

Rivulis doubles dripline production downunder



Back in the dark days of the Global Financial Crisis, the wine industry was one of the big casualties. New Zealand's big export markets in Europe and the USA felt the pinch and cut back on the quality and quantity of their favourite imported wines. As a result, the industry here and in Australia fell on hard times and new vineyard development ground to a halt.

With the reduction in demand for dripline, and the John Deere Water takeover, the old Plastro plant in Melbourne closed down and only one of the extruders was moved into the T-Tape factory in Brisbane.

Since then, the recovery of the market and the introduction of the new D5000 dripline range has placed huge demands on Australian production. We have been importing a large proportion of our dripline from Israel to keep up with local demand.

With a change of ownership to Rivulis, and increased resources, the factory in Brisbane has just installed a new extruder dedicated to the production of D5000 PC and the new D2000 NC dripline product. The new extruder features the latest generation of high-tech insertion head, installed by specialists from Rivulis Plastro Israel and supported by up-skilling the Brisbane production team.

Matt Clayton and Iain Holdaway visited the factory recently and saw the new extruder in

action. They were impressed by the new quality control system, with cameras checking key functions such as dripper insertion and hole punching. This has been complemented by automated winding and strapping machines to maximise production line speed.

The nett effect is to more than double production capacity, which will be welcomed on both sides of the Tasman. Sourcing dripline from Australia delivers the benefits of reduced costs and shorter lead times, so we can offer the most competitive package when you are pitching for those large dripline projects.

The other side of the Rivulis drip business is T-Tape production. The Queensland market for drip tape is many times the size of our market in New Zealand and T-Tape has been the product of choice for decades. Matt noticed during the factory visit that the bank of T-Tape machines at the factory were running flat tuck and they are producing several hundred rolls of tape per day!

Martin Payne - General Manager

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Dorot Quick Pressure Relief Valve

For the past 13 years WSP has distributed Dorot hydraulic control valves to the New Zealand irrigation and industrial market. Over this time there have been many great innovations.



The 80A-QR, a recent addition, is a pilot-operated 50mm quick pressure relief valve. It's designed for the pressure-surge protection of pumps, filtration systems and pipelines in mining (corrosive fluid) and agricultural irrigation applications.

The valve continuously senses the pressure in the system and keeps a drip-tight closed position as long as the pressure is low. It instantly opens if the upstream pressure reaches a set, critical value, allowing surplus flow out of the system. It then re-closes at a slow, adjustable rate.

Features:

- Dependable, well-priced, pilot-operated valve
- Eliminates most of the drawbacks of spring-loaded relief valves
- Fast opening and slow, regulated closure - prevents shuttering and secondary surges
- The relief-flow can be directed away or can be connected to a collector
- Accurate: will open and close at the same pressure setting
- Leak-proof design
- Constructed from corrosion-proof composite materials
- Easily adjustable on-site
- Small and lightweight
- Provides relief setting range from 1 to 10 bar / 15-150 psi.

Senninger Smooth Drive

Senninger Irrigation is leading the way with innovative products to improve water efficiency.

Senninger Irrigation specialises in low pressure, high uniformity sprinklers. Part of Senninger's sprinkler range is the Smooth Drive which is designed for under tree, open field, nursery and pod irrigation.

Features:

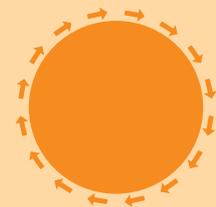
- Low pressure requirements
- The unique walking diffuser ensures outstanding uniformity due to no bracket leg shadow
- The water application is even and gentle
- A contoured deflector provides a precision throw and enhanced distribution

- Advanced breaking mechanism ensures smooth consistent rotation and therefore minimal riser stress
- No tools required for nozzle access.



ORDINARY DEVICES

Shadow created by fixed bracket legs.



SMOOTH DRIVE

Walking diffuser eliminates leg shadow.

Ordinary rotating sprinklers have stationary legs that block water and create leg shadows. The Smooth Drive's walking diffuser eliminates bracket leg shadows resulting in unobstructed, uniform distribution.

Galcon Computerised Control System

WSP is driving the New Zealand irrigation market towards leading-edge technology and, specifically, smart control systems.

For domestic irrigation we have the Hydrowise internet and app-based controller. For viticulture and horticulture clients we supply systems from Galcon.

