would like to donate to support a local future Olympian, go to:

https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-connor-get-to-karratha-western-australia

Locals in Footloose - THIS WEEK!

Annie Jacobs

Moving from the big city lights of Chicago to small town Bomont, likeable Ren McCormack is stifled by the conservative, yet powerful, very strict Reverend Shaw Moore who has banned rock and roll music and dancing along with many of his supporters, until he meets Reverend Shaw's edgy daughter Ariel, who is eagerly seeking excitement and change.

This all happens this week in Ashburton Variety Theatre's stage musical, "Footloose." So desperate is Ariel to break out that she hangs out with Chuck - a bad boy amongst the students of the town.

Ren is a salt-of-the-earth good all round guy who loves to dance and feels that it is only fair that dancing be permitted, even teaching his loyal, country bumpkin two-left-foot friend Willard some moves.

Sweet, slightly scatterbrained) Rusty is Ariel's bestie along with close friends Wendy Jo and Urleen (played by Emma Armour) - the smart one of the group.

Ren's Aunt and Uncle who he lives with, understand his frustration and slowly the tide in the town turns.

Urleen is known for teasing Ren and makes fun of him. Urleen, Wendy-Jo and Rusty introduce Ren to the town around the time of the song, "Somebody's Eyes," one of Emma's favourite songs in the show. Ren is seen as helping to further their cause and is protective of him as he is encouraging something the town's young people all want.

"I most love getting to be sassy and picking on all the guys - this is quite different to my usual personality," laughs Emma, "that's what acting is all about. I love that we are all like friends with each other in the show - it makes it easy to act as everyone is just happy to be there."

Emma has appeared in Mary Poppins, Rockzilla and Popzilla with Variety Theatre Ashburton (VTA), and Mid Canterbury Summer Singing School for three years, five years of shows with Mt Hutt College, along with dance showcases with Danceworx since she was five years old, (now 18).

Emma Armour

Murran Carter Buller

Nicole Johnson

Experienced Murran Carter Buller plays Reverend Moore's wife, Vi.

"It is definitely out of the ordinary for me - very different to what I am usually cast as. Vi is so gentle, caring and so motherly - it's a bit tricky as I'm not a Mother as yet, but I'm drawing on inspiration from my Mum and how gentle and nourishing she is," said Murray. "I love Vi's vulnerability towards the new character of Ren - she can see the potential of changing the Reverend's mind about dancing in the town, so she pushes for that as she knows she can't do it herself."

The toughest bit of the show for Murran is looking in as an outsider into the story. "Trying to understand how they were not allowed to dance in their day to day to life is so hard, as music is my own personal therapy," she said.

I am looking forward to opening night to get the nerves shaken off. Opening Night is my own chance to show the directing team that if I can show them a good opening night, I can show them a good season.

I'm looking forward to singing in a trio "Learning to be Silent" - hilarious because I am the most loud person," laughed Murran.

Very experienced Nicole Johnson has previously performed in Grease, Jesus Christ Superstar and Mary Poppins, having grown up doing Mid Canterbury Children's Theatre and Mid Canterbury Summer Singing School. And with growing up with music, Nicole developed a love for it. "It's good being able to dance at this level of intensity again," she said. Nicole has overcome some tough injuries in recent years.

She is looking forward to seeing the talent that the younger generation bring and enjoying the music.

In her day job, she is a Year 7-9 teacher at Mt Hutt College (and funnily, one of her characters is as a student), and is enjoying working alongside the young people in the show. "You bounce off their energy," she said. Nicole's expertise will show with the mix of characters that she plays and is looking forward to the enjoyment of the show.

"It is so much fun. You can come into rehearsals having had a bad day and you leave rehearsals with the biggest smile on your face. It is a roller coaster of a show - it is a fun show, but there are some heart-breaking moments and some laughs, - that's a teaser, get your tickets and come along.

Based on a true story about a town called Elmore City, Oklahoma which, crazy as it sounds, banned dancing. In 1979-80, local high school students lobbied to hold a school prom which hit the news and caught the eye of screenwriter/songwriter Dean Pitchford who was looking for movie/musical ideas. In 1984, "Footloose" hit our screens.

Deliciously touching, yet light hearted with some hard-hitting tender moments that delivers Footloose the Musical 2026 is not to be missed!

Performances: 23rd, 24th, 26th-30th May

Tickets: $60, child under 13 $40 (fees apply). Go to: **https://asheventcentre.co.nz/event/footloose-the-musical-variety-theatre-ashburton/**

All shows 7.30pm start apart from the Sunday 24th May Matinee at 2pm.

