

CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 06 – 2024
June 2024



Budget Time!

Welcome to the June 2024 Corurgan Comment.

May signals the end of irrigation season, although this dry Autumn kept us going a little longer than usual, we finished pumping water from the Murray on the 11th of May and supplied water orders until the 15th. After that we started draining the channels down until the 31st.

The 2023/24 Irrigation season was the second largest we have had in the last 20 years (**58,380ML**), with season 2012/13 being the largest in that time (**65,091ML**).

I would like to thank all the West Corurgan staff for their dedication and diligence during this busy season, including the office staff for assisting Members with enquiries and all the necessary administration tasks, and the Channel Attendants and Maintenance staff for delivering irrigation water on time, maintaining the channels, fixing leaks and repairing structures, removing weeds and blow grass, and delivering tanker water. West Corurgan Private Irrigation is very lucky to have such a dedicated team of employees, that very often put in extra time and effort to make sure all tasks are completed and customer expectations are met.

Congratulations to Craig Bonat on reaching the 10-years service milestone. Craig started in the maintenance team and 3 years ago became the South run Channel Attendant. Craig starts early every day and puts in a lot of extra time to make sure that water is delivered as quickly and efficiently as possible. Thank you, for your dedication to the Members of WCPID.

June is the start of our dedicated winter works program. The dry autumn has allowed us to get in and get a few projects done quickly while the sun was out. We will continue on with our list of projects and I remind Members, that if you notice any maintenance issues that need to be done before next season, please contact your Channel Attendant or the Office.

Budget Time

June is Budget time. We try and forecast what next irrigation season will look like, which can be a difficult challenge. To help us be more accurate in our forecast, I would like Members to let me know how many hectares of summer crop they may be planning on planting, and the type of crop, eg (Corn, Rice, Beans Cotton, Lucerne or pasture, potatoes).

I remind any Members with outstanding accounts to please pay all outstanding amounts before the end of this financial year. Unpaid fees and charges places an unfair burden on the West Corurgan business and the entire West Corurgan community.

If you have not paid your fees/charges by June 30th 2024, irrigation water will not be supplied until all outstanding fees have been paid.

Water

Total Water Pumped for the season 2023/24 – 58380ML

Current Dam Levels

Dartmouth Dam – 94%

Hume Dam - 62%

Maintenance

Winter works program

Water Tanker deliveries.

On a side note, I can officially boast that I won the bragging rights after winning two out of three races against my brother at the Rattletrap Beach Race. It was a great fun weekend away and he did have to buy the first round, which to me, tasted absolutely delicious.



Please contact the Office or your Channel Attendant, if you need any assistance with any water related or maintenance matters.

Peter Hamilton
General Manager

Office Administration

New Directors

Tim Farr & Cameron Sandral visited the office prior to their first Board Meeting on 22 May to gain a few insights into what the office does, the information provided to the Directors and what they can expect. A mini-induction, if you like.

The good news is, they still turned up to the actual May Board Meeting! 😊

Cameron, who had never been to the West Corugan office before, enjoyed looking at the old photos of past Directors and picking out his grandfather! What a great family synergy.

At the May Board Meeting the Board Executive was elected and the current Executive has been retained
Chairman – Max Arnold
Deputy Chair – Sam Nixon
Company Secretary – Gordon Fox.

Thank you to all three gentlemen for their willingness to support WCPID in these roles.

Also, let me introduce you to your two new (very switched-on) Directors.

Let me ask the important questions on your behalf..... Who do they barrack for?!

Refer to the last two pages.

Director Training Day

As part of the Board's commitment to doing the best it can for West Corugan, the entire Board, Peter Hamilton and myself, attended a full day of Director Training on 30 May.

The Training was presented by Mark Bouw Group, a Melbourne based company who specialise in this space and strategic planning in particular.

We used the Boardroom/Training room at Moggs Advisory & Accounting in Cobram as our boardroom would have been too small.

The day was quite intense, but very worthwhile and provided some invaluable insights into the role of Directors and the Best Practice Governance for a contemporary Board.

2027 Elections.

Our Returning Officer has written to the NSW Water Minister advising of our election results and has provided a review of the process to the Board.

NEW MODEL RULES

Big job!

I have previously advised that the Water Management Act has an Amendment and then the Amendment has been amended.

Don't Ask!!

As a consequence, West Corugan is now known as a Private Water Corporation within the Act.

It was this change that required our Board election process to be held 6-months earlier than normal and for our 'corporation' to update our Rules.

Remember, we are only a 'corporation' within the Water Management Act, we are not a corporation within the definition of the Corporations Act or the Tax Act.

Peter & I have reviewed the draft NEW MODEL RULES as provided by the Dep't of Planning, Industry and Environment (Now called Dept CCEEW), and the Chair and Deputy Chair visited the office on 14 May to review again. The NEW MODEL RULES are now with Gerard McCarthy, Solicitor, for his expert opinion.

