

# CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 06 – 2023  
June 2023



Budget & Auditor & EFY stuff ..... Busy!

Welcome to the June 2023 Corurgan Comment.

I would like to welcome our new General Maintenance employee, Brett Molnar. Brett started on the 22/05/2023 and has been spraying weeds and assisting Tony with sealing leaking headwalls. Brett will fit in well with our existing team.

## Operations

Winter Maintenance season is in full swing, the guys have been into it, fixing problem leaks and cleaning channels. We have continued our spraying program, targeting Arrowhead and Ribbon weed.

We have a long list of projects this maintenance season, hopefully the weather will help us get them all done.

If you know of any channel banks or structures that need work done, please contact me so that I can assess it and program it in.

## 2023/24 Budget

As mentioned in last months Corurgan Comment, it is time for us to start planning for next season, and of course that includes trying to guess how much water we might need to pump. If you could please forward an Expression of Interest to the office indicating if you will irrigate next year, that would be very helpful in forming a more accurate overall budget. An **EOI form is supplied with this Corurgan Comment** indicating time of year, area, crop type and location.

Please fill out the form and return. This will not only help with our budget but also in prioritising any maintenance works that might be needed.

Thank you to the Members that have already submitted the EOI form.

## Feasibility Study

We currently continuing with the Pump Station review and ground truthing flow paths based on LIDAR analysis.

The timeframe for all the final reports to be done is getting closer, with a lot of work going into meeting the deadline on time.

**Peter Hamilton**  
**General Manager**

## Office Administration

### **Outstanding Invoices**

A friendly reminder: The July half yearly fees are not too far away, so if you have not paid January fees, please do so as a matter of priority. If you require a copy of the invoice, please contact the office.

Reminders are regularly emailed, and I know the General Manager has rung some Members.

I remind that outstanding invoices more than 90-days outstanding will not receive irrigation water at the start of next season until the debt is cleared.



**Keeping you in the Loop** - I am away for all of August and first week of September. - Debbie

### Our Sincere Condolences

On behalf of everyone associated with West Corugan may I extend on our Sincere Condolences and Deepest Sympathy to Richard Nixon, and family on the passing of Ann.

Sadly, Ann died on 20<sup>th</sup> May.



Ann was one of the first Members I dealt with when I started with West Corugan in late-October 2016.

I was not aware of all the different Nixon names and farms within the Scheme and didn't realise that one family may have six different farms. A week after starting it was the end of the month.

I posted out individual invoices and statements. Lots of them!

Ann very kindly pointed out that I didn't need to waste so many stamps. 😊

Our thoughts are with Richard and the extended Nixon families within our West Corugan footprint.

### Auditors

Our Auditors visited the Office on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May, but due to the money involved in the Feasibility Study, they came back!! Second visit on 5<sup>th</sup> June, specifically to look at the Feasibility Study accounts. All good. Just time consuming as we were trying to prepare the budget.

Maybe she just wanted another Tim Tam biscuit. 😊

See, I know how to look after my Auditors. I provide Tim Tams to go with the coffee.

Nothing like a good bribe. And Tim Tams biscuits are the best bribe ever.

Works every time!



### Maintenance Employee

Our new Maintenance Employee, Brett started Monday 22 May and is already hard at it.



Brett is on the left, Peter Bolt on the right.

Lateral 3

Repairing a leak.

If you see Brett out and about, please introduce yourself and say hello.

### Russell Sullivan

Russell is on the road to recovery from his knee surgery and has returned to work on modified duties.

He will partner with Brett to show him around until he retires at the end of this month.

Yes, Russell is retiring from West Corugan on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June after nearly 12 years.

Russell commenced with West Corugan on 26.09.2011.

We certainly wish Russell well as he embarks on this new chapter in his life.

The 'grapevine' says bowls and fishing could get a look in.



If you see Russell out and about, please say hello (and goodbye).

## Reminder - AGM

Don't forget the AGM is on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August - 5.00pm

I also remind that Members will be voting on the proposal to reduce the number of Zones from 5 to 4 by simply removing the boundary between the two zones. Copy attached.

A map of the existing Zones and the proposed changed map are on display in the Office.

## Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study

### 'Keeping you in the loop'

Our Milestone invoice requesting that the 'Contingency' money has been paid.

The next Milestone was due 21.04.2023 - Submission of the Draft Feasibility Study Report but was extended. This has now been raised and sent 06.06.2023. This is Milestone #4.

The date for the Final Report submission is now 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

So, we have extended out a bit, but are still tracking well.

As at 31.05.2023, the Feasibility money has paid invoices to the value of \$793,116.47.



