



Message from the CEO

With spring around the corner we would like to recognise the mahi (work) being undertaken to reduce the likelihood of leaching in the high risk winter period. Meaningful volumes of rain were limited over this winter, but having Intensive Winter Grazing (IWG) plans, which recognise the risk and undertaking practices that are known to reduce the risk of leaching means we can demonstrate that we are prepared if the poor weather does eventuate.

We have had two overhead fly overs by ECan, one at the start of the season and one more recently, to assess IWG practices. ECan have followed up with a couple of our farmers, not to criticize, but to recognise that they are managing their IWG in a manner that aligns with best practice and to thank them for their efforts. Congratulations – this is quite an achievement.

There have been other successes, and we'd like to congratulate Jaspreet Singh at Ashfield Downs and Monique Radford at Barnscoft both recognised at the Canterbury and North Otago NZ Dairy Awards. They won Dairy Manager of the Year and Dairy Trainee of the Year respectively.

One of the notable features of this winter season has been the persistently low levels of flow in the Rangitata River. With recent snow falls we hope the snow melt will provide some spring relief however it highlights our reliance on the run of the river and the importance of having alternative supply, be it storage or pumping. We continue to work with ALIL and BCI to understand how this optionality is best progressed as well as a number of internal workstreams and projects.

And finally, I would like to touch on the judicial review applied for by ELI (The Environmental Law Initiative) on the decision by Environment Canterbury (ECan) to grant our MHV discharge consent CRC185857. We are named as the second respondent.

The application for judicial review follows the earlier application and decision from the High Court in the Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation (ALIL) matter. That decision is now under appeal.

There are 3 grounds of review in relation to MHV:-

- That section 107 of the Resource Management Act (RMA) should have prevented the issuing of the consent (on the basis the decision maker was prohibited from taking into account future reductions when determining whether adverse effects were significant);
- That the NZ Coastal Policy Statement wasn't considered; and
- That ECan should have revoked our discharge consent upon the ALIL decision being granted.

In my view this is an unnecessary and frustrating distraction, however, we must work through the process and I will keep you informed of any updates.

The claim has no immediate implications for our discharge, we continue to operate under the existing consent, and if there was to be a High Court ruling which was not in ECan's (or MHV's) favour, then we would drop back to our old consent and continue to operate under continuance until matters are resolved.

It remains to be seen how quickly the case will progress through the judicial system and whether there is an opportunity, with legislative amendments that are already proposed, to avoid what will otherwise be a costly and unnecessary use of our own and legal counsel time.

Ngā mihi
Mel



Fertiliser Calibration

On farm Fertiliser Spreaders are required to have an active calibration to achieve an A FEP Audit grade. We are holding a fertiliser calibration event with Reed Gibbons.

Date – 19 September 2024

Cost – \$85.00

Location – Hinds

Please RSVP to Nicole on 027 205 2355 or nicole@mhvwater.nz

Introducing Cam

Cam Manson began in the Scheme Operator role with MHV earlier this month.

With a decade of experience in the dairy industry and five years in engineering and maintenance, Cam is excited to apply his experiences to the Operations team.

Cam is looking forward to learning about the scheme and how it all works to provide our shareholders the water they need.

Outside of work hours, Cam enjoys heading out into the outdoors, fishing rod at hand or spending quality family time at home.



Open Races



With the irrigation season kicking off on 10 September, it is timely to point out a few reminders about water races and water bodies.

On farm health and safety and fencing around houses

Please make sure that as a minimum, all houses around waterways are securely fenced. Many workers on farms may not have grown up around water, or understand the risks of water bodies, and it can take less than a minute for a child to drown.

Please review your health and safety procedures especially around communicating the risks of water to your staff, and how you can mitigate them where possible.

Swimming is prohibited. Flows can be deep, swift and unpredictable in our races. Some races have culverts and syphons which could be fatal if swept into. Please ensure that family, friends and staff are aware that swimming is not allowed in our races or our ponds.

MHV Planting Fund

MHV has been considering how to contribute to the improving health of the waterbodies more holistically, to encourage and demonstrate their improving health beyond just the nitrate levels.