A big thank you to Max & Sam who were not expecting a 6.00pm finish by the time we reviewed all 57-pages.

Poor Sam has never eaten so many sweet biscuits in one sitting in his life!

His tummy was a bit 'squirmy' by 6.00pm.

I had suggested we take a break for lunch, but no-one listened to me.

They just thought one hour and we would be done.

Bad move.



Anyway, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, to Max & Sam.



BUDGET



The Government can have it's Budget night, but the only budget worth worrying about is Budget Day – 12th June. West Corugan's Budget Day.

I will keep you informed.

Hey, Sam, I will have fewer sweet biscuits and more carrot sticks! I promise.



TANKER WATER DELIVERIES

As we move into our very busy Maintenance season and the Water Bailiffs start to take some annual leave we will need to manage the delivery of our tanker water.

As explained previously, we try to group together a few deliveries, so we have a full 'delivery day'.

Therefore, we request three-days' notice if you require a tanker load of water.

If we can provide sooner, we will, but the guys plan their work the previous day, so they may already be committed on the day you ring.



Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study

We requested \$55,000 + GST additional funding, which has been approved and paid.

The Final Milestone #5 invoice - \$81,567.60 incl. GST has also been paid. Fantastic!

All invoices due to be paid, but were just waiting for that Final money, have been paid. We are done!

The bank account specifically set-up for the Feasibility money = \$NIL and MYOB accounts reconcile.



Congratulations to Craig Bonat and Brett Molnar.

My how time flies!

Craig has been with West Corurgan for ten years! Fantastic.

Craig started 28 April 2014 and was originally employed as our Maintenance employee, who also helped out with being a Channel Attendant.

In Sept 2021 Craig was asked to fill in as a full-time Channel Attendant when Peter stepped up to the role of General Manager, and he's never looked back!

Congratulations Craig.

Max Arnold presented Craig with a plaque and Certificate of Appreciation at the end of the irrigation season.



Our newest employee has been with us one year already!

On 22 May Brett clocked over one year service as our Maintenance employee. Great stuff, Brett.

Here's hoping for 19 more! 😊



Presentation of Appreciation to Geoff Moar and Michael Hawkins.

At the conclusion of the April Board meeting, Chairman, Max Arnold presented both Michael Hawkins and Geoff Moar, our retiring Directors, with a gift and a plaque marking their service to West Corurgan.

At the end of the evening, I forgot to take a photo of both of them with their plaques.

Geoff very kindly agreed to an 'after-the-event' photo, so I could show everyone.



I wonder if Tim and Cameron will stay for 24 years!?

Selling Allocation Water

REMEMBER:

****If you buy temp water, please pay the seller promptly – 7-days.**

We do not appreciate being put in the position of needing to chase payment on behalf of the Seller.

Transactions will not be processed unless we know the payment has been made**



Educational Tool Available online.

NRAR – Natural Resources Access Regulator have advised that they offer a number of FREE online training tools for those interested in learning more about various aspects of water. Training is set-up in modules, so you can do as little or as much as you might like. Each Section/Module may take about 30-minutes, so it is not like a 40-hour module.

As is the way of the world, you use a QR Code to register.

I have provided a Flyer at the end of the Corugan Comment.

BE HAPPY 😊



Oh, Come on! Surely you had a little chuckle, or at least a wry smile.



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

New Director for West Corurgan

***Timothy (Tim) Farr
Representing Zone 3***



In brief:

***Married to the lovely Breanne.
x3 children***

Town born in:

Geelong



Sport played as a Junior:

Tennis in the summer and Football for Bannockburn

Favourite Meal:

Anything Seafood



AFL Football team:

St Kilda



Dream Holiday Destination:

***Any Holiday is a dream!!
Somewhere with a beach and 30 degrees.***



What does your farm grow:

***The usual:
Wheat, barley, canola, and FAT sheep.***



Tim is new, so I didn't have the heart to tell him that it is no good trying to sell SKINNY sheep! 😊

Tim didn't say what his major farming concern was, but I am picking it should be MARKETING!

New Director for West Corurgan

Cameron (Cam) Sandra Representing Zone 4



In brief:

**Beautiful partner – Bridget
No children**

Town born in:

Corowa



Sport played as a Junior:

Tennis for Savernake and Football for Rennie

Favourite Meal:

Spaghetti Bolognaise



AFL Football team:

Essendon



Dream Holiday Destination:

Gold Coast



What does your farm grow:

**The usual:
Wheat, barley, canola, and summer crop of corn**

Major farming concern:

Chemical Resistance

Deep. Very deep, Cam. Love it!

Message for Cam's Mum: Now don't go giving Cam a hard time about having his photo taken wearing a dirty top. He was flat out and raced into the Board Meeting straight from the farm. That is what our Directors need to do on occasions. So, say Thank You, be proud and ignore a dirty top.