CORURGAN COMMENT

Officially Autumn

Circ. No 03 - 2026
March 2026

Welcome to the March 2026 Corurgan Comment Newsletter.

February remained hot and dry right up to the last couple of weeks when I measured 30mm of rain at the Corowa Pump site but only 8mm in Berrigan. Then on the 1st through to the 3rd of March I measured 45mm at the Corowa Pump site and 37mm at Berrigan. Lets hope we get some more rain a little later in the Autumn.

I have curently been working on a new type of meter to measure water through a Dethridge wheel. The current mechanical meters can no longer be sourced, so we need to find an alternative. Tony and I have mounted a unit on an outlet just out of Berrigan as a trial. This unit is capable of recording the amount of water used, by counting the revolutions of the wheel as water flows through in a very similar way to the original mechanical meters. The data is then transmitted from the wheel to my office where I can read the current flow rate and the total water used. The information gathered can be used in lots of different ways, for example, we could develop a report for that outlet showing all usage, flow rates and start/stop times for the entire irrigation season. Further down the track I would like to see us develop a complimentary system that would allow our Members to access the information via a login, so you will be able to monitor your usage, available water and place orders for water.
I plan to install another two of these meters in the next few weeks as part of our trialling process.

The Basin Plan Review

Murray Regional Strategy Group (MRSG) is organising a community meeting in Deniliquin on Tuesday the 24/03/2026 at the Deniliquin Golf Club 1:30pm. You can ask questions and make suggestions about what should be included in the review of the Basin Plan. This is **not** a 'can the plan' meeting. It is an opportunity to put forward ideas and to make the Basin Plan better in the future. Your input will help form the submission that MRSG is putting together on your behalf.

If you can't make it to the meeting, there will be an online discussion on Thursday the 26/03/2026, 10.00am.

I will circulate more information to Members when it is made available.

Allocation Announcement – Year to Date – 20% @ 01.03.2026

July – 1%
August – 2%
September – 7%
October – 8%
November -2%
December – 0%
January – 0%
February – 0%
March - 0%

Water Pumped

August – 1382 ML
September – 4475 ML
October – 6447 ML
November – 2602ML
December – 4721ML
January – 6390ML
February – 4426ML

Current Dam Levels

Dartmouth Dam – 66%
Hume Dam – 25%

As always, if you notice any maintenance works that need to be taken care of, please contact your Channel Attendant.

Peter Hamilton
General Manager

Office Administration

Office

Jasmeen is not back from India yet.
But is expected back on Monday 16th March.

Peter Hamilton will be in Wentworth, NSW, next week - Mon, Tues & Wed 9-11.03.2026 for the Customer Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting. He and Director, Cameron Sandral will be flying the West Corurgan flag with Water NSW, DEECC and MDBA representatives.

The Wednesday morning also includes a tour of the Western Murray Irrigation area. It is always good to see what others are doing.

So, this means, Mon, Tues and Wed next week, we are an Office of one.
At least it is not the end/start of the month, so we will be OK.

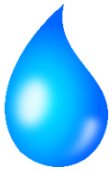
Know your Available Water
Many of our farmers may be thinking about irrigating in March.
But please continue to check your available water?

We do have some temporary water for sale.
Not much, but we could put a couple of trades together to obtain the volume you may need or want, (subject to price, of course!).

Water Trades in February 2026
We were steady with trades early in February, but they drifted off noticeably as the price increased and some members changed their 'strategy', given we are also not hopeful of a high allocation to open the next irrigation season.

In **February 2026** we processed (ie: finalised):
Internal Trades - 10
External IN Trades - 3
External OUT Trades – 1

PERMANAENT WATER FOR SALE
Two WCPID Members have permanent water to sell.
Both are supportive of West Corurgan and are looking to sell within the Scheme.
650 Water Entitlements.
200 Water Entitlements.
Will sell in smaller parcels.
If genuinely interested, please contact the Office.



Word of the Month
I am trying to pre-empt something here.

Our Word of the Month is:
PETRICHOR

The word for 'the smell of rain'

- **Definition:** Petrichor (/ˈpɛtrɪkɔːr/) is derived from Greek *petra* (stone) and *ichor* (the fluid in the veins of the gods).
- Coined by CSIRO scientists in 1964, it refers to the pleasant, earthy, and sometimes musky scent that arises when rain falls on dry soil. It is caused by the release of plant oils and compounds like geosmin, which is produced by bacteria in the soil.

PS: I know you are not going to believe me, but I actually wrote this section of the Corurgan Comment about a week before the rain came, so I am duly taking all the credit for the nice 'drop' of rain we received.

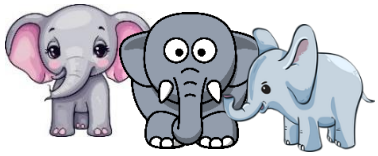
LET'S BE HAPPY……

In keeping with the rain……..

Why did the parrot wear a raincoat?
He wanted to be poly-unsaturated.

It started raining coins.
I guess it is just climate change.

When can 3 elephants stand under 1 umbrella and not get wet?
When it's not raining.



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*