

CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 04 – 2023
April 2023



Welcome to the April 2023 Corurgan Comment.

It was on April 24, 1967 that the first sod was turned, (56 years ago), signalling the beginning of the construction of what we now call, West Corurgan Private Irrigation District. A year and half later, the first pump was started, 8 October, 1968.

As a result of the enthusiasm, resilience, determination and future vision of the original 274 members, we have had 55 years of operations helping our district prosper and diversify from predominately dryland stock and winter cropping, to vegetables, rice, corn, beans, cotton, dairy, wool, meat, fodder, and winter crops that can be started and finished with irrigation water.

The Feasibility Study that we are currently undertaking is not that different to what the original advocates of Corurgan Irrigation League investigated.

However, we have one major advantage, the scheme is already built!

The Feasibility Study is really investigating what needs to be done to continue the legacy left to us by Mr Ray O'Dwyer, Mr Edwin (Ray) Burwood, Mr Len Abbott and all the members of West Corurgan.

Feasibility Study

- The Corowa Pump site is undergoing a full review. This includes the motors , pumps, control systems, power consumption and underground pipe lines.
- Survey teams will be installing more Survey Control points across the district.
- I have been out with Michael McBurnie investigating potential rationalization of regulating structures that are either not used or will be no longer required.

Operations

We have been very busy, demand for irrigation water has certainly increased, with a peak pump flow of 360ML per day ordered in the middle of March. The Blow Grass is still giving problems with Lateral 7 being impacted the most. Hopefully with some burning off of paddocks across the district, the problem grass will be reduced.

Water

Irrigation water demand for summer crops has dropped away but there has been very steady Autumn pre-watering of winter crops and pasture.

Pumped in March	-	7984 ML
Year to Date	-	23487 ML

Maintenance

I am currently planning for the upcoming winter maintenance program, if you know of any channel banks or structures that need work done, please call me or your Channel Attendant.

Peter Hamilton
General Manager

Office Administration

'Keeping you in the loop'.

Proposal to Reduce the number of Zones from five (5) to four (4)

We did not receive a great deal of feedback to the proposed Zone change but thank you to those few Members who did comment.

A reminder that the proposed change is to simply:

Remove the boundary between zone 4 & 5.

I still have the maps up on display in the office if you would like to have a look.

A Resolution/Motion will be drafted, advertised prior to the AGM, and presented to the Members at the AGM to vote upon. REMINDER: The AGM is Tuesday 22nd August.

Invoicing

'Keeping you in the loop'.

Apart from those irrigating, the next major invoicing sent out will be the West Corugan annual fee for Stock & Domestic. This will be sent early-May for those holding Member and/or Intervening Stock & Domestic Licences.

If you haven't paid your January half-yearly fees invoice(s), please check your paperwork with the view to paying very, very soon.

Maintenance Employee

'Keeping you in the loop'.

We had a very good response to our advertising for a General Maintenance employee.

All were quite high calibre applicants, and ticked many of our boxes, which was great.

Peter Hamilton, the Chairman, and Deputy-Chair conducted interviews 29.03.2023 and 05.04.2023.

At the time of 'going to press' a decision had yet to be made.

As soon as I know, you will know.

Permanent Water for Sale

The office has been advised of a WCPID farmer wishing to sell permanent water.

He is conscious of trying to sell within the scheme, so has asked that we let Members know.

The Delivery Entitlements will go with the Water Entitlements.

If you are genuinely interested in purchasing permanent water, please contact the office.

WE ARE NOT WATER BROKERS but are happy to provide contact details.

West Corugan always recommends you speak to a solicitor.

Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study

'Keeping you in the loop'.

Our Milestone 3 invoice has been paid.

The next Milestone was due 21.04.2023 - Submission of the Draft Feasibility Study Report – but this will be delayed in preparing as we are still waiting on a couple of key reports.

As at 31.03.2023, we have paid invoices to the value of \$604,670.53.

Now don't have a heart attack.... It was Government funded money!



Below is the Monthly Report by Adrian Smith, Project Management Group

'The West Corugan Feasibility Study is nearing its crescendo!!

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the final draft of the supply network automation report has been submitted – outlining the benefits and costs of upgrading infrastructure such as regulators, and automation of the system. The report provided by the sub-consultants (Rubicon Water) provides a comprehensive overview of what modernising the irrigation network might look like (and cost).

A first draft of the proposed Stock and Domestic (S & D) pipe system report has been submitted by the sub-consultants (Pinion Advisory). It covers off on a range of issues including likely demand, flow rates, and route. It considers what typical on-farm costs might be incurred as well. It also includes a number of landholders outside of the current West Corurgan footprint who expressed an interest in being connected to a piped system. The Project Team are currently working through this report and anticipate meeting with the Pinion team to further refine and enhance the report.

