

## South of the border with Hunter Industries

On a recent trip to the USA I was fortunate enough to be invited to join a tour of Hunter's factory in Tijuana.

Having been told the Mexican factory was even more impressive than their USA facility, I was expecting great things. I wasn't disappointed.

The Tijuana factory is state-of-the-art. It boasts ISO9001 certification and employs 800 staff manufacturing solenoid valves, landscape rotors and golf rotor internal assemblies. The moulding machines run 24/7 and assembly will soon be the same.

Hunter's strive for perfection in the performance and reliability of its products has always impressed me. The Mexican operation takes this to a whole new level. Every solenoid valve that comes off the manufacturing line is individually tested both electrically and hydraulically. Rotors are tested with air, and samples are regularly taken for freeze testing, heat testing,



sand testing (putting sand into water that is recycled through the component) and lifecycle testing. In addition, individual components are regularly pulled from production to ensure they meet Hunter's ridiculously strict tolerances.

All of this is to ensure when we promote and sell Hunter product in New Zealand we can be confident it will reliably operate as specified.

I have always admired Hunter's commitment to its staff and the environment. In Mexico they have recycling operations set up for nearly everything from waste water to mouldings waste, old light bulbs, eye

glasses, cell phones and batteries, just to name a few.

Staff have full access to a Hunter-funded onsite medical facility, a fully-equipped gymnasium and cooked meals as well as regular staff and family get-togethers, ensuring Hunter never becomes your typical American corporate.

Hunter Industries recently acquired Senninger Irrigation, and since WSP is an agent for both companies, I look forward to seeing what new technologies and improvements are made.

**Jason Grant** - Company Director

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# WSP PRODUCT INFO



## Hydrawise Internet-Based Irrigation Controller



These days there's an app for every occasion and the new Hydrawise Irrigation Controller (available in 6 or 12 stations, expandable to 36 stations) will allow you to turn on and adjust your irrigation schedule from your smart phone.

It communicates remotely with your home's router, which of course is attached to the worldwide web. So I can be sitting in the sun in Barcelona knocking back a Peroni (or my office in Manukau which doesn't sound as good) while checking my irrigation back home.

This controller comes with a host of benefits:

- Each zone can be given its own name such as "rear lawn". The 12 zone controller can be expanded up to 36 zones.
- Irrigation duration can be set for each individual station, with a number of repeat start times.
- All programming can be done from your PC or smart phone. Any alterations are automatically sent through to the controller at home and to your mobile phone app.
- Controller has a touch screen so you can programme it if WiFi isn't available.
- The optional flow meter will detect broken pipes or determine if a station

isn't working.

- The solenoid cabling is the same as a standard multi-cable system so retrofitting is simple.

As a contractor you have a number of extra benefits:

- Hydrawise has Contractor Plans you can subscribe to (cheaply) so you can monitor irrigation at all customer sites on your smartphone or PC.
- The 'events' summary will alert you to any problems including which customer, which station, and what the problem is. For example Mr J Blog's rear lawn has a low current detected, indicating faulty wiring or a faulty solenoid.
- Link your customer's controller to their local weather station to access a live stream of weather information. This will turn their irrigation off if rainfall has been recorded. It can also base future irrigation on the weather station's prediction of imminent rainfall.

This device has rewritten the rule book. In the future this type of controller will undoubtedly surpass all our standard controllers and our children will wonder how we ever survived with the antiquated controllers we've been using.

These controllers are recognised in the USA with the WaterSense certification, meeting the USEPA (Environmental Protection Agency) criteria for protecting the environment by saving water. This Hydrawise controller was the winner of Landscape Australia Expo's Best New Product Award back in 2011.

Water Supply Products now have both indoor and outdoor Hydrawise 6 station and 12 station controllers in stock. They aren't as cheap as standard controllers (a 6 station outdoor has a RRP \$635.00 and a 12 station outdoor has an RRP of \$799.00 excluding GST). But you get what you pay for. Healthy discounts apply.

**For more information give us a call or talk to your WSP rep.**

## Trouble choosing a Solenoid Valve?



We often send out solenoid valves to customers who then tell us it's not what they wanted. That's because there's an enormous range now on the market and it's imperative we know all the facts from the start to ensure you receive the right valve for the job.

We stock irrigation and industrial control valves in sizes ranging from 1/4" to ones that can only be moved with a fork hoist. Some are for hot water, caustic liquids or gases. Most require water pressure to open, while some are designed for situations where there's no pressure.

