

Hukarere Niupepa



SNOWFED

Methven & Foothills Newspaper - owned by Mount Hutt College

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Thursday 16th July 2026 Issue 24

Amazing!



Three Methven Kellogg Rural Leaders

Methven's Kate Tomlinson, Phil Lowe and Tane Smith-MacDonald
Photos courtesy of Kellogg Rural Leaders

Story inside



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PUKA RATAKA Daily Diary

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

JULY

16 Methv. Historical Soc. AGM, 7pm
20 Methv. A & P AGM, 7.30pm, MHMH
24 Lifestyle Hacks, 7pm, MHMH
26 Elderly Housing Feedback closes
28 U3A Ashb. Olympic Bob Sleighter
29 Area Enhance. Security AGM, 7pm
Methven Pre School AGM, 7pm
Cinema Revival Group AGM, 7.30pm
31 Dogs need to be Registered

COMMUNITY

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

TUESDAY

Methven Toy Library 9-10.30am
Methven Public Library 2pm-4pm
Methven Museum 2pm-4pm

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

Cancer Drop in Sessions 1st & 3rd Thursday
of each month, 10-12pm, MHMH

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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thing, (even when no one is
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will know it was you.*

A J Lynley

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consent from Annie Jacobs, Editor.

continued from front page

Three Methven Kellogg Rural Leaders

Three Big Ideas: Local Voices Shaping the Future of Agriculture

For a small rural town, Methven has always punched above its weight. This year, that tradition continues with three local people graduating from the prestigious Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme, each tackling a challenge that could help shape the future of New Zealand agriculture.

The Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme, delivered by Rural Leaders, is recognised as one of the country's premier leadership development programmes. Bringing together people from across the primary industries, the programme challenges participants to think beyond their own businesses and contribute to the future of the wider sector through research, leadership and collaboration.

Among this year's graduates were Methven locals Tane Smith-MacDonald, Kate Tomlinson and Phil Lowe. While their research topics differ significantly, they are united by a common goal: strengthening New Zealand's agricultural industry through innovation, leadership and practical solutions.

Tane Smith-MacDonald, who has spent the past decade with PGG Wrightson Seeds, focused his research on one of agriculture's less visible but highly important sectors: seed cleaning. Growing up in Methven, Tane developed an early connection with agriculture.

"My Grandfather is Ron Smith and as a kid I travelled around in trucks with him and saw lots of farms. I had an after school job at 15, at one of the seed cleaning places in Methven. I've never said no to an opportunity and it's worked out for me. Ron's younger son is the main professor for Agriculture at Lincoln University and he was a driving force for me pursuing academics. In my spare time I'm an aspiring author. I had not ever attended university," said Tane, who has built a career in seed cleaning across plant operations, health and safety, project management and operational leadership. His work has also taken him overseas, where visits to international manufacturing facilities sparked an interest in how emerging technologies could transform traditional industries. His Kellogg project explored how artificial intelligence could improve efficiency, decision-making and workforce capability within New Zealand's seed cleaning industry. Rather than replacing people, his research examined how AI can support operators, improve consistency and help preserve valuable operational knowledge as the industry faces increasing labour shortages and growing technical complexity. For Tane, the programme reinforced the importance of thinking beyond today's challenges and preparing industries for the future through



Three Methven Rural Leaders
on the steps of Parliament

practical innovation and collaboration.

Kate Tomlinson approached a different challenge altogether. From a farming family in the United Kingdom, Kate now lives in Methven after moving to New Zealand in 2022. Having worked in agricultural sustainability, rural consultancy, research and on local farms, she has developed a passion for understanding the people who make agriculture successful. Her research investigated the cultural diversity of Canterbury's dairy workforce, exploring who is in the workforce, what their thoughts, feeling and experiences of leading or working in multicultural teams have been and what we can do to build thriving multicultural dairy teams.

As New Zealand dairy industry continues to rely on skilled people from around the world, Kate's work adds to the industry recommendation to "Know Your People". Her research maps out how people got here, why they moved to Canterbury's dairy industry and the strategies used in recruiting and building thriving multicultural teams. She not only identifies the cultural differences occurring on farm but researched why they happen and what we can do when they occur.

Providing clear recommendations around how we can build strong relationships, improve retention and lead better multicultural teams, Kate's work emphasises the importance of understanding different cultures, improving communication and creating environments where everyone can contribute and thrive.

Long-time Mid Canterbury farmer Phil Lowe focused his attention on another significant opportunity facing the dairy sector.

Having converted his family property from sheep and beef into a 900-cow dairy operation

nearly two decades ago, Phil has developed a strong interest in genetics, animal performance and innovation. His involvement with organisations including Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation, the Rangitata Diversion Race Management Company and LIC has given him a broad perspective on the opportunities facing New Zealand agriculture.