"Wayleggo Dick" – a howler of a night at The Bitches Box

It may have seemed as if the sides of the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall were howling with laughter last Saturday evening, when Amelia Guild and Emma Newborn brought their show, "The Bitches Box - Episode 4" to Methven for the first time, hosted by Friends of Methven Primary School (FoMPS).

The Bitches Box on a farm is a raised/elevated kennel that keeps on-heat bitches away from the reach of the male dogs. Emma and Amelia have turned the lives of sheep and dogs on farm into a side-splitting, hilarious show that had their audience laughing with relatability.

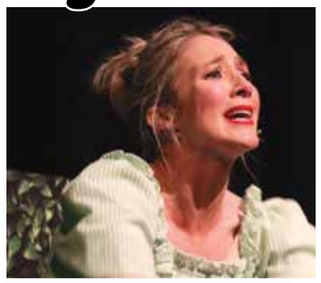
A take on the classic "Country Calendar," various personas' of Wayne, Dick, Tina and more, they mustered, peed, scratched, barked, eyed and territory marked their way through the lives of dogs and sheep in the yards and out in the paddock.

Favourite periods of the farming calendar were yelped and howled about, along with the threat of threat of Wayne getting "Methvened" (ba**s removed).

A rich variety of annual events that occur on farm such as mating, tailing, dipping, crutching all got a mention along with many of the facts of life.

Taking a hilarious dive into dogs' antics from swiping a bone to the rights of who is loose on the truck, these ladies deserve a medal in dog psychology!

During the evening, a silent auction was held and after The Bitches Box and refreshments, culminated with a fundraising auction and entertainment from a local band. Over 50 items were generously donated by local businesses for the auction with the highest valued item bidder on being the "Lady Scarlett Murder Mystery Voucher," which auctioned for $1,800!



The night was a tremendous success!

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Windwhistle Golf Classic

The 21st Annual Windwhistle Golf Classic once again offered a legendary day out for all involved. The event was held on Friday 8th May at Fable Terrace Downs Resort, the annual major fundraiser for Windwhistle School. A large playing field of 130 golfers braved Windwhistle's signature dish of a gentle nor'wester, with the forecast rain kindly waiting until late afternoon. By this time all of the Ambrose Tournament's players had completed their 18 holes and were inside, enjoying high country hospitality at its best.

Golf was interspersed with a home-made morning tea, a sponsored BBQ lunch and packed snacks for the course. The day concluded with Clubhouse drinks before the highly anticipated prizegiving, auction and dinner ensued. In true community spirit, the generous crowd enjoyed an amazing array of tournament prizes and auction offerings.

Results from the day:

2026 tournament winners were the Hazlett Insurance team, consisting of: Jake Darling, Ed Nuttall, Hamish Redfern, Stu Melville
2nd - Bayleys Canterbury
3rd - R&R Spreading
4th - FarmBuild

New registrations for the 2027 Windwhistle Golf Classic are welcome, please email Emily Reveley:
windwhistlegolfclassic@gmail.com

Funds raised from the Windwhistle Golf Classic make a huge difference to our small rural school and we sincerely thank you all for your support. Windwhistle School would particularly like to thank Fable Terrace Downs for hosting the Windwhistle Golf Classic.

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- Dog & Country
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- Fern Fuel
- Finders Keepers
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Golf First Place: Jake Darling, Ed Nuttall, Hamish Redfern, Stu Melville

Golf Third Place: Ryan Cockburn, Jeremy Duckmanton, Hamish Woolsey, Richard Houston

Official Sod Turning for 2nd Ashburton River Bridge

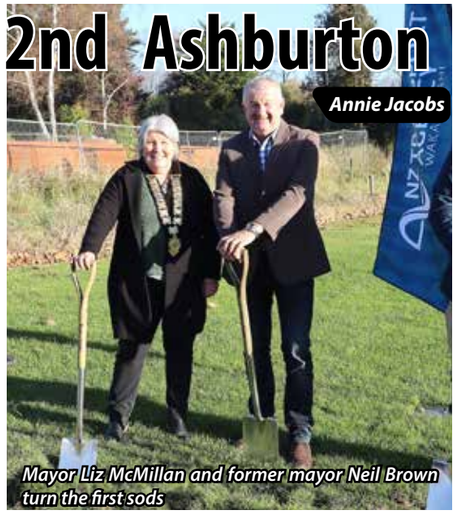
Construction of the second Ashburton Bridge took a symbolic step forward last Friday when Ashburton Mayor Liz McMillan and former mayor Neil Brown dug shovels into the ground at the end of Chalmers Avenue.

