



NOIC NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018

Welcome

In this month's newsletter we give you some important dates to be aware of; we provide an extensive report on environmental activities; and remind you of the opportunity to attend the biannual INZ conference to be held in Central Otago the 17th - 19th April.

Important Dates to Note:

Annual Transpower Outage – 7th to 11th May

Expansion outage for hydrotesting – 21st to 25th May

Know Your Company Evening – 1st August

Transpower Outage – this will affect you!

Each year Transpower performs scheduled maintenance on the transformers at the Waitaki Dam and the line leading to our Black Point sub-station. This maintenance is necessary to maintain reliability of high voltage supply. This year the outage has been scheduled from 0700 hrs on Monday 7th May to 1830 hrs on Friday 11th May. Please be prepared to utilise your back-up stock and shed water supplies during this period as we will be limited in the supply of water for this period. As usual, we will fill up our canals and head pond prior to the shutdown to enable you all to fill your on-farm tanks, but we will not be able to refill during the five-day outage. Duntroon and Duntroon Extension lines will unfortunately be without an ability to get any stock water.



Hydrotesting for Expansion Works

We have a defect we need to repair on the main expansion line and while we are doing so we are going to hydrotest to check for leaks and ensure we have a scheme that will operate at the pressures we require. This defect is a replacement of the isolation valves at the main PRV at Serpentine. The work is scheduled to take place between the 21st and 24th May but will be confirmed closer to the date. During this time there will be no water available to expansion line shareholders.

Know Your Company Event – hold the date!

Typically, we hold two shareholder meetings during the year in addition to our annual meeting which is held at the beginning of November. This year we have decided to combine the two other events into one **Know Your Company evening to be held on Wednesday evening the 1st August starting at 7.30 pm.**

At this time, we would ask you to note the date in your diary and we will get back to you with an agenda and location closer to the date. We look forward to seeing you there!

Environmental Update:

The following are a series of articles by Dylan Robertson, Environmental Manager. If you have any questions, feedback or suggestions give Dylan a call on 021 0486 253 or email him at [drobertson@noic.co.nz](mailto:d Robertson@noic.co.nz). He would like to hear from you!

Farm Plan Audits

We have almost completed all fifty Farm Plan Audits for this season. This is the first audit for some of our new shareholders and we were delighted to see they were doing well considering the early stage in development.

It is rewarding to see some of the practices and approaches we see developing on our farms. Congratulations to all of those who are trying new things, improving good practices, and generally making an effort to improve water quality.

Based on feedback during our Environmental Strategy workshops, NOIC has developed bottom lines and one of these is that cattle and deer must not have access to waterways. As a result, we have had a few people receive poor grades due to cattle having access to waterways.

I just wanted to take the opportunity to say thanks a lot for your cooperation in the audit process and we will report back on the overall results in the June newsletter.

Winter Grazing

Snow is predicted for this year and this is a reminder that soon we will be opening up the winter grazing blocks and shifting breaks.

Now is a great opportunity to have a look at your brassica crop and make some decisions about how it will be grazed. If staff are shifting breaks, make sure they know how you would like this done.

Grazing from the top of the hill to the bottom and ensuring there is crop left in the bottom of gullies is the right way to go. So, make sure you set up troughs, baleage and gates in the right places.

A great idea is to set up a simple break plan for your winter crop and make sure all staff know what is to be done and the goals of this method. I would be happy to help if you want some help training staff or developing winter grazing break plans give.

New Farm Plan for next season

During our 2017 Environmental Strategy sessions we heard from many shareholders that they found the NOIC Farm Plan a bit hard to understand. We also heard that shareholders really wished to know what was a 'must do' versus what is a 'should do'.

In response, we will be drawing up a new Farm Plan over the winter. It is not intended to make the required practices much different at all. The aim is to simplify and clarify both the Plan and the process.

If you have any feedback on practices, evidence or processes that should be included, please send it in. I would be happy to consider your suggestions and will be asking a group of shareholders to look over the draft new Farm Plan before it goes live. NOIC will also be consulting with Te Rūnanga o Moeraki to ensure the Farm Plans meet their expectations. Consultation with Rūnanga is done as part of our agreement to be transparent and courteous. It is also a condition of our consent that Farm Plan templates be signed off by the Rūnanga prior to them being implemented.

The new Farm Plan will be rolled out over three years, as shareholders undergo audits, so there will be no need to redraw your Farm Plan until your season of audit.

North Otago Sustainable Land Management Group (NOSLAM) water quality testing

Over the past year NOIC has been teaming up with the Otago Regional Council to help fund a NOSLAM-led water quality testing programme. The sampling has been fortnightly at ten locations in the Waiareka Catchment, three in the Awamoko, and one at each of Island Stream, Waimotu Creek, Kauru River, Fuchsia Creek and the Kakanui River.

Results are gathered by ORC and made available on a GIS-based website so that farmers can get some really good information about the quality of their local creek.

Farmers have been meeting in small sub-catchment pod groups to discuss the results and what they think might be causes for high Phosphorus and Nitrate levels in waterways. They then have the chance to share learnings, ideas and generally get closer to understanding how to reach water quality limits imposed by the ORC in their Water Plan for Otago.

NOIC has invested in this project because we believe that the best outcomes are achieved by farmers, the people who know and manage the land, being resourced with

relevant information and using this to change their management and infrastructure over time.

NOIC fully supports the goal of reaching water quality limits for Otago's waterways. We know that we have a way to go but making sure that farmers are aware of what works, what doesn't and what's worth having a good look at is important. Sharing this information around is the goal of NOSLAM and its members.

If you wish to get involved with NOSLAM you can call Coordinator Rob McTague on 021 194 9597 to find out when an event is happening near you.

To view the water quality data for your local creek, go to: <http://gisdata.orc.govt.nz/wq/>

Shares for Sale or Lease

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

**30 NOIC shares for lease
Contact: Stephen Strachan - 021 261 8647**

Used Pipe for Sale

300 diameter uPVC RRR pipe – used condition, some lengths damaged. Please contact Matt Ross on 027 431 2746.

Visit the FREE irrigation expo at the INZ Conference

INZ is pleased to announce that you can visit their 2018 Irrigation Expo at Alexandra for free. The expo is being held as part of the 2018 Conference. The expo will showcase over 55 exhibitors displaying the latest in irrigation technology and services. This is an opportunity to check out what's new in irrigation and is a great event to attend if you're thinking of upgrading your irrigation systems or installing new equipment. Modern systems can save staff time and operating costs, and help you meet new environmental requirements.

The expo will be held at Dunstan High School in Alexandra and is open to the public on:

Tuesday 17 April: 3.30 - 5.30pm

Wednesday 18 April: 8am - 5pm

Thursday 19 April: 8am - 2.30pm

The expo will include three [Smart Showcase](#) events including short presentations from exhibitors.

See you there!!

With kind regards from the NOIC team