



JUNE 2022



'Dusk on the Dawson'

Nikki Mahony



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR..

Throughout these past months, Theodore Water has been continuing its strategy of working towards the reliable and cost-effective delivery of water through Theodore's channel irrigation scheme.

Planning work for pump station upgrades, procurement of resources for the rising main and A channel replacement, on-farm rationalisation projects as well as asset maintenance and asset utilisation improvements have been underway this year.

The modernisation of the system continues to be a focus of the Board and we are appreciative of the input provided at the 2021 AGM regarding desired future capacity and ideas for capitalisation of the increased capacity. The planning and commencement of the modernisation activities has not been without its challenges and Theodore Water continues to aim for a cost effective and reliable system delivering optimum capacity into the foreseeable future.

Some of these challenges are outlined in this newsletter and will be further explained at the 'Shed Meeting' now re-scheduled for Wednesday 24 August where I and the Theodore Water Directors will be in attendance to answer any questions.

I look forward to seeing you then.

Malcolm Finlayson

Chair

MODERNISATION UPDATE

As previously noted, the modernisation of the Theodore Pump Station is underway with the appointment of Dileigh Consulting Engineers as project managers with oversight provided by Director, Ed Donohue. The project was on track for commencement this year until the extreme weather events Australia wide resulted in increased demand for many of the services required for pump and system installation. This has resulted in the original quotes being dramatically inflated. The consultants and the Board of Theodore Water are currently seeking alternative quotes and arrangements to bring the modernisation costs back to a reasonable amount. In the meantime, the pumps and pipes have been ordered to mitigate future price increases with the pumps stored by the manufacturer until required and the pipes stored at June and Wally McDonalds property, in close proximity to where they will be installed. Sincere thanks to Wally and June for the use of their land.

It is now expected that the modernisation activities will result in a planned disruption around June 2023 however significant notice will be provided to all allocation holders closer to the time.

MODERNISATION SHED MEETING

The Modernisation Shed Meeting originally planned for June will now be held on Wednesday 24 August 2022. The meeting will provide all allocation holders with the opportunity to hear of the current status of the modernisation project, the decisions made to resolve the challenges so far and the future activities to be undertaken. Theodore Water Board Chairman Malcolm Finlayson will attend as will Board Member, Ed Donohue who is providing engineering oversight to the project management company. It is expected that many of the Theodore Water Directors will also be able to attend.

Further details of the meeting will be provided closer to the date when attendance responses will be sought. Mark it in your diaries!



MODERNISATION and RATIONALISATION

ALLOCATION HOLDER UPDATE
WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST 2022

FROM 3PM

KOOROOWATHA SHED
GIBBER GUNYAH

Theodore Water Directors will be available to provide an overview of the modernisation project, future plans and progress to date.

Discussion and input from allocation holders is requested.

Attendance registrations will be sought closer to the date

MAINTENANCE

Theodore Water management and staff have been proactively working to ensure that all Theodore Water assets and infrastructure continue to reliably deliver irrigation water throughout the entire system until the full refurbishment of the system can occur.

Frank VanBael of Dawson Valley Fab/Weld has recently completed repairs on the Gibber Gunyah suction pipes to ensure secure delivery of water to the Gibber irrigators until the Gibber Gunyah system is modernised.



Fitzpatrick Engineering were engaged by Theodore Water to undertake the installation of the replacement drain crossing at Gibbs Road (off the Cracow-Eidsvold Road). This crossing will now provide safe access across the drain for many years to come.



In addition to these major maintenance works, Theodore Water staff are undertaking:

- Ongoing slashing and spraying to ensure all water courses are free from debris and blockages
- Cleaning out drain crossing and inlets
- Desilting of the Gibber Gunyah channels
- Spraying for the removal of milfoil, a submerged aquatic plant that grows quickly and can invade the waterways.
- Treatment of slime in the channels
- Replacement of two aluminium gates on the channels due to corrosion
- Inspection of all channel and drain components

"When the well is dry,
we know the worth of water"

Benjamin Franklin 1746

SOIL TESTING

Southern Cross Uni is delivering the Federal Government's Pilot Soil Monitoring and Incentives Program.

Farmers and land managers can receive \$275 per site towards sampling and testing costs and a total benefit of up to \$10,000 per business towards the cost of soil sampling, testing, and assistance with interpretation. As always, though, there is a catch with results to be uploaded into the Australian National Soil Information System (ANSIS). Personal information will be de-identified to maintain confidentiality, and the intellectual property for the data remains with the land manager.

