

From the Chair



Welcome to the February issue of the Theodore Water Newsletter.

The year has started well with significant river flows allowing us to pump over 5000ML of flood harvest water so far. This should set us up well for having allocation water available to kick off the planting season later in the year.

Defoliation is underway on the earlier maturing cotton, and we wish our irrigators the best of luck with the upcoming picking season.

Following our AGM in November we went through the process of seeking nominations for replacing Greg Austin as a director on the board. We received only one nomination which was from Mike Murray and in January we welcomed Mike as casual director to our board.

Mike is currently General Manager of Cotton Australia, where a key part of his role is to manage the Cotton Australia policy development and advocacy work, with special responsibility for water. Mike has an in-depth knowledge of Australian water policy, having worked in this space for over three decades as an irrigator, Executive Officer for Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association and for the past 13 years with Cotton Australia.

Mike also chairs the Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF) Water and Energy Committee (WEPC) and is also a director of the National Irrigators Council, and a former director and Deputy Chair of the NSW Irrigators Council.

With Mike's experience we look forward to his contribution to Theodore Water.

Malcolm Finlayson

MODERNISATION UPDATE

Since our last newsletter we have run the 'Request to Quote' tender for the Peer Review of the Theodore Pump Station Design. We received 3 quality submissions and after deliberation in our January board meeting and subsequent reference checks, we have selected Engeny to conduct the review.

We have conducted our initial start-up meeting with Engeny and are in the process of gathering the last of the information required for them to complete the review. The final peer review report will be submitted by early April.



To learn more about Engeny and their capabilities please see the link below.

www.engeny.com.au

Now for the elephant in the room, the A pipeline! We continue to have leaks within the system. The decision was made, not to excavate around the pipeline during the irrigation season and further disrupt Partridge Drive. Once the demand for irrigation has reduced, we will pursue expertise for leak detection on the pipeline as we are not certain as to the extent of the problem.

We have also engaged the services of John Bower from Independent Civil Solutions to conduct preliminary investigations into possible causes of the leaks. John was recommended to us by the Concrete Pipe Association of Australasia (CPAA). You can read more on John's history and CPAA in the links below.

Independent Civil Solutions - Home (<https://indcivil.com.au/>)

<https://cpaa.asn.au/>

For further questions, please feel free to contact any of the local Theodore Water Irrigator Directors: Peter French – 0428166634 Kirk Anderson – 0429181079

DISTRIBUTION AND DRAINAGE AGREEMENTS

Following from the update provided in the December Newsletter, our Distribution and Drainage contracts have been reviewed and amended to comply with the Unfair Contract Terms Legislation.

After a final board review of the Documents in late February, we will begin to distribute the documents to our shareholders for signing. Once again, we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, however it is particularly important that Theodore Water complies with all relevant legislation that applies to our business.

<https://asic.gov.au/about-asic/news-centre/news-items/unfair-contract-terms-reforms-commence/#:~:text=From%209%20November%202023%2C%20reforms.can%20rely%20on%20UCT%20protections>

MAINTENANCE REQUEST FORM

A reminder to our shareholders, our online maintenance request form is up and running on the Theodore Water website. It is in a format that is mobile phone friendly so no need to wait until you are in the office to complete. We encourage you to use this form to advise of maintenance issues in your area.

In case of more urgent repairs, please continue to contact our friendly team directly.

Please see attached link to the maintenance request form. Your feedback or suggestions to improve the process is always welcome.

<https://www.theodorewater.com.au/maintenance-request/>



STAFF NEWS

Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, Annie made the decision to resign from Theodore Water. Annie has been with Theodore Water since its inception in 2018. We thank Annie for her efforts and dedication and wish her every success in her future endeavours.

Thank you to Denise Fowkes and Fiona Thorley for agreeing to continue in their roles in administration and payroll after Annie's departure.

Recently we celebrated a 5 year milestone in our business. As part of this, 3 members of our team also clocked up 5 years' service for Theodore Water. We thank Peter, Tim and Jacob for their efforts and look forward to their positive contributions moving forward.



SOME INTERESTING READS



The countdown is on to Theodore's centenary celebrations in June. Keep an eye on the Theodore Centenary Celebration's Facebook page for updates and a pictorial walk back in the township's time.'

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=theodore%20centenary%20celebrations>

Articles on defoliation preparation from Cotton Info

https://www.cottoninfo.com.au/sites/default/files/img/Defoliation%20Preparation_0.pdf

The extensionAUS™ platform and the Community of Practice sites it hosts, have been developed to meet the needs of rural and regional Australia; by bringing together scientists, academics and practitioners to collaborate, share information, knowledge and research, create ideas and provide solutions.

Based on the concept 'together we can achieve more', the platform is connecting agricultural professionals with Australian rural communities, to help enable practice change on-farm.

<https://extensionaus.com.au/>



DON'T FORGET TO CLEAN AND DECONTAMINATE SPRAY EQUIPMENT PRIOR TO, AND AFTER DEFOLIATION

FUN WATER FACT

The first recorded instance of watering plants is believed to date back to 2000 B.C. in Egypt's famous hanging gardens.

