

MHVwater Scheme News



Message from the CEO

Kia ora koutou

It feels quite surreal as I write my last newsletter comment as CEO of MHV. It has been a privilege to have had my time at the helm of the MHV team over the last 7 ½ years.

We have achieved great progress across optimising the water delivery, respect for the environment and having a robust and enduring co-op.



When I started with MHV my aim was to leave the co-op stronger than when I joined and I can hand on heart say that we have achieved that.

Some highlights include the automation of the MH race, the discharge consent renewal, the 2018 Valetta pipe collapse and the way we managed that crisis and came out the other side stronger, the collaboration with AEC (especially the recent shed meetings), the MG share redemption and share split, the collaboration across the Hekeao Hinds Science Group, the Valetta Risk workstreams, and the purchase of Klondyke land and consents with ALIL to provide resilience for our schemes into the future.

I would like to thank the Directors who took a chance on appointing me, a fresh faced banker, to lead MHV. It really was a massive leap of faith and I hope that I have repaid that with my passion, dedication and mahi for our scheme over the years.

There is a māori whakatauki that says “He aha te mea nui o teā o? He Tangata, he tangata, he tangata!”

It reads, “What is the most important thing in the world? The people, the people, the people!”. I have been incredibly fortunate to work with amazing people in our team, shareholders who never leave me wondering what they think, our broader Mid Canterbury community and even those working in the regulatory space.

I have had the opportunity to see first hand what you are doing to improve environmental outcomes, including seeing the hundreds and thousands of volunteer hours that go in from members of our community who are passionate about making a difference and who are often getting limited recognition for the work they are doing behind the scenes to drive change. It has been my honour to collaborate and advocate for our community to share the progress that is being made and I will continue to do so.

I will be forever tied to MHV and keep an interested eye on the exciting projects and opportunities on the horizon. I wish MHV all the very best as you navigate and further strengthen the business and look forward to remaining in touch.

Mel

Message from the Chair

As we approach the end of the year I would like to provide you with an update on our recruitment process.

Firstly, we have engaged Johnson Partners as the recruitment company to run the appointment process for our new CEO.

Our timeline as you would expect, is pushed out by a few weeks due to the Christmas and New Year holidays. Johnson Partners are currently bringing together a long list of candidates for us to discuss and then in January will run an advertising campaign to cast the net wider. Our intent is to create and interview a short list during the early stages of February and have the successful candidate appointed by the end of February. Their start date will depend upon their current commitments but should be around mid to late May. The most important role of the board is to appoint the CEO, so we need to ensure we have the right person, which may mean the process could stretch out further if need be.

Secondly, to fill the interim gap left from Mel’s departure, we have appointed Jason Hurst as



interim General Manager. Jason has worked in a contract capacity for MHV over the last 12-18 months, providing him with knowledge of our scheme prior to starting. He brings significant commercial and leadership experience to the role, as well as being a Chartered Accountant. Jason will commence the role on the 14th of January and will be with MHV until the end of May or longer if required. We welcome Jason to the MHV team.

Lastly, as the 20th of December fast approaches, the Board and I would like to again thank Mel for her tenure as CEO. She, alongside the team, have achieved a significant amount in the last 7.5 years and she leaves MHV in a great position for the next CEO. Best of luck in the future Mel.

Cole

Contacting the team

To make contact with the operations team, please call or text the duty phone for your area.

One of our team are rostered on to manage the duty phones 24/7 to monitor emergency calls and alarms on our infrastructure. Because they need to monitor the phone overnight, we request that calls and texts are limited to working hours unless the matter is an emergency.

In an emergency, you should phone the duty phone at any time of the day or night.

Office Christmas hours

The Burnett St office will be closed from 4.30pm Friday 20 December and will re-open on Monday 6 January.

