

MANIOTOTO IRRIGATION SCHEME UPDATE



Welcome to the sixth edition of the collaborative update from the companies of the Maniototo Irrigation Scheme.

We encourage you all to visit our website maniototoirrigation.co.nz, here you will find the roll periods and rosters under the shareholders info tab and all past newsletters under the news tab. This site is an ongoing work in progress and will continue to evolve and bring you more information as we develop it further, keep checking in.

ALASTAIR'S RESIGNATION

One of our favorite Scotsmen in the Maniototo has chosen to resign from his position as raceman for MIC. We will miss Alastair's friendly approach and sense of humor as he battled the challenges of water delivery over the last 5 years. Alastair has been very dedicated to his job providing cover at all hours of all days, we wish to extend our best wishes to Alastair as he progresses forward with the next step in his career. We thank Alastair for his additional commitment to stay with us until the end of the season and share his wide knowledge of the workings of the scheme with his replacement.

ROBBIE BURN'S DAY

Alastair took part in the haggis ceremony at Waipiaata Pub for the Robbie Burn's Day, reciting all 8 verses of the famous poet's 'address to the haggis' with vigour and vitality, even finishing with a wee dram!

OPERATIONS LEAD ROLE

We wish to extend a warm welcome to Brent Cunningham who is coming on as our operations lead. Brent has been working for the Dunedin City Council as an asset & maintenance team leader, he was responsible for the management of all the council pools (Moana, St Clair, Port Chalmers & Mosgiel). Brent was also maintenance team leader at Fisher & Paykel, he carried out preventative & breakdown maintenance at PPCS & Euro New Zealand Scours Ltd as well as worked on offshore oil rigs in maintenance teams. Brent has extensive maintenance experience & project management skills. We look forward to working with Brent and feel he will be a great fit for our scheme.

Brent & his wife have built in Naseby, he is involved with organising the 12hr bike race and is looking forward to getting more involved.

WATER EFFICIENCY

We are seeing and hearing of shareholders who are being innovative in managing irrigation on their properties such as the Subsurface Drip Irrigation install at Maniototo Dairy.

MIC in partnership with DRC are planning a Bucket Testing Workshop for March. This will teach you how to test the spray irrigation on your property for efficiency. Further info to come once finalised.

A reminder to everyone to be mindful of where you are spraying water, please remember to turn off end guns near roads, also careful placement of K-Line to avoid watering roadsides or areas that are inaccessible.

SAVE THE DATE – DRC IWG Workshops

16th March,

10am-12pm & 1pm-3:30pm

If you need help with preparing your consent for winter grazing or want to know more about the rules, then this is for you.

ORC LAND AND WATER REGIONAL PLAN CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Thank you to those that attended the FMU meeting for the Taieri at the Ranfurly Golf Club prior to Christmas. It was an interesting process that presented those in attendance with some challenging statements to demystify about land and water use on Otago farms in the future. We hope that the DRC team have listened carefully to your concerns and will action this feedback when creating their policy draft. We encourage you all to fully engage throughout this process while we are still able to influence the direction.

Following the FMU meetings Jeremy and Renee attended the stakeholder workshops held in Dunedin the two weeks leading into Christmas. These were broken in to five full day workshops: Flood protection, drainage, and river management activities, managing activities on the beds and Margins of lakes and rivers, Environmental flows/levels, damming & diversions, takes and use of water, and farming activities (including irrigation use). These meetings enabled us to have an opportunity to articulate the impracticalities for farmers and water users and offer alternative approaches. DRC is focused on providing a meaningful consultation process before the plan is built. The planning team have emphasized they are not experts and therefore want to hear from water users.

REMINDERS FROM THE RACEMEN

A few irrigators are having issues with their meters recording accurately, if you discover this, it is your responsibility to contact your Raceman or Jeremy as soon as possible. We will get a check carried out by Harvest and if this is given the all clear it is a requirement for you to have your meter checked and verified for its accuracy. Once this is done, please let your Raceman know or your water take for the period could be calculated incorrectly.

MINIMUM FLOW AT WAIPIATA

MIC has an obligation to uphold a minimum flow below the Paeura weir of 850l/s, as well as 1,000l/s at Waipiaata. Currently there is little gain being created between these two spots. Main stem users are all turned off and will be until a significant change occurs. MIC have an additional consent condition that states we do not need to meet 1,000 l/s at Waipiaata if the dam is below the raised height, however out of good will and for the health of the river we are releasing an additional 250l/s to uphold Waipiaata as close to 1,000 as possible. We are watching this daily and communicating with Susie, Manawa Energy and DRC daily.

Current Dam Level

922.4m

71% (spill height)

Current Dam Release

5.27cumecs