His Kellogg research explored whether dairy farmers can develop scalable systems that allow non-replacement dairy calves to compete with traditional beef breeds by 10 months of age.

With increasing scrutiny around the value and utilisation of dairy-origin calves, Phil's work investigates how improved genetics, management and farm systems could create stronger commercial outcomes for both dairy and beef sectors.

Although their combined research spans technology, people and livestock systems, all three projects share a common thread: finding practical ways to improve the industries that underpin communities such as Methven.

Having three participants from one small town complete the same Kellogg cohort is a remarkable achievement and reflects the strength of leadership from Mid Canterbury agriculture.

The programme challenged participants to step outside their day-to-day roles, engage with experts from across the country and tackle issues that extend well beyond the farm gate. It also highlighted the importance of collaboration, curiosity and lifelong learning - qualities that continue to drive successful rural communities.

As New Zealand agriculture faces changing markets, evolving technology and increasing environmental and workforce challenges, it is local leaders who will help shape the next chapter.

For Methven, having three graduates return home equipped with new ideas, broader perspectives and a passion for positive change is something the whole community can be proud of.

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Change of Direction brings New Mural to

Vladimir Simenok from Estonia was travelling through Lake Takapo (Tekapo), from Christchurch to Queenstown, where a half hour stop would change his direction.

Mt Somer's Clay Bell (from Frydays) was on that bus and during the half hour stop, walked down to the lake.

"While I was admiring the view, a stranger came up to me and said, "Hey, you own Frydays in Methven!" said Clay. "We got chatting and walked back up to the bus, where we came across this guy on the bus doing pull-ups. When he was finished his pull ups, he started cracking some hardboiled eggs and crackers for a snack. We were intrigued at this guy and thought this would make a good conversation," said Clay. "He then offered me some hardboiled eggs and crackers, thinking I was hungry."

Clay joked an answer back, "Are they drugged?" Introductions were made with Clay meeting Vova (Vladimir).

Vova and Clay ended up chatting all the way from Takapo to Twizel about all kinds of things and art came up. Vova shared that he does art and during his recent travels has completed art projects in a number of the countries he has visited. Clay mentioned that Frydays were looking at doing a mural on their wall, so Vova showed some of the artwork to Clay that he does.

Getting off the bus at Twizel, Clay exchanged numbers with Vova, with their conversation continuing by text.

Vova has been travelling for three years through 32 countries where his artwork graces a mural in Rishikesh, India, Port Vila in Vanuatu, drawings and paintings from villages to cities over 150 places around Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania.

Growing up in Estonia, Vova remembers there was always photos of him in the family album of him falling asleep next to mountains of drawing and art.

"When I was at school I pursued science, went to university and then studied and later worked in the industry that created the deepest black paint ever made called, Vantablack." He also trained to be a paramedic. And then sadly due to a sequence of tragic events, he left his job and was going to serve in the Ukrainian Foreign Legion.

"My Mum phoned as I was about to get on the plane. She said it would make her life hell. It became a selfish act instead of a selfless act. We have family on both sides of the conflict. It was a very difficult time for me. I stepped off the plane. It was a turning point for me. I

had had a dream the night before I was due to leave, of being in basic training in Ukraine - I was in anxiety and fear."

"I knew I couldn't go to Ukraine because of the stress on my Mum."

Through the tragic circumstances that Vova had previously experienced, he had a strong sense of powerlessness and didn't want to experience that again, he had felt depleted.

"I used the new found freedom I'd been given to travel and create, and rebuild. I love art and people use it as a form of therapy," Vova said. He wanted to use that power and bring something positive into the world.

"People when they purchase something (a piece art), want something that resonates with them. The art never changes, but for people looking at it they appreciate it and people see different things in it. When I was in my deepest darkest places, I would go to galleries I would go and look at the art." Vova's style covers architecture, landscapes and people.

"I take inspiration from moments I've seen throughout my travels, mixed in with my own creative talent and intuition, to draw beauty into the piece of work," shared Vova. "The

Town

focus of my art is to invite people to pause, convert and reflect."

During the ensuing conversations between Vova and Clay, Vova was invited to come back to Methven and create a beautiful mural in Frydays, of the mountains and foothills of our region, for Clay and his Mum, Leeann.

"The work embodies the warmth of Clay and Leeann and invites you to sit down and admire the landscape at dusk, while Mother and Son are busy preparing their hearty meals, acting as a tight glue for the local community," said Vova. The beautiful mural depicts our maunga (mountains) and runs the full length of the interior wall in Frydays.

