



NOIC NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018

Welcome

In this month's newsletter we give you some points to note from the meeting with the ORC on 31st July; we invite you to take advantage of our pre-FEP audit services; we introduce you to the services you have available through INZ membership; we introduce you to a new staff member; and we remind you send meter readings in each month.

Important Dates to Note

Annual Meeting – Wednesday 24th October at 7.30pm in the Opera House

Irrigation Season 2018-19

The scheme is open for irrigation water deliveries for the 2018-2019 season. You do not need to call the office or have an operator visit your property to start this year; however, if you require assistance don't hesitate to call and make an appointment for someone from the team to visit. We are excited to be starting the first full season with the expansion in place – we wish everyone the very best for the year and look forward to working with you to deliver to your requirements.

Otago Regional Council Chair and CEO presentation – Tuesday 31st July: Learnings

CEO Sarah Gardener and Chairman Stephen Woodhead visited us on the 31st July to talk about the future of managing water in Otago. We appreciate you taking the time out of your day as we recognise it was in calving, so it took an extra effort. Thanks to the sixty shareholders that attended. For those of you that could not, below are the key messages we received on the day:

- North Otago has water quality issues with Phosphorus, Nitrates and E. coli having high readings in the Waiareka Creek; Nitrogen high in the Kakanui River; and Phosphorus and Nitrogen high in the Awamoko Stream.
- Otago generally has good water quality except in the areas of intensive farming/irrigation.
- ORC is working on a compliance guideline to let farmers know how regulations will be implemented.
- Those rules which are impractical to implement will likely be changed over time. These may include Schedule 16 discharges whereby water leaving farms must meet certain limits for P, N bacteria and sediment.
- Farmers in Otago have a chance to lead environmental best practice and make a difference to water quality. If this doesn't happen, central government is likely to step in and introduce rules which may not fit Otago farmers.
- Compliance checks for dairy farms will continue, but on a risk-basis. This means poor infrastructure; poor management records; and/or poor a compliance record will lead to more inspections.
- No scheduled inspections for non-dairy farms are planned but where water quality is poorer (North Otago) there will be a greater interest in the performance of farming operations.
- Otago has an effects-based regime. Generally, consents are not required for most farming activities in Otago. This however means that the ORC does not have the ability to collect information on how farms are changing and investing in environmental enhancement. NOIC Farm Plans

are one mechanism whereby farmers can tell their story of on-farm changes. These stories are vital to report back to the public and central govt. Without the stories of improvement, all the ORC must look at is water quality data. These show a decline in water quality over time.

- The ORC ensured us that Urban Water Quality issues are being dealt with and that most District Councils had invested major amounts into treatment.

In summary, the message was clear:

Now is the time for farmers in N. Otago to act to improve water quality. If this doesn't happen because of farmers taking the lead, Government will be forced to act.

Below are the trends as reported by the ORC between 2012-2017 (The yellow boxes indicate statistically significant trends in water quality – '?' means no trend)

Table 17: Trend summary for the North Otago reporting region.

Site	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Nitrite/Nitrate Nitrogen	Total Nitrogen	Disclosed Reactive Phosphorus	Total Phosphorus	Escherichia coli	Turbidity
Welcome Creek at Steward Road	< DL	?	?	?	?	?	?
Kakanui River at Clifton Falls Bridge	< DL	?	?	< DL	?	?	?
Kauru River at Ewings	< DL	→	→	< DL	↑↑↑	?	↑↑↑
Kakanui River at McCones	< DL	↑↑↑	↑↑	< DL	?	↑↑↑	?
Waiareka Creek at Taiipo Road	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	?	?	↑↑↑	↑↑↑
Waianakarua River at Browns	< DL	?	?	↓↓↓	?	↑↑↑	↑↑
Trotters Creek at Mathesons	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	?	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	?
Shag River at Craig Road	< DL	?	?	?	↑↑↑	?	?
Shag River at Goodwood Pump	< DL	↓↓	?	?	?	?	?

If you are interested in acting but are struggling to identify what you can do, call Dylan Robertson our Environmental Manager on 021 0486 253 and have a chat about what steps you could take now.

