

CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 02 – 2024
February 2024



Oh No! Not the Dragon!

Welcome to the February 2024 Corurgan Comment.

Demand for irrigation water has been very high during January, averaging 293.5ML per day pumped at Corowa. This demand is similar to the summer irrigation seasons of 2012/13 and 2013/14.

Autumn is fast approaching; we usually see another increase in demand for water as Members start to pre-water. Please give your Channel Attendant plenty of notice as to when you would like to irrigate, this will make it easier to plan and get the water to your wheel on time.

If you are a Member that holds Water Entitlements and are not planning on irrigating, could I please ask you to make your water available to Members that will irrigate. We have Members looking to purchase water on the Temporary water market and rather than bringing water in from outside our district, I believe it would be good to use water from within our district. Selling water on the Temporary market will help offset your yearly fees.

Thank you to the Members that have paid Annual fees, the payment of fees on time is crucial to efficient operations of West Corurgan.

Water

Total General Security water pumped in January – 9097 ML

Year to Date – 33405 ML (Including 4779ML of Supplementary Water)

The extra demand for water has proven to be challenging this year, especially with so much Blow Grass around, but also with our aging infrastructure. The Pumps at Corowa have been experiencing electrical problems (mostly late at night.....) however I have been able to keep them going with constant monitoring and some TLC. Both of the Daysdale pumps have failed this year so we have had to hire a pump to supply water to the irrigators out there. We should have a new pump for Daysdale in the next few weeks. I would like to commend and thank our diligent field staff, for the extra work they have been doing to keep the water flowing.

The preparations for the upcoming Board Election are on time thanks to the good work of Debbie and Jasmeen. You will find the Preliminary Roll is on display in the Berrigan office, Members are welcome to inspect the roll Mon-Frid, 9am – 4pm.

If you have any questions, please come into see me or give me a call.

Peter Hamilton
General Manager

Office Administration

Invoicing

Thank you to those Members who have already paid their January half-yearly fee invoices. Prompt payment is always appreciated.



Landholder Details Forms

Sadly, we are still chasing signed Landholder Detail Forms to be returned. Reminders have been sent, phone calls have been made, and copies re-sent! Remember, if you were previously in Zone 5, you will have received an updated Landholder Detail Form following the merging of Zone 5 into Zone 4. **PLEASE** check your paperwork and sign and return ASAP.



If you buy/sell a property or if you buy/sell Water Entitlements you will receive an updated Landholder Detail form requiring review, signing and RETURNING.

I remind that under the Water Management Act we must retain a Member Register and retain accurate records. Those records are also required for our Board Election process, which is underway.

Our records will not be as good as required if I need to wait 11-months for a signed Landholder Detail Form to be returned.

Don't laugh.

One did take 11-months!

Hence, the Dragon is back. And not a cute Dragon, but an ugly, mean Dragon!!

So, if we have reason to update your records and forward a Landholder Detail Form for you to sign, please review, sign, and return as soon as possible. I even provide a stamped-addressed envelope!

I might not be here in another 11-months! I can't keep waiting that long.

BOARD ELECTIONS

The Returning Officer for our Board Election visited the office on Thursday 18th January and reviewed the Preliminary Electoral Roll.

All Landholder, Entitlement and Stock & Domestic Licence changes since the 2021 Election were noted and checked and Voter Names and Voter Entitlements reviewed. The **Preliminary Roll is on display in the Office from Friday 09.02.2024 to 23.02.2024.**

This has been advertised in the local papers.

Members are welcome to visit the Office to inspect the Roll Mon-Frid – 9.00am to 4.00pm




WEST CORURGAN
PRIVATE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

ELECTION 2024

In preparation of the election to be held later this year for members of the WCPID Board, the preliminary roll of members, who in my opinion are eligible to vote in the election, will be exhibited.

The roll can be viewed at the West Corugan Office, 152 Oaklands Road, Berrigan 9.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday from 9th February to 23rd February 2024.

Any objections or applications for inclusion must be made prior to close of enrolments being 4.00pm Friday 23rd February 2024.

J Guest
Returning Officer

1125401

Selling Allocation Water

We currently have Members interested in buying allocation water.

We also have Members who are not using all their water.

So, if you haven't used your allocation water this season, have you thought about selling it?

The Purchaser pays the Transfer Fee of \$55, and the sale might help cover your annual fees.

I admit the price is low as at 09.02.2024, but this is still better than \$NIL.

The price fluctuates and can change considerably within a week.

Think about it. We may be able to put two parties together.

But if you do buy or sell, make sure you sign and return the paperwork we email to you!!!



Selling Permanent Water

A West Corurgan Member has advised that he has 100 ML permanent water to sell.

If you are interested, please contact the office and we will put both parties together to discuss.

**WE ARE NOT WATER BROKERS!
BUT ARE HAPPY TO ADVISE WEST CORURGAN MEMBERS OF WATER OPPORTUNITIES WHEN THEY
ARISE AND TO ASSIST WITH THE APPROPRIATE PAPERWORK.**

**WE STRONGLY ADVISE THAT YOU
SEEK LEGAL ADVICE WHEN BUYING OR SELLING PERMANENT WATER.**

Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study

During January we paid invoices totalling \$2,456.95 (excl GST) related to the Feasibility Study.

