

IrrigationNZ Achievements in 2018



MEMBERSHIP

3500 members.

Quarterly forums hosted for irrigation schemes, user groups and industry. Forums help us understand and act upon our members' concerns and needs.



KNOWLEDGE

Added a new guide on Fertigation. This adds to our suite of 30 knowledge resources produced to support our members.

Together with New Zealand Young Farmers we hosted 40 Canterbury teachers for a day tour which includes stops at the CPW storage pond and an irrigated farm which produces high value crops. Teachers got to hear about the importance of irrigation as well as career opportunities in agriculture and the irrigation industry.



ADVOCACY

We have had a busy year working on behalf of our members. Our 2018 Conference drew nearly 500 attendees and received some great media coverage.

We met with Ministers David Parker and Damien O'Connor and a number of MPs from other political parties. IrrigationNZ was active developing a new Good Farming Practice guide and in developing options for the Land and Water Forum, a number of which have been picked up in the government's new Essential Freshwater plan.

We achieved a major win for our members through our advocacy work on Plan Change 5 in Canterbury which has saved irrigators \$220 million.

We have advocated for members and prepared submissions on a range of issues including taxation, electricity, infrastructure, regional fees and charges, environmental legislation and regulations, climate change policy, and the Ngaruroro Water Conservation Order.

Working with irrigation schemes, we developed an award winning display on irrigation which was used at the Ashburton and Canterbury A&P shows.





TRAINING

719 people
attended **43 training courses**
held around New Zealand.

35 workshops
were held to upskill **620**
farmers, farm managers and staff
about irrigation, good management
practice, and risk advice.

8 workshops
were held to upskill
99 industry professionals.

Establishing a Profession

We hosted a third intake of Irrigation Design Qualification students and we have been developing an Irrigation Engineering Apprenticeship.

“The design course is helping to create an industry standard. We’re part of a process that will upskill people and set a higher standard for our industry.”

– Feedback from 2016 Design Qualification student



PROJECTS

IrrigationNZ led a tour to Nebraska in September to generate new ideas on how to improve environmental performance and to see new technology and practices like fertigation.

We have developed a new online training system which will allow members to improve their irrigation knowledge without leaving the farm.

We also tested irrigation systems in Selwyn and shared the results with farmers and partner organisations in order to improve irrigation efficiency.

We have also been working on joint projects to improve fish screen design, and to communicate what changes are happening on farms to improve water quality in Selwyn, Ashburton and Waitaki.



LOOKING AHEAD

Looking to the future IrrigationNZ plans to:

- Continue to upskill and train irrigators to use water efficiently and develop training options for the irrigation service sector.
- Continue to support irrigation developments that grow the wellbeing of provincial New Zealand communities and improve the health of our rivers.
- Encourage and support new technologies and initiatives that improve the environmental performance of irrigated agriculture.
- Increase awareness of the role irrigation plays in food production and food security, and how it contributes to wellbeing in provincial communities.
- Support Māori to realise the potential of their land through irrigation development.

