

# IrrigationNZ Conference & Expo

17–19 APRIL 2018, ALEXANDRA, CENTRAL OTAGO

**Don't miss the chance to see the future of irrigation!**

## DINE WITH SUPER CARS!

We are excited to announce that our 2018 Conference dinner venue is Highlands Motorsport Park. Dinner guests will be able to see a range of rare cars like an Aston Martin Vulcan (the only one in the Southern Hemisphere), the Benetton F1 car Michael Schumacher drove, a Ghost Rolls Royce, and many more. The Highlands Motorsport Park Museum has a range of prestigious cars and motorbikes valued at \$25 million.

This dinner is sponsored by Downer.

There are a limited number of tickets so book now by contacting us at [irrigationnz@avenues.co.nz](mailto:irrigationnz@avenues.co.nz) or on 04 473 8044.



## JOIN A TOUR OF CENTRAL OTAGO

Conference participants can join a tour of pastoral farms, vineyards or orchards in Central Otago. The tours are sponsored by AWS Legal.

The winery tour includes wine tasting and will look at the issues around growing in the world's southernmost wine growing region. It will visit a range of vineyards including Bendigo Station. The station covers 12,000 hectares. The property is now known for its merino wool, vineyards and historic reserves. Irrigation has been crucial in allowing the property to diversify into growing grapes. Bendigo is also famous as the home of Shrek the sheep who managed to avoid being shorn for six years. The orchard tour will visit a number of properties growing summer fruit. It will also visit the newly developed Dairy Creek irrigation scheme area – a joint venture between local farmers and Pioneer Energy. There is significant potential for new horticulture to be developed in this area.



The Highlands Motorsport Park Museum

Photo: Ross McKay

WITH THANKS TO PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

**WaterForce**

**anderson  
lloyd.**

**Pioneer  
energy**

**ANZ**



## CONFERENCE AND EXPO

17–19 April 2018, ALEXANDRA, NZ

### SEE THE LATEST IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY IN CENTRAL OTAGO

The Conference will feature an expo with over 50 exhibitors showcasing the latest irrigation technologies and services. It will also include short presentations on a range of new technologies and research designed to help farmers use water more efficiently, save time and money and meet new environmental standards.

The Conference is held every two years, and the 2016 Conference held in Oamaru had over 400 attendees.

“The Conference is a great opportunity to catch up with other farmers and growers from across New Zealand,” says IrrigationNZ Chief Executive, Andrew Curtis. “We have an exciting range of local tours planned, a panel discussion on how to address key issues irrigators have raised, a diverse range of speakers as well as the irrigation expo and social functions to attend.”

Local and international experts will present their views on a range of topics at the conference. A range of new research including how soils change under irrigation, the efficiency of border dyke irrigation, dam safety for irrigation ponds, on farm water storage, and soil and crop sensing technologies will be presented in short 15 minute updates.

The Conference attracts irrigation service industry representatives, farm advisors, academics, council and government representatives as well as farmers.

Over the summer of 2017/18, many areas of New Zealand, including Otago, experienced some of their driest conditions on record. Where irrigation was available, it played an important role in keeping local fruit and vegetables, bread, wine, meat and dairy in local supermarkets. With climate change bringing more frequent droughts, as well as more intense and changeable rainfall patterns across New Zealand, irrigation is likely to become even more important for reliable food production in the future.



### OTAGO LEADS THE WAY IN COOPERATIVE WATER MANAGEMENT

“We have chosen Central Otago for our 2018 Conference as irrigation has played an important role in the district’s past and because it also provides an interesting example of how water rights could be negotiated in the future which the rest of New Zealand could learn much from,” says IrrigationNZ Chief Executive Andrew Curtis.

The history of irrigation in Central Otago is intimately linked to the region’s Gold Rush. Rights to take and use water were originally issued from the 1860s and linked to mining, but were later used for irrigation. The original permits issued for water use were renewable forever. In the depression the government funded irrigation expansion, such as the Falls Dam scheme, as public works projects, with more infrastructure developed from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Central Otago is driest region in New Zealand, yet also home to some of our best produce, including wine, cherries, and summer fruit as well as pastoral farming. Farming, horticulture and viticulture are a vital part of the district’s economy and rely on irrigation.

Historical water permits linked to mining expire in 2021 under the Resource Management Act. Otago is now at a crossroads with the amount of water available for irrigation expected to reduce in the future. Representatives from the Kyeburn and Manuhirikia will talk about how they are working together as farmer collectives to come up with innovative solutions to meet requirements under the new consenting system.

