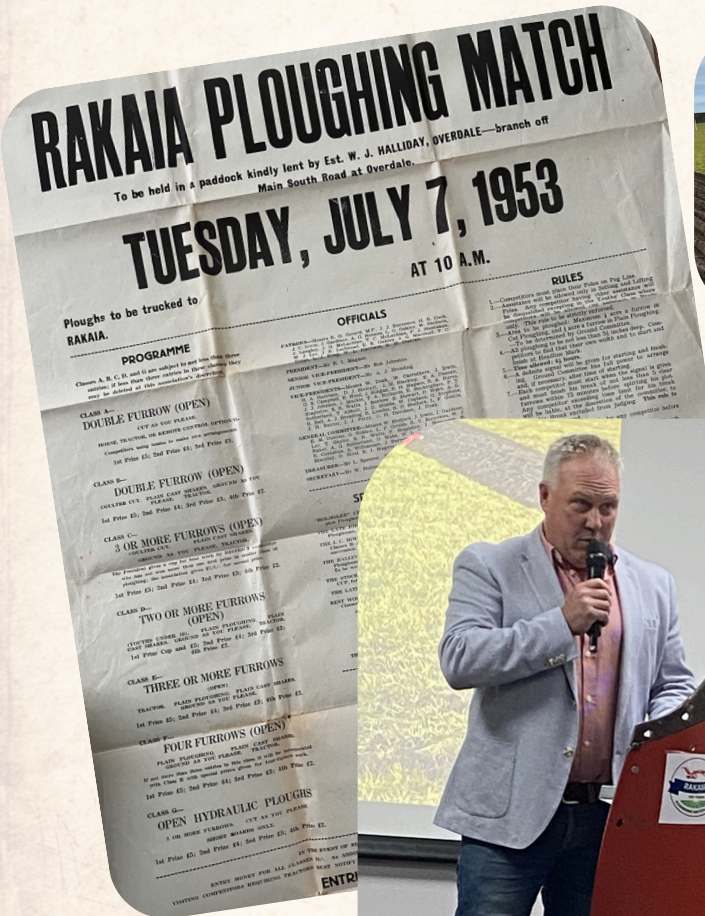




PLOUGHING IN RAKAIA

100th
ANNIVERSARY



Ken Readman



Robert Casey and his
granddaughter



Simon Reed and the
appropriately
designed lectern.



Warwick Seaton and
Simon



Colin Maw



Tryphena Carter

After a sunny day of ploughing there was an afternoon tea and prize giving in the Rakaia Rugby Clubrooms followed by an evening meal. Guest speakers included Alan Begg, Colin Maw, John Davison and sponsor Peter Gluyas.



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NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

CONTACT US:
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Sarah McCully



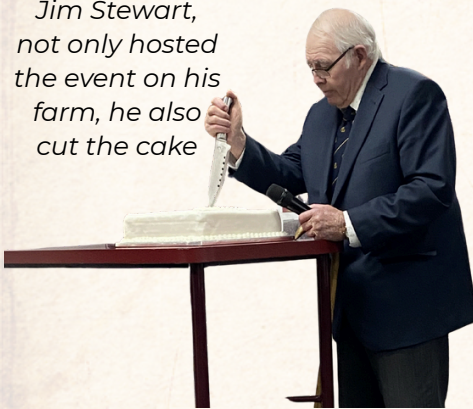
100th
ANNIVERSARY

Rakaia Ploughing



Gold medals referred to by Alan Begg in his speech. These were awarded at local ploughing matches in the 1920s

Jim Stewart, not only hosted the event on his farm, he also cut the cake



From the 1965 New Zealand Ploughing Championships- Rakaia



KEEN EVENTS AT RAKAIA. - Ashburton Guardian 28 July 1923

FINE WORK DONE. The first annual ploughing match of the newly formed Rakaia Ploughing Association was held on Friday in a paddock at Hatfield, kindly loaned for the occasion by the Davison Estate. The Association was very lucky as regards the weather. It was anything but promising the day before, and in the dark hours of Friday morning a sprinkling of snow fell. The day turned out fine and, the Rakaia shopkeepers having closed up for the afternoon, there was a good attendance of the public. The paddock used for* the match was old grass land. The success of the match is primarily due to the four principal officials: —Mr T. Skevington, president; Mr B. McNamara, chairman; Mr A. Holmes, secretary; and Mr L. Cordner, treasurer. An energetic committee rendered good service. On the recommendation of the judges it was agreed to give separate prizes for three-horse and four-horse teams. The judges were well pleased with the six-horse teams shown, and themselves donated an extra prize for this class. The best horses shown were the first and second prize-winners in the six horse teams, and the first in the four horse teams. The judges had no difficulty in making these three awards. Many of the teams were spoilt by having one member much below the average. There was not much competition for the prize for harness. This will probably be different next year now that the local competitors know what is expected. The ploughing was stated by the judges to be as good as could be seen anywhere in Canterbury. The work of the younger ploughmen was specially worthy of commendation. A distinctly disappointing feature of the match was the paucity of entries in the district classes, only ten out of a total of 40. The young men of the district have not come forward as was expected, but it is confidently hoped the prevailing shyness will wear off by next year.

