



NOIC NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

Welcome and Best Wishes

In this month's newsletter we acknowledge the contribution of Campbell Shearer; we remind you about meter readings and inform you of office and operational staff hours over the next few weeks; introduce our Innovation Fund; remind you about effluent management in wet conditions; and update you on the season so far.

From the Staff and Board of NOIC we want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe, successful and productive New Year.

Campbell Shearer

We were saddened by the unexpected and sudden death of our director Campbell Shearer on 24th October. Campbell had been on the board of NOIC since 2016 and had been a shareholder since 2014. In his nomination statement for the 2016 election, Campbell described how excited he was to be farming in this area and to be involved in the community. He saw great potential in North Otago and had developed many friends and colleagues. With his background in engineering and contract management, Campbell made a significant difference to the close-out of the expansion works and mediation.

Matt Ross, John Wright, Robyn Wells and Ben Stratford all travelled to Auckland to attend Campbell's funeral and pay respects to his extended family and friends. Campbell was an extraordinary man, testament to which was the huge turn-out at St Mary's-in-Holy Trinity in Parnell. Eulogies were given by seven of his greatest friends and colleagues, marking just what an exceptional life he had led.

I am sure all shareholders will join us in acknowledging the loss of a remarkable person who made a real contribution to the Company, North Otago and the agricultural industry at large. Thank you, Campbell, with heartfelt best wishes to your family and closest friends.

The Staff and Board of NOIC

Holiday Office Hours

This year the office will close at midday on Friday 21 December and will be closed Christmas Eve, the statutory holidays and for the three days in between Christmas and New Year. We have an emergency number which is **0800 333 437**. This number goes to an offsite answering service with messages being sent directly through to the Operations Team.

Kathy is returning on Wednesday the 2nd January with other staff returning on Thursday 3rd January 2019.

Operational Availability

Through the holiday season we will have a reduced number of operators on site but will continue to monitor the system 24/7. It would be appreciated if checking your system is done prior to the holiday period and making large flow adjustments on farm is kept to normal hours, rather than weekends or public holidays. Please consider the urgency of call-outs before contacting NOIC on 0800 333 437.

New Year - New Resolution

This is one Resolution that's easy to keep. **Get your readings in on time and make Kathy happy!!!** Make it worthwhile her coming in on a Public Holiday just to meet the deadline.

So..... please have readings in **no later than Wednesday 2 January**. Readings not sent in will mean that a NOIC operator is sent out to read the meter and a charge of \$125+GST may apply. No one wants that extra expense just after Christmas!!!

There are several ways to send your reading as follows:

Email to: office@noic.co.nz
Phone: 027 815 2845 or 03 433 1201

Text: 027 815 2845

Or enter yourself through the Website Portal:

www.noic.co.nz - using your ID and password - enter readings in the December Month. Ring the Office for any access queries.

Remember to include your Offtake number with each reading when not using the portal.

It Has Been a Wet Season So Far...



A wet November resulted in very little use. This November's use was the second lowest in NOIC's 11-year history and continues the pattern of highly variable demand.

Effluent management in the wet

Over the past month of unseasonably wet weather, we have noticed a larger amount of water being used for irrigation than we would have expected. It seems this water is going towards effluent application.

If your system is set up to only work when effluent is mixed with water, you are at a disadvantage during such wet weather. Mixing effluent with water increases the amount of

liquid being applied to already saturated soils which makes run-off and ponding more likely. These outcomes are specifically mentioned in the ORC effluent rules for Otago. Effluent mixed with water is still considered effluent no matter how small the percentage of effluent in the mix.

We recommend you have a travelling irrigator or some large pods available to apply effluent without the need for mixing water in.

Alongside this, ensuring that effluent ponds are kept empty as much as the weather allows. Remember the old adage, a full pond has no storage.

If your pond is full, and the soil is still saturated, applying small amounts (30 mins) at the lowest risk area of your effluent area is the best way forward. Make sure you monitor the area being irrigated and turn off if the effluent is moving along the surface downhill or begins to pond.

If you find yourself in a position where you are unsure how to proceed legally, feel free to call the Environmental Manager Dylan on 021 048 6253 or the ORC on 0800 474 082 for guidance.

Annual Scholarship Recipient



Photo: Isabelle Keeling receives the \$1,000 Environmental Scholarship Award form NOIC Chair Matt Ross. Isabelle plans to study Agricultural Science at Lincoln and is passionate about creating higher value agricultural

products and the environment she grew up in. We wish her all the best and thank her for her excellent essay on her personal goals and interests.

NOIC Innovation Fund

One of the key focus areas of the NOIC Environmental Strategy is Innovation. This recognises that if we are to solve the environmental challenges we have, we will need to think outside the square. Simple Good Management Practices are a key plank but may be unable to get us to the Water Quality goals which have been set for Otago relating to nutrients, sediment and bacteria in waterways; therefore, we would like to also encourage innovation.

To support our farmers with innovative ideas in the environmental space, NOIC has put aside \$20k in the 2018-2019 budget.

This fund is available to any NOIC shareholder who has an innovative idea they might need a little help with.

So far this year we have put some of this money to use in testing the water quality above and below a bioreactor on a NOIC Dairy Farm. This system uses anaerobic bacteria to strip the Nitrogen out of water leaving a farm before it enters a stream.

The projects must be innovative and new (at least to the North Otago area) so we are not talking about fencing, planting or installing VRI. But we could be talking about staff training innovations, fertiliser regimes, mixed pastures or any other new means of meeting our environmental challenges.

Let's have a go at making a real difference and learning from each other. It's okay if it doesn't work, but that shouldn't stop us from trying out our bright ideas, and NOIC wants to help you!

To apply or discuss ideas, call Dylan Robertson (Environmental Manager) on 021 0486 253.

Shares for Sale or Lease

Up to 50 NOIC Shares available for immediate sale

**Contact: Shaun Wilson
General Manager Craigmore Farming
027 482 6600**

Up to 80 NOIC shares available

**Contact: Derek Chalmers
027 496 7177**

Shares to Lease:

Brenda McLeod 100-130 shares please call 027 513 1100

With kind regards from the NOIC team