

## NEWSLETTER

### INVOICE BY EMAIL

We would prefer to send accounts directly via email. Please advise us of your email address and meter number at [admin@keriirrigation.co.nz](mailto:admin@keriirrigation.co.nz) We will confirm this by reply email.

### RETIREMENT

Bill Hunter, after 25 years' service to the Irrigation Company has resigned as General Manager. Bill's in-depth knowledge of the schemes infrastructure and practical can-do attitude will be greatly missed. We all wish Bill well in his retirement.

### WELCOME

Tony Corcoran has taken over from Bill Hunter as Manager. Tony has a background in operations management in the agricultural industry.

### A Little Bit of History

For those new to the Kerikeri district it might be interesting to know....

The Kerikeri Irrigation Co Ltd (KICL) was formed as a co-operative company in 1990 by local horticulturists and farmers to purchase the assets of the Government owned and operated Kerikeri Irrigation Scheme which had been installed in the early 1980's.

The co-operative has a Board with seven Directors elected on a rotational basis. A major advantage is

the company harvests water in high rainfall times and stores it in reservoirs for distribution in drier periods. This reduces pressure on local rivers and streams helping to protect their natural flows.

The KICL owns two storage reservoirs sited high in the catchment to enable a largely gravity feed irrigation supply and to lessen the impact on the local environment.

The southern reservoir (Waingaro) stores 4.8 million

m<sup>3</sup> and has a maximum flow of 660 litres per second.

The northern reservoir (Manuwai) can store 8 million m<sup>3</sup> with a maximum flow of 600 litres per second. It has a surface area of 122 hectares when full.

There are approximately 120 km of pipe lines, five pump sheds and three water powered turbines to be maintained. Much of this infrastructure is now 35 years old. The KICL has budgeted \$245,500 for maintenance this financial year.

### Recreational Reserve

The Manuwai Reservoir has an easement in favour of the FNDC to allow limited recreational activities to take place on the reserve area at the end of Sandys Road. Shore based trout fishing and learn to sail classes run by the Kerikeri Cruising Club are the main

recreational activities. Organised events require prior approval from the KICL and must have a health and safety plan approved in advance. No motorised boating activity is allowed on the reservoir (the only exceptions being a safety craft for sailing classes and

the KICL service and inspection vessel). The reserve area has been badly damaged in recent times and two separate groups are being dealt with by Kerikeri Police. Please assist by reporting any vandalism you witness by phoning 4077813 all hours.

### Health and Safety

The KICL takes its responsibilities under the Health and Safety Act of 2016 very seriously. \$50,000 has been budgeted this financial

year. Some of the work includes upgrades to safety rails at open weirs, reservoir towers, vegetation removal near reservoirs, relocating

pressure relief valve bunkers to roadside locations and staff training for working in confined spaces.

## THANK YOU

We would like to thank those of you who report leaks and breaks in our pipelines. We appreciate your help assisting us to conserve water.

## WATER QUALITY

In conjunction with the Northland Regional Council water samples are collected on a regular basis to be analyzed and checked against guidelines for irrigation water. It is important to remember that the water supplied by the Company has not been filtered and is supplied directly from the Irrigation Reservoirs. **The water supplied is for irrigation purposes and is an untreated surface supply that is microbiologically unsafe and is of a non-potable standard. It is not suitable for household use.**

## EMAIL NOTIFICATION

Email notifications of interruptions to the water supply are continuing to work well. If you wish to be added to the contact list please let us know at [admin@keriirrigation.co.nz](mailto:admin@keriirrigation.co.nz)

## Annual Charges

Kerikeri Irrigation Company operates as a co-operative company and makes no profit when taking into account annual depreciation; therefore any increases in operating expenditure have an immediate effect on the company. With increasing maintenance costs the Directors have reviewed the annual water charges and have agreed to a 2% increase to fixed charges for the 2016/2017 year.

The commercial water usage rate increases by half a cent to 3 cents per m<sup>3</sup> with all other water usage charges increasing by a similar percentage. In addition there will be a 1 cent per m<sup>3</sup> charge on all allocated entitlements that are not used in the financial year ending 31 May 2017. Invoices will be created as at 31 September 2016, 31 January 2017 and 31 May 2017, all due for payment on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month following. As usual commercial connections

will have their meter and hectare charges divided between the September and January invoices with water usage (and non-usage) calculated in May. Non-commercial connections will have their annual fee divided evenly over these instalments.

We are pleased to say that even with these increases we remain one of the most competitively priced suppliers compared to other irrigation companies throughout New Zealand.

## Allocation of Water Entitlements

The allocation of fresh water entitlements is under National review. It is important the KICL is seen to be managing the allocation of water to its customers in

an efficient manner. In an average rainfall year only approximately one third of water allocated to commercial connections is used.

The company has introduced a minimal annual charge on unused allocation to encourage customers to review their actual requirements.

## Payment of your Account

The Company encourages your payment by direct credit from your bank. If this is more convenient for you

please include your name and meter number as the information to appear on our bank statement. Our

account information is BNZ Kerikeri Branch Account No. 020352 0082425 00

## Increasing Demand

An audit of the hydraulics of the scheme is planned in future to test the capacity in areas where there is increasing demand.

To maintain a commercial connection a minimum of two productive irrigable hectares must exist which

provides for an allocation of 3,000 m<sup>3</sup> per hectare and a flow rate of 24 litres per hectare.

Actual productive hectares in use and unused allocations will also be subject of an audit to ascertain where surplus

capacity exists within the current infrastructure.

Old connections with very high flow rates that have been subdivided into smaller lots can expect a reduction to reflect the new property size.

## KERIKERI IRRIGATION

6 Norfolk Place, Kerikeri

Phone: (09) 4077813 Fax: (09) 4077692 E-Mail: [admin@keriirrigation.co.nz](mailto:admin@keriirrigation.co.nz)