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RURAL NEWS





COMING EVENTS

Courtenay Paparua 8 August
Lincoln 9 August

Central Southland and Thornbury Vintage
clubs ploughing matches will be held on
Shane Collies farm,
939 Oporo Flat road
22 & 23 August.

If Cancelled will be 29 & 30 August
Entries for Central Southland to Ray
McKenzie 0272037283 or Zac Taylor
0272145270

Thornbury to John Wild 02744334025.
Entries in by 18th August please

Match	Date	Contact	Entries Close
Reporoa/Rotorua	26 September	David Chatterton 027 675 1147 thegrange@xtra.co.nz	19 September
Takapau	3 October	Helen McSparran 027 600 1107 ianhelenmac@xtra.co.nz	
Wairarapa	4 October	Barbara Wilson 06 379 7403 adbewilson@farmside.co.nz	
Manawatu PMA	5 October	Paul Henson 06 329 3969 santohi@xtra.co.nz	
Franklin VMC		Ian Robb 09 2998274 2robbs@gmail.com	
Waikato PMA		John Guy 07 8294761 zaha.l@xtra.co.nz	
Manawatu VMC	March 2027	Rex Anderson 06 3571858 rjl.anderson@xtra.co.nz	

POSTPONEMENTS

Middlemarch
East Otago
Taieri
North Canterbury



We are sorry to hear that Joe Steadman has passed away. Joe was a loyal and dedicated member of Reporoa-Rotorua PMA. He attended club meetings, helped set out our match and tidy up afterwards and travelled throughout the North Island to judge. He will be missed.

Executive updates:

- We have received Gary Fitzgerald's resignation from the role of treasurer. Gary has been a huge asset to New Zealand Ploughing. Gary is happy to stay on to support our new treasurer and has documented exactly how he does everything to make the hand over as easy as possible. We are actively looking for a new treasurer. If you know of anyone - please let us know.
- After further discussion the Executive have decided to accept the offer from Waikato Ploughing Club to host a 4 day ploughing event in 2028. This will give competitors two chances to qualify for two different future world ploughing contests. It will mean that the first two days of competition are to find the people representing us at the 2029 World Ploughing Contest, and the second 2 days of competition will find the two contestants representing us at the 2030 World Ploughing Contest. This will also take the pressure off the Southland and Otago regions as they work towards the 2029 World Ploughing Contest in Riversdale.
- NZPA have adopted Anti Doping Rules as documented on the website of Sport Integrity Commission Te Kohu Raunui. This is a requirement in order to become registered as a sport.
- Holmes Solutions have a new name "Inition". Look out for their new logo in the next newsletter.
- The NZPA reversible plough has headed up to the North Island
- Ian Cocker has been elected at the Junior Vice President of the NZPA. Congratulations Ian.

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ASSOCIATION INC

NEWSLETTER
JULY 2026

Update on CROATIA

As you may have seen in the papers, on TV or on social media, the New Zealand Ploughing team have had some difficulty with their container of tractors and ploughs not getting to Croatia, and in fact, getting sent back to New Zealand. The team have had to concede that their gear will not make it to the World Ploughing Contest.

Mark and Malcolm are committed to representing us with pride and to plough their very best. They will be sourcing tractors and ploughs to borrow from contacts overseas.

We are very grateful to everyone who has helped and offered support at this time. Our team leaves New Zealand on the 4th of August. We wish them all the very best of luck.

