

MHVwater

Scheme News

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Message from the CEO

This irrigation season really has been one out of the box, and it reinforces that no two seasons are alike. With a distinct lack of sunshine hours to date, and our fair share of rain, the management of water and fertiliser application is more important than ever. We encourage utilising the tools that are available to you to ensure you are applying the right amount, at the right time, every time you apply water and/or nutrients.

If you want to know what tools are available please give our Irrigo team a call to discuss your options and they will be able to refer you to a local specialist. We are also looking at how we can support our farmers with biodiversity planting including wetlands further down the plains. If you have a project underway, or are considering one, please give me a call as it would be good to talk about how we may be able to help you.

Since our last newsletter in August, our team has:

- Completed the installation of gates for the automation trial on Laterals 1 & 5, as well as some additional gates in more difficult to access spots;
- Completed and reviewed the Valetta pipe collapse workstream and reviewed standard operating procedures;
- Undertaken spraying and general maintenance of races and offtakes;
- Continued working on the feasibility of the potential Hackthorne line and reviewing the impacts of the pending minimum flow regulations on the Ashburton River;
- Reviewed and updated a suite of policies, which will be available on the website in the New Year;
- Finalised our annual accounts and held our Annual General Meeting. The minutes are being circulated with this newsletter and are available on our website;
- Made excellent progress on our replacement Nutrient Discharge Consent in collaboration with Ashburton Lyndhurst and BCI.



Melanie Brooks, Chief Executive

We have welcomed Ben Johnson to our Board and Ben Naylor to our Operations team. Mike Lamb is also joining us on a contractual basis to assist with some asset management work.

As we progress through our replacement discharge consent we will be coming around the scheme for shed meetings to talk about the practical implications and ongoing requirements for our "Roadmap for Reductions". We are focusing on the achievable actions that will drive improved water quality outcomes and I look forward to connecting with as many of you as possible in February/March, and wish you and your families a festive season filled with love, laughter and happiness and of course, a prosperous 2019.

Mel

Message from the Board

As is normal practice, following the AGM in October, the Board reviewed how we operate as a Board and the various roles assigned to individual directors. The Board reappointed John Nicholls as Chair and appointed Richard Wilson as his alternate. Richard and Vincent Lobb continue as our appointed directors to the RDRML Board and Vincent also continues as our director on Irrigo.

The Board created two further sub-committees in addition to the existing Risk & Audit Committee in order to improve our efficiency and bring targeted focus to critical areas of the business. These sub-committees, along with their members, are:

- **Environment and Sustainability** – Phill Everest (Chair), Evan Chisnall, Ben Johnson, Richard Wilson
- **Infrastructure and Health & Safety** – Evan Chisnall (Chair), Ben Johnson, John Nicholls
- **Risk and Audit** – Craig Osborne (Chair), Vincent Lobb, Mark Saunders, John Nicholls

Following shareholder consultation over the last few months, we have now formally adopted our strategic plan. This describes our mission as “**Sustainable solutions for our shareholders and the community**” and defines four key purposes; water for optimal growth, environmentally and economically sustainable, stay strong (our people, our culture and our values), and enable innovation. These purposes flow through into setting our priorities as a Board and our KPIs for management.

The Board wishes you and your family a safe and happy festive season, and looks forward to working on your behalf in 2019.



Our People

Meet our new board director and new staff member.

Ben Johnson - Director

Elected to the Board at the recent AGM, Ben Johnson is a familiar name and face to many shareholders across the scheme having served three years on the Valetta Irrigation board, prior to merger.

Ben and his wife Shannon, farm in Westerfield with water supplied to their dairy and dairy support farms by MHV, BCI and ground water. They farm across the Hinds and Ashburton groundwater and nutrient zones.

With a passion for agriculture, Ben has a varied farming history, having completed a BSc at Lincoln University, working as a seed company rep, and in 2005, converting the family mixed cropping/deer/sheep and grazing operation to dairy.

Ben and Shannon enjoyed success at the 2012 Canterbury Ballance Farm Environment Awards where they won both the Water Efficiency Award and the LIC Dairy farm Awards.

The staff and Board welcome Ben to this governance position and look forward to working with him.



Ben Johnson, Director

Ben Naylor - Scheme Operator

We are pleased to welcome Ben Naylor to the position of Scheme Operator in our MHV team.

Growing up on a farm in the Manuhierikia Valley in Central Otago, Ben is very aware of the reliance on water for farming prosperity.

Having completed a B.Com (Ag) at Lincoln University, Ben has worked for CRT, travelled and more recently settled back in Central Otago where he worked as a field technician for a small engineering business installing open channel and piped measuring stations, sensors and telemetry equipment. Maintenance, troubleshooting, calibrations, verifications and compliance reporting were also key roles, as were managing, installing and commissioning intake infrastructure and other engineering jobs.