Transport Minister Chris Bishop and Minister for the South Island James Meager had also planned to be part of the long-awaited occasion, but were grounded in Wellington due to aircraft issues.

Early works for the bridge and new connecting road have been underway for several months and now that the design and build contract has been signed with Fletcher Construction, the main construction can officially begin.

It is a joint project between NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi and Council, with Government paying for the bridge and Council paying for the connecting road from Carters Terrace to Grahams Road. The estimated total cost of the project is between $134 and $144 million. Council is budgeting for the cost of the connecting road to be $19.7m and has $16m tagged for the project in its Annual Plan 2026-27. Council is also taking the opportunity to install a new watermain that will run from Chalmers Avenue all the way to Grahams Road - the $3.9m cost of that work has been included in the water services budget for the next financial year.

Mayor McMillan said the start of construction event was an important occasion, with the whole community looking forward to the end of next year when vehicles would be driving over the new river crossing.



Mayor Liz McMillan and former mayor Neil Brown turn the first sods

"This is something we've needed for years now and the new bridge will help get local traffic off a congested State Highway 1, and add resilience for the Tinwald community." The first works include tree clearing on the Tinwald side and establishing work bases off Carters Terrace and Wilkins Road. As the project rolls out, information and letter drops will be made to affected residents at the various stages. The connecting road from Carters Terrace to Grahams Road will have give way intersections at Carters Terrace, Wilkins Road and Johnstone Street, with a roundabout at Grahams Road.

Ashburton DISTRICT COUNCIL

Alert!

Please wear a fluoro (fluorescent vest) or brightly coloured clothing if you are cycling or scootering on our roads and footpaths.

With darker winter mornings and evenings it is just about impossible to see children on footpaths in dark coloured school uniforms and jackets or adults on scooters or bicycles.

Bicycles ridden on the road need to be using active lights, front and rear from one hour before sunset until one hour after sunrise.

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Congratulations Don!

Fire and Emergency New Zealand personnel from across New Zealand have been presented with New Year Royal Honours by the Governor-General, the Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, at Government House in Wellington.

Don Geddes

"These recipients have dedicated decades to supporting their communities to become stronger, safer, and more resilient through their roles with Fire and Emergency and through their many other community contributions. It is wonderful to see their efforts recognised," Fire and Emergency Board Chair, Rebecca Keoghan says.

"On behalf of Fire and Emergency and the people of New Zealand, we thank you for your outstanding service, your communities are stronger because of your work."

Amongst those presented was Don Geddes, who was presented for appointment as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM), for services to Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Land Search and Rescue and the community.

continues on page 12

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Locally based in Methven!

Methven Community Board in Brief 25th May

Annie Jacobs

- **Grant Applications: Mt Hutt College International Dept:** a lot of high ticket items and not much time spent actually at the school. Declined. **Methven Croquet Club:** $3,000 Passed. **Ruby Saxon:** $250 granted on the basis she comes and speaks to Methven Community Board after the event. Passed. **OLS Native Planting Forest**: appetite to support it but need more information. Declined. Encourage to reapply. **Methven Community Pool Rogaine Event:** the community already funds $25k toward the pool. Event should stand on its own two feet - great that the event is held. $1,000m granted. Passed subject to accountability report. **Methven Primary School Transport to Concert:** Declined. **Methven Football Club Storage:** $4,000. Passed. **Methven Public Library:** Hours are quite limiting for people who are working. Meeting and conference room facilities are great. Would love to see it open more. The application reads as "business as usual," not "growth." Large number of potential users (full time employment) not able to access it, no evening hours open. $4,000 Passed. Next funding round is 25th August. Funds can be carried over, but aren't released until Aug/Sept
- **Changes to Terms of Reference for Methven Community Board (MCB):** include Mt Hutt Memorial Hall Governance and a new delegation for Methven Community Strategic Plan
- **2026 Building Consents Issued:** (2025 numbers in brackets) April 5 (5), Issued YTD 24 (24), Value of Work $1,436,000 ($811,000), Value of Work YTD $6,504,500 ($66,286,750)
- **Methven Recycling:** New signs to go up for a temporary 12 Week Trial - you can only drop whiteware and reuse items off during the manned hours. If community dump items out of hours, then the facility gets closed. It is costing too much money right now. Progress report at next meeting 29th June and trial results at following meeting on 17th August
- **CBD Lighting Project** - EA Networks remedial work is imminent
- **Damaged trees** on South Belt to be replaced soon
- **Accessible parks** around Methven Central Business District: will go ahead with space that is already yellow-lined beside Station Coffee and will communicate with them about changes. Mall not suitable due to drop down. An updated report will be circulated to MCB
- **Traffic Counts: Forest Drive Weekly Traffic:** Feb 2026, 20,410 vehicles. April 2026 17,552 vehicles. Average speed: 40km/h (95th percentile speed). **Methven Chertsey Road Weekly Traffic:** Feb 2026, 15,334 vehicles. April 2026 13,949 vehicles. Average speed: 51km/h (95th percentile speed). Noted that removing the carparks on north side of Methven Chertsey Road outside Methven Central has improved traffic visibility and not sped the traffic up.
- **Footpath Cleaning:** MCB would like the whole town done before winter which Neil McCann will follow up with. Neil McCann (ADC): Paved areas around Methven - Fulton Hogan will come up an option where the grout will be removed and a new tactile grout inserted which will give purchase when stepped on.
- **Solid Waste Management:** Hot ashes need to be cooled for 48 hours before being placed in the red bin
- **MCB Livestream** 9 March 2,200 views. 20 April 2,163 views. Videos on Youtube 49 views
- **Simplifying Local Government:** Amalgamation of Councils: Tania Paddock (ADC): regional councils will be disestablished. Head Start or Backstop options (whichever councils choose) have to be in by 9th August. If a council doesn't choose then they'll automatically be put into the Backstop option. Council is requesting feedback from the community: **https://itsourplace.nz/simplifying-local-government** (it's only four questions)