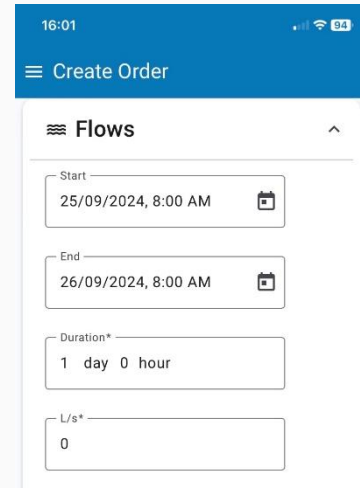
The Operations team will be on skeleton staff, running water over this period. Please contact the duty phones if you require operational assistance.

Pipe operations	027 239 5199
Laterals 1 & 2	027435 6256
Main Race, Laterals 3, 4 & 5	027 435 6252

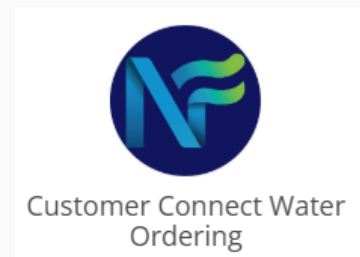
Water Ordering

If you are using Customer Connect to order water, you may have noticed that the date is auto selecting incorrect start dates and jumping ahead a day.

Please take care to check that the correct date is selected to commence your order.



The link to Customer Connect is available on our [website](#). From here you will be able to view the weather station data around the scheme.



Lease water available

A shareholder has advised that they have 1,972 M shares (19.72 l/s) available to lease for the remainder of the 2024-25 irrigation season.

Shares must remain in the MH open race infrastructure and any lease is subject to capacity to deliver the water.

If you are interested in leasing, please contact Sam Anderson on 027 435 6251 to discuss.

January invoices

Due to the office closure, invoices for water delivery charges for December will be sent out approx 7 January 2025. These will be payable on 20 January 2025.



Planting Fund

MHV introduced a planting fund for the 2024-25 year with a total contestable pool of \$50,000 over two application rounds.

The first round closed at the end of August, and funding was approved for four applications.

The purpose of the planting fund is to contribute to the improving health of the waterbodies more holistically, to encourage and demonstrate their improving health beyond just the nitrate levels.

MHV will contribute up to 50% of the cost of plants for a planting project that a shareholder or farm within our enviro programme wishes to undertake, up to a maximum of \$5,000. Additional contribution and projects can be funded on approval by the Board.

Priority will be given to projects which enhance the surface water bodies which are monitored for our consent, thereby benefitting all shareholders and the wider catchment.

[Applications](#) for the second round of funding must be received by **28 February 2024**.

The policy contains further information and can be found on our [website](#).

Bucket Testing

At the end of the year the Bucket Test app will be disestablished, please make sure you have downloaded any reports from the app to ensure they are not lost.

Please contact Nicole (nicole@mhvwater.nz 027 205 2355) or Russ (russ@mhvwater.nz 027 300 9599) for help with bucket spacing and completing the test.

We also have a cost-recovery bucket test service, please get in contact if you would like to make use of this service.



Water Safety

Many toddler drownings have been in rural settings. The risks of water races, ponds, streams, rivers and drains are real and many of them are not fenced. We are making a concerted effort to raise awareness.

Please make sure that all waterways and water bodies around houses are securely fenced. Many of our workers on farm 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 and how you can mitigate them where possible.



Introducing Lucy and Jemma

Lucy Reeve has joined the team over the summer and is undertaking bucket testing for MHV and ALIL shareholders.

Lucy lives in Methven and has recently completed Year 13 at Mt Hutt College. She is a high performance cyclist, competing nationally and internationally in road and track cycling.



If you require a bucket testing service, please contact Nicole to book a time for Lucy to visit and complete the test(s).

MHV recently welcomed **Jemma Te Whaiti** to the team for the summer period as an intern. Her work will be focused on supporting MHV's environmental work streams.

Jemma has recently completed a Bachelor of Science (Geology) and is returning to complete Honors in 2025.

She is enjoying learning about the different aspects of MHV, including surface and groundwater sampling, assessing drains and planting, GIS mapping and benchmarking.



Wishing you a safe and happy festive season.