Introducing the MHV Planting Fund

- \$50k contestable fund for the purchase of native plants
- Matched contribution dollar for dollar by MHV
- Applications closing 31st August and 30th January 2025 (up to \$25k funding available in each tranche)
- Open to MHV Shareholders and MHV Enviro Farms (farms that have joined our enviro programme (and pay enviro fees) which are not currently shareholders))
- Priority will be given to projects that seek to improve waterbody health in the surface water bodies we sample for our consent
- The Property must be an A FEP audit grade or above
- Applications can be emailed to info@mhvwater.nz or dropped to the offices at 326 Burnett Street
- Application form is [attached here](#)

Applications close 31 August 2024.

For further information, see the email sent on 13 August 2024.



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 16 October 2024

7.00pm

Hinds Community Centre

Nominations are open for one Director position and one Remuneration Committee position.
See email from 1 August for details and nomination forms.

Nominations close Friday 30 August at 3:30pm.



Water Ordering in Open Race

Water Ordering in Open Race

With the new season nearly upon us, you will soon need to order water for your open race property.

Go to www.mhvwater.nz and click on the Water Ordering icon.



You will be taken to the login screen where you will be prompted to enter your User Number and Password.

Your **User Number** is your first and last name with no spaces. This can be in upper or lower case i.e. JOEBLOGGS or joebloggs

Your **password** is case sensitive (ie needs to be upper or lower case as it was set up).

If you need assistance with your password, please contact the office on 03-307-8389 or info@mhvwater.nz.

If you have a new team member requiring access to water ordering also contact the office, or Sam Anderson on 027 435 6251 or sam@mhvwater.nz

For further help with water ordering, visit our website <https://www.mhvwater.nz/river-flow-information> and click on Water ordering via computer or mobile to view a user guide.

New Managers

New seasons bring new managers.

Do you have a new manager or new staff, or do you want to learn more about the scheme and where the water comes from?

We are offering a **Scheme Introduction workshop** on Tuesday 29 October 2024.



This will involve a bus trip to various sites around the scheme, seeing where the water comes from and providing an environmental and operational overview of the company.

Contact Nicole to book your seat on

027 205 2355 or email nicole@mhvwater.nz

Operationally, it is important to keep us updated on key contacts on your property particularly if they need access to water ordering.

Please contact Sam on 027 435 6251 or sam@mhvwater.nz with full name, mobile number and email address of new managers.

2024–25 Water Delivery Charges

Share Class	Charge per share	Charge per litre per second	\$ increase from FY23
Open Race*	\$1.91	\$191.00	\$16.00 per l/s
Valetta	\$3.86	\$386.00	\$16.00 per l/s
Ruapuna	\$7.38	\$738.00	\$8.00 per l/s
Environmental	\$9.00 per ha		NO CHANGE
*Plus Harris Drain Special Infrastructure Charges, if applicable			

We use independent external auditors. The cost of these auditors is increasing and we wanted to be sure that these costs are fairly apportioned.

Your environmental charges include the cost for one audit every 4 years (if you are an A grade or above). If for any reason you require another audit, ie land use change, a change of manager or you get a B, C or D audit, the cost of the additional audits will now be for your account. An audit is approx. \$1000, and can be more if you don't have the information available in the first instance. This is effective from the 24/25 season.



Safer Farms

Safer Farms leads and inspires the agricultural sector to make farms safer places to work and live. They are in service to the sector to reduce preventable injury and deaths across all corners of rural New Zealand.

MHV is a member and we encourage you to visit the website and check out their resources [Home](#) | [Safer Farms](#) | [Health & Safety](#)

Learnings from Wairuna Farm

The development of Wairuna runoff on the McKenzie family farm has been a collaborative community-led journey, spearheaded by Hekeao Hinds Lowlands Catchment Group facilitator Phill Everest and generously supported by Mid Canterbury Catchment Collective (MCCC), MHV, HHWET, Synlait and DairyNZ. The Wairuna runoff is located on Montgomerys Drain, which flows into the lower reaches of the Hinds River. The objective of this lowlands catchment proof of concept project is to see how much nitrogen can be removed, at what cost and whether solutions such as this can be cost effectively replicated.