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Logging Dispatch Stephen Currie 027 224 5037
Spraying Dispatch Jeremy Jones 027 547 8233
Director Philip Wareing 027 4334 897
Director Simon Wareing 027 228 9448

continued from page 10

Don worked with Ashburton District Council as both Principal Rural Fire Officer and Civil Defence Emergency Management Officer for 18 years. Through this role, Mr Geddes managed 10 rural fire forces and 180 volunteers. In 2016, he helped facilitate the implementation of a Welfare Trust, which supports the welfare of volunteer firefighters and their families. He has been a key liaison with Federated Farmers, developing long-standing relationships with the arable farming sector, particularly for the safe burning of crop residue. He has volunteered for Land Search and Rescue New Zealand (LandSAR) with the Methven Group for 50 years and chaired the Group for 20 years. He has served on the Canterbury Regional SAR Committee and chaired that Committee for a term. He served as a Gazetted Advisor (LandSAR) to the New Zealand Police. He was part of a five-person National LandSAR Advisory Panel in 2016, to the then Chief Executive Officer of LandSAR New Zealand. He is a Trustee and Chairperson of WanderSearch Canterbury, a volunteer organisation providing free radio frequency devices for vulnerable individuals at risk of wandering. Mr Geddes has served as a Trustee of the Mid Canterbury Rural Support Trust and continues his involvement with the Trust as a volunteer.

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Schools

Methven Primary School

This term on 12th May, Methven Primary School went to Lauriston School for Methven Area Cross Country. As we got there, our hearts were pounding with excitement. Year 4's had to run 1.5km and year 5's had to run 2km. As we approached, all our hearts felt like they were going to come out our mouth and then the blocks clapped and we were all off.

Here are some of the Ōpuke W's comments about Cross Country:

My favourite part of it was jumping over the haybales. ***Storm Rooney***

My favorite part was running around the cricket grounds and jumping over the haybales. ***Liam Lill***

My least favourite part was running so much. ***Aurora Fitzsimons***

I hate my Mum yelling at me, it's so embarrassing. ***Kaitlyn Ridge***

The baking there was really good and jumping over haybales was fun. ***Greta Clemens***

Thanks for reading this.

By Greta Clemens and Laura Bernes

METHVEN Primary School

News

Our Lady of the Snows School

Autumn has arrived in full colour at Our Lady of the Snows School, and our tamariki have been making the most of the crisp mornings and crunchy leaves beneath their feet.

This week, students combined play, teamwork, and learning as they helped tidy the school grounds under the beautiful autumn trees. Laughter filled the air as leaves flew skyward, but there was learning happening too. Through outdoor experiences like this, children develop cooperation, responsibility, problem-solving skills, and an appreciation for God's creation.

Nature provides some of the best classrooms. From observing seasonal changes to working together to care for our environment, these everyday moments help bring learning to life in meaningful and memorable ways.