Some of you may have seen members of the West Corurgan team and the soil engineering consultants over the last few weeks taking soil cores from below the bed of some of the supply channels (primarily the O'Dwyer Main). There is some more drilling to be done, and the samples that have been taken have been sent away to a laboratory for analysis. The results of this will allow us to better understand the losses from the channel system – with the information forming an integral component of the study.

Several other 'new' components of the overall study have been recently endorsed by the Board – focussing on issues around natural drainage lines and flows, the potential to pipe certain low-use channels (to minimise losses), possibility to rationalise, replace or realign existing infrastructure, additional survey work (you may see some survey teams 'out and about' over the next few week), and a detailed cost benefit analysis.

A preliminary draft of the final Feasibility Project report is due in April by the Project Management team. This will start to 'pull together' the various individual components of the feasibility. It will form the basis of what goes to the West Corurgan Board, and ultimately to you as members, for consideration and will provide detail on costs, benefits, and potential impacts on the West Corurgan PID and your community. This report will be the culmination of a huge amount of work completed over the last 6 months.

On behalf of the Project Team, I'd like to thank the Australian Government for their on-going commitment to, and funding of, this project, and Water Infrastructure NSW for their continued support and high-level management of the project.

Finally, as always, if individual members have any questions, comments, or concerns over the Feasibility Study, please feel free to contact myself in the first instance on 0447 778 515. We are keen to hear members views, ideas, and perspectives on the potential modernisation of the West Corurgan scheme, so please do not hesitate to make contact.

Best Regards

Adrian Smith, on behalf of the Modernisation Feasibility Project Team. [Email: aksadvisory@outlook.com](mailto:aksadvisory@outlook.com)



[And now for something a bit lighter](#)



What! You didn't really think the jokes would improve did you.



Above was the light-hearted bit.
 Below is the 'heavy' bit.
 Nothing 'light' about those numbers!!

SELECTION	Calories	Fat	Exercise units
200g Easter bunny	900 cal	50g fat	2 hrs of running
2 Caramello eggs	125 cal	6g fat	15 min rowing
1 Crème egg	170 cal	6g fat	45 min power walking
100g Deluxe bunny	540 cal	33g fat	2 cycle classes
3 mini eggs	130 cal	7.5g fat	15 min skipping
Small hot cross bun (no butter)	150 cal	2g fat	30 min swimming
Large hot cross bun with butter	300 cal	10g fat	30 min jogging
Choc chip hot cross bun	250 cal	9g fat	1 Zumba class



PS: I will be late to work on the Tuesday after Easter.

I will still be running, rowing, walking, spinning, skipping, swimming, jogging and Zumba-ing!! 😊

What is the West Corugan District coming to? 😊

In October we had pink flamingos and green monsters floating around and now we have blue submarines!

After the floods the potholes are still so big two of our water bailiffs worked for two hours trying to 'unbog' what they thought was a blue submarine. That's how deep it was bogged. Wrong. After two hours of digging and cursing it turned out to be a Blue Toyota Landcruiser Ute! No names, but I remind, the annual 'Champion at Getting Bogged' Award is only presented to staff.....not Directors!



Oh Dear..... My Nepotism is showing again.....

My daughter plays Aussie Rules football in London as part of AFL London.
Go the Demons!

Anyway...

Each year AFL Europe holds the ANZAC Cup in Villers-Bretonneux, France, and the Australian Spirit Men & Australian Spirit Women teams play against the French AFL National sides as part of the annual 'Australia Week' celebrations held in Villers-Bretonneux.

The first ANZAC Cup took place in 2009.

It is quite a big deal stretching over four-days; with official Australian Spirit Team jumper presentations, the Men & Women games, guided tours of the region, and culminating in the Dawn Service on ANZAC Day.

This year the tournament is taking place from Saturday 22 April to Tuesday 25 April.



And Alexandra has been selected to play in the team!

Do not be thinking that Alexandra is a great footballer. She's not.

She is only 5' 1" and weighs nothing, but she can run all day.

She would probably break six ribs if anyone seriously tackled her!

The 'wing' is her friend!

Mostly, everyone else runs out of 'puff', so she looks good as she continues to run up and down the field all day.



Actually, the teams were chosen through a written application explaining your family's historical connection to the First World War (although you do need to be registered to play in an International AFL League).

Alexandra's great-grandfather, Alexander, fought at Gallipoli with the 6th Battalion, was wounded and repatriated. Alexandra wrote a very good application and was selected in the team.

(Not that I am biased at all!) 😊

It is a fantastic opportunity and a wonderful experience!

She has already been to the Gallipoli dawn service, so is looking forward to the tour of the Somme Region and the dawn service in Villers-Bretonneux.

Hopefully, she hasn't been 'smashed' before then!



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'! 😊 De