

## Message from Rebecca Whillans, Chief Executive



Thank you to all the shareholders who attended the Annual Meeting earlier this month, I appreciate your ongoing support. There was some great discussion and its clear that we have an engaged shareholder base.

Congratulations to Ali van Polanen who was elected as a director at the meeting. We also farewelled Randal Hanrahan, after 7 years of service.

Included in this newsletter is an update from Steven Bierema, director, Storage progress & we invite applications for the Associate Director role for 2025.

## ALIL Associate Director Role

Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Ltd (ALIL) seek Expressions of Interests for an Associate Director - giving the candidate an opportunity for personal and professional development, and an introduction to a governance role within ALIL.

This opportunity provides first-hand exposure to the role of the Board, its decision making and operations, as well as training and mentorship, designed to provide the Associate Director with important skills that they can carry through to their own development.

For 12 months from appointment, the Associate Director will participate in all aspects of the Board work without voting rights.

### Associate Director will learn about:

- The fundamental principles of the work and function of the Board.
- The roles and responsibilities of Board members.
- Financial processes.
- Other governance priorities.

### Person Specification:

- The opportunity is open to any ALIL shareholder who has an interest in assuming a governance role.
- The person should have an interest in the irrigation sector.
- The purpose of the Associate Director is to develop an individual's governance skills; therefore, the applicants need not have previously served in similar capacities.
- The person should bring knowledge and skills to be able to add to the views of the ALIL Board.

### Selection Criteria:

- Willingness to bring their perspective to the deliberations of the ALIL Board.
- Aspirations for leadership in the irrigation and/or broader agriculture sector.
- Breadth of experience in complementary sectors.
- Availability to contribute to ALIL Board meetings.
- Demonstration of career progression.

### Selection process:

A selection committee of two ALIL Board members will assess Expressions of Interest and then interview a shortlist of candidates. It is hoped an appointment will be made in December 2024, for an individual to attend ALIL Board meetings during 2025 however, ALIL reserves to the right to accept or decline any Expression of Interest.

### **Expenses:**

Travel associated with training and other reasonable expenses will be covered by ALIL.

### **Term:**

The term would be for one calendar year, starting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025. During the term of the role the Associate Director would be offered the opportunity to attend Director training courses at ALIL expense unless this training has already been completed. There may be a requirement to repay training costs if the position is not upheld for the 12 months. The Associate Director would not be eligible to stand for election on the ALIL Board during the term of the Associate Director role but would be eligible at the following AGM.

### **Applications:**

Those interested in applying should submit an Expression of Interest to Rebecca Whillans, Chief Executive, [rebecca@alil.co.nz](mailto:rebecca@alil.co.nz) before 5.00pm Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Expressions of Interest should include a summary of your career to date, how your skills, attitude, and experiences would benefit ALIL Board decision-making, why you would like the position, what you would hope to achieve, and how it fits with your future aspirations.

### **Timeline:**

- 31<sup>st</sup> October - Call for applications
- 18<sup>th</sup> November - Applications close
- 20<sup>th</sup> November – Application review & selection for interview
- 25<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> November – Interview period
- 9<sup>th</sup> December - Selection made
- 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Associate Director attends first meeting

## **Directors Update**

Over this year, the board of Ashburton Lyndhurst Irrigation Ltd (ALIL) has been providing updates in each newsletter, for individual directors to explain their involvement with the scheme & the issues they hold dear. This month, we would like to introduce Steven Bierema.



Having grown up on a farm at sea level behind a dyke, water has always been part of my life. To be able to control the amount of water is essential for a viable farming operation.

In 2017 I was challenged to put my name up for election on the board of ALIL. As a relatively new shareholder and with limited knowledge of the irrigation scheme I took the plunge and was fortunate to be elected.

Freda and I, together with our three young boys, migrated in 2004 from the northern part of the Netherlands to Mid Canterbury. As passionate crop farmers we were able to convert a dryland farm into an irrigated mix cropping farm on Thompsons Track.

Over the years a neighbouring farm came up for sale and along with it, the opportunity to become an ALIL shareholder. After his studies at Lincoln our middle son Pieter-Taco has joined the business and is nowadays in charge of the day-to-day running.

Going back in history, with the development of the RDR and subsequently the border dyke in Mid Canterbury, the fortunes of the region had been set.

Change is always a worry; will it work out? I think it is commendable that the shareholders of ALIL, as a cooperative supported the change from borderdyke to spray irrigation. This foresight allowed us to implement higher water efficiencies and more environmentally friendly practices that society demands of us.

The more I got involved with ALIL the more I started to realise what a gem of an irrigation scheme we have, which we have to preserve as best as we can. Controlling cost, securing water reliability, and adapting to changing regulations with a future-thinking mindset, so future shareholders have the same benefits as we have now.

Although I don't know all the shareholders personally, I enjoy working in the best interests of all shareholders and feel humbled to work together with passionate board members and a great ALIL team.

## 2025 Board Meetings

Meetings of the Board are held approximately every 6-weeks. FAVA Applications must be received no later than 15 working days before the Board meeting.