"People come in here and have great yarns with each other while they're waiting for their food to be cooked," said Clay. "Some even stay for 30-45 minutes to carry on a chat. Now with the mural here, there will be even more to talk about."

"The mountains have always been sources of healing and grounding - they are great symbols of overcoming adversity and experiencing life in the uttermost present,"



said Vova. "Whenever you decide to climb a mountain, you face suffering and pain and once you're over that and you understand it's part of the journey, the suffering is alleviated. You're given the reward of conquering that peak at the end of the journey. The main thing I want people to take away from seeing the mountains is to not be afraid to express what they feel, to break down their boundaries from one another. Hopefully in the late evenings when the locals and tourists come to Methven, they can gather on the coldest

and rainiest days and still be able to admire the mountain range from Hutt to (Mount) Somers in this family owned establishment. That is the main reason why I have taken the perspective of the mural - the mountain draws you into the window where you place your order."

The mural is due to be finished this week, so head into Frydays to have a look, a contemplate, pause and reflect - you will be so pleased you did.



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Save the Date - Methven Craft Fair is on it's Way!

Annie Jacobs

Plans are underway with stallholders booked in, for the upcoming annual Methven Craft Fair.

The fair is being held on Saturday 1st August in the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall. It's the perfect place to go shopping on a cold winter's day, regardless of the weather outside.

If you love artisan gifts, traditional craft ware and those extra special home made items, then this is where you need to be - a great place to purchase quality presents that last the distance. Often the person behind the stall is the person who has crafted the items for sale so you can ask questions and get answers from the creator.

This year's fair has increased in size and will feature over 40 stalls packed with uniquely tailored, specialised items for sale. The beauty of having a fair such as this often means that items are hand crafted, or custom made, in

small batches, providing exceptional quality.

Crowd favourites from previous years such as Henrietta's Country Creams will be there, along with the famous Methven Toy Library Bake Sale, home decor, clothing, soaps, garden art and so very much more.

New this year will be a food truck selling mini donuts and if you need to refuel, a coffee cart will be on site to get your coffee fix. There will be a packed hamper of artisan gifts and crafts with gorgeous raffle prizes including an Opuke Thermal Pools and Spa prize and one from "Rumour Has It."

The Craft Fair is organised by Lauriston School's School Support Group (LSS) who fundraise for the extra things needed for students, which are not covered by education funding. LSS fund the school's swimming pool, education outside of the classroom (such as school camps and trips), extra learning support and whatever else the school needs further funding for, to progress the education of the students who attend the rural school.

Stash away some cash and mark the date in your diary as this is an event not to be missed!

METHVEN CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 1st August

Mt Hutt Memorial Hall

10am - 4pm

Free Entry

Over 40 stalls - candles, soaps, art, clothing, jewellery, garden art, Methven Toy Library bake sale, home decor and so much more.

Something here for everyone!

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Mini donuts, coffee cart and a fabulous a raffle with great prizes.



Forsyth Barr, expert investment advice

Investment Advisers, Michelle Parkin and Mark Grenside, will be at the Mt Hutt Memorial Hall every Wednesday from 10:00am until 12:30pm. Pop in to join Michelle and Mark for a coffee and an informal chat to find out how Forsyth Barr's investment services can help you achieve your future financial goals.



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
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Strong Interest in New Bridge Public Info Session



Above: A digital design of how the second Ashburton Bridge will look, once completed, looking southwest from Chalmers Avenue Ashburton, across the river towards Tinwald

About 150 people interested in the progress of the Second Ashburton Bridge dropped into a public information session at the Ashburton Library recently.

Members of the team building the new bridge and connecting road were on hand to answer questions, alongside those who have designed the bridge and are overseeing its construction.

It is a joint project involving Council, NZ Transport Agency and Government, and scheduled to be open for traffic at the end of 2027.

Information was displayed on panels and a new long plot was revealed - the long plot is an aerial image of the bridge and connecting road, showing where the 28 piles will go, the position of embankments and stormwater swales.

The information boards will remain available near Council's Customer Service counter for the next three weeks. The new long plot will remain on an internal wall of the library for the rest of the construction phase, and it can also be found on Ashburton District Council's Project page: <https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/services/projects/ashburton-second-urban-bridge>

The information from the display panels is also available online.

Jokes

1 Why did Mozart kill all of his hens? When he asked who the best composer was, they all replied, "Bach, Bach, Bach."

2 How do you light up a sports stadium? With a soccer match.

3 Where do sheep like to go on holiday? The Baa-hamas.

4 What do you call a boomerang that won't come back? A stick.

5 Why can't leopards play hide and seek? Because they're always spotted.



Practical Tips for Staying Well through Winter

Annie Jacobs

Coughs, colds, bugs, the flu and ill health are just about a given for winter, or are they?