From the uptake of willing landowners and site selection to project completion, this initiative has provided invaluable insights for all involved, with continuous learning opportunities shaping the journey ahead.

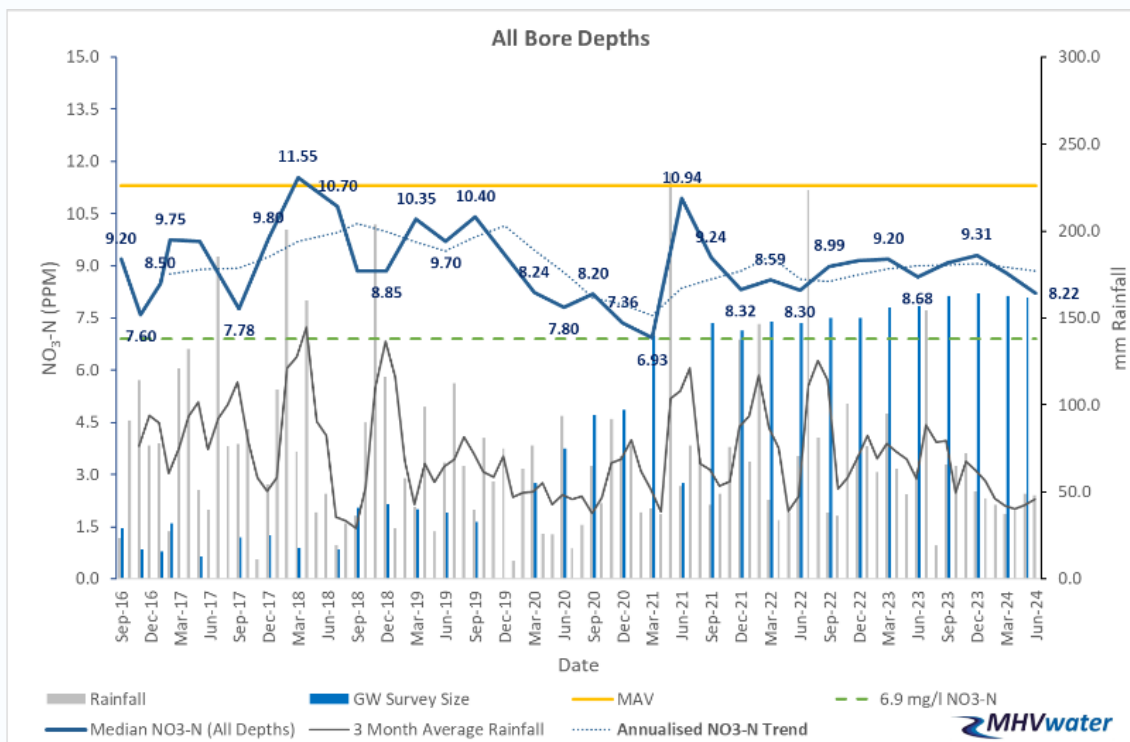
Much to the delight of the community, five geography undergraduate students from the University of Canterbury are investigating the strengths and weaknesses of the project as part of their Research for Resilient Environments and Communities Project which is supervised by Dr Sophie Horton. Final year students Ruby Gill-Clifford, Makayla Dyson, Max Gerling, Ngaire Ferriss and Todd Storey are hoping to develop a framework that captures the learnings, as well as strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the Wairuna Runoff project to enable the advancement of water quality improvement tools in the Hekeao Hinds catchment, and in turn, Canterbury as a whole.



NO₃-N concentration in groundwater continues to decline

The results from the June 2024 monitoring survey indicate that median NO₃-N concentrations has continued to decline since the spring of 2023. Results for shallow bores (<30m) have fallen from 10.66 ppm to 8.82 ppm since September, whilst overall the trend has seen a reduction from 9.31 ppm in December to 8.22ppm in June.

The results suggest that nitrate levels are declining as the last of the recharge waters from the 2021 – 2022 rainfall making their way to the coast, and that if rainfall levels remain ‘average’ (i.e. approx 60mm per month) for the next year or so, we should see continued improvement.



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