At Our Lady of the Snows, we know that some of the richest learning happens when children are active, engaged, and connected with the world around them — and autumn certainly gave us the perfect opportunity for that this week!

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Tim	(Sales)	027 323 4048	tim@maybrothers.co.nz
Ben	(Operations Manager)	027 538 8336	ben@maybrothers.co.nz
Lachie	(Baling, Chopping)	027 334 0406	lachie@maybrothers.co.nz
Jack	(Cultivation ,Drilling)	027 538 8369	jack@maybrothers.co.nz
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jnk landscapes
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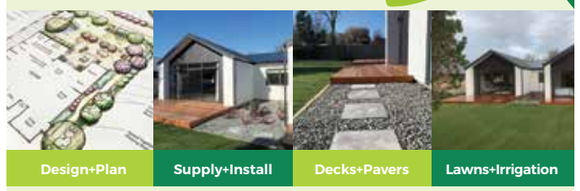
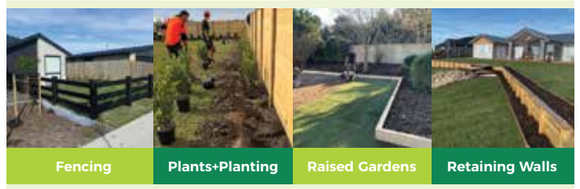


Design+Plan | Supply+Install | Decks+Pavers | Lawns+Irrigation



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Rural

Schools News

Mount Hutt College

Humans of Ōpuke - a Mt Hutt College Project

Introducing Jack Saxon

My childhood was fantastic - I was born and raised in Nelson which was smaller then. I spent most of my childhood exploring the mountains with friends, which later became routine escapades to Tāhunanui Beach. If I could go back and tell my younger self one thing I would say, "It's okay to just be you." My Mum has a few good yarns that she still likes to embarrass me with. One of my favourites was when I was two, I decided to utilise my baby scooter to speed down Russell Street from the top of the hill. At the bottom it spills out onto the main road. As I was finishing my journey down the hill (just about to get squashed), my Dad just happened to be leaving the dairy and he grabbed me in the nick of time. My fondest memories from my childhood were the early game consoles which included NASCAR, Madden, Tekken and Golden Eye marathons with my friends. I enjoyed great days out with my Dad at the Grey River during whitebait season. That was seven buckets, trousers, socks and anything else we could find.

My life has always been about chasing what I'm passionate about. This has included plenty of international travel, team sports, running, scuba diving and coaching. Since I arrived in Methven - it's all about mountain biking and skiing. The best advice I have been given is to chase your passions and make sure that you are passionate about your job. Like most young men I had a dream of being an All Black. After a long period of mourning this missed opportunity, which included ample hydration, it was replaced with pretty much everything I have now.

My family has had the biggest influence on me as a person. They keep things fun, they are always there for me, and make me want to keep pushing myself. Our recent trip to Fiji with the tribe was one of the highlights of my life; also adventures with the whānau and the birth of our children. I asked my family how they would describe me. Their answers were bald, passionate, hard working, a good cook and kind. I think my passion is a key element of who I am. I'm inclusive and like to think of myself as a positive person, someone who sees the best in others. I have ADHD, which makes the speed that my brain moves, even when I don't want it to, something unique.

Jack Saxon

My role as a Principal matters a lot to me, I know it has a significant impact on our team, our youth, and our community; so I want to do the very best I can to maximise the impact. We have an amazing community. We all need to continue to do all the small things - looking after each other, getting stuck in and being welcoming. That's what makes our community such a special place. I want to be remembered for being a great Dad, husband and a Principal that worked really hard for his team, students, and wider community.

One of my biggest struggles right now, like most, is balancing what life throws at you. Between my job, what my family needs from me, and what I'm passionate about - there is not much time left. When I'm feeling down, I like to remind myself that you only get one crack at life, so I need to make it count. There is no easy answer to work/life balance - the key is making sure the things that are most important to you are getting most of the time. If they are not, then something needs to change. To help, I get a healthy dose of exercise regularly. Whilst I don't know why, this tends to keep things in perspective. I am looking forward to spending more quality time with my family, on my bike, on my skis, more travel and a good book or ten.

Schools News

Mt Somers Springburn School

Growing Strong at MtSSS

Learning was growing strong at Mt Somers Springburn School this week as Kowhai Class shared part of their carrot harvest from our very own vege garden with Harakeke Class.

The school's vege garden, supported by our caretaker, has become an important part of the school's Garden to Table approach — giving children hands-on opportunities to plant, grow, harvest and share food while building important life skills along the way.