### HOW CAN WE MEET KEY CHALLENGES FACING IRRIGATORS?

Irrigators are facing a challenging new environment in 2018. Following a heated election campaign where a water tax was proposed, but not introduced, a new government took office made up of three parties with differing views towards agriculture and irrigation.

A range of panellists will discuss the key challenges and opportunities ahead for the industry. The discussion will help set the direction for the industry for the next five years.

Panellists will also discuss a future vision for the irrigation sector operating under a new government with moderator RadioNZ Morning Report presenter Guyon Espiner. The audience will be invited to participate in the discussion. Come long and have your say, and help form a strategy for irrigation.

WITH THANKS TO PRINCIPAL PARTNERS







## CONFERENCE AND EXPO

17–19 April 2018, ALEXANDRA, NZ

## SMART Showcase

Showcasing our industry and its SMART tips and tools this year we introduce irrigators to new technologies and management initiatives! The expo will host three shows over the course of the conference each containing quick-fire presentations from exhibitors.

## Social functions

### AWS LEGAL WELCOME FUNCTION

The AWS Legal Welcome Function will be held on the evening of Tuesday 17 April, from 5.30pm–7.30pm at the Conference Expo. If you do go on one of the AWS Legal Pre-Conference Tours during the day the buses will return you to the Expo and you are welcome to attend the Welcome Function and have a drink with friends and colleagues, new and old. If you arrive in Alexandra on Tuesday evening come and join us at the Welcome Function.



### DOWNER CONFERENCE DINNER

Don't miss the Downer Conference Dinner on the evening of Wednesday 18 April. The Conference Dinner will be held at Highlands Motorsport Park where guests will be able to view their Museum collection of rare and prestigious cars and enjoy a fantastic evening of food, wine and entertainment. What better way to relax after your first full day at the Conference! Tickets are an additional cost to all registration types this year.

There are a limited number of tickets so book now by contacting us at [irrigationnz@avenues.co.nz](mailto:irrigationnz@avenues.co.nz) or on 04 473 8044.



### IRRICON DELEGATE BREAKFAST

The Irricon Delegate Breakfast is being held on the morning of Thursday 19 April from 8.00am to 9.30am. Wake up with this networking breakfast and get set for the final day of Conference kicked off with a talk from Felicity Turner from The Yield.



## Register now to attend

Discounts for IrrigationNZ members are available. Places are also limited on the popular local tours so early booking is recommended.

Day registration options are also available.

For accommodation and registration information visit

[www.irrigationnz.co.nz/conference-2018](http://www.irrigationnz.co.nz/conference-2018)

### CONFERENCE LOCATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

This year IrrigationNZ is bringing their national Conference to Alexandra, Central Otago. The Conference venue is going to be held at Dunstan High School and the 58 site exhibition will held at the school.

For all conference enquiries please contact:

Email: [irrigationnz@avenues.co.nz](mailto:irrigationnz@avenues.co.nz)

Phone: 04 473 8044

[www.irrigationnz.co.nz/conference-2018](http://www.irrigationnz.co.nz/conference-2018)

### CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATION STILL AVAILABLE

Alexandra is nestled in a large basin at the junction of two rivers, the Manuherikia and the mighty Clutha Mata-au.

Surrounded by a distinctive 'moonscape' of rocky tors and stark high country Alexandra is part of Central Otago or 'Central' by those that know it well. Central Otago is New Zealand's most inland region and has a rich history spanning early Maori, pioneering farmers and a gold rush. Many heritage buildings of stacked Central Otago stone are still standing from the late nineteenth century. Today farming, horticulture and viticulture play important roles in the region's economy. April is a wonderful time to visit the weather is settled and autumn colours are on display.

There are a range of accommodation options and pricing to suit all needs. Please contact the Central Otago I-site to book your accommodation early.

