

CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 01 – 2023
January 2023



Welcome 2023

Welcome to the January 2023 Corurgan Comment.

The month of January will certainly be busy for most with many members still busy harvesting winter crops due to the late start.

The weather has certainly improved across our region over the last month, although there are still pesky thunderstorms being experienced within the West Corugan district during December and reports of 12mm to 70mm being dumped by thunderstorms on the 02/01/2023.

The field staff are continuing to spray and mechanically remove weeds. Tony has also been removing **Blow Grass** from channels and repairing leaking checks as they are identified. Please, if you notice any areas of banks that need work or a leaking wheel box or check, report it to your Channel Attendant. Operationally we have had an increase in water demand during December as the month warmed up. We have refilled our irrigation channels and are supplying irrigation water to members that have had the opportunity to plant summer crops. I expect that water demand will remain steady into January.



Amazingly, Ben is actually standing in the channel which has water in it, but because of the density of the Blow Grass he is not getting wet or sinking!!

Due to the exceptional wet weather, we have excessive weed growth.

I remind, as per our Policy, it is the Member's responsibility to maintain channel banks free of weeds for water bailiff access and safety and so weeds are not spread to neighbouring properties.

As part of the Feasibility Study we will commence the delayed EM31/38 survey. You may notice a side-by-side travelling along the outside toe of the channel banks or a white Landcruiser ute and trailer parked near our channels. We will try to notify landholders when we are nearby.

Water

We have pumped our entire Supplementary Water license (5060 ML) again this year including an additional allocation of 10% (506 ML) taking our Supplementary License to 110% (5566 ML). Supplementary Water is no longer available between Lake Hume and Yarrawonga weir.

Year to Date – 6538 ML pumped

Same time Last Year - 14639 ML pumped

Maintenance

As the weather improves, we will be targeting bank reinstatement works, particularly around structures, and de-silting of channels where needed.

Spraying of access points and Cumbungi will continue.

We are encountering problems with **Blow Grass**, entering the channels. This can cause blockages in offtakes and culverts, and where fences cross channels. Please let your Channel Attendant know if you see any large build-up of **Blow Grass** in our channels.

As always, I encourage Members to contact me if you notice any maintenance issues on or near your properties.

I would like to wish all the landholders and members of West Corurgan a very Happy New Year.

Peter Hamilton
General Manager

Office Administration

We're Back.

First Day 03.01.2023, and guess what.....No Internet! Grrr.

It turns out Servers don't like storms. [or heat, or dust, or movement!!]

Who would have thought!! 😊

We resorted to the golden rule ... turned it off & on... but no joy.

The NBN technician came and fixed and went away. Next day, not fixed! Grrrr.

NBN technician came back.

Finally, all fixed Monday 09.01.2023. Yay.

Consequently, despite using 'hotspot' to keep us going, we are chasing our tails a little bit.

Monthly invoicing

The January half-yearly fees will still be sent out approx. 9-13th January 2023.

Please check that you have paid your July fees.

Unfortunately, I do still have May 2022 and July 2022 invoices owing!



Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study

Peter & I met with the Adrian Smith, and Michael McBurnie on Wednesday 21.12.2022.

We discussed the accounts, the Expression of Interest forms, the delayed EM31 & EM38 survey work, the delayed Milestone 3 funding [rain prevented some work starting] and Community/Member Consultation.

Thank you to those Members who responded to our EOI forms.

The Gov't is aware of delays the rain has caused. The Project Management Group has formally requested to the Government that Milestone 3 funding be split into two parts.

FYI: Michael McBurnie, Project Manager, formally presents to the Board each month prior to the official start of the Board Meeting.

Due to our internet/NBN issues I do not have Adrian Smith's (Project Management Group) report for this month's Corurgan Comment, but I do know they worked between Christmas & New Year and have touched based with some Members.