Holding the position of Secretary with the Falls Dam Company for three years, has kept Ben up to date with consenting and infrastructure issues facing the company and wider farming community.

Ben is an avid rugby and squash player and along with his wife Sarah, and two young daughters are excited about the next chapter in their life in Mid Canterbury.



Ben Naylor, Scheme Operator

Congratulations to John Nicholls who was re-elected to the Board and has been appointed as Chair for another term.



Farewell to Mark Dewhirst and Nigel Reith who retired from the Board at the AGM. We thank you for your service to the Board and community, and wish you all the best for the for your new endeavours.

Contact details for Board and Staff, are available on our [website](#). An updated contact card will be circulated to all shareholders in the New Year.

Reminders

FEP Audits

All FEP Audits have now been scheduled. If you are due for an audit this season and have not seen an email, please check your Spam email. If you have any concerns or questions about the audit process, please contact Belinda Meares at Irrigo on 027 551 0344.

2018 - 19 Water Charges

The 2018-19 water charges are as follows:

Line	Charge per share per l/s	Charge per ha	
		3.5mm	4.2mm
MH Open Race*	\$2.10	\$85	\$102
Valetta	\$2.95	\$120	\$142
Ruapuna	\$8.52	\$346	\$415

These will be charged monthly on a proportionate basis.

*Harris Drain has additional infrastructure charges.

Stored Water (Ruapuna Line)

Ruapuna line shareholders have the option again this season to purchase stored water from BCI.

This is stored water from Coleridge which is subservient to BCI supply and may not be available at times but does provide an alternative source.

Contact info@mhvwater.nz for further details.

Mycoplasma Bovis

MHV is currently operating under Level 3 of our Biosecurity Policy which means no access to affected properties by MHV staff.

We encourage you to advise us if your property is under restricted access or Notice of Direction. This information is kept confidential to staff.

River Flow and Rainfall Data

We are often asked about river flows and rainfall data.

Environment Canterbury provides up to date information on this and we have a link on our website to this data if you wish to view it.

Simply visit www.mhvwater.nz and select

River Flow and Allocation Information

From the River Flow Data page, you can also select the Rainfall Data link.



Board Meeting Dates

The Board will meet on the following dates in 2019*:

- Tuesday 29 January
- Tuesday 12 March
- Tuesday 30 April
- Tuesday 11 June
- Tuesday 23 July
- Tuesday 3 September
- Tuesday 15 October
- Tuesday 26 November

If you would like anything to be considered by the Board, this should be lodged a minimum of 10 working days prior to the meeting date.

** Dates may be subject to change.*

Coming Up

Shed Meetings

February and March throughout the scheme. Dates to be confirmed.

Learn more about the practical implications, ongoing requirements and achievable actions that will drive improved water quality outcomes throughout our scheme.

Bore Protection

Is your well water supply protected?

If your drinking water comes from a bore or a well, there are protection measures you need to conduct periodically.

Clear water does not always mean the water is safe. Water consumed by people or animals needs to be free from harmful germs and chemicals.

How do I know my drinking water is safe?

The only way to know if your groundwater is safe is through regular laboratory testing. Hills Laboratory provide sampling kits that can be mailed out to the well owner and returned to the laboratory. For assistance collecting a water sample, please contact William at MHV Water.

What preventative steps can I take?

Protecting your groundwater supply, and preventing its contamination, will help safeguard your household's health. Spending time and money on checking for contamination and protecting your water supply will reduce health risks and save on laboratory and water treatment costs.

Conduct periodic checks of your well to ensure that:

- The well cap is undamaged and is properly sealed over the casing
- The casing has no visible cracks or corrosion
- Animals, pesticides, fertilisers and other hazardous chemicals are stored away from the well

In addition, conduct periodic inspections of potential nearby point source pollutants such as:

- Fuel tanks
- Septic tanks
- Effluent storage

What else can I do to protect groundwater resources?

There are a large number of wells or drum style bores on the Hinds Plain that have been decommissioned, abandoned or simply go unused. Wells in poor condition provide a potential passageway for chemicals and pathogens to enter the groundwater system, contaminating the water supply. We ask that our shareholders conduct periodic inspections of all wells on their property and perform maintenance where required. An important first step and easy win is to cap all exposed bores/wells where possible (see image).



Mbovis Affected Farmers

Are you, or is someone you know, struggling with Mbovis?