How often do families dread the children coming home from school or pre school with yet another sniffle, vomiting bug, temperature or a cough?

What can we do to help ourselves and those we live with to keep ourselves well during the winter months?

A warm underlayer is a great start, with lighter layers on top that can be removed or added as needed. A woollen singlet helps your body regulate its temperature and is not just best for babies, but great for older children and adults too. Allergies may be less of an issue when there are other products to choose from that insulate like wool, such as possum, alpaca and rabbit.

Eating healthily gives your body more superstar power to fight illness, as your immunity is supported. Plenty of sunshine/Vitamin D, drinking enough water, fresh air, healthy sleep and exercise all assist in staying well.

Washing hands after toileting is very important - for adults as well as children. If you have unwell children or young people, keep them home from preschool and school. If adults are unwell, don't go to work and infect your workplace. Stay home and take the time to get well - that is what sick days are for!

Covering a cough with a tissue, handkerchief or coughing into your elbow is a good option (don't cough into your hand!), but remember to wash your hands or clothes afterwards, otherwise those cough bugs can get spread if you keep wearing that item of clothing.

Eating plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit helps to give us a supply of Vitamin C, but as this vitamin cannot be stored in the body, it can be a good idea to supplement with a Vitamin C tablet over the winter months to help keep your immunity levels up.

If you are ever unsure or uncertain about something to do with your health, or feeling a little off or just not right, book in to see your doctor, nurse or health professional.

Stay warm and keep healthy this winter!

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Milestone for Hunter-led Conservation in

Hunter-led conservation has reached a new milestone, with Fiordland wapiti deer formally designated as New Zealand's first Herd of Special Interest (HOSI).

Hunting and Fishing Minister James Meager says the move paves the way for the game animals to be sustainably managed for their hunting values, while improving important conservation outcomes.

Mr Meager made the announcement in Te Anau alongside the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, who will lead the HOSI's on-the-ground delivery based on annual operational plans developed with DOC, in partnership with iwi and hapū.

"This is an exciting and logical step for valued introduced species, which have significant heritage and cultural values to many Kiwis," Mr Meager says.

"The framework enables structured, hunter-led herd management within Fiordland National Park, while continuing to protect and enhance its treasured landscape.

"It builds on the Fiordland Wapiti



Minister James Meager with Roy Sloan (Fiordland Wapiti Foundation) and representatives from the Department of Conservation and Game Animal Council, outside the Fiordland Events Centre

Foundation's excellent long-standing work, which includes regular culling, management of

the popular wapiti ballot, track and hut maintenance, and trapping to protect at-risk native species like whio/blue duck.

"I believe the designation is a win-win for all. It will help manage deer

NZ

numbers to sustainable herd levels, ensure hunters pull healthy animals off the public back country to put on the family dinner table, and better protect our biodiversity."

The management plan does not seek to increase animal numbers. A key focus will be to help native vegetation recover by reducing browsing pressure, so young plants can survive and ecosystems can regenerate over time.

Mr Meager says strong environmental oversight will be in place, with annual reporting on herd management and monitoring to be made publicly available.

"New Zealand's responsibility to protect Fiordland's World Heritage values remains unchanged. I retain overall authority and can amend or remove the designation, or any delegation, if required," Mr Meager says.

The decision follows a full statutory process, including public submissions, engagement with Treaty partners, and advice from agencies and organisations. The designation will take effect once hunting conditions for the wapiti ballot are formally set out in the New Zealand Gazette, establishing how access will be managed during the annual bugle season. Current access arrangements will remain in place including the ballot system during the bugle season.

Assessment of effects on Fiordland National Park's UNESCO World Heritage values indicates HOSI management is likely to improve ecological outcomes compared to areas without active management, noting the coordinated deer management and monitoring involved with a HOSI.

"I thank everyone who contributed. Your input has helped inform a balanced outcome that recognises both the value of hunting and the importance of protecting our unique natural environment," Mr Meager says.

"This is a piece of work spanning more than a decade, with legislation supporting the creation of HOSIs passed back in 2013. I am proud to deliver on the National Party's 2023 election promise to designate the first herds this Parliamentary term."

A decision on the proposed Sika Herd of Special Interest will be made by Minister Meager imminently.

METHVEN GOLF CLUB

9 Hole 10th July

6th Putting: Colin Woolsey 60-27-33, 15 putts. Bob Brown 66-25-41, 15 Putts. Mike Markillie 55-17-38, 16 Putts.