Email: [visitorcentre@codc.govt.nz](mailto:visitorcentre@codc.govt.nz)

Phone: 03 262 7999

WITH THANKS TO PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



# Conference Schedule

## Tuesday 17 April

8.30am	CONFERENCE AND PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR REGISTRATION	
Various start times	<p><b>AWS LEGAL – PRE-CONFERENCE TOURS</b></p> <p>The pre-conference tours are back for 2018. Central Otago has a diverse range of irrigated land uses.</p> <p><b>Tour 1 – 9am start</b> <i>Sold Out</i></p> <p>Pastoral farming in the Manuhirikia Valley and the Maniototo, including the Falls Dam. Tour includes multiple stops and a drive through landscapes made famous by artist Graham Sydney.</p> <p><b>Tour 2 – 10am start</b></p> <p>Wine-growing in the world's southernmost region. Tour includes wine tasting, and a visit to the historic Bendigo Station.</p> <p><b>Tour 3 – Midday start</b></p> <p>See the wide variety of summer fruit grown in Otago and visit 45 South where they pick and pack their own produce.</p> <p><i>All tours start from the conference venue at Dunstan High School returning for the Welcome Function in the Exhibition Marquee.</i></p>	
3.30pm–5.30pm	CONFERENCE EXHIBITION OPEN	
5.30pm–7.30pm	AWS LEGAL – WELCOME FUNCTION	



WITH THANKS TO PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

## Wednesday 18 April

7.30am	REGISTRATION DESK OPENS	
8.00am–5.00pm	CONFERENCE EXHIBITION OPEN	
8.00am–8.30am	WELCOME COFFEE	
8.30am–9.00am	CONFERENCE WELCOME & OPENING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kāi Tahu</li> <li>2. IrrigationNZ Chairwoman – Nicky Hyslop</li> <li>3. Central Otago District Council Mayor – Tim Cadogan</li> </ul>	
9.00am–10.00am	THE CENTRAL OTAGO STORY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Gold Mining:</b> The origin of Otago's water races – Terry Davis (Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust)</li> <li>2. <b>The First Wave of Irrigation:</b> The depression years and soldier settlements – Gary Kelliher</li> <li>3. <b>The Second Wave of Irrigation:</b> Government scheme building and privatisation – Gavan Herlihy</li> </ul>	
10.00am–10.30am	MORNING TEA	
10.30am–12.00pm	IRRIGATOR COLLECTIVES FOR CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A regional perspective on the role of user groups and collectives for successful water management – Marian Weaver (Otago Regional Council)</li> <li>2. The Kyeburn Story: Replacing individual deemed permits with a global consent to manage allocations and implement rationing during times of low flow alongside environmental monitoring and improving river ecosystems – Susie McKeague, Hamish McKenzie</li> <li>3. The Manuhierikia Story: Replacing deemed permits, ageing infrastructure and the introduction of river low flows and nutrient management expectations through a coordinated catchment approach – Allan Kane and Kate Scott (Landpro)</li> </ul>	
12.00pm–1.00pm	LUNCH	
1.00pm–3.30pm	IRRIGATION IN 2025 – DEVELOPING A VISION FOR THE IRRIGATION SECTOR <p>Moderator: Guyon Espiner</p> <p>Panel Guests: <b>Community</b> – Tim Cadogan (Central Otago District Council)  <b>Next Generation Irrigator</b> – Ryan O'Sullivan (Nuffield Scholar)  <b>Economic</b> – Con Williams (ANZ)  <b>Environmental</b> – Alison Dewes (Pamu Farms – Environment Head)  <b>Infrastructure and Irrigation</b> – Fraser Jonker (CEO, Pioneer Energy Limited)  <b>Cultural</b> – Professor Jacinta Ruru (Otago University)</p> <p><i>Audience interaction via conference app and roving microphone</i></p>	
3.30pm–4.00pm	AFTERNOON TEA	
4.00pm–4.45pm	KEYNOTE <p><b>How Does Irrigation in New Zealand Stack Up Internationally?</b></p> <p>– Stuart Styles (Irrigation Training and Research Centre, Cal Poly State University)</p>	
6.30pm	DOWNER – CONFERENCE DINNER (HIGHLANDS MOTORSPORT PARK) Pre-dinner drinks from 6.30pm	