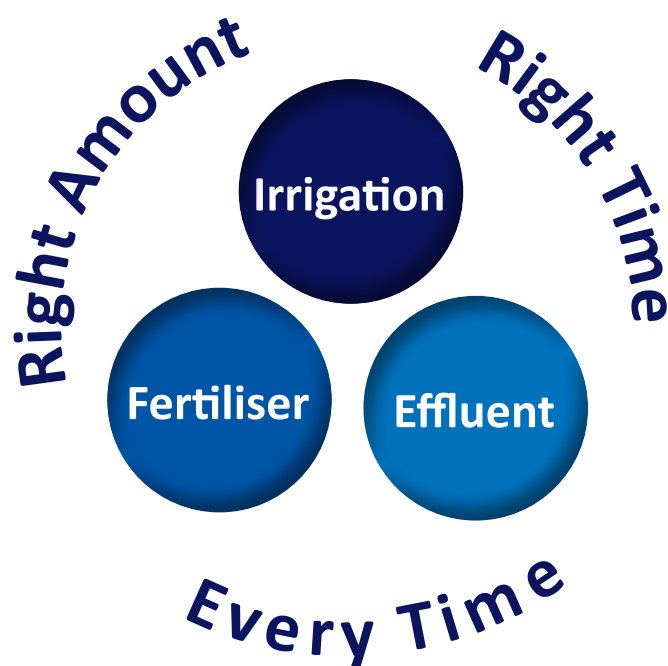
The mission of the recently founded **Mbovis Affected Farmers** group is to work alongside other farmers affected with Mbovis in a respectful and constructive way. By uniting and sharing problems and solutions, farmers can support farmers, families, employees and key stakeholders affected.

Whilst the group states that they do not have all the answer, the farmers involved offer support to those in similar situations, offering a place for positive engagement.

Email mbovisaffectedfarmers@gmail.com or search **Mbovis Affected Farmers** on Facebook.



Principles of Good Management Practice



Lease Water

We have had enquiries from Shareholders who are interested in leasing out their allocation of water for the current season.

If you are interested in leasing out some or all of your water, please email the details (info@mhvwater.nz) and confirm you are comfortable for us to share this with the wider shareholder base.

M and MG water must remain in the MH or Ruapuna infrastructure, and Valetta water within Valetta infrastructure.

Contractual Responsibilities

- All share trading and leasing is subject to approval by MHV and there must be no net increase in nutrient leaching as a result;
- The Scheme shall co-ordinate lease transactions. An approved MHV Lease Agreement will be executed by all parties and the Scheme Office will keep a record of leases;
- Any financial arrangements around the leasing of shares shall be the responsibility of the lessor and lessee to determine and enforce;
- The lessor of leased shares shall remain responsible for all water charges and obligations under the water supply agreement and will retain ownership and voting rights. Should the lessee default on any compliance matter, the responsibility for compliance will remain with the shareholder/lessor.

The following shareholders have advised that they have water available for lease for the 2018-19 season. If you are interested, please contact them directly to discuss in the first instance.

Shareholder	Contact	Volume for Lease (l/s)	Where water can be applied
Carl Weiers	carljosefweiers@hotmail.de	16.43 l/s M Shares 24.65 l/s MG Shares	Ruapuna*
Lawrence Thompson	027 249 2614 travis3037274@hotmail.com	8.17 l/s M Shares	MH Open Race or Ruapuna*
Travis Thompson	021 895 887 travis3037274@hotmail.com	2.05 l/s M Shares	MH Open Race or Ruapuna*

* All Ruapuna water is subject to capacity being available in the line

Bucket Testing



Have you signed up for bucket testing?

With over 470 machines signed up to be bucket tested across Mid Canterbury this summer, the team is hard at work. Properties being audited have been given priority, with everyone else to be tested further into the season.

Due to the limited number of good weather days, we request that shareholders make allowances to the team to ensure their irrigators get tested, such as turning on when you weren't planning to, or moving the irrigator to a suitable paddock (e.g. with shorter crop/grass).

The team will need to move on if they are unable to contact you or test your machines when requested.

Water Ordering

Would you like to learn more about ordering water online?

If you would like to learn more about ordering water and changing your water orders online, visit our [website](#).

User guides walk you through the process of how to log in, make an order, create a repeat order and cancel orders* either on computer or mobile phone.

Ordering your average daily (24hr) flow ordering rather than ordering your maximum and not using it, helps with scheme water scheduling and managing pond levels.

If you are unsure of your login details, please contact Sam Anderson on 027 435 6251.