Each child was given a fresh carrot to take home, creating a simple but meaningful moment of sharing, kindness and connection.

Principal Morgan Platt says the learning goes far beyond reading, writing and arithmetic — with the garden providing real-world context for children to develop teamwork, responsibility, patience and an understanding of where food comes from.

And while many carrots likely made it home for dinner… a few may have disappeared before then!

METHVEN NETBALL CLUB

Social 20th May

Methven Blue Pub vs Tinwald Kirsty Clay, won 35-19. Methven Brown Pub vs Southern All Farm, won 39-8.

Premier 21st May

Methven Wareings A vs Allenton A lost 53-59, POD *Charlotte Samson*. Methven EuroAgri B vs Allenton B won 27-11, POD *Grace Newport*.

Yr1/2

Methven Garage Gym vs, POD *Alumita Ravouvou & Adaline Bailey*.

Yr3/4 22nd May

Methven Southface Contracting vs Mt Somers Super Stars, POD *Eloise Ridge*. Methven Martin Seed Dressing vs Netherby Pukeko, POD *Olivia Luddy*. Methven Paddock Vets vs Allenton Y3 Stars, POD *Isla Wright*. Methven CG Ag vs ACS Agility, POD *Hadley Hampton & Maddie Lovelock*.

Yr5/6 23rd May

Methven Gluyas Motor Group vs Rakaia Pohutukawa, POD *Georgie Gray*. Methven Coleridge Law vs Netherby Ruru, POD *Elsie Watson*. Methven Dargue Hedge Trimming vs Southern Hinds Seeds, POD *Penelope Pearce*. Methven Clemens Seed Dressing vs Allenton Y5 Flames, POD *Sophie Henderson*. Methven Clear Ear vs Southern Stockers, POD *Bella Stanley*.

Yr7/8

Methven R&R Spreading vs Hampstead Junior A won 38-7, POD *Beatrix Poyner*. Methven Kayla Dynes-Bayleys vs Rakaia Vetlife lost 6-12, POD *Honor Rooney*. Methven Blue Sky Farms vs ACS Angels lost 2-27, POD *Molly McHugh*.

Senior

Methven Trucking vs Southern Groves Dairies lost 26-29, POD *Izzy Gray*. Methven South Pacific Seeds vs Southern Welshy's lost 12-20, POD *Elin Holmes*.

METHVEN GOLF CLUB

9 Hole

15th May 3rd Stableford: *Wynand Putter* 46-12-34, 20 Stablefords. *Hiromi Ikehata* 44-8-36,19 Stablefords. *Adrienne Goodwin* 61-25-36 Stablefords. *Alan Willis* 59-24-35, 19 Stablefords.

PGG Wrightson Best Player *Wynand Putter*. Methven Travel Nearest the Pin *Wynand Putter*. Methven Travel 2nd Shot *Colin Woolsey*.

22nd May 4th Stableford: *Jan Willis* 54-24-30, 25 Stablefords. *Alister Goodwin* 51-22-39, 24 Stablefords. *Karen Currie* 57-24-33, 22 Stablefords. *Mike Markillie* 48-17-31, 22 Stablefords.

PGG Wrightson Best Player *Jan Willis*. Methven Travel Nearest the Pin *Hiromi Ikehata*. Methven Travel 2nd Shot *Ross Keown*.

Ladies Results 20th May

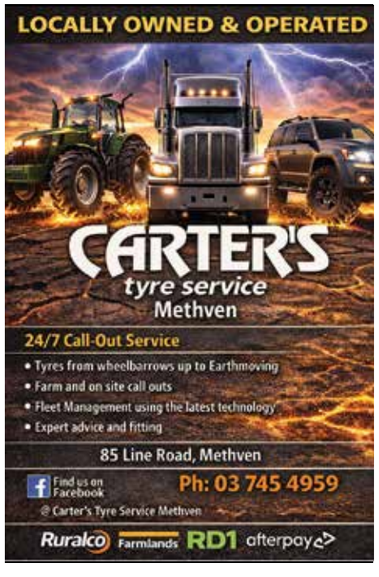
Competition 2nd Waddington Plate, 3rd Margaret Lilley Putting and 2nd Eclectic

Eclectic: *Sharon Burrell-Smith* 63. **Margaret Lilley Putting:** *Wanda Campbell* 26, *Ellen Kemp* 28, *Sharon Burrell-Smith* 29.

Hammer Hardware Best Nett Of Day *Tania Wilson* 73 C/B, *Bev Isherwood* 73.