PGG Wrightson Best Player: Colin Woolsey. **Gallagher Putting** Colin Woolsey, Bob Brown. **Methven Travel Nearest the Pin** Hiromi Ikehata. **Methven Travel 2nd Shot** Colin Woolsey.

Mens Results

Best Stableford: Andrew Wright 81-16-65, 42.

2nd Best Stableford Alistair Maxwell 41.

Other good scores: 40 Phil Johnson. 37 Craig (CJ) Middleton, Simon Wareing. 39 Graham Shaw. 36 Graham Gunn, Grant Hargreaves, Phil Thomas. 35 Allan Lock, Frikkie Greybe. 34 Marc Davis. 33 Dayle Lucas, John Robinson, Mark Gazzard.

Twos: Phil Johnson x2, Simon Wareing, Craig (CJ) Middleton.

Nearest the Pins: No 4 Charterhouse Farms Simon Wareing. No 6 Hunters Wines Not Struck. No 13 SkiTime Frikkie Greybe. No 17 Methven Pubs Piers Rolton.

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Development Contributions Capped

The water treatment plant for Mt Somers



Council has introduced a cap on development contributions for the Mount Somers drinking water supply following concerns about high charges potentially limiting future growth in the township.

The water supply contribution was set at \$20,503 to cover the growth portion of the \$6.7m Mount Somers water treatment plant which was opened in 2024. While similar charges can be found in small water schemes elsewhere in New Zealand, they were considerably higher than other areas of the Ashburton District.

Councillors heard that at the time of deliberations, no development fees had

been paid in Mount Somers since the treatment plant was opened, and some in the community felt the cost was unfair.

Council weighed up a range of capping scenarios, from retaining the status quo to reducing it by half. Following robust discussions, Councillors settled on capping the Mount Somers water supply development contribution at \$12,500.

The reduction will see the remainder of the cost spread across the district water group, costing approximately \$0.63 per connected property each year. The change came into effect on 1 July 2026.

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Local Events

Bobsleigh Champ to speak at U3A

At the next U3A Hakatere/Ashburton Lifelong Learning Meeting, Aaron Orangi will talk about his journey growing up in small towns, playing all types of sport, his family, opportunities he's had along the way and trying to attain his dreams and goals in sport and life.

Aaron is a bobsleigh champion having been born and raised Geraldine where he showed early promise in sports. As a youth, he played both rugby and tennis, and at age 13 was invited to Auckland for advanced junior tennis training, an opportunity he declined in favour of continuing with rugby. He attended the University of Otago, studying pharmacy while playing rugby between 1991 and 1994. His speed on the field earned him the nickname "Wheels."

Remarkably, Aaron didn't begin competing in bobsleigh until his early 30s, bringing his athleticism from rugby into the winter sport. He made his international debut in 2005 at the North America's Cup in Lake Placid, USA, where New Zealand's teams placed 7th and 4th.

His strong performances led to his selection for the New Zealand Olympic bobsleigh squad for the 2006 Winter Games in Torino. As a crewman (brakeman) in the four-man bobsleigh, he joined pilot Alan Henderson and fellow brakemen Matthew Dallow and Stephen Harrison.

During pre-Olympic training at Cesana Pariol, the team completed five successful practice runs, but on the sixth run, their sled crashed at high speed, injuring Henderson and Dallow. Orangi and Harrison were



Aaron Orangi third from left, with his team and inset, now as a Pharmacist

largely unscathed. Despite their determination to compete, medical advice led to the team's withdrawal, resulting in a "Did Not Start" for the event. Aaron continued to race internationally after 2006, including appearances at the Lake Placid North American Cup in 2008 and the St. Moritz European Cup in 2009.

Beyond sport, Aaron has been a community pharmacist in Darfield, Canterbury since the late 1990s, and in 2007, at age 35, he purchased the Darfield Pharmacy. He has served as an Education Ambassador for the New Zealand Olympic Committee, visiting schools to inspire and mentor young Kiwi athletes.

If you would like to hear Aaron speak, come along on Tuesday 28th July to Ashburton Event Centre at 9.30am. To attend as a casual costs \$10.

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IMPORTANT DETAILS

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KICK-OFF
2:30PM

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Mission 2026 - Final Rescue Helicopter

Celebrations were underway recently after an immense project to bring four H145 rescue helicopters to the South Island.

Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust CEO Anton Drazevic says the scale of what has been achieved in just two years is remarkable.

"Mission 2026 was a visionary undertaking – a project that demanded ambition, dedication and a belief in what's possible. Our team dared to dream big, and with the unwavering support of our community, the bold venture has become a milestone that will shape and protect the future of rescue helicopter services in our region," Anton said.