Farm Environmental Plans: Pre-audit Visits

We know that some of you may be feeling some trepidation in advance of your Farm Environmental Plan audit this year. This is natural, particularly if you have never had an audit before and are worried that you have forgotten some vital piece of information that may cause you to 'fail' your audit.

Dylan is available to have a pre-audit chat or visit with you and we highly recommend that you call him and make an appointment well in advance of your audit. His advice is provided free-of-charge as part of the services that NOIC offers its shareholders.

There are several helpful forms on our website www.noic.co.nz that you may want to access. Having a look at these in addition to talking to Dylan is recommended. There is also an online application available for doing a bucket test on your pivot to test your application depth and uniformity. This can be accessed via the app store under Check It Bucket Test.

Irrigation New Zealand is also a resource and additional information on bucket tests can be found under Practical Resources / Good Management Practice / Bucket Test.

Irrigation New Zealand and NOIC

Irrigation New Zealand is a membership organisation that provides a number of services that can be accessed through membership. NOIC is a member on behalf of all its shareholders and therefore, as a NOIC shareholder you can access INZ services directly.

Each year NOIC pays a levy calculated on the number of hectares we irrigate to maintain our membership in good standing. With the membership, NOIC also has voting rights for important decisions INZ may make each year in terms of its constitution and who is on the board of directors. Robyn Wells is currently a board member of INZ. In 2017-2018 NOIC paid \$17,200 on your behalf to be a member of INZ.

NOIC has provided a list of all its shareholders to INZ and they have entered your email into their database. This means, that you can create a log-in, and you can access all the services and resources available from INZ directly.

On the INZ web-site www.irrigationnz.co.nz there is a red button in the top right corner of the page. This will take you to a log-in page that will ask if you are a new user. Enter your first and last name and your email and a password. So long as you were on the database that NOIC sent to INZ, the site will recognise you and you will be able to sign-up.

If the site does not recognise you, please contact the NOIC office and we will update our database with INZ.

If you DO NOT want us to share your email address with INZ please also contact the office and we will remove you from the database.

We highly recommend that you sign up to the member services at INZ and get value from the membership fees that NOIC pays on your behalf.

Know Your Company – Interesting Facts

North Otago Irrigation Company Limited is a registered company with the New Zealand Companies Office, but we weren't always

known as North Otago Irrigation Company (NOIC). Our other Company names have been:

- Powell Milk Vendor Limited from 1990-1995
- North Otago Water Harvesting & Irrigation Company Limited from 1995-1997,
- Kakanui Water Company Limited from 1997-1999,
- North Otago Downlands Water Company Limited from 1999-2004, when on the 21st May we became NOIC!

Shares for Sale or Lease

Up to 50 NOIC Shares available for immediate sale

Contact: Shaun Wilson

General Manager Craigmore Farming

027 82 6600

Shares to Lease:

Brenda McLeod 100-130 shares please call 027 513 1100

Peter Stackhouse 30 shares please call 021 073 7545

Welcome to New Staff Member

Welcome to Barry Johnston who started with us as an Operator on 6th August.

Barry was born and raised in Oamaru where he attended Waitaki



Boys High School. After leaving school he worked in the building industry for a local firm for around 13 years, after this Barry started in the tyre industry as a trainee tyre technician where he worked his way up to become a store manager. Between the time he was a trainee and store manager he took a break from the tyre industry and spent some time in a

manufacturing plant where he worked as a team leader. Barry is interested in fishing, jet boating and is currently restoring a 1978 Chevy Camaro. He is looking forward to the exciting challenges ahead as a part of the NOIC operations team.

Meter Readings

A reminder to everyone to please send in irrigation meter readings **by the 2nd of each month**. If you've not used water, then it's OK to say: "none used". Early readings are fine too.

If readings are not supplied NOIC will read them at a charge of \$125+GST.

Please send in the reading together with your offtake number by

- Logging in to the Shareholders' areas of the website www.noic.co.nz/shareholders
- Text to 0274 815 2845
- Email to office@noic.co.nz, or
- By phone to 03 433 1201

If you have any problems reading the meter or accessing the website, please let the office know and the team will be glad will help.

With kind regards from the NOIC team