The link to register for the program and further details can be found at:

<https://www.scu.edu.au/pilot-soils-program/>



Pilot Soil Monitoring and Incentives Program

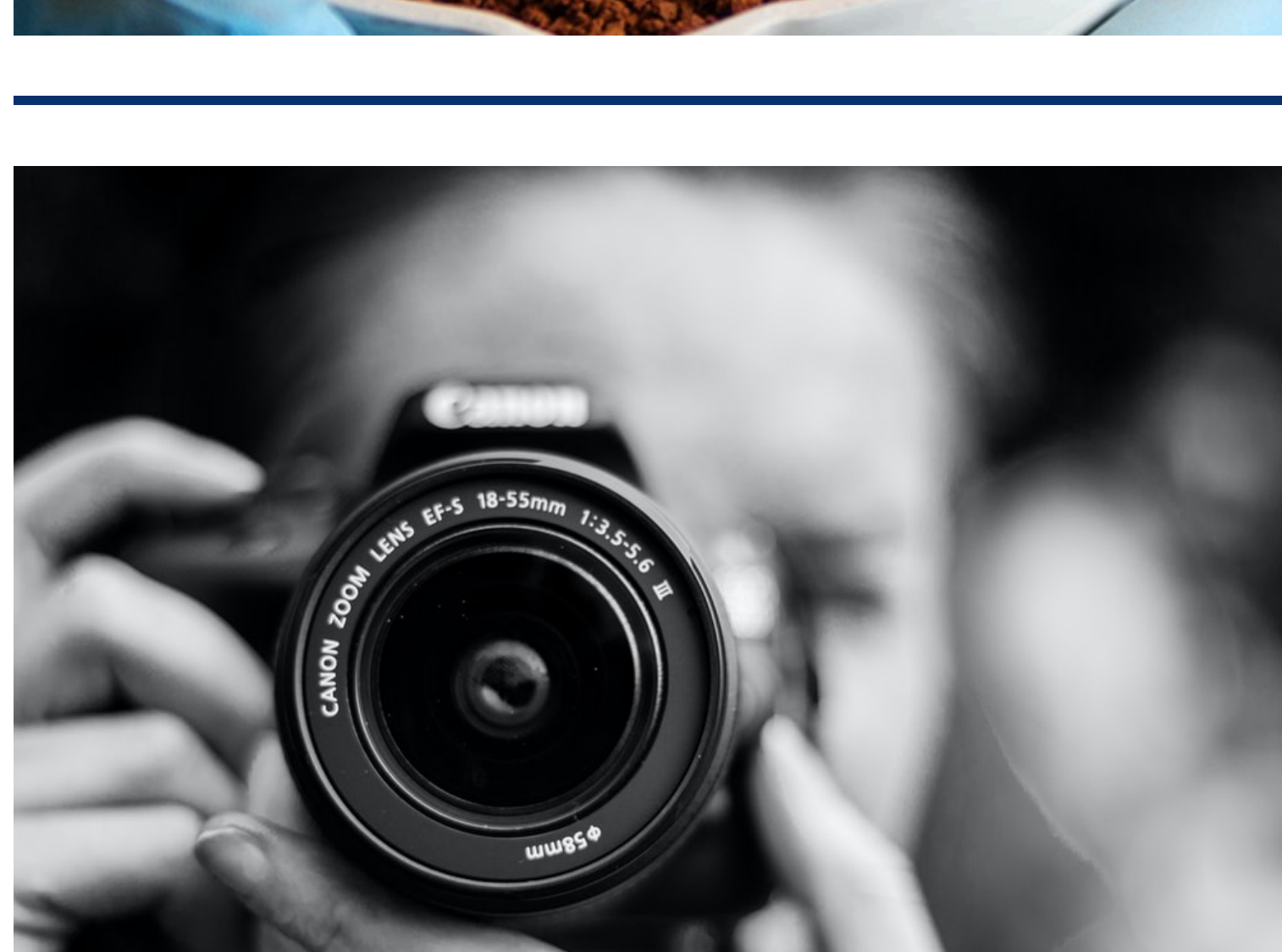


PHOTO COMPETITION CONGRATULATIONS NIKKI MAHONY

Thank you to all who submitted photos for the Theodore Water photography competition. Congratulations to Nikki Mahony for her submission, which we have used as the header on this newsletter. We are sure Nikki will enjoy spending her \$200 gift voucher at the Theodore business of her choice!

An interesting read...

Farmers fertilising 'exceptional' cotton crops with treated sewage...<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-03-19/farmers-fertilising-cotton-with-treated-human-sewage/100920292>



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