

OBSERVANT REMOTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

USER PROFILE

Anthony Desreaux, Monkira Station (NAPCO), Bedourie, Queensland

Monkira Station, located 160 kilometres east of Bedourie, has a stock camp of four, a cook, a governess, a manager and runs 8 000 steers, but has no bore runner. The station doesn't employ a bore runner in part because of a recently installed Observant Remote Management System.

Anthony Desreaux, manager of the 373 000 ha station for the North Australian Pastoral Company (NAPCO), says there wasn't a bore runner when he arrived at the property five years ago because of the reliance on surface waters on the property. Since 2002, NAPCO has developed more waters and coupled with the introduction of the Observant System, the property continues to operate without a designated bore runner.

Anthony installed the Observant Remote Management System seven months ago after he saw it at a WaterSmart information day held by Desert Channels Queensland at Longreach.

"NAPCO had been considering telemetry systems and Desert Channels suggested Observant for a whole of property remote management solution. It offered more than what I was expecting from a remote management system and was surprisingly simple to install and operate", said Anthony.

NAPCO expects the Observant System will provide significant cost savings. For example, now that Anthony has the capacity to monitor waters from his office computer, he is able to identify leaks and foresee problems before they occur. If a small leak is noticed he can act to fix it before it turns into a more complex problem.

"Recently the overflow in a remote turkeys nest was blocked. The blockage was noticed in the morning and someone was able to travel out to fix it immediately, saving time, water and money".

Anthony has also been impressed that Observant staff have been so available to help with any questions or problems.

"We had a situation recently where birds, and we think it was probably cockatoos, really made a mess of some cabling – we were at a loss as to how they had managed to make such a meal of it, but we were able to solve that easily and passed the feedback on to Observant for other producers. They are very willing to listen to your unique situation and help solve any problems", he said.

The Observant System uses UHF to relay information from remote solar-powered units back to the homestead. He says it was robust and simple to set up, "not too complex for the bush" and believes back up from the company is good.

Anthony was attracted by the many ad-ons that are available with Observant such as cameras, rain gauges and GPS. NAPCO intends installing more rain gauges this year and possibly GPS vehicle tracking for security at a later stage. A benefit of such technology is if an employee hasn't returned from a distant part of the property, the location of the vehicle can be identified and it can be determined whether it has moved recently.

The WaterSmart Pastoral Production™ project will host a field day at Monkira Station on Friday 4th April 2008. Refer to www.desertknowledgecsrc.com.au/watersmart/ for further details.

Observant Pty Ltd is an Australian company that locally designs and manufactures solutions for the remote monitoring and management of infrastructure equipment and is committed to innovation, reliability and simplicity. The head office is located in Melbourne, employing 14 specialist staff, supported by a nation-wide network of resellers. Further information can be found at www.observant.com.au or by calling 1300 224 688.