LINCOLN PLOUGHING MATCH



THE Paddock IS
SITUATED BEHIND THE
BROADFIELD
COMMUNITY CENTRE
WITH ENTRY FROM
ROBINSONS ROAD,
BROADFIELD

**PLOUGHING
STARTS AT
10:30AM.**
★
ALL WELCOME.

**PLEASE SEND
YOUR ENTRIES TO
JONTY WARD
027 593 3322
BEFORE THE
2ND OF AUGUST**



North Canterbury Ploughing - Date to be confirmed

Start time 10.30am on the property of Maurice Winter
North Eyre Road

\$25 entry fee bring your own lunch

Classes

Silver plough

Reversible

Vintage qualifying and open
Contemporary

Ken Readman 0276001031

Bill Ward 033134395

Cody Winter 0272798778

Code of conduct:

- respect the rights, dignity and value of others
- be considerate and treat everyone fairly and equally
- communicate with others in a way that is honest and considerate
- behave professionally, responsibly and ethically, at all times
- not behave in a way that is discriminatory, bullying, harassing, racist, sexist, violent, abusive or otherwise inappropriate towards others, in person or online



Matt Ridge with Siimon Reed

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**Gifford
Family**



KVERNELAND DOMINATE THE NZ PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Having represented New Zealand at the 2024 and 2005 World Ploughing Championships, in Estonia and The Czech Republic respectively, Mark Dillon a contractor from Riversdale, Southland was at Methven on the South Island in April, for the NZ Ploughing Championships. Taking out the Conventional Ploughing category, with a clear lead of 90 points, Dillon was taking the title for the fifth time, the result qualifying Dillon as the NZ representative for the World Event in Kenya during 2027.

Dillon's introduction to the craft started early on in life, with his father being a ploughman and his first Silver Plough

competition at twelve years of age. Taking out his first title at 22 years old, 34 years later Dillon is still perfecting his craft.

Like many competitors in the ploughing scene, standard spoo isn't a common term, with Dillon's Kverneland ML competition plough featuring extensive modifications, running to nine separate hydraulic banks, offering precise control of functions such as top link, front furrow width, side-shift and depth control, alongside the addition of purpose-built plastic mouldboards.

Dillon also comments that he will be heading back to Europe in August for

the World Ploughing 2026, being held in Croatia in September, after taking out the NZ National Champs in 2025.

The win at Methven was also a key measure of his ability as Dillon explains, "due to the huge costs in moving my tractor, a Massey Ferguson 362- and Kverneland match plough between New Zealand and the northern hemisphere, we took the decision to leave it there for the last two years, before bringing it back to NZ in the New Year for a little TLC." Now getting the plough ready for the next World Championships campaign, Mark will head north around four

weeks ahead of the event to practice in local conditions, leaving trusted staff to look after his busy business. He explains, "attending the World's is a very expensive commitment, so we are helped with a grant from NZPA for some freight costs and accommodation, alongside additional support from a broad group of local businesses."

Back at his farming and contracting operations, Kverneland ploughs play an important role in their business, with two, 5-furrow and a single 6-furrow BB85 units being the "go-to" solution for weed control in newly acquired ground or remediation work on ground that has been rutted in wet harvest conditions, alongside creating flat, level bases for creating seedbeds in new grass leys. Dillon comments, "I don't really do any commercial ploughing nowadays, but I have to admit that I don't need much of an excuse to drop in on the lads when they are ploughing, to offer them a bit of advice!"

Up in the North Island, well-known ploughing identity, Malcolm Taylor,

was also forming a plan for a trip to Kenya in 2027, after taking out the Reversible Class at Methven, but before that a trip to Croatia for the 2026 World Champs

Originally a native of Gloucestershire in the UK, Taylor is now a dairy farmer in the Waikato, whose interest in the ancient process having seen him take out 10 NZ National titles, leading to appearances in 10 World events, currently with his best result being a 3rd place finish in Sweden in 2011. Commenting on Methven, Malcolm commented, "it was quite tricky ground, that turned over a little lumpy and cracked before the furrow was set back in place. It was also a reminder of how cold and windy the South Island can be."

Taylor was pleased with the win, saying, "I haven't done a lot of ploughing recently because of a dodgy hip and ploughing like any skill is honed by practice, practice and a bit more practice!" Now with the hip sorted and with a capable share-milker at home, he expects to now get

back into the ploughing frame of mind before he heads north to the World Championships.

This has started off with giving his faithful McCormick CX95 tractor and KV plough, the latter fitted with his own specially designed and manufactured mouldboards a little TLC. Malcolm explains, "It's been about 10 years since we've given the plough a going over, besides routine tweaks. That meant it was time for a rebuild to remove a decade of wear and tear. We found that some items had 8mm of play, which we've now reduced to 0.5mm. You can imagine how 8mm of 'movement' turns into over the length of the plough."

Taylor also notes that the next few months will include some "tweaking of his plastic mouldboards to try to address the changing preferences of the World Ploughing judges, who seem to be looking for more definition in the finished product. www.nzplough.co.nz



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