WITH THANKS TO PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



## Thursday 19 April

7.30am	REGISTRATION DESK OPENS					
8.00am–2.30pm	CONFERENCE EXHIBITION OPEN					
8.00am–8.45am	BREAKFAST KEYNOTE <b>Digital Ag Transformation: From hype to reality</b> – Felicity Turner (The Yield)					
9.00am–10.00am	KEYNOTE <b>Visualising Data: Is this the key to technology uptake in the agriculture sector?</b> – Ian Taylor (Animation Research Ltd)					
10.00am–10.30am	MORNING TEA					
TECHNOLOGIES AND INITIATIVES FOR EFFICIENT IRRIGATION						
	MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT	MANAGING IRRIGATION	INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNISATION	SCHEME WORKSHOPS		
10.30am–10.45am	<b>The nitrate ticking time bomb</b> – Helen Rutter (Aqualinc Research Ltd)	<b>Is border dyke irrigation efficient?</b> – Ian McIndoe (Aqualinc Research Ltd)	<b>Fish exclusion screens</b> – Vern Costelow (AWMA)	<b>Mining Privileges: making essential change an opportunity for irrigation scheme boards</b> – David Goodman (Anderson & Lloyd)		
10.50am–11.05am	<b>How soils change under irrigation</b> – Sam Carrick (Landcare Research)	<b>Economic benefits of weather forecast to irrigation management</b> – M.S. Srinivasan (NIWA)	<b>Key requirements for a successful irrigation scheme</b> – Mark Odlin (Buddle Findlay)			
11.10am–11.25am	<b>Smart irrigation and water Stewardship</b> – Elizabeth Soal (Waitaki Irrigators Collective)	<b>Irrigation runoff from rolling landscape with slowly permeable subsoils</b> – Seth Laurenson (AgResearch)	<b>From open race to piped, the challenges</b> – Andrew Spencer (Amuri Irrigation Co.)			
11.30am–11.45am	<b>Deficit irrigation in Overseer and its impact on predicted N loss at a catchment level</b> – Brian Ellwood (Lowe Environmental Impact)	<b>Space-based soil moisture measurements over New Zealand</b> – Dr. Greg Bodeker (Bodeker Scientific)	<b>Dam safety management for large scale irrigation ponds</b> – Etaoin Friel (Damwatch Engineering Ltd)			
11.50am–12.05pm	<b>Irrigation conversion and groundwater (lessons from Hinds-Rangitata)</b> – Dr Leanne Morgan and William Dench (Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management, University of Canterbury)	<b>Soil and crop sensing technologies informing best application of irrigation water</b> – Ahmed El-Naggar (Massey University)	<b>On farm water storage and irrigation master planning</b> – Gareth Young (Opus International Consultants)			
12.05pm–12.45pm	LUNCH					
12.45pm–1.15pm	IRRIGATION IN 2025: A STRATEGY FOR THE IRRIGATION SECTOR –Andrew Curtis (IrrigationNZ)					
1.15pm–1.30pm	CONFERENCE CLOSING – Nicky Hylsop (IrrigationNZ chairwoman)					
1.30pm–2.30pm	IRRIGATION SCHEME ROUND TABLE Facilitated discussion following an update by individual schemes – the challenges and opportunities.					

WITH THANKS TO PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

## HOW DOES NEW ZEALAND PERFORM NOW AND HOW WILL IRRIGATION EVOLVE IN THE FUTURE?

Felicity Turner of Innovative Australian AgTech business The Yield will talk about how we can meet the world's requirement to provide 60 percent more food by 2050 to feed its growing population using new technology to transform farming.

Stuart Styles, the Director of the Irrigation Training and Research Center from San Luis, California, is an internationally recognised expert in water management. Stuart has toured New Zealand looking at how we use irrigation. He will talk about how our irrigation practices and regulatory regime compares to the rest of the world, covering areas New Zealand performs well in and what we could learn from overseas experience.

Winner of the Creative sector of the World Class New Zealander of the Year Awards in 2012, Ian Taylor has used visual data in a range of settings including developing screen graphics to help Kiwis follow America's Cup race progress. He will talk about how developments in visual data could be used on the farm.

## SPEAKER PROFILES



### FELICITY TURNER

With a diverse entrepreneurial background, Felicity thrives on creating transformative digital technologies and delivering an memorable product experience for customers. Responsible for Sales, Marketing, Support and Services at The Yield, Felicity works with top tier irrigated crop growers to ensure our existing products solve real on-farm challenges, while collaborating with growers in scoping and developing new products.



### IAN TAYLOR

Ian holds an LLB from the University of Otago, and was inducted into the New Zealand Hi-Tech Hall of Fame in 2009. In 2010 he was named North & South magazine's New Zealander of the Year. In the same year he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the New Zealand Computer Society, the top honour of the ICT sector in New Zealand. He was named a Companion of the NZ Order of Merit in the 2012 New Year Honours for services to television and business and won the Creative sector of the World Class New Zealander Awards in the same year. In 2013 Ian was also named Outstanding Maori Business Leader of the Year.

Ian deals in data and has made his mark through his ability to produce images allowing a picture to be created and a story to be told. A wonderful example of this is the work he has done using data from America's cup boats to produce outstanding graphics that enabled all Kiwis to become engaged with this sport. We ask Ian what's possible for agriculture and horticulture with all the data now flowing off New Zealand farms, orchards and vineyards. How might it provide support for decision making for farmers and growers and what could it mean for the wider rural-urban conversation on the use of water?