"This Mission has delivered the biggest improvement in patient care in the history of this 40-year-old service thanks to extraordinary community support and the work of the Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust. Our crews can't thank you enough," Critical Care Paramedic Adrian Hurst said.

The H145 rescue helicopters are all Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) capable. Over the last two years, the Trust has expanded IFR routes across the region and worked with communities to install a network of IFR-capable helipads.

The helicopters can now fly in more adverse weather, in a machine built for rescue missions. Advanced avionics and life-saving medical technology allows them to respond

faster, more safely and more effectively than ever before.

After arriving in New Zealand from Switzerland, each helicopter underwent a specialist commissioning process.

The first arrived in August 2025 and is based on the West Coast. Of the next two, one remains in Christchurch with the other serving Nelson/Marlborough. The fourth and latest to arrive will remain at Christchurch, completing the fleet.

"Our heartfelt thanks goes to every individual, community group, business, and organisation that has stood by us and believed in what this service could become. Their generosity has turned Mission 2026 from a vision into a

reality," said Anton.

Mission statistics In 2025

The Canterbury West Coast Westpac Rescue Helicopter responded to 1081 missions – 691 in Canterbury and 390 in the West Coast. 16% involved winch operations while 18% involved the use of specialist night vision goggles.

The mission types are: Accident/Trauma 36%; Medical Emergency 30%; Patient Transfer 20%; Search and Rescue 7%; other 7%.

About the Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust

The Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust has funded the life-saving Rescue Helicopters

Comes in to Land

in Canterbury and the West Coast since 1989. Working alongside service provider GCH Aviation, the Trust is tasked with raising \$6 million each year to support the operation of the service, which is not fully government funded. The Trust's funding also supports the provision of



Left: Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust CEO Anton Drazevic addresses those invited to the blessing of the last helicopter to enter the fleet, IGD.



Right: Visitors are shown through the aircraft

life-saving equipment and additional crew training, all of which improves patient care and outcomes.

The Canterbury and West Coast Rescue Helicopter Service watches over the lives of 730,000 people, operating across the largest geographical coverage area in New Zealand; from the Waitaki River south of Timaru to the Clarence River north of Kaikoura on the eastern side of the Southern

Alps (approx. 43,500 square kms), and from Haast to Karamea on the West Coast (approx. 19,000 square kms).

The rescue helicopters also respond to offshore emergencies along the Canterbury and West Coast coastlines.

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Foothills Road Closure

Upper Downs Road

Upper Downs Road will be closed between Brothers Road and Hinds Gorge Road from 20 July 2026, 7.30 am to 22 July 2026, 5.30 pm.

Reason for Closure: Overhead underground conversion.

Detour Option(s): No detour routes available. Local restrictions apply.

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TIPS FOR KEEPING HEALTHY

Let's Talk about Longevity - Living a Long, Healthy Life

Lauren Stokes
Naturopath



There is a great series on Netflix called "Blue Zones, live to 100." In this series they found that there are pockets of the world where people are not only often living to 100, but that the elderly are extremely healthy – mentally, physically and emotionally.

The series investigates what these parts of the world are doing and highlights some areas that us Kiwis could take inspiration from.

Although the diets of the different countries vary, they all eat mainly wholefoods – their diets haven't been as tainted by ultra processed foods as some less healthy countries. Quality meats and fish, vegetables, fresh fruit, legumes, nuts and seeds and quality oils such as olive oil are the mainstays of diet in various forms.

Exercise is part of daily life, again in various forms – there is no one form of exercise found to be better than others – but these people are moving every day. Interestingly one of the places is a village in Italy, where the streets are steep – the locals are walking up and down these steep streets every day, and their heart health is amazing. A neighbouring town which does not have the steep streets doesn't have the same positive health statistics. In some cases the exercise is for exercise sake, but in many cases the exercise people are getting is just part of life, eg: getting from A to B.

A strong sense of family, community and belonging was found to be a vital factor in these places – several generations living together or close and regular social events for connection. It is a well proven fact that loneliness is a detrimental factor for health, and seeing how the elderly gather together almost every day and drink tea or play music or simply talk is just lovely.

Feeling like you have a purpose in life was another interesting finding, not necessarily something dramatic, often as simple as needing to

care for family members, animals, a garden or to undertake a job you are passionate about gives people the uplift required to keep going.

Unfortunately, in general, the modern kiwi diet is rich in processed food while lacking in wholefoods. Exercise is minimal, and many kiwis live a relatively isolated life.

I think it's important to talk about how in New Zealand we have some of the worst health statistics in the world for heart disease, obesity, depression, suicide and more. In order to make the changes required on a personal and national level, we can look at what other countries are doing traditionally and see what is working. Can we take inspiration from traditional ways of eating to replace processed food with wholefoods? Can we not only commit to regular exercise but find ways during the day to move more? Can we reach out to friends and family regularly to maintain enjoyable, supportive connection?

