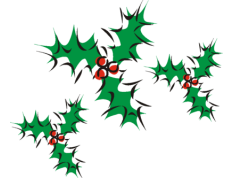


LOWER WAITAKI IRRIGATION COMPANY LTD



CHRISTMAS NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER 2016

From the Race Manager

It has been an extremely slow start to 2016-2017 irrigation season with no demand for irrigation as late as November being almost unprecedented. This has been a welcomed start to the spring, relieving farmers from what is typically another task during this busy time of the season. Excessive spring growth in borderdyke head races will likely slow watering times down and I advise spraying out or grazing to avoid issues.

Farm Environmental Plans (FEP's)

Important notice to all those Lower Waitaki Irrigation Shareholders with FEP's that are Fonterra shareholders.

As the Lower Waitaki Irrigation Company has worked with Irricon through the process of completing Farm Environment Plans and FEP audits we have been looking for ways to improve the system to ensure it works well for shareholders. Fonterra approached Lower Waitaki Irrigation Company to see if there was a way to remove duplication of information provided for different organisations. The outcome of this has been that Fonterra has agreed to work collaboratively with the Irrigation Company by granting access, provided your express permission is granted, to share environmental information that Fonterra holds with Irricon that is required in Farm Environment Plans and Overseer. The result will mean improvements in efficiency and cost effectiveness for the scheme and its shareholders.

If you are agreeable to this information sharing please email confirming that you (the farm owner/Fonterra shareholder for an identified property) authorise the nominated organisations Fonterra and the Lower Waitaki Irrigation Company to gather, store and share farm business information. This access would be limited to: farm maps held in the Fonterra mapping system, and farm information provided as part of the Nitrogen Programme (including relevant Overseer® files developed based on that information).

The email approval must come from a Fonterra shareholder for the property, for which the data sharing is being requested and must include:

- Supply number
- Farm Owner Name
- Phone number
- Email

Annual Weed Control

Staff will be carrying out the annual chemical treatment of races for weed on Friday the 23rd of December, this is a day earlier than normal due to staff going away for the Christmas break. All those effected users will receive a notification letter.

Fish Barrier

The Company are presently negotiating a contract to construct a fish barrier at Borton's Pond as part of our consent obligation's, and are hoping to carry out the project next winter for the start of the 2017-2018 irrigation season. This work will include the enhancement of a salmon spawning area on the Lower Black Point stream.

Converting to Spray?

Another reminder that it is crucial that you consult with the Company prior to planning any spray irrigation development as this can affect the Companies decisions around strategic planning and development.

"Water, North Otago's Gold"

The Lower Waitaki irrigation Company wish Keith Pheasant success with the release of his recent book.

Keith is a local farm management consultant whom has just written the book titled "Water, North Otago's Gold" which traces the history of the development of water schemes from 1870 to 2015. The book covers how the resource of water has been used to the benefit of the local community over a period of 150 years. In it he traces how the Steward Water Race and then the Lower Waitaki Irrigation Scheme were developed which has changed the Waitaki Plains from a dust bowl to a very productive farming district. The book can be purchased at Paper Plus or PGG Wrightson or contact Keith at pheasant@xtra.co.nz or ph. 0274503028 for a copy at a cost of \$45 inclusive of GST and postage.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous new from all the Staff and Directors of
the Lower Waitaki Irrigation Company Ltd.

