



NOVEMBER 2016

## SCHEME AND EXPANSION NEWSLETTER

*In this month's newsletter we welcome our newest Board member; say a farewell to our office administrator; advise of this year's scholarship recipient; provide information on rostering; give shareholders an option on where to purchase soil moisture probes; and provide advice on protecting your on-farm infrastructure.*

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at the Oamaru Opera House. We had a great turnout and it was pleasing that so many people had a good understanding of the proxy process.



Congratulations to Campbell Shearer who was voted on to the Board and replaces Kelly Diprose. We thank Kelly for his input over the four years he served on our Board and appreciate the support and energy he has put into the Scheme.



Congratulations to Leigh Hamilton who will remain in the Chairman's role. His dedication and commitment to NOIC and in particular the Expansion project is very much appreciated.



NOIC Board with Irene Sparks and Robyn Wells

### NOIC Scholarship

We received some great applications for our annual scholarship and the Board were pleased to this year award the scholarship to Meg Knowler who comes from Tuatapere and is a boarder at St. Kevin's College. Meg will be studying a Diploma of Agriculture at Lincoln next year. Thanks to all of the applicants, we hope that they all do well with their chosen field of study and look forward to reading the applications received next year!

### Rostering

Due to several system upgrades it is less likely rostering in response to low pressure will be required this year. However, until the expansion line is commissioned we will not be able to shift some of the load from the existing system across to the new pipe infrastructure, so pressure issues may still arise if a dry warm summer develops.

As is required under the NOIC Rostering Policy, a pre-season meeting was held with shareholder representatives on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November. It was agreed that the rostering methodology which was fine tuned last season would remain as the plan for this season. Key elements include: robust and regular communication; setting a rostering timetable at the beginning so rostered dates do not alter; off-takes not turned off by 7am on their day will be turned off by the company and turned back on at the company's convenience; and only those lines that will benefit from rostering would be rostered.

In setting up reliable communication please ensure that you have updated NOIC on any personal changes with phone and email addresses.

### Protecting your On-farm Infrastructure

NOIC has worked closely with external on-farm design companies to advise on the pressure expectations at your offtakes. In many cases the NOIC system pressure, particularly during low demand and through the winter months, could be higher than your on-farm infrastructure is rated to. Whilst we regularly service and maintain the pressure regulating equipment at the offtakes, there is a risk that higher pressure spikes could get through the offtake. On-farm designers have generally been made aware of this and should have included an appropriately sized pressure

relief valve on the farm side of the offtake to protect your infrastructure. Please check that this has been considered with your on-farm designers in the first instance, and if you are still unsure please contact NOIC.

### New Manager Training

Our new manager training sessions were a great success with around 100 attendees over both sessions. Feedback forms have been sent out to all attendees, please contact us if you have not received one and would like to provide feedback. Thanks to those who have provided feedback, we appreciate your comments and will apply these to future training opportunities.



New manager training at Five Forks Hall

### Soil Moisture Probes

We have been fielding a number of calls for information and contacts relating to soil moisture probes as irrigators look to better target their water applications to the soil moisture deficit. Soil moisture probes (and evidence of their use in scheduling irrigation) are mandatory for intensive operations under the NOIC Environmental Farm Plan but naturally nobody just wants to be ticking the box.

Ben Stratford of Mainline Aqua has recently been trialling the Frizzell soil moisture probe and he has offered to supply these at a discounted price of \$450 + GST.

The probes are a handheld entry level model which would be suitable to keep in the ute or quad bike to allow regular monitoring across your irrigation areas. Ben is available locally to have a chat about how to use them in conjunction with other irrigation management tools, and offers Oamaru-based support.

Knowing how to get the best practical information out of your readings is the most challenging part of using the tools so having somebody local to call is a real bonus.

Give Ben a call on 029 355 1381 for further information or to place an order. Please be aware that the supply of and information provided regarding these soil moisture probes is not connected to NOIC.

### Direct Debits

Those shareholders who are new to the scheme will be receiving direct debit forms in the post in the next few days. Please contact the office if you have not received one, or if you are a current shareholder and would like one!

### Au revoir Irene

Irene Sparks our office administrator of the past six years has recently retired. We would like to acknowledge Irene's valued input and integration of systems over the years, and thank her for all of her hard work. We wish her well for the future and all have our fingers crossed for her world record breaking attempt at tie collecting.

### Shares for Sale

We have been notified that Robin Crawford has one (1) share for sale. Please contact him directly on 021 270 0421 or email [robin@brackensprint.co.nz](mailto:robin@brackensprint.co.nz) to receive any information with regard to price, location, etc.

### B&L Field Day - 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Beef & Lamb NZ's Farming for profit North Otago Field day will be held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at Gareth and Sarah Isbister's property, Balruddery. The focus of the day will be about the process the Isbisters have gone through in deciding to irrigate, how they have set up their irrigation, and what financial and production advantages it gives them.

Peter Young, (farm consultant from Alexandra) will help crunch numbers and they will finish with a BBQ and refreshments. Go to the Beef & Lamb NZ website ([www.beeflambnz.com](http://www.beeflambnz.com)) for more information contact Jacqui Robinson on 0274990203 or via email at [robinsonfarmnz@gmail.com](mailto:robinsonfarmnz@gmail.com).

*With kind regards from the NOIC team*