Here's an idea of the information we need to know:

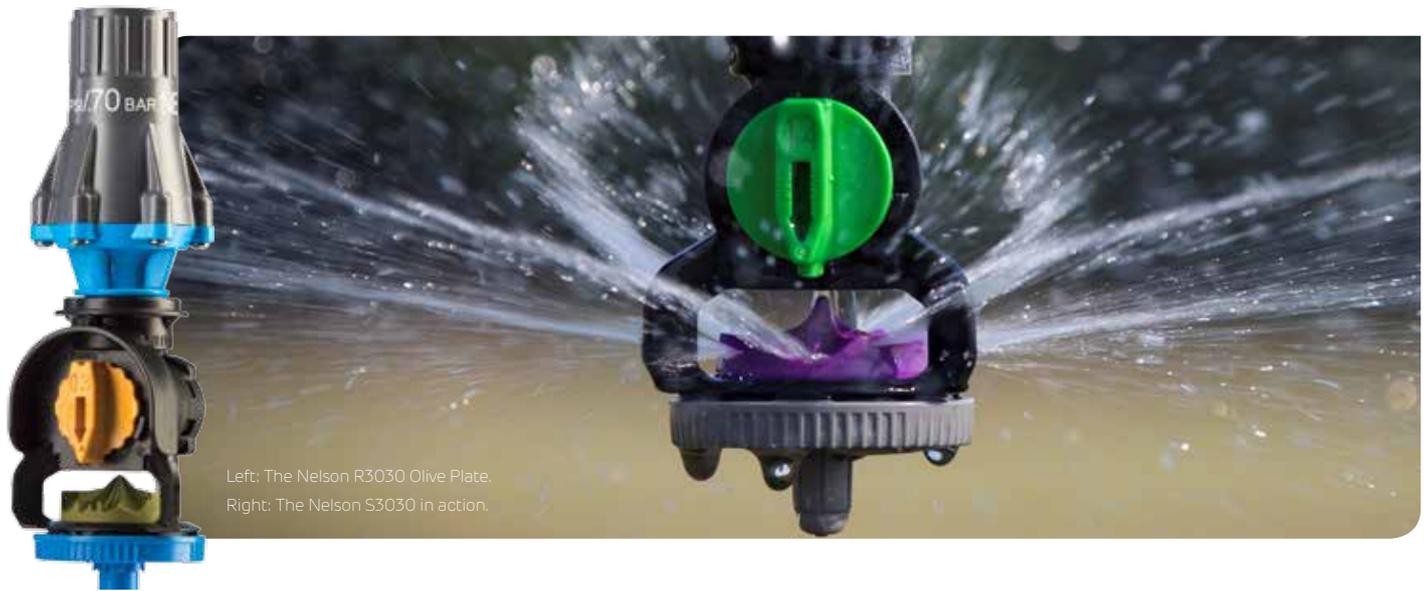
1. **Is it for water?** We have been asked for solenoid valves for oils, honey, petrol, various emulsions and gases.

Many fluids will eat through the seals inside our standard valves so viscous fluids need special consideration.

2. **What is the water pressure?**

Most standard solenoid valves (including almost all irrigation valves) require at least 10psi (7 metres) of pressure behind the valve for it to open and close. Either your customer will need to create more water pressure (by raising the height of a header tank) or find an external pressure source like a nearby pumped

# New and Improved Nelson 3030 Series Sprinklers for Pivots



The agricultural market has become a large part of Water Supply Products' business. We aim to provide quality products that assist the farming community via our dealers, and deliver exceptional results. Nelson Irrigation, as a leader in both the horticulture and agriculture fields, continues to evolve its product offerings and has introduced a new range of pivot sprinkler bodies and nozzles - the 3030 sprinkler body incorporating the 3NV nozzle range.

The Nelson 3030 series has a number of benefits to make your life easier and help farmers manage their operations. The new 3NV nozzle can be twisted from its standard 'on' position to a 'nozzle flush' position, 'line flush' position or even completely 'turned off'. Just press and twist it until you hear the click. No tools required.

Colour-coded 3NV nozzles with easy-to-read numbering are beneficial to both farmers and contractors in the field. You can re-use your existing 3000 series cap,

plate and regulator and just upgrade to the new 3030 body and nozzle if you want. Or, of course, you can consider full replacement upgrade sprinkler packs which Water Supply Products can assist with – we stock the most comprehensive range of pivot sprinkler products in the country. There is a range of options available in the 3030 series to suit the full range of Nelson pivot products.

And let's not forget performance. The 3030 series incorporates the wide range of Nelson sprinkler products

like the Rotator (R3030) and Spinner (S3030) ranges, known for delivering the uniformity you have come to expect. For more information just Google [Nelson 3030](#) and you'll find a few pages and downloadable specifications plus some great YouTube videos from Nelson. Or access the Nelson pivot sprinkler information via our website under the Irrigation/Sprinklers section.