Nearest The Pins: No 4 Open Methven Pharmacy *Ellen Kemp*, No 6 Open Primo *Robyn Maw*, No 13 Open & Bronze B 2nd Shot, Farmhouse Design & Decor, Station Coffee *Linda Ayers*, No 17 Open Methven Foursquare *Sharon Burrell-Smith*, No 14 Hard Yards Ltd Silver, Bronze A 2nd Shot *Heather Middleton*.

Two's And Nett Eagles: *Ruth Smith* x2, *Heather Middleton*.



METHVEN GARDEN CLUB

We held our May Garden Club meeting in Methven last Thursday at the Anglican Church, where 21 members (including some new members), attended. **Liz Wilson**

Our speaker was Sara (Lushington's Garden Centre, Ashburton), who gave us a very informative talk on preparing our gardens for the winter months ahead.

Areas covered included:

- frost protection
- pruning of fruit trees and roses
- cleaning of secateurs emphasising the importance of sterilisation to stop the spread of diseases
- using pruning paste to seal cuts
- looking after tools by cleaning and sharpening and protecting the wooden handles with linseed oil for storage over the winter

Sara encouraged protecting our soil with leaves and compost prior to winter or planting a green crop in an empty area following harvest. Much information was given on pests and diseases and how to treat them with the latest sprays and oils.

Another section included what vegetables to sow from seed, planting brassicas, silverbeet, broad beans and garlic and how to sterilise glass houses by burning flowers of sulphur.

Sara spoke on our ever changing climate and how trees and shrubs are flowering out of season. Our members asked many questions - all were aptly answered.

Even as seasoned gardeners we were able to extend our knowledge as we all know that you never stop learning - gardening is our passion.

The afternoon finished with a lovely afternoon tea and chat.

METHVEN BRIDGE CLUB

North / South:

John Barwell	Colin Clemens	65.00%
Janet Cuttle	Murray Hawkes	35.00%

East / West:

Bob Todhunter	E Wallace	50.00%
Willie Ensor	Jennifer Hooke	50.00%

No bridge next weekend – Kings Birthday

Weekly Community Heroes

Celebrating our local heroes and heroines!

Head into The Alpine Grind to nominate.

Mick Keepa

Stop by The Alpine Grind for your free coffee

THE ALPINE GRIND

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BOOKKEEPER in Methven looking for work. Ten years experience with Xero. Contact Rosalyn 027 493 4120

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ARE you sick of the slow engine response from your diesel ute? Consider fitting an S-DRIVE. Big performance gains for low cost. See Andrew at Methven Motors or phone 03 302 8201.

ADBLUE available at Methven Motors 302 8201.

EMPLOYMENT

Registered Nurse

Methven Central Care Home is seeking expressions of interest from compassionate and dedicated Registered Nurses to join our team. We are a new rest home situated in Methven with 20 luxurious rooms.

Position Details

- Registered Nurse with current NZ registered practising certificate
- three shifts per week
- kind, patient and professional attitude
- provide high quality nursing care to our residents
- InterRai trained an advantage
- supportive and welcoming rural aged care environment

What We Offer

- competitive pay rate
- supportive management and team culture
- opportunities for ongoing learning and development
- a rewarding role within a close-knit community

This is an opportunity to become part of a caring and community focused team providing quality rest home level care to our residents at Methven Central Care Home.

For further information and an application form, please contact Ghia Buking.

nursemanager@methvencentral.org.nz
Ph: 03 302 8528
Applications close Friday 12th June

Methven CENTRAL

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking a
HARDWORKING, TEAM PLAYER
to join our team in Methven

SHIPPING & EXPORT ASSISTANT

This newly created role within our administration team is to provide assistance to our Export Manager to ensure we provide efficient high standards of service to our customers in all shipping & export related services.

Proven experience with export, shipping and compliance would be an advantage, however applicants with strong administration skill sets, attention to detail & proven experience working within deadlines is the key attributes required for this position, as full training will be provided.

This is a permanent fulltime position, working from our Methven based offices.

If this sounds like you, CONTACT US TODAY
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Applicants must have New Zealand residency, or have the legal rights to work in New Zealand.

