

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2017

**WaterForce**  
wise with water

# PIVOTPOINT<sup>NZ</sup>

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## WATERFORCE LEADS TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION



**The 2016/17 irrigation season is coming to a close so it's time to start thinking about how to add value to your irrigation for next season.**

Irrigation is our core business but we are constantly looking for ways to add value by improving our range of water management tools and reducing downtime through preventative servicing and maintenance. Embracing new technology is also a key focus and in 2017 we'll continue our efforts to better connect farm and irrigation equipment to help you produce more for less.

Our new SCADAfarm Weather service will soon be available, and is discussed inside this

newsletter. It will make irrigation scheduling a whole lot easier, and provide valuable data for your Farm Environment Plans.

Despite all this new technology, it's important not to forget the basics! We'll soon be in touch with all our pivot clients to talk about seasonal servicing. Small things can have a big impact on production so it's vital your irrigation equipment is well maintained and configured correctly to prevent downtime next season and maximise results.



WaterForce has recently launched a new website. Content is being added regularly so please stop by and have a look.

[www.waterforce.co.nz](http://www.waterforce.co.nz)

# VALLEY'S NEW ICON PIVOT PANELS

Valley Irrigation has always developed reliable and durable products to make farmers' lives easier. They have just launched their new Valley ICON range of smart panels which provide a range of different connection options to cater for farmers' varied needs. They're easy to use and also make provision for future developments in irrigation control.

Valley's original Pro pivot panels (which were launched over 20 years ago), along with their Select range of products, will now be retired from use on new pivots later this year as the new ICON panels are phased in.

## SO WHICH ICON SMART IRRIGATION PANEL IS RIGHT FOR YOU?



### ICON10

The ICON10 is the flagship ICON panel. It comes with a 10-inch, full-colour touchscreen display that gives you all the space you need to utilize its intuitive menu. It's similar to using the touchscreen on your mobile device, but now it's on your center pivot. Optional WiFi connection for control from your smart phone is also available.



### ICON5

This model contains the same functionality as the ICON10 tucked inside a medium-sized 5-inch colour touchscreen. It also has soft-touch buttons to access different menus which are convenient to use if you're wearing gloves or have dirty fingers. It does not have WiFi capability.

## NOT SURE WHICH PANEL TO CHOOSE?

Don't stress. No matter what ICON smart panel you choose, you will gain more control and simplify your irrigation management workload.

For more info or an online demo of the Valley ICON10 visit:

<http://valleyicon.com> • <http://demo.valleyicon.com> • <http://www.waterforce.co.nz/control-panels-technology>



## ICON1

This panel is the ICON10's geeky little brother. It doesn't have a touchscreen but contains the same heart and brains. It features three control buttons (start forward, stop, and start in reverse) and is controlled through a remote interface so you don't have to go out to the pivot point to use it. Its Edge-of-Field WiFi capabilities allows you to control everything from your smart phone or tablet providing you are in range.



## ICONX

This panel has the same 5-inch colour touchscreen and soft-touch buttons as the ICON5, but is designed for non-Valley pivots. The ICONX will allow you to affordably upgrade nearly any major brand of pivot to the unparalleled capabilities of Valley ICON control and connectivity.

## NEW RURAL WEATHER SERVICE

**WaterForce is proud to announce a partnership with US-based agricultural weather specialists, DTN, to provide a new forecasting service for New Zealand farmers and growers.**

New rural-based weather stations are now being installed so our clients can access a localised weather network specific to their area – and not rely on weather data from their nearest town or airport.

Unlike other weather services available, DTN will offer accurate weather forecasts (up to 15 days in advance) and provide key information relating to irrigation including ET (Evapotranspiration).

Having accurate, real-time weather data will help you make better decisions about when to irrigate because those decisions shouldn't be made based on soil moisture alone. Accurate weather data also influences decisions to apply fertiliser and chemical sprays, and can impact on harvesting and other crop management choices. Those

decisions also have consequences for your power consumption, wear and tear of equipment, and impact on the environment.

They use hundreds of different weather models and specialise in discovering which one works best for different localities. As we all know, weather (especially rainfall), can be extremely localised and DTN's algorithms will calculate which model to use in different regions around New Zealand to produce the most accurate forecasts.

Weather station installation is now underway and we will promote this new service (along with other water savings and management tools) through our SCADAfarm platform over the coming months.





# WHY YOU SHOULD BE USING VALLEY LUBE

**WaterForce and Valley offer a 4 year/4000 hour warranty on your pivot gearboxes as long as you use Valley Lube (V-Lube). But once that warranty period expires, why should you continue using V-Lube instead of a generic product?**

WaterForce has been using V-Lube for 13 years in New Zealand and we certainly believe you get what you pay for. Generic SP220 products often 'just' do the job and no more. Our service teams notice that generic products often 'weep' through the seals. But using V-Lube on Valley's USA-built gearboxes ensures they last the distance in a wide range of environments.

Last year we decided to examine this product more closely. We sampled oil from a range of clients' gearboxes. Some replaced their oil regularly, others bi-annually, while some had not serviced their gearbox in quite a while. The oil was then independently tested and reviewed and in some instances the V-Lube was shown to last three times longer than New Zealand equivalent oils (SP220), therefore reducing average annual maintenance costs.

The composition of V-Lube allows it to separate water from the oil, increasing the life of gear and

seal components. If water isn't able to separate out, the gearbox and seals come under more pressure as the oil and water fight for space.

As a result of these tests, WaterForce has developed a new approach for V-Lube oil changes. We will now offer a 'check, check, change' format to help lower your overall maintenance costs yet maintain your pivot to the highest standard.

After the first lube change (recommended at 1500 hours or the end of your pivot's first season), our 'check, check, change' system means we will only complete a full lube change on your drive gearbox every third season.

During the two 'check' years, your pivot will undergo its normal annual electrical check and report. The drive motors will get a full oil change (1 litre per tower), the drive gearboxes will get a check and any water

that's accumulated will be removed. If there's significant water volume (considered to be enough water to displace the diaphragm), the oil will then be changed or topped up. Your service report will note any anomalies regarding discolouration or other issues which may be resolved through changes in wheel tracks etc.

This new approach will make V-Lube a very cost competitive option, especially considering it extends the life of your gearbox. We believe V-Lube is the only product for your pivot gearboxes! We also use V-Lube in our hard hose gearboxes with great results.

We use V-Lube exclusively in your seasonal servicing package. It's also available in 2.5 gallon (drive unit packs) or 55 gallon drums for clients who want to undertake the 'check, check change' themselves. Talk to our team for a copy of our client service check list.