As at 31.01.2024, the Feasibility money had paid invoices to the value of **\$1,395,129.91 (excl GST)**.

As at 31.01.2024 the balance of the Gov't Feasibility Funding Bank Account = \$6,703.76

The Final Funding Milestone invoice has not yet been submitted but will be once the Audit process is complete and invoiced.

Adrain Smith from our Project Management Team visited the office on Tuesday 6th February, and we reconciled both sets of accounts that we both maintain.

The West Corurgan accounts, specific to the Feasibility Study, will now be Audited by Moggs Accounting and Advisory, Cobram. The Auditor is visiting the office on 14.02.2024.

The audit is a requirement of the Government Funding.

The FINAL Feasibility Study Report has been forwarded to all Directors.

This will be discussed and endorsed at the February Board Meeting – 21.02.2024.

The Application for Funding is nearly, nearly, nearly finalised. This too will then go to the Board and following that, be submitted to the Government..... hopefully, by end February 2024!



Interesting Fact:

Saturday 10th February was **WORLD PULSES DAY**.



Dietitians have been shouting the importance of incorporating more pulses into our diet for years.

Pulses, also known as legumes, are the edible seeds of leguminous plants cultivated for food. Dried beans, lentils and peas are the most commonly known and consumed types of pulses.

I'm sure all my farmers already know this, but - Did you know?

- Intercropping with pulses increases farm biodiversity and creates a more diverse landscape for animals and insects.
- The nitrogen-fixing properties of pulses can improve soil fertility, which improves and extends the productivity of farmland
- Pulses are highly water efficient: for producing 1 kg of lentils needs 1250 litres, while 1 kg of beef requires 13,000 litres.

Question: Farm (128) – How many litres of water does it take to grow 1kg of wheat or 1kg of corn?

Question: Farm (150) – How many litres of water does it take to grow 1kg of rice?

So now we know how good PULSES are, not just for us, but also for the environment, I have provided a recipe so we can get more pulses into our diet.

Cooking with, and eating, pulses may not inspire some. So, I have chosen a recipe that caters for all.

It uses chickpeas to make a lovely **Apple Cake** that is just that little bit healthier.

It is all about swapping out the bad, and/or, adding in the good stuff.

In this case we are adding.

Remember, we want to eat better, not nothing.

**But with 1.5 cups of sugar in this recipe, I will admit “healthy’ is a very ‘lose’ term!
[But hey, apples are good for you] 😊**

RECIPE

Apple Cake with Chickpea Puree

This is a classic spice cake is made healthier with pureed chickpeas. Serve as is for an after-school snack.

PREP TIME: 15 minutes

COOK TIME: 1 hour

Ingredients

APPLE MIXTURE:

- 4-5 Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored, and chopped into small chunks (about 5 cups prepared)
- 3 tbsp sugar
- 1 tbsp cinnamon
- 1/2 cup nuts, roughly chopped

CAKE MIXTURE:

- 1 400g can chickpeas, rinsed and drained cooked chickpeas
- 3 large eggs
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 1 1/4 cups sugar, brown
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 2 cups flour, all-purpose
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup milk



Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C.
2. Toss prepared apples with sugar, cinnamon and nuts. Set aside.
3. Process chickpeas and eggs in a food processor or blender until smooth and set aside.
4. In a large mixing bowl, beat butter, canola oil, and brown sugar until well combined. Add the chickpea mixture and vanilla and beat again. In a medium bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. Add half flour mixture to butter mixture, and beat until just combined. Add milk, and beat again, then rest of the flour mixture, and beat until just combined.
5. Butter and flour a 22 x 33 cm pan. Spread batter out in pan. Spread apple mixture evenly over the top, then press into the batter with back of a large spoon until batter just starts to press up through the apples.

6. Bake in the middle of the oven for about 55 to 60 minutes, or until a tester inserted in the centre comes out clean. Cool completely before cutting into 18 pieces. Dust slices with icing sugar before serving.

Oh No! Disaster

*I almost made this recipe. **Almost!***

I had chopped the apples, blitzed the chickpeas, beat the butter & sugar, and had just added the chickpea mixture into the butter & sugar mixture when my beaters made a 'clack' sound and started to smell and stopped!

#\$%^&.

I still had a few steps to go that required beating.

I hadn't yet got the flour and baking powder out of the cupboard.

So, because I couldn't beat anything properly, I did 'a 180' and made

Stewed Apples with Oats and Chickpea Topping!

I simply added oats and coconut to what I had managed to put together and hand mixed.

Hey Presto..... A sort of crumble topping (but not very crumbly).

How did it taste I hear you asking?

Great!

Little dollop of Greek yoghurt and my disaster was saved.

I could not taste the chickpeas (I'm thinking the 1.5 cups of sugar had something to do with that!)

AND I got my healthy serve of PULSES! 😊

Debbie



BUT WE MISSED THE BEST DAY OF ALL!!

PIZZA

Half the world has never heard of Pulses, but the entire world loves Pizza.

We missed:

WORLD PIZZA DAY

Friday 9th February.

Never mind.

Make up for it when you get the chance.

Who needs a special day.



The boss hard at work.
Although he looks like he was up for a photo. 😊



Whilst the West Corugan 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