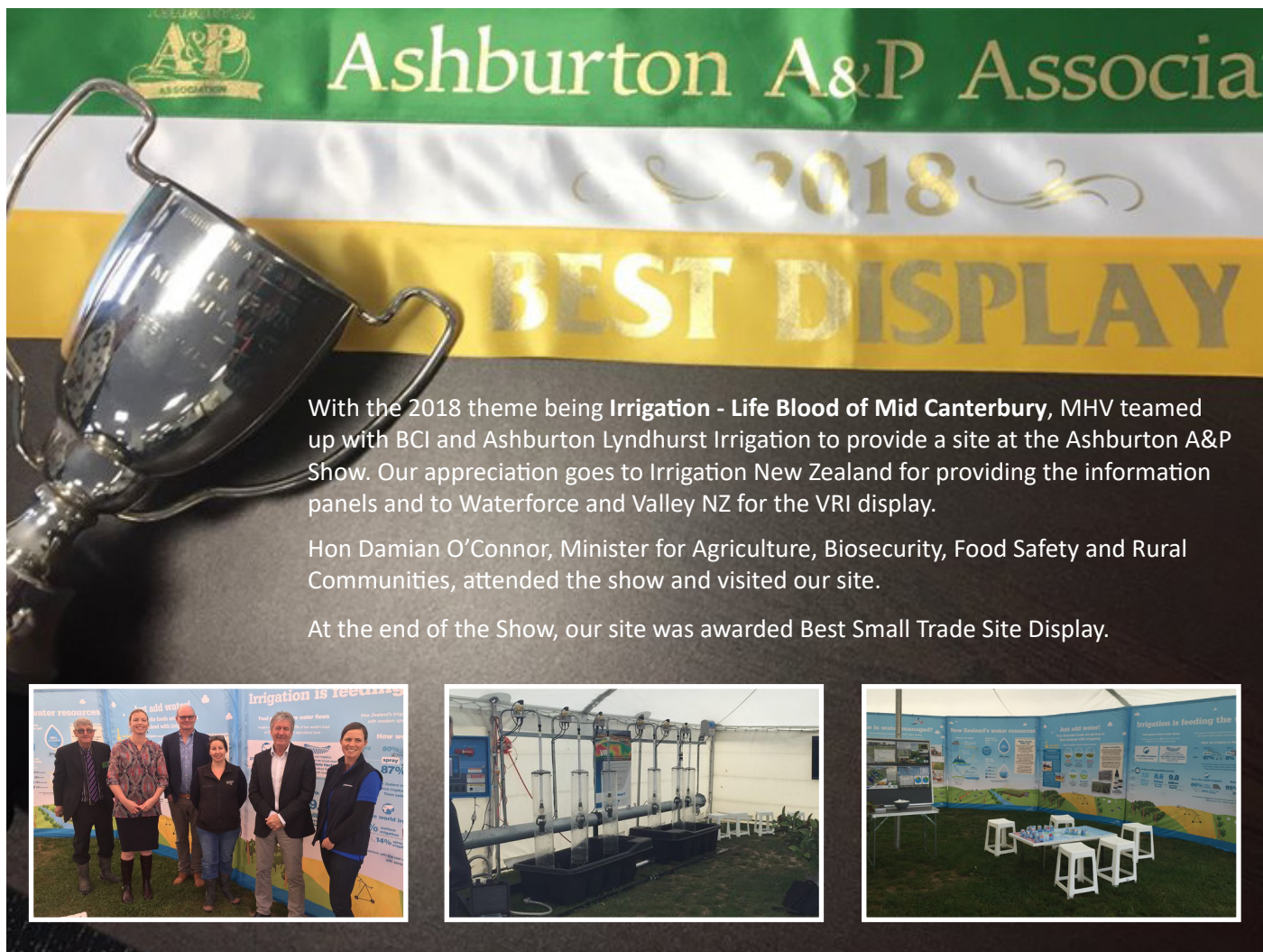
[Water Ordering via Computer](#)[Water Ordering via Mobile](#)[Average Daily Orders](#)

** Please note: You are able to cancel a repeat order online, but not an order which is currently being delivered. If you need to cancel an order currently being delivered, please contact your scheme operator.*

If you require any further assistance, please contact your scheme operator in the first instance.

Feedback on these links or any other requirements is much appreciated.

Ashburton A&P Show






Ashburton A&P Association
2018
BEST DISPLAY

With the 2018 theme being **Irrigation - Life Blood of Mid Canterbury**, MHV teamed up with BCI and Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation to provide a site at the Ashburton A&P Show. Our appreciation goes to Irrigation New Zealand for providing the information panels and to Waterforce and Valley NZ for the VRI display.

Hon Damian O'Connor, Minister for Agriculture, Biosecurity, Food Safety and Rural Communities, attended the show and visited our site.

At the end of the Show, our site was awarded Best Small Trade Site Display.



Christmas and New Year Hours

The Irrigo Office at 326 Burnett St will be closed from Monday 24 December and will re-open on Thursday 3 January 2019.

The Operations team will be on skeleton staff, running water over the Christmas and New Year period.

For Valetta and Ruapuna enquiries, please contact the Pipe Operations phone on 027 239 5199.

For Open Race, [contact your Scheme Operator](#).

We would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy festive season.

