



NOVEMBER 2017

SCHEME NEWSLETTER

In this month's newsletter we invite you to celebrate water for our expansion shareholders; we welcome our new Board members; say a farewell to two outgoing directors; provide advice on protecting our infrastructure and farm plan audit requirements; and update you on activities of Waitaki Irrigators Collective and Irrigation New Zealand.

Expansion Celebration

**PLEASE JOIN US TO LIFT A GLASS TO CELEBRATE THE
COMPLETION OF THE EXPANSION WORKS ON
WEDNESDAY EVENING 6TH DECEMBER FROM 5 – 7PM AT
SCOTT'S BREWERY**

This will be an informal get-together involving shareholders, staff and key individuals who contributed over the last three years, from prospectus to today. We look forward to seeing you there, to have a yarn, and celebrate what the company has achieved!

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 1st November at the Oamaru Opera House. We had a great turnout and almost 8,000 votes were cast on the night as the business of voting for directors and approving a change to the constitution was carried out.

Congratulations to Gareth Isbister and Matt Ross who were the two highest polling nominees. Thank you to Keri Robinson who was unsuccessful in gaining another term on the board, and to Grant Isbister who elected not to put himself up for re-election this year. Both Keri and Grant have been very instrumental in guiding the company through the difficult times over the last two years and we appreciate the time and effort they put in.

Congratulations to Leigh Hamilton who was re-elected to the Chairman's role as first order of business of the board meeting held Thursday 2nd November. His dedication and commitment to NOIC and the Expansion project is very much appreciated.

Passed by a unanimous show of hands was the proposed change to the Constitution of the Company allowing the directors to fulfil a three-year term. As the independent directors are assessed every two years, and the WDC director will eventually come off the board if the WDC loan is not renewed, it was felt that allowing the board to decide within the three-year criteria how many directors will be rotated each year, was the most pragmatic approach.

Thanks to all those that attended.

WDC Director

Waitaki District Council has appointed Chief Financial Officer Paul Hope as the new director for NOIC, replacing former Chief Executive Michael Ross. The appointment of Mr Hope follows the departure of Mr Ross whose tenure as director will end on 31 December 2017.

Mayor Gary Kircher says Mr Hope's credentials hold him in good stead to take on the directorship responsibilities and oversee Council's investment, whilst adding positive skills to the NOIC board.



Mr Hope's NOIC appointment is for an initial ten months until 31 October 2018 with a review to take place before the end of October. That term brings the appointment into line with the date for our Annual General Meeting and our director appointment process.

Welcome Paul - we look forward to working with you!

Protecting our Infrastructure - Stock Water v Irrigation Water

NOIC has a Stock Water Policy which has been put in place to ensure that the taking of water for stock and shed operations throughout the scheme will not impact on design flows and pressures to the detriment of other irrigators.

The policy of the Company is that the stock-water should be delivered through a separate system from the irrigation water as the irrigation supply is shutdown during the winter months and the small volumes of stock versus irrigation water will cause the hydrometer to 'hunt' and cause problems for others on the line. Therefore, NOIC makes the stock water available by bypassing the hydrometer and measuring usage in a separate meter.

We require:

- (a) that shareholders do not take water for the purposes of irrigation through the stock water valve rather than the hydrometer;
- (b) that the rate of flow through the stock water bypass valve is set at a rate that is reasonable but not likely to impact of irrigation flows and pressures down the pipeline; and,
- (c) that allocation is sufficient for non-irrigation requirements so long as on-farm back-up and storage is available.

It is important to note that NOIC does not guarantee the supply of water for animal health and advises shareholders to have at least four days back-up supply available for planned outages. In unplanned events when there is insufficient warning of supply issues we may make efforts to facilitate emergency supplies.

Also, please note: NOIC stock and shed water is not potable and should under no circumstances be utilized for human consumption or domestic purposes.

New Manager Training

NOIC held its annual New Manager Training on the 11th of October this year and it was well attended. Guest speaker Paul Reese gave a rundown on maintenance and scheduling irrigation. He reiterated the key things you need to know before deciding to irrigate: How much water can the soil hold today? How much water does my irrigation apply? What's the weather forecast? What's the ET? All good questions we encourage you to ask prior to turning the water on each day.

Farm Plan Audits 2017-18: Requirements

The first round of Farm Plan audits will get underway soon. While we recognise that November is not the ideal time to be auditing, it was unfortunately necessary this year. Expansion shareholders will not be audited until February/March 2018 as this will allow sufficient time to build up some records and practices for audit. NOIC has been using its current Farm Plan template for 3 years now giving shareholders a good chance to get used to them.

During this season's audits, special attention will be put on those aspects of the Farm Plan which are most important:

- 1) fencing all waterways to keep out cattle and deer. If it is running water, fence them out.
- 2) The auditor will also ask you to all know how much water your irrigators are applying. A bucket test is the best way to find this out for pivots. Maintenance and nozzle sizes must be right on K-line.
- 3) Having an idea of soil moisture status. For intensive operations this means an electronic soil moisture probe whereas for low intensity operations it could be digging holes or using fencing standards.
- 4) Ensuring no effluent irrigation occurs over waterways. This is mainly an issue with pivots going over ditches/drains/small creeks but also with k-line and travelling irrigator placement

Where the auditor is not satisfied that the above have been implemented, a low grade will be achieved requiring an Action Plan to address the recommendations. The farm would be re-audited in the 2018-19 season.

This approach focuses on those aspects of farming which are likely to cause the biggest issues for the environment. With many farms going the extra mile to ensure water quality improves, we all need to make sure we are doing the basics right.

Waitaki Irrigators Collective

As a shareholder in NOIC, you are all represented at a regional and local level by the Waitaki Irrigators Collective (WIC). NOIC pays, on your behalf, \$0.30 per hectare annually to support our share of WIC services. WIC is not an operational entity, but rather a vehicle for collectively representing irrigators off the Waitaki River in the areas of planning, community interface, promotion, and negotiation

with others with interests in the river such as Meridian and Iwi.

There is lots of great work that WIC is doing for us that we at NOIC could not do alone. By joining forces with the other irrigation schemes and a society representing individual irrigators, we can achieve more together to reduce duplication and pursue opportunities.

Each month WIC puts out a newsletter describing their activities, and from now on we will be attaching the WIC newsletter to our own newsletter for your interest.

If you want to know more about WIC, NOIC is represented by CEO Robyn Wells. Also, the Director of Strategy and Policy for WIC is Elizabeth Soal who can be reached on 021 454 615.

Shares for Sale

**Up to 50 NOIC Shares available for immediate Sale
(subject to hydrology check with Ben Stratford)
Contact: Shaun Wilson
General Manager Craigmore Farming
027 4826600**

INZ Biannual Conference

You can now register to attend INZ's 2018 Conference to be held in Alexandra from 17th - 19th April. Unlocking a Golden Future through SMART irrigation is the theme of conference. With so much public focus on irrigation and water issues in the media, this is an important opportunity for farmers and growers, the irrigation service industry, researchers, academics, councils and other groups to come together to discuss the future of water management and irrigation systems.

Registration and more information can be found at:

<http://irrigationnz.co.nz/events-training/conference/conference-2018/>

INZ also has two Facebook pages and a twitter account so you can follow them at:

[Smart Irrigation](#) and [Irrigation New Zealand](#) and [@IrrigationNZ](#)

Office

Please note that our office entrance has moved. We now come into the office from a sliding glass door on Thames Street rather than Coquet Street. Otherwise we are still at the same place!

With kind regards from the NOIC team