**For pricing and availability, contact your WSP representative or call our office.**

water supply or mains supply. In this case, we can use the higher-pressure source just to fill and control the diaphragm, while the original water source can still be controlled.

This is called a zero-pressure valve using an external pressure source. If you have no pressure then we can use a direct-acting zero pressure valve but this is going to be more expensive. A big steel shaft is literally pulled in and out of the flow path to turn the valve off and on.

3. **Is the water above 80°C?** This will determine the type of diaphragm and seals required. Steam originating from hot water in pipes causes its own set of problems.

4. **What's the voltage?** Different industries have different standard voltages. In irrigation 24vac is normal but in industry 240vac is standard. Options include DC, AC and DC-latching. Voltage options include 12 volt, 24 volt, 110 volt, and 240 volt.

5. **What valve construction material do you want?** The control valve can be plastic, nyglass, chemically-resistant, brass or stainless.

6. **What will it be used for?** We have plenty of standard solenoid valves to choose from. But once you get into the control valves on pages 89-93 of our pricebook, you'll notice things get more complicated. Basic control valve bodies (plastic, cast iron

or bronze) can be configured with tubes and pilots to perform a number of tasks such as pressure reduction (controlling the downstream pressure), pressure sustaining (controlling the upstream pressure), pressure relief (controlling the line pressure by discharging water out the side), and combinations of the above. We can add solenoid valves to each of the above configurations.

**To ensure you get the valve you need, give us a call. But if you have considered the above possibilities it will certainly speed things up. Plenty of our customers struggle in this department so don't worry, we're here to help!**

## Nelson R2000 has changed its body shape

When you purchase Nelson R2000 and R2000WF (windfighter) sprinklers from us over the next few months you might notice the body has changed shape. The new R2000 has a "shell" that encompasses the sprinkler, adding more strength and protecting the nozzle from damage from external forces. In fact with the newest Star Wars movie out, this new model would make a great space ship, and cheap on fuel too!

We will still be sending out the old style until we have reduced our stocks, although many of our nozzle/plate combinations are already this new shape. Operating specifications remain unchanged. If you want new brochures just Google [nelsonirrigation.com/R2000](http://nelsonirrigation.com/R2000) and you'll find a PDF to download at the bottom of the page. So if your returning customer mentions that the new sprinklers don't look like the old ones, you'll know why!



### Jackie Reid

We thought it was time to profile a female member of staff, and Jackie was the slowest to hide. Customers in the South Island are likely to have spoken with Jacs on the phone. Her official role is Sales Support & Admin, which as we all know covers pretty much everything. But what makes this woman tick?

Jacs was born in Gore but soon moved to Twizel where she lived for 10 years. As a teenager she followed her folks to Niue for three years and then on to the Solomon Islands for a further two years, which had a major influence on the friendly, adaptable person she was later to grow into.

She's not fond of exercise generally but has taken to walking to keep fit. She has a gym membership but can't remember where the gym is.

For hobbies she enjoys the smell of high-octane fumes and the burning of rubber from cars generating high speeds on a track. She loves car racing and especially stock cars and has been known to watch races on her own if her two teenage boys and husband have managed to hide from her.

She joined the irrigation industry in 2010 and worked with various companies before becoming part of the WSP team at the end of January 2015.

Jacs lives with her husband, two teenage sons, a cat and five chooks. She likes Brussels sprouts and liver, and hates wine. No hang on...



## FREE FREIGHT FEBRUARY

For February all freight forwarded from our factories (Auckland and Christchurch) will be FREIGHT FREE (based on our standard freighting method; excludes same day delivery) Excludes Valley and Ocmis.

This replaces our standard policy of freight-free only on orders exceeding \$100 excluding GST.

## WSP Sponsors Classic Motorcycle Festival

Water Supply Products is proud to be a sponsor of the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Classic Motorcycle Festival at Pukekohe Park Raceway on 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> February. Two New Zealand legends, Hugh Anderson (four times world motorcycle racing champion), and Graeme Crosby (Isle of Mann TT world motorcycle champion), will be in attendance. Both men will be signing their books and happy to talk anything motorcycle-related.



On the actual track will be a number of classic motorcycle races and displays to keep spectators occupied, including the "Red Eye Rally" and the Memory Lane Display. Race classes include a pre-'89 class and a classic '70s class. This is an opportunity to see some classic bikes battling it out.

For more information go to [www.nzcmrr.com](http://www.nzcmrr.com).

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