



THE 7 DEADLY SINS OF IRRIGATION PLANNING

PRIDE Believing that you know it all and are unwilling to consider advice from an irrigation expert. As they say, the definition of insanity is doing the same things over and over but expecting a different result.

ENVY Just because there is a new product released and your neighbour has one doesn't mean that it is the right solution for your property. Always beware of the agent who needs to flog the latest product.

GLUTTONY Buying product after product after product is never the answer. If you ever find yourself saying, "I've just bought a new pump (or engine), so what irrigator do I need?", then you're looking at it the wrong way. You need to start at the other end of the problem to find the right solution.

LUST New irrigation equipment can be very 'sexy', but don't be lured in to purchasing the equipment without good planning first. When you're planning consider things like the skill level of labour, R & M, operating costs, expansion, crop & soil types, harvesting method, wheel tracks and floods.

ANGER Irrigation can be an expensive exercise and finding out that you've been using the wrong products is infuriating. The cost of good planning is the lowest cost in the whole deal and often gives the highest return. Good planning and doing it right the first time saves money and increases production.

GREED Buying the cheapest products to save a few bucks will always come back to bite you. Often a higher capital cost will result in lower operating and maintenance costs.

SLOTH Don't waste the precious things that you've been given – including your time. Wouldn't you love to be able to spend a week away on holiday with your family knowing that your irrigation was looking after itself?

DO YOU INTEND TO BE FARMING AFTER THE NEXT DROUGHT?

Professional Advice and Planning Grants up to \$5000 available for your farm.

These Grants are designed for you to seek professional assistance to develop or update a Business and or Drought Management Plan for your farm.

The new Federal Government has indicated that future drought assistance, in the form of interest subsidies, freight subsidies etc, may not be forthcoming unless farmers can prove they have planned strategies to minimise their financial and or physical stress.

These Grants are available through Centrelink to anybody in an EC declared area. You can either call in to your nearest Centrelink office for an application or call WPM Agricultural Consultants 07 46329346, or email info@wpmag.com.au and they will send you an application.

Don't delay, these Grants are finishing soon.

Please call WPM if you require some more info or assistance in determining what suits you best.

For those farmers in the Murray Darling System, the grants of up to \$20,000 for improving irrigation efficiency are still available. It is suggested that they will be there for the next 12 months. Retrospective claims can be made.

If you think that you may qualify, do check this out. This grant fund is administered by Centrelink. By all accounts, the paperwork for this grant is probably the simplest ever devised.

Information and claim forms can be obtained by phoning the Murray Basin Hotline on 1800 050 015.



LATEST NEWS

UPTON ENGINEERING

Upton Engineering are introducing a new range of standard height centre pivots to the Australian market.

These centre pivots in aluminium, galvanised steel or with poly lined pipes will complement the existing range of easy to tow low profile centre pivots.

These will be fixed or towable with all of the usual options.



EUROPE TRIP

In early April Malcolm will be travelling to Europe. He will be accompanied by his family. This is one of rare family opportunities that one should take. The focus of this trip is to attend the World Conference of the Nuffield Farming Scholars in Ireland, and to visit the various manufacturers of our irrigation equipment in England and Italy. I look forward to sharing up to date and innovative irrigation options with you via the web site. Apparently the Ducatti and Ferrari factories are close by the Ocmis irrigator factory. A happy coincidence! During this absence, please email as much as possible to contact Malcolm. Your ongoing needs as clients will be attended to, I will be checking my emails daily. Freedom Irrigation will be attending the AgShow in Toowoomba in September 2008. It is anticipated that representatives from Upton Engineering, Country Estate Fence and Calpeda Pumps will be in attendance also.

FREEDOM IRRIGATION IS ONLINE!

Visit www.freedomirrigation.com.au to view our new website and signup to receive the newsletter via email. The site is full of the latest news, information and articles to help you get the most out of your irrigation solutions.

CROCHET DOLL

JOKE

A man and woman had been married for more than 60 years. They had shared everything. They had talked about everything. They had kept no secrets from each other except that the little old woman had a shoe-box in the top of her closet that she had cautioned her husband never to open or ask her about.

For all of these years, he had never thought about the box, but one day the little old woman got very sick and the doctor said she would not recover. In trying to sort out their affairs, the little old man took down the shoe-box and took it to his wife's bedside. She agreed that it was time that he should know what was in the box.

When he opened it, he found two crocheted dolls and a stack of

money totalling \$95,000. He asked her about the contents.

"When we were to be married," she said, "my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doll."

The little old man was so moved; he had to fight back tears. Only two precious dolls were in the box. She had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with happiness.

"Darling," he said, "that explains the doll, but what about all of this money? Where did it come from?"

"Oh," she said, "That's the money I made from selling the dolls."

MALCOLM THOMPSON

Malcolm understands that the most important, and often overlooked issue in irrigation planning, is the quality of life for farmers and their family. With over 30 years successfully running a large dairy and mixed farming operation, Malcolm knows from first hand experience the difference that irrigation planning can make. As the recipient of the prestigious Nuffield Farming Scholarship in 1985, Malcolm studied farming throughout the UK and Northern Europe that broadened his knowledge of farming practices and gives him access to some of the sharpest farming brains in the other Nuffield Alumni. Having also owned an irrigator design and manufacturing company, Malcolm has a truly unique combination of skills that enables him to view your irrigation needs from a down-to-earth farmer's perspective with a manufacturer's expertise.

