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What's new **Water**

Swan Hill farmer with first Bauer poly lined pivot

On the upper side of Swan Hill at Boundary Bend, Ken Westmore takes a long look over his 3,000 acres of mainly potatoes in their various stages.

The sun is shining and there is the noise of a loader and the sweet smell of lucerne in a paddock nearby.

Ken is testing out his purchase in a world-first of a 'Polystar' poly lined centre pivot irrigator made by Bauer of Austria, which he bought from Swan Hill Irrigation, one of the most important Australian Bauer dealers.

Ken at 60, is an experienced farmer, well-respected in this Murray region once known as the place of the platypus. Nowadays, Ken focuses on his potatoes, a whole 7,000 tonnes he produces annually. His spuds are distributed in bulk with quality that is ready-made for the chip and crisp market, with keen buyers such as Smiths, Snack

Brands, and Marvel frozen chips for outlets throughout Australia.

Looking across his farm it is easy to spot the centre pivot irrigators, sitting against the skyline ready for the next growing cycle.

With large spans Ken finds it easier to leave the pivots insitu.

He has nine Bauer centre pivot irrigators and is test-running his new "Polystar", a low pressure system pivot, now corrosion resistant and employing an inner lining of polyethylene.

Bauer has combined the extruded poly liner by inserting it into a standard hot-dipped galvanised span pipe.

"I am happy to be the first to utilise this pivot, with its additional design of the stainless steel connector for the span pipe outlet - the more stainless, the better I like it, because that means there is no rust," Ken said.

"We have a good local dealer in Swan Hill Irrigation - Ken and Leanne Lusty bend over backwards to help and they work in with me. The Bauer irrigator itself has a simple

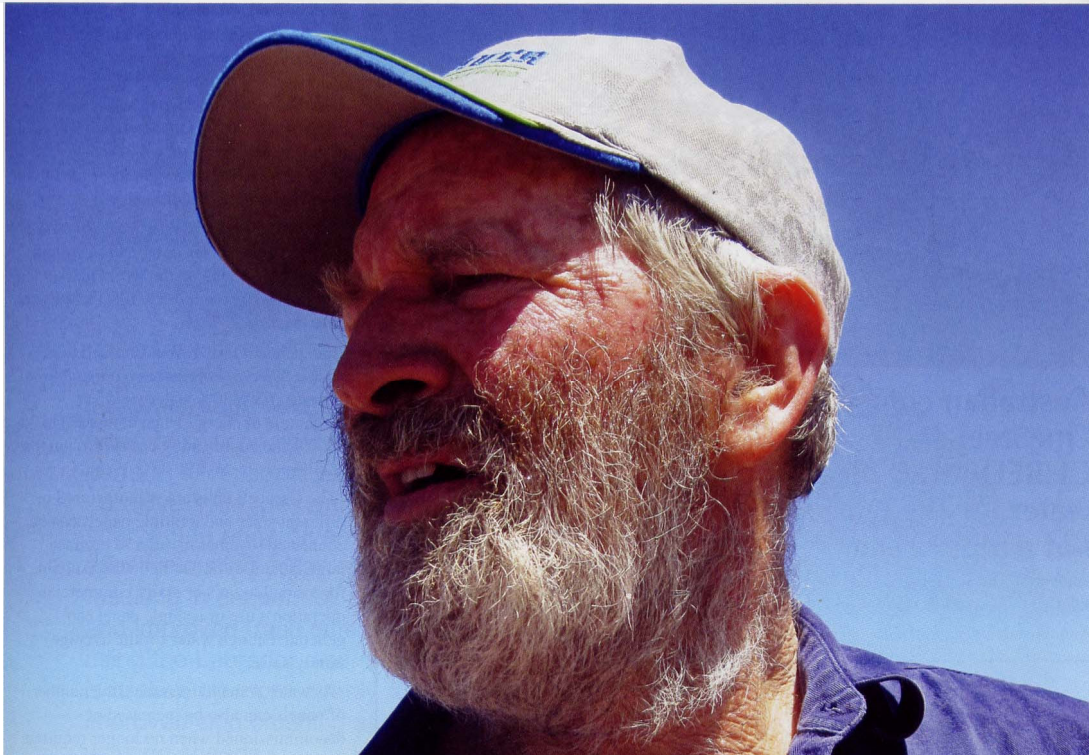
control panel, so there is no need to program the thing.

It has a good switching arrangement and useful things like off-the-shelf circuit breaker and freely available parts.

"It gets me angry if I have to call for special parts for a non-Bauer," says the innovative and indefatigable Ken, who is never short of ideas, and a real trendsetter in Victoria's northwest.

The new "Polystar" will obviate the need to replace rusted parts, an inhibitor of water flow.

Ken has already designed his own time saving add-ons that only know-how can explain but he is adamant the poly liner should be used in all pivots. Bauer say they will continue their series of poly lined pivots, and according to the dealer and the Westmores, Bauer not only has 80 years of experience but they also listen at the grassroots, necessary in today's competitive climate.



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