



Newsletter April 2006

Whats New at Water Supply?

- Welcome to the team Shane Sievers!

Shane has a Degree in Viticulture and Oenology from Lincoln University and up until recently has worked at the Pegasus Bay Winery in Waipara. Originally from Wellington, Shane is a staunch Hurricanes supporter.

Shane can be contacted on:

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021 190 4641

Or in the WSP Christchurch Office: 03 3481293

*** Shane did write his own "exposé" about himself however, unfortunately we didnt have the space to publish his 1500 page novel. That said, I am sure he would love to forward a copy of his works to anybody interested.

South American Study Tour - Andrew Gordon - Installment 2 (Days 5 - Home)

Day 5 dawned another hot, clear day and we ventured up the coast to La Serena where we visited Almonds & Avocados by the dozen.

Harvesting of the Almonds was quite amazing. With labour so cheap, a lot of the work was manual. Sorting the almonds from foliage involved a PVC shoot and fan blowing the foliage away while the nuts fell into a wheel barrow where an eager staff member was waiting to take it away for processing.

Where things started to get interesting was the crop manipulation & data being recorded by staff on ET using E pans, soil moisture and components' measuring the plants trunk movement from dusk to dawn. It was surprising that even with all this reference data, I still would have said they were over irrigating.

Day six arrived and we were off to the one of the most advanced irrigation systems I have ever seen. 800 ha located up in the hills of La Serena where again all the irrigation was supplied by snow fed rivers. The Avocado irrigation system was fully hydroponic and each zone has the ability to pulse irrigate up 40 times a day depending on crop requirement.

Over the next 5 days we travelled over the Andes to Mendoza, Argentina for tours of Vineyards, Almonds, and Walnuts.

One of the properties that caught my interest during this time was a 48,000ha property currently growing 300ha grapes & 300ha Walnuts, with plans to develop 30ha each year for the next 7-9 years. The property also ran stock in the hills over the summer period. The thing that I found very interesting was the growth they were getting in the Walnut trees; the size of the nuts, colour and most important of all the taste.

On the flight home I finally had time to reflect on what was an amazing trip to a beautiful part of the world. I have come home with a huge volume of notes and photos which I would love to share with anyone interested.



Hunter® Special Continued

Last Months special on indoor PROC Controllers ran so well that we are extending it for another month. **Receive an extra 10% discount on these units for the month of May.**

The indoor PROC offers all the features of the standard PROC but has an external transformer and is extremely effectively priced.

Contact our sales team for details!

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