### DR STUART STYLES

Stuart Styles is the Director of the Irrigation Training and Research Centre (ITRC) at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and is also a Professor in the Cal Poly Bio Resource and Agricultural Engineering Department. He teaches water resources classes for Cal Poly and numerous short courses for irrigation professionals through the ITRC. His current research interests include flow measurement technologies, irrigation system performance and irrigation modernisation. Dr Styles has three decades of field experience in irrigation as a consultant and engineer. He is a Registered Civil Engineer in California with degrees from Cal Poly and a Doctorate in Engineering from UC Davis, California. Dr Styles has worked on strawberry research for the last five years. He has done extensive work looking at the impact of salinity and reduced water applications on strawberry transplants.



### GUYON ESPINER

Guyon Espiner has been a leading journalist in print, television and radio for more than 20 years. He has an intimate knowledge of politics, having spent 14 years covering Parliament, mostly for Television New Zealand, where he was Political Editor. Moving to Auckland in 2012 Espiner worked for TV3, firstly as an investigative reporter for *60 Minutes* and then launched two current affairs programmes, which he also co-presented: *Third Degree* and *The Vote*. In 2014 he switched to radio becoming co-host of Radio New Zealand's *Morning Report*. In 2017 Espiner worked with Tim Watkin to produce *The 9th Floor*, a podcast and video series of interviews with five former New Zealand Prime Ministers, which was also released as a book. He has a certificate in governance from the Institute of Directors and is learning Te Reo Maori. Espiner is also a keen runner, finishing 18 competitive marathons. He lives in Mt Eden with his wife Emma and daughter Nico.

WITH THANKS TO PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

## Explore Central Otago – A World of Difference

IrrigationNZ is excited to bring our 2018 conference to Alexandra. The Central Otago region is rich in irrigation history and clearly demonstrates the benefits irrigation brings to communities. Fresh food, jobs, improved river flows and recreational opportunities have all been outcomes from on-going investment in water infrastructure.

Central Otago offers lots of activities for everyone to enjoy and autumn is the most scenic time to visit. The IrrigationNZ Conference coincides with the April school holidays, so why not make the trip a chance for a family holiday?

Activities you can take part in include: cycling, wine tasting, boat cruises, 4WD tours, scenic flights, jet boating, gold panning, sports cars, curling, and lots more.

Central Otago i-Sites have expert local knowledge and offer free itinerary planning and activity booking. For more information visit [www.centralotagonz.com](http://www.centralotagonz.com), phone 03 262 7999 or email [visitorcentre@codc.govt.nz](mailto:visitorcentre@codc.govt.nz).

Recommended activities you can try in Central Otago are:

### CYCLE CENTRAL OTAGO – OUR PLACE, YOUR PACE

Central Otago boasts three of New Zealand's best trails: the Otago Central Rail Trail, the original great ride; Roxburgh Gorge Trail, a unique one day trail complete with a jet boat ride; and Clutha Gold Trail, a journey of discovery along the mighty Clutha Mata-au river. Day and multi-day trips including bike hire, accommodation, and transport are available.

For a more challenging ride, hire a bike and discover the single track trails at Flat Top Hill near Alexandra or Naseby Forest. Guided and unguided options are available.

### HIGHLANDS MOTORSPORT PARK – EXPERIENCE THE EXCEPTIONAL

A truly international five-star facility, the Highlands Motorsport Park boasts multiple options to experience the racetrack at speed in McLarens to Porsches. It is also home to the best outdoor go-kart circuit in the southern hemisphere, a safari dirt buggy adventure complete with 18 foot dinosaurs and safari animals, and a national motorsport museum.

### GOLF – TEE OFF

Central Otago's golf courses are as varied as they are challenging. Best of all – they are uncrowded.

### DISCOVER LIVING HERITAGE

Take a step back in time and explore our rich history, whether it's exploring the goldfields, museums or quaint townships. You'll feel the sense of timelessness.

### WINE TASTING

Indulge yourself in a premium Central Otago wine at one of the many wineries or cellar doors. Guided, self-drive, walking and cycling tours are available.

### CURLING – FUN FOR EVERYONE

Try the age-old Scottish sporting tradition of curling at the International Curling Rink in Naseby. Available year round and suitable for all ages and abilities.

Conference programme and activity photos courtesy of Tourism Central Otago.



WITH THANKS TO PRINCIPAL PARTNERS