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

"The Feasibility Study investigating the likely costs and savings of modernising the West Corugan District is drawing to an end.

Several key components of the project have (in the main) been completed, including:

1. Stand-alone Stock and Domestic scheme
2. Upgrading the supply network, including structures (regulators, offtakes and farm outlets) and automation
3. Review of the existing pump station
4. The discharge pipes under the Corowa-Mulwala Rd
5. EM 31 survey of the entire 595 km of supply channels
6. Laboratory analysis of the soil coring and drilling
7. A large proportion of the physical survey of the Scheme's channels

All the other major 'pieces of the puzzle', which include the ground truthing of issues around stormwater pathways, verification of Scheme water losses (including potential lining and/or piping certain parts of the channel network), rationalisation and review of supply infrastructure (can we reduce the number of channel regulators for example?) and a cost-benefit analysis have commenced and are either progressing well or nearing completion.

The Project team have submitted the 2<sup>nd</sup> last milestone to the State and Federal Governments.

The final milestone (which will be the final report and an audit of expenditure) is due early August. Both levels of Government are very happy with the progress made to date, and like you as members, are looking forward to receiving the finalised report!

The hope, and intent, is to have a final draft report on the entire modernisation Feasibility Study for the Board to consider in June/July. This report will be the culmination of a huge amount of work completed over the last 6 months. The Board will consider the range of potential options and develop a preferred position.

From there, it is expected the West Corugan Board and Management will talk with Members about what possibilities exist, the opportunities they see and what the expected costs and other issue may be. Whilst no formal plans are in place for how this happens as yet, as members, I can assure you the Board are very keen to hear your feedback, thoughts and observations about the Feasibility Study, and what changes (*if any*) you

think may be needed to ensure a profitable, sustainable, and vibrant West Corugan PID and community remains for decades to come.

As the project draws to an end, on behalf of the Project Team, I'd like to thank the West Corugan staff and you as members for your involvement and interest to date, 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 Corugan 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 .....



**Why is grass so dangerous?** Because it's full of blades.

**What do you call being attacked by a lawn?** Grass-ault. **Oh, that one is so bad!**

**How does grass protect itself from the sun?** It wears sun-grass-es. **Not much better!**

**How does Santa look after the grass on his three gardens?** Ho, ho ho.

**Why is a field of grass always older than you?** Because it's pasture age.

**I was going to tell you another joke about grass, but I decided to weed it out.**



*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

# EMPLOYEE PROFILE

## **BRETT MOLNAR** **General Maintenance**



Welcome to Brett.

Brett started on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and joins us to help with the never-ending maintenance program we need to stay on top of.

Brett has previously worked on course at the Tocumwal Golf Club, so I am hoping that my little patch of lawn outside my office will soon to be given the 'Brett Molnar magic touch'. I would love to be able to use the words, lush, green, and manicured in describing our lawn. I live in hope!

Ah! Now you understand the relevance of my 'grass' jokes.

**BORN:** North Dandenong, VIC [Coordinates:](#)  37.959°S 145.208°E

**CURRENTLY RESIDES:** Tocumwal, NSW



**SPORTS PLAYED GROWING UP:** Everything!  
AFL Football, Basketball, Golf and Cricket

**BARRACKS FOR:** Melbourne - The mighty DEMONS.



**FAVOURITE FOOD:**



Brett was thinking very hard on this question. Then one of the guys asked, 'What would you ask for if you were on death row?'

Immediate answer: **Donuts!**

Iced Donuts with Sprinkles!

With Sprinkles!!

WOW. I didn't see that one coming. But it is a good one!



**DREAM HOLIDAY:**



Overseas - Scotland/England  
Play golf courses - ST. ANDREWS

P.S.: Did I mention that Brett plays golf off a handicap of 0.8!!  
Yeah - not bad. 😊



## Expression of Interest to Irrigate - Season 2023/2024

**Contact Name:**

**Phone Number:**

**Email Address:**

	<b>Spring</b>			<b>Summer</b>			<b>Autumn</b>		
<b>Laterals</b>	<b>Farm No.</b>	<b>Area (Ha)</b>	<b>Crop Type</b>	<b>Farm No.</b>	<b>Area (Ha)</b>	<b>Crop Type</b>	<b>Farm No.</b>	<b>Area (Ha)</b>	<b>Crop Type</b>
Lateral 1									
Lateral 2									
Lateral 3									
Lateral 4									
Lateral 5									
Lateral 6									
Lateral 7									
Lateral 8									
Lateral 9									
O'Dwyer Main									

**Please contact to the office via email: [info@corurgan.com.au](mailto:info@corurgan.com.au) or Phone Number: (03) 58852392**