

Plan Design Deliver

Savings come from reducing losses

March 2010



Opportunities generated for grads

NVIRP is enticing young professionals to the Goulburn Valley with five enthusiastic graduate engineers on-board the modernisation project this year.

The graduate program's aim is to help youngsters lay a solid foundation for their careers by working on a complex initiative that is a world-first due to its size.

Furthermore, the region will receive benefits from young professionals choosing to live in the district; particularly when the trend is to move to the city in search of work opportunities.

NVIRP and its Managing Contractor Transfield Services received hundreds of applications from throughout Australia and overseas for the graduate positions; two of which were created at NVIRP in January while three were on offer at Transfield.

Rob Fittock, 24, made the move from Melbourne to Shepparton to join NVIRP's Capital Works team as a graduate after completing his Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Engineering at Monash University. A keen kyaker, Rob has completed the Murray River Marathon six times and loves living in an area that has so much outdoor activity on offer.

"I was originally attracted to the project because I'm interested in environmental sustainability and specifically water savings initiatives," Rob said.

Tom Liphuyzen, 24, who received a Diploma of Mechanical Engineering at Box Hill TAFE after growing up on a crop and sheep farm near Deniliquin, is also one of NVIRP's graduates.

"I've always had an interest in engineering and decided to branch out from the farm and do my own thing," Tom said.

"I've enjoyed being surrounded by a large team with a lot of knowledge."

For Tim Reid, joining a global company such as Transfield to work with NVIRP was an opportunity not to be missed. The 24-year-old spent his first day on the job a day after graduating from La Trobe University in Bendigo with a Bachelor in Civil Engineering.

"After four years of study, it's good to finally be an engineer," Tim said.

"I'm enjoying getting into the nuts and bolts of the project."

While studying Civil Engineering at La Trobe University, Jarryd Pearce visited NVIRP on field trips with a lecturer. So when a graduate position



L-R (standing) Rob Fittock, Tim Reid and Jarryd Pearce
L-R (seated) Tom Liphuyzen and Bilal Osman

was advertised at Transfield, he jumped at the chance to be a part of the project. The 22-year old said he was keen to remain in the countryside for work and likes living in Shepparton but returns home to Deniliquin to play competition golf at the weekend.

Originally from Sydney, Bilal Osman, 25, moved to Shepparton to take-up a Transfield graduate position. He had learnt about NVIRP while studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of NSW and was attracted to the

challenge and scale of the project.

"I think graduate positions are really important because you learn about the different facets of the company," Bilal said.

"We grow our knowledge in a structured manner through the graduate program so that it is mutually beneficial to us and the company."

Based in a rural city the graduates are getting hands-on experience in this \$2 billion irrigation infrastructure renewal project and shaping their career options for the future.

Future direction for Campaspe region

The Campaspe region irrigators are currently considering their future irrigation options.

NVIRP has worked with a local committee and consultants who have discussed future irrigation delivery options with all available landowners.

It became obvious to NVIRP staff that the modernisation options varied in this region as landowners considered their farming future after receiving a water allocation during only one year out of the last five years.

Options include either exiting irrigation and accepting an adjustment payment and terminating all delivery shares or remaining as an active irrigator with a commitment to minimising service delivery points and participating in the NVIRP Connections Program by relocating all supply points to the backbone channels.

NVIRP is looking to collate Campaspe irrigator responses by 15 March 2010.

Further information can be obtained by contacting NVIRP's Modernisation group on 1300 163 006.

Stop Press

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NVIRP Directors tour Torrumbarry

NVIRP Directors joined with local leaders in a visit to major projects and irrigation systems in the Torrumbarry region to learn firsthand of the issues relating to modernisation at ground level.

"Seeing and understanding the irrigation concepts and configurations in a specific locality is a very practical aspect for the NVIRP board," Chairman Richard Guy said.

"The tour of the Torrumbarry region organised by NVIRP's Kerang staff included councillors and staff of the Gannawarra and Swan Hill councils the North Central Catchment Management Authority Chairman Geoff Williams and staff and members of the group who instigated

the Torrumbarry Reconfiguration and Modernisation Strategy (TRAMS).

"To see parts of the strategic transition project for the 5/7 channel undertaken by TRAMS certainly increases our knowledge from board papers to a realistic perspective," Mr Guy said.

The tour took in the Gunbower Weir, the Gunbower Creek and Lagoon System, Taylor's Creek, Pyramid Creek, and the Hipwell Road Offtake where the Living Murray's new structure will be built to deliver water to the Gunbower forest.

"It was interesting to hear first-hand of the Benjeroop Alternative Supply project from dairy

farmer Bob Hetherington and we learnt a lot from the discussions we had with him while gathered in his dairy on Thursday.

"The tour also gave my Directors the chance to appreciate issues highlighted by other groups in a round-table forum later in the day.

"It is obvious that our Modernisation teams and the Farm Irrigation Designers are working with landowners to gain the greatest benefits for their farms and this trip highlighted that the NVIRP concepts are being enthusiastically embraced," Mr Guy said.

The NVIRP Board then held its February meeting in Swan Hill.

Photo Captions

1. TRAMS WSC rep John McNeill, Director Barry Steggall, NCCMA Chairman Geoff Williams.

2. Mayor Gannawarra Shire Cr Keith den Hauting, Chairman Richard Guy, TRAMS Chair Margot Henty.

3. Director Peter McCamish, Deputy Mayor Gannawarra Shire Cr Max Fehring, Director Geoff Akers.