Small changes add up to a big difference in health, one thing at a time to move in the right direction towards good health is all it takes to live a long and healthy life.

Watters Cup Next Weekend

Jim Berquist



Methven warm up under a blue sky day with a spectacular backdrop of the snow clad Southern Alps.

Methven Seniors (34) played Round 6 of the Watters Cup against Rakaia (36) on Saturday 11th July, losing to the opposition yet resulting in some great rugby. There was a late tussle for the win, with Rakaia scoring in the absolute dying moments to come away on top.

These two teams will face off again next weekend for the Watters Cup, with the match to be held next Saturday at the Ashburton Showgrounds.

Now Open Tuesday – Sunday

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NATIONAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT Celebrating Outstanding Success from Mt Hutt College

James Meager

Methven and the Foothills has plenty to celebrate following the FMG Young Farmer of the Year Finals, with Mt Hutt College students and alumni achieving outstanding results on the national stage.

A huge congratulations to Emma Kinzett and Meghan Nish, who secured third place in the FMG Junior Young Farmer of the Year national finals. Competing against 13 of the top school teams from across New Zealand, they demonstrated impressive practical skills, technical knowledge, and the ability to perform under pressure.

Adding to the region's success, Mt Hutt College alumnus Jack Taggart claimed the Runner-Up position in the Senior Young Farmer of the Year Competition, an exceptional achievement in one of New Zealand's most respected rural contests.

Now in its 58th year, the FMG Young Farmer of the Year Contest is widely recognised as the country's premier agricultural competition. It showcases the talent, leadership, and innovation emerging within New Zealand's food and fibre sector and provides a valuable pathway for young people considering careers in agriculture.

These results are a testament not only to the hard work and dedication of the competitors themselves but also to the support of their families, teachers, mentors, and wider community. Success at this level requires



Above left: Meghan, Jack and Emma

commitment, perseverance, and countless hours of preparation.

For a rural district like Mid Canterbury, achievements such as these highlight the strength of our agricultural sector and the bright future ahead. Our local young people continue to demonstrate that they can compete with the very best in the country and achieve remarkable success.

Emma, Meghan and Jack have represented Mt Hutt College, Methven, and the wider Mid Canterbury community with pride. Their accomplishments should inspire other young people to take up opportunities in agriculture, develop new skills, and challenge themselves to achieve their goals.

Congratulations to all three competitors on their fantastic results. The entire community is proud of what you have achieved, and we look forward to following your future successes in New Zealand's food and fibre sector.

To contact James:

03 307 1729 JamesMeagerMP
james.meagerMP@parliament.govt.nz

James Meager MP for Rangitata

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Go to: <https://www.jpfed.org.nz/> to find a JP in another area.

METHVEN NETBALL CLUB

1st July

Social: Blue Pub vs Mt Somers Social 1 won 34-20. Methven Brown Pub vs Southern HD Ag lost 31-37.

2nd July

Premier: Wareings A vs Celtic A lost 45-61,

POD Lucinda Hutchinson.

Yr1/2s: Methven Garage Gym, P'sOD Skye Frame, Charlie Landy & Isla Martin.

3rd July

Yr3/4s: Methven Southface Contracting vs Longbeach Comets P'sOD Whole Team!

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Do you want to make a positive impact in someone's life?
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Weekly Community Heroes

Celebrating our local heroes and heroines! Head into The Alpine Grind to nominate.

Graeme Harrison

Jan Lock

Pam Drummond

Jacquie Proudman

Graeme Harrison

Stop by The Alpine Grind for your free coffee



AGM'S

Methven A & P Association

AGM

Monday 20th July

7:30pm

Mt Hutt Memorial Hall
160 Main Street, Methven



We welcome both new and existing members to come along. Doors open at 7pm, AGM at 7:30pm, followed by supper.

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- is computer literate (knowledge of the Google suite would be an advantage)

Patience and understanding are essential to this role as it involves working with a team to provide student support that enhances student learning and wellbeing. Other desirable qualities are being responsive to needs, ability to build relationships and being able to use their initiative. Experience working in a secondary school would be an advantage.

The successful applicant will have to undergo the police vetting procedure.

Application forms are available on our website (<https://mounthuttcollege.co.nz/contact-us>) or by emailing college@mthutt.school.nz.