- 29<sup>th</sup> January
- 12<sup>th</sup> March
- 28<sup>th</sup> April
- 4<sup>th</sup> June
- 16<sup>th</sup> July
- 20<sup>th</sup> August
- 1<sup>st</sup> October
- 12<sup>th</sup> November

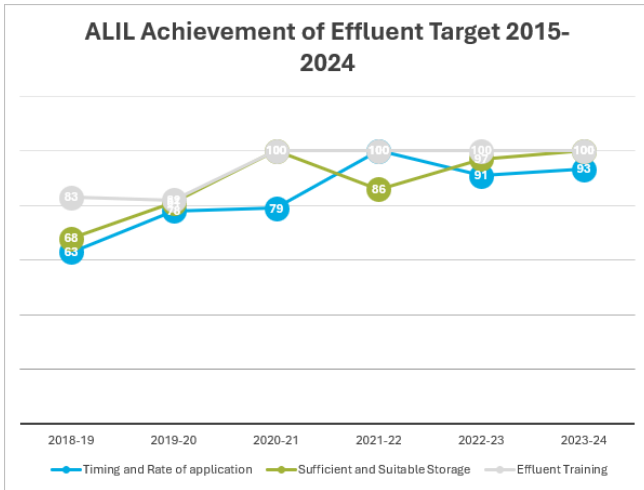
## Bucket Testing

Bucket tests indicate how your irrigators are performing and are evidence required for the audits. The graph below indicates that while overall bucket test grading has improved, there are still improvements to be made.

**As per the policy implemented by ALIL last year, should any shareholder have their environmental audit downgraded because they have not completed bucket testing, then ALIL will carry out the bucket test/s and the shareholder will be charged for the cost.**

Don't leave it till the minute before an audit. We have the staff available who will:-

- Provide a hassle-free service and results via the CropX Bucket Test App.
- Test result notification will determine the application rate, depth & distribution uniformity, which will assist with compliant irrigation systems.
- Full Irrigation System Performance Assessment also available by qualified technician.
- Bucket Tests are required for all irrigators and need to be completed **every three years**.  
The cost for Bucket Tests include:-



**Pivots & Lateral:**

- Up to 9 spans - \$150 per irrigator
- 10 spans or more - \$175 per irrigator
- Corner Arm - \$25 (additional charge)

**Other Irrigators:**

- Hard Hose Guns, Rotary & Linear Booms - \$175 per irrigator
- K-Lines - \$5 per pod, minimum \$50
- Irrigation System Performance assessment - \$85 per hour

This year Lucy Reeve will be joining the ALIL team to complete our Bucket Testing programme. Lucy has just completed year 13 at Mount Hutt College and was recently featured on the front page of Snowfed, after returning from 8 weeks in Italy where she represented Australasia racing in Road Cycling. Next year Lucy plans on studying a Bachelor of Applied Science (Sport & Exercise) at Ara. Please welcome Lucy to the ALIL team & contact Sarah on 0272 966 444 or via email: [sarah@alil.co.nz](mailto:sarah@alil.co.nz) if you wish to book in your Irrigators for Bucket Testing.

**Winter Grazing Reminder**

When planning crops for the 2025 winter, please ensure the total area does not exceed the allowed area for your property. If you're not sure what this area is, please check your Property Parameter Report. Any exceedances will require a Farm Activity Variation Application (FAVA) and board approval before undertaking the activity.

**Storage**

The construction of the storage dam on McKendry's road continues to progress well, however, the contractor completing the earthworks has advised that preparing the material for the lining of the pond has taken longer than anticipated. It is now expected that the pond will be completed by the end of January 2025.



## Arowhenua Native Nursery



ALIL hosted a planting workshop alongside the Arowhenua Native Nursery back in July, to show planting options for farmers on their farm. Arowhenua Native Nursery is a specialist propagation and production nursery of New Zealand native plants, available for purchase.

Arowhenua Native Nursery proudly supplies eco-sourced natives. Eco-sourcing involves harvesting seeds from local communities to ensure plants are hardy to local conditions & helps to restore and enrich the local plant community.

Arowhenua are happy to grow to order but also offer the following wholesale prices (subject to minimum orders of 100 plants).

Contact Michelle to place orders on 027 272 6263 or email: [Arowhenua.nursery@ngaitahu.iwi.nz](mailto:Arowhenua.nursery@ngaitahu.iwi.nz)

Arowhenua have kindly provided ALIL with planting plans for planting along waterways and under irrigators. These are available on the ALIL website: <https://www.alil.co.nz/fep-audit-resource-folder/>

Pot Size	Price + GST
7cm (T7)	\$2.10
9cm (Rx90)	\$2.95
1 litre	\$3.65
2 litre	\$6.95

## Scheme Spraying

We will soon be undertaking spraying around the scheme. You may see Gilbert Murdoch (Gillie) out & about in the scheme's spray truck. He will mainly be spraying the scheme offtakes.

We will also be contracting Vaughan Ward who will complete spraying around the ponds and races using his drone.

Please contact Mike on 0276 008 556 if you have any concerns.



## Contact us

As always, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the ALIL team should you have any questions or concerns or require general scheme support. Our contact information can be found on the ALIL website ([www.alil.co.nz](http://www.alil.co.nz)), or by clicking the link [here](#).