Any questions? Contact Adrian - Mobile: 0447 778 515 and/or Email: aksadvisory@outlook.com

Staff Christmas Awards

Again, this year we celebrated the truly magnificent achievements of the West Corurgan Staff.

The Biscuit Eating Champion Award was won by the defending Champion – Craig Bonat.

Surprisingly, Craig was not 'over the moon' to be crowned the 2022 Biscuit Eating Champion.

The coveted Award for the **Champion at Getting Bogged** was a tie!

Russell Sullivan and Peter Bolt both excelled.

Personally, I thought Peter Bolt had this Award won easily. But attitude did earn points, which resulted in the tie.

For a bloke who has only been with us a short time, Peter Bolt sure managed to excel at getting bogged. 😊



Peter,
Trying to tippy toe through
the water and mud was
just not an option.



Don't you just love it when you can get photographic evidence!! 😊

And believe me, the boys are very quick to provide it!

Thank you

Thank you to Laura Hamilton, who has stepped into the breach and catered for our Board Dinner's when we know the Board Meeting will extend over dinner time.

This has been especially so since receiving approval for the Feasibility Study.

The last Board Meeting prior to Christmas, Laura surprised with two Chocolate Ripple Cakes.
YUM!

[I tried to get a piece with a lolly on it]



My Christmas

This year I went 'special'.

I bought the Lindt Bon-Bons.

The jokes are still bad, but the smooth chocolate balls helped immensely.



Christmas Bon-Bon Jokes

Q: What do you call a chicken in a shell suit?

A: An egg

Q: Why did the cow wear a bell?

A: Because her horn did not work

[Now Allan R and Bill N, do not ring me up to explain the 'biology' regarding your big black Angus Bulls and your cute little Herefords. It is a Christmas Joke!]

It is not a factual, scientific publication. Whether cows naturally have horns or not is irrelevant. Just go with the flow.]

Melbourne Trivia

Over the Christmas/New Year period I had cause to walk via the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance.

Three flags were flying.

No-one I was with had ever seen one of the flags or knew what it represented.

Below is the third flag.



It is the **City of Melbourne** flag!

Why it has a bull I do not know?

[Allan R & Bill N – Now you can ring and extol the virtues of bulls in Melbourne!]

Actually, I do know. We looked it up!

The four quadrants represent an important sector of Melbourne's economy in the mid-19th century. Interestingly, this design was adopted in March 1970. That seems fairly recent to update a flag, but to still retain outdated industries for the current Melbourne.

Anyway, who am I to argue.

I have continued the Flag Theme and provided all the Australian State and Territory flags.

Why?

Why Not! Learning something new is good for you. Debbie

AUSTRALIA DAY

Fun Facts



Australian Flag



New South Wales



Queensland



South Australia



Tasmania



Western Australia



ACT



Northern Territory



Victoria

Fun Facts!

Australia
 Has an area of 7,682,260 sq km (including the island state of Tasmania) making it the 6th largest country in the world
 Is located in the Southern Hemisphere
 Has a coastline of 36,725 km
 The highest point on mainland Australia is Mt. Kosciuszko 2,228m (7,310 ft) although the highest point in all Australian territories is Mawson Peak 2,745m (9,006 ft) on Heard Island
 The lowest point is Lake Eyre which is 16m (52 ft) below sea level
 The longest river is the Murray River which flows for 2,375 km
 The largest lake is Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre which covers 9,590 sq km
 Australia's Capital City is Canberra, while it's largest City by population is Sydney
 Australia's Highway 1 is a network of highways that circumnavigate the country, joining all mainland state capitals. At a length of approximately 14,500 km it is the longest national highway in the world

Whilst the West Corurgan Newsletter is primarily provided to keep Members informed of all water matters relating to the WCPID Scheme, you will note it also has a lighter side. It is this lighter side that should be read in the spirit for which it is intended and with 'tongue firmly planted in one's cheek'! 😊 Debbie.