Applications close **Monday 20th July 2026, 3pm**



Wednesday 29th July

7pm at the Pre School

21 South Belt, Methven

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Enhancement Trust

AGM

Wednesday 29th July

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16 - 22 July

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Zyla Cooksley 8

Teddy Marr 13

Maria Perriam 23

Isaac Stanley 14

Megan Hayes 43

Hepot McElrea 48

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Lucy Dynes 32

Archie McDonnell 12

Sophie Hart 7

Angus Mawle 11

Charlie Mawle 14

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Apology

Our computer autocorrect went unnoticed - our sincere apologies to Jim Nelson (not Wilson), whose story featured in Issue 22.



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Methven and Surrounds



NEW LISTING



Boundary lines are indicative only



Methven 1 Camrose Avenue

Beautifully maintained 4  1  2  2 

The open-plan kitchen, dining, and living area is the heart of the home, perfectly positioned to capture stunning views to Mt Hutt, an outlook becoming increasingly difficult to find within the township. Light-filled and welcoming, the well-appointed kitchen features a generous stone bench space and a large walk-in pantry.

Deadline Sale (unless sold prior)
12pm, Thu 6 Aug 2026
View Sat 11.30am-12pm or by appointment
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NEW LISTING



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Methven 20 Dolma Street

Smart, sustainable family living 4  2  3  2 

Built in 2023 by CWS Construction, this beautifully designed home combines modern comfort with impressive energy efficiency. A standout feature is the large solar system, comprising 16 Q cell panels, supporting the home's underfloor heating.

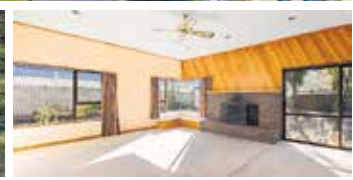
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OPEN HOME



Boundary lines are indicative only



Methven 22 Chapman Street

As is, where is 3  1  1  1 

For DIY enthusiasts and renovators, this is a chance to restore and reimagine. With a 1,012sqm (more or less) section, the possibilities are extensive. Developers will also recognise the opportunity here with the property occupying a highly desirable central position.

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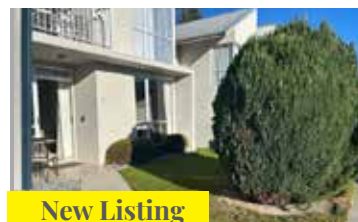
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New Listing

Unit 38 A & B/43 Barkers Road, Methven

3 2 0

- Holiday unit at Brinkley Village
- Fully self-contained three bedroom unit
- Two kitchens and two bathrooms
- Sleeps six in total
- Owners can enjoy up to 90 days occupancy annually

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30150

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Unit 50 A & B/43 Barkers Road, Methven

- Downstairs holiday unit at Brinkley Village
- A fully self-contained 3 bedroom unit
- Full kitchen and sunny living space
- Owners can enjoy up to 90 days occupancy annually

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30147

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96 Ashburton Gorge Road, Mt Somers

4 3 3

- 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom lifestyle property
- Designed by the owner and built by Joseph Builders in 2021
- Modern chef's kitchen
- High ceiling and large windows

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30136

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Price on
Application

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Shirley Fitzgerald
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37 Sam Holmes Drive, Methven

- 4044m2 lifestyle section
- Built by Stu Bell Construction in 2024
- Elevated foundation & large windows
- Open plan kitchen with walk in pantry
- Upstairs is a spacious flexible space

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30104

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Margaret Feiss
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Shirley Fitzgerald
027 220 1528



Mount Hutt Lodge. 46 Zig Zag Road, Windwhistle

Set on the Rakaia Gorge, on the Inland Scenic Route, Highway 72/77, with incredible views of Mt Hutt and the Hutt Range, the Rakaia Gorge and the stunning Rakaia River, the Mt Hutt Lodge presents the perfect opportunity to take over a successful business.

rwashburton.co.nz/MVN30073

Real Estate Mid Canterbury Property Ltd LICENSED (REAA 2008)

For Sale
\$1,200,000

View
by appointment

Trevor 'The Bald One' Goldsmith
027 225 5669



2969 Methven Highway, Methven

- Expansive 16.745 hectare parcel of Residential D pristine bare land
- Exceptional opportunity and rarely available
- Situated on the fringe of the Methven township
- Magnificent views of the Southern Alps

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Real Estate Mid Canterbury Property Ltd LICENSED (REAA 2008)

For Sale
Price on
Application
+ GST (if any)

View
by appointment

Shirley Fitzgerald
027 220 1528



Trevor 'The Bald One' Goldsmith
027 225 5669
trevor.goldsmith@raywhite.com



Shirley Fitzgerald
027 220 1528
shirley.fitzgerald@raywhite.com



Margaret Feiss
021 751 009
margaret.feiss@raywhite.com