WSP is the exclusive Galcon GSI distributor for New Zealand. The GSI, like all of Galcon's 'Smart' range is Water Sense certified as a water saving device in the USA.

Features:

- Web connection is via 3G cellular
- There are both AC and DC latch options
- These provide real time irrigation monitoring with the option of periodic online communication to save battery life on a DC unit
- The DC controller is available up to 12stn and the AC version up to 24stn

Programming is carried out via a very simple internet web page or phone app and there are plenty of programmes and start times for virtually any application. Station zones can be named to suit the site. Cloud-based control allows access from anywhere



with internet access. No special software is required and there are no subscription costs. Firmware updates are automatic and "over the air".

By connecting to a water meter you have the option of:

- Volumetric irrigation scheduling
- Application based scheduling
- Leak detection
- Flow sensing by station
- Alerts for high, low, no or unexpected flows

Like all good controllers, these have a sensor input for a rain sensor etc. The cellular connection requires a 3G SIM

card that can be supplied by WSP. We have partnered with M2Mone for access to the Spark network. The data usage is very low and a data plan is just over \$5 per month. An iOS and Android app is free to download.

If communication is lost for whatever reason, the irrigation schedule carries on as normal as all information is stored in the controller itself. Alerts and notifications can be emailed as required.

The AG version has extra features including:

- Fertiliser injection capability
- Run times down to the second.

Backflow Devices



WSP is the New Zealand distributor of Conbraco Backflow Devices. These are manufactured by Apollo Valves in South Carolina, USA.

Apollo has been manufacturing cast product since 1928 and the company produces and ships between 25,000 and 35,000 items every day.

The new small bore Conbraco 4A series Backflow Devices have been designed so they are the quickest and easiest to test and service in the market.

This has been achieved by including a 'Check Valve Module' in each unit. This module can be checked, removed, serviced or replaced in a fraction of the time that it takes to do so for other brands.

Other benefits and features include:

- Supplied as 'Double Check' (DCV) and 'Reduced Pressure' (RPZ)
- Supplied from 15mm to 50mm in the 'Check Valve Module' option
- The 'Check Cover' has no spring load so no parts can fly out when testing or servicing
- The 'Check Valve Module' can be serviced so is very cost effective
- Has council approvals AS/NZS3500 & ASNZS2845 plus 1-3 WaterMark
- All backflows are lead free
- Manufactured and tested in the USA.

PROJECT PROFILE Horse Arena



Hunter ST1600 Sprinklers

WaterForce Canterbury was recently asked by a horse breeder to provide irrigation services for their horse stud and install a dust suppression system for a large arena.

The key design requirements were:

- 50m radius
- High application rate
- Low water droplet impact on the arena
- Compact sprinkler size
- Quiet operation

WSP was asked to provide product and design advice for the arena. The requirements for low droplet impact on the surface and quiet operation ruled out most options.

However, the gear drive operation of the Hunter ST1600 makes them ideal where noise could be an issue. The break-up of the water stream also provides even, gentle droplet dispersion. A total of six ST1600BR were installed around the perimeter of the arena and the system exceeded the expectations of all involved.

With a five year warranty on these sprinklers, this was a great solution for this project.

STAFF PROFILE



Iain Holdaway

Northern South Island
Technical Sales Representative

Iain has been involved with farming and horticulture for most of his life. His family's mixed stock, cropping and vegetable farm in Marlborough exposed him to most facets of rural life including some of the region's very first broad acre irrigation in the early 1970s.

Iain's vast experience includes design sales and maintenance of irrigation systems including viticulture irrigation. With 16 years in the industry (the last seven with WSP) he now helps add value to the jobs for all our customers.

He's particularly interested in dripline, automation and filtration for horticultural irrigation systems, making him our go-to guy for these products. Iain likes to understand all the technical ins and outs of products before he will recommend them. Apparently it's not uncommon for his bedtime reading to be product specifications and owner's manuals!

A well-equipped 'man cave' full of metal working equipment helps to balance Iain's home life. The garage used to be for his wife's car but it's now filled with lathes, mills and other equipment.

Musical talent runs in his family and Iain has provided back up bass for international touring Jazz artists. He's also obsessed with tractors and likes nothing better than taking a selfie while sitting on one.

UPCOMING KEY DATES

WSP will be exhibiting at these industry events in 2016:

24-26 August	Romeo Bragato Conference - Blenheim.
19-21 October	Water NZ Conference - Rotorua.



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