

Soil Moisture Monitoring Technology



data logger and telemetry probe

NVIRP has joined with DPI to highlight the benefits of soil moisture monitoring technology installed at farms in Congupna, Macorna, Horefield and Katunga at field days from 22 – 28 October.

The field days will demonstrate the use of soil moisture monitoring equipment for scheduling irrigation watering and the amount of water required for different crops. It will be an opportunity to talk to the property owners already using this technology.

Irrigators are encouraged to attend and should register with the DPI on (03) 5482 1922.

Field days will be held at:

- Craig and Helen Reynolds, 500 Congupna East Rd, Congupna from 11am to 12.30pm on October 22.
- Paul and Pennie Gill, 2221 Loddon Valley Hwy, Macorna from 11am to 12.30pm on October 23.
- Steve and Deanne Hore, Horefield Hall, Leitchville-Kerang Rd Horefield from 11am to 12.30pm on October 27.
- Ross and Keith Nicoll, 287 Hendy's Rd, Katunga from 11am to 12.30pm on October 28.

Neighbours unity brings benefits

When neighbours work together everyone benefits and that is what happened at Calivil near Pyramid-Boort when NVIRP staff worked with three individual farm modernisation projects as one.

Jade and Trevor Clymo are dairy farmers supplied by the Pyramid-Boort Irrigation System. They have been dairying in the region for almost 30 years. Son Jade is keen to continue managing the family farm and pursue ongoing sustainable farming practices into the future.

In consultation with NVIRP Modernisation Coordinators and a Farm Designer, the Clymo's were able to develop a proposal to convert most of their farm to a modern supply using a pipe and riser system and improving their on-farm production system.

The project was also dependent on two other landowners agreeing to changes in their supply points as well.

This resulted in:

- decommissioning 2.8 kilometres of leaky spur channel
- relocating three megalitres/day of delivery share back to the back bone supply
- eliminating two regulator gates and five backbone Dethridge wheels that were to be replaced during this year's Winter Works
- removing two Dethridge wheels which were currently on the spur channel
- decommissioning five other G-MW structures thereby eliminating ongoing operating and maintenance costs.

Facts: Milking 650 herd of Holstein cows, watering 64 hectares of lucerne and 240 hectares of annual pasture.



Jade Clymo

"We started thinking about what we could do with this farm early last year and it is something we always wanted to do but we did not realise that getting rid of channels and changing supply points would make our property more manageable," Trevor Clymo said.

"The changes allowed us to dilute some of our bore water with channel water and use this over a greater majority of our farm with the pipes and risers.

"This farm restructure had us really thinking outside the square and it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to make the changes we would never have been able to afford before," Mr Clymo said.

Water Week NVIRP modernisation tours

Here's a chance during Water Week to see the progress of the irrigation modernisation taking place throughout the Goulburn Murray Irrigation region.

Shepparton

Tour Details

Curious about the progress of the irrigation modernisation?

Want to know more about what's happening in your area?

Come along on a free bus tour hosted by NVIRP staff.

Tours will depart from the library car park in Marungi Street, Shepparton at 9.30am and return at noon. Tours will include guided commentary and morning tea.

- **Tuesday October 20 • Wednesday October 21**
- **Thursday October 22**

Tours will also be taking place in **Torrumbarry, Pyramid-Boort, Rochester, Central Goulburn and Murray Valley** regions.

Tour bookings are essential. For all tour details or to make a booking, please contact Karina Ames by emailing karina.ames@nvirp.com.au or calling 5814 4614

Over \$60 million was spent on installing 1,000 regulator gates in the backbone channels during May to August this year, and NVIRP has now completed two thirds of the channel refurbishment in Stage 1 of this \$2 billion irrigation modernisation project. Added to this nearly 15 kilometres of plastic lining was installed in channels in the Central Goulburn region.

The installation of this state-of-the-art technology to measure water delivery through the irrigation system and on-farm is bringing a much needed boost to irrigators and increased local business opportunities throughout the whole region.

Local contractors are engaged in all aspects of the works program with 1,100 workers inducted into OH&S during the 2009 Winter Works. NVIRP's commitment to providing a safe work environment has seen more than 300,000 hours of labour carried out this winter with over 300 worksites with zero Lost Time Injuries (LTI).

STOP PRESS

Nearly 500 landowners attended NVIRP's Modernisation meetings in the Torrumbarry, Murray Valley and Pyramid-Boort regions where the roll out for the 2010 metering and connections program was discussed.