BAYLEYS

Methven and Surrounds

NEW LISTING

Methven 5 Memorial Crescent

Your lifestyle starts here

This 728sqm (more or less) section offers the perfect opportunity to secure your space within Camrose Estate where section availability is becoming increasingly limited, now is the time to bring your dream home or relocation plans to life.

bayleys.co.nz/**5530668**

728sqm

Asking Price $240,000
View by appointment
Kayla Dynes 027 697 0915
kayla.dynes@bayleys.co.nz
WHALAN AND PARTNERS LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

OPEN HOME

Methven 28 Jackson Street

A charming cottage

In the heart of the village centre is this beautifully renovated and sunny cottage. This home blends timeless character with stylish modern additions, with a brand-new kitchen and bathroom, easy-care gardens, and a spacious outdoor deck perfect for relaxing or entertaining, this special retreat truly stands out from the rest.

bayleys.co.nz/**5530528**

3 1 1 1

Deadline Sale (unless sold prior)
12pm, Wed 3 Jun 2026
View Sat 12-12.30pm
or by appointment
Kayla Dynes 027 697 0915
kayla.dynes@bayleys.co.nz
WHALAN AND PARTNERS LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

FINAL NOTICE

Methven 2/178 Main Street

Sunny chalet living in Central Methven

Escape to the heart of Methven with this welcoming alpine-style chalet, offering a perfect blend of comfort, practicality, and relaxed living within a peaceful complex of eight. Located right on Methven's main street, this unit-title property places you within easy reach of local cafés, shops, and amenities.

bayleys.co.nz/**5530437**

2 1 1

Deadline Sale (unless sold prior)
12pm, Thu 4 Jun 2026
View by appointment
Rosa Dekker 0274 655 387
rosa.dekker@bayleys.co.nz
WHALAN AND PARTNERS LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

Methven 25A McMillan Street

Opportunity knocks

Right in the heart of Methven, this rough-around-the-edges home is packed with potential. Set on a low-maintenance section, it is an ideal rental investment or a great project for those looking to add value. The layout is functional, with a small but practical kitchen flowing into a cosy living area warmed by a log burner and supported by an HRV system.

bayleys.co.nz/**5530500**

4 2 2

Deadline Sale (unless sold prior)
12pm, Thu 11 Jun 2026
View by appointment
Rosa Dekker 0274 655 387
rosa.dekker@bayleys.co.nz
WHALAN AND PARTNERS LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

bayleys.co.nz

50a & 50b/43 Barkers Road, **Methven** 3 2 1

- A fully self-contained 3 bedroom unit
- 2 bedrooms with a full kitchen, sunny living space, bathroom, and laundry plus a separate lockable studio unit with kitchen and bathroom
- Sleeps 6 in total

Deadline Sale
Closing 3rd June 2026 at 2pm (unless sold prior)

View
Saturday 30th May 1:00pm - 1:30pm

Margaret Feiss
021 751 009
Shirley Fitzgerald
027 220 1528

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30147
Real Estate Mid Canterbury Property Ltd Licensed (REAA 2008)

46 Zig Zag Road, **Windwhistle**

Our vendors circumstances have changed and a retirement date has been set. This is a golden opportunity for someone with energy, vision and not afraid of hard work, in doing so they reap the rewards of their foresight and effort.

Auction
6th June 2026 at 2pm (unless sold prior) On site

View
Sat 30th & Sun 31st May 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Trevor Goldsmith
027 225 5669

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30073
Real Estate Mid Canterbury Property Ltd Licensed (REAA 2008)

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

- Elegant new build set on 4044m2 amongst extensive plantings & landscaping
- 371.85m2 home with an emphasis on low maintenance
- Multiple living options with large upstairs living space
- This home will capture your heart

Price on Application

View
Sat 30th May 2:00pm - 3:00pm & Tue 2nd June 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Margaret Feiss
021 751 009

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

18 Memorial Crescent, **Methven** 3 2 2

- Well built home and energy efficient with 11 solar panels
- 3 bedroom home + office and 2 bathrooms (ensuite)
- Heat pump's and HRV
- Features 45m2 fully lined, batted double glazed, workshop/hobby space

For Sale
Offers over $895,000

View
by appointment

Margaret Feiss
021 751 009
Shirley Fitzgerald
027 220 1528

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30143
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
021 751 009
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 Thyne Stream subdivision
* 4087m2 fully fenced with tree and shrub planting commenced ready for that keen gardener
* Power, water & fibre to boundary

Price on Application

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

Shirley Fitzgerald
027 220 1528

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30100
Real Estate Mid Canterbury Property Ltd Licensed (REAA 2008)

Business Owner:
Kim Miller
027 236 8627

Margaret Feiss
Licensee Salesperson
021 751 009

Shirley Fitzgerald
Licensee Salesperson
0272 201 528

Trevor The Bald One
Licensee Salesperson
027 225 5669

36 McMillan Street, Methven 03 303 3032
rwashburton.co.nz