

EVOLUTION OF KLIPTANK'S HORTICULTURAL SOLUTIONS



OWEN HOPPING – KIWIFRUIT ORCHARD CASE STUDY

“BECAUSE OUR TANK WAS ONE OF THE FIRST ONES, THEY HAVE CONTINUED TO MODIFY AND UPDATE THEM SINCE.”

In July 2010, KlipTank began work on a KlipTank installation at a kiwifruit orchard owned by Owen Hopping in Omokoroa, Bay of Plenty. The objective was to construct a large tank to provide necessary irrigation and frost fighting reserves for a new kiwifruit block. This installation marked one of KlipTank's earliest projects, laying the foundation for the company's future innovations and improvements in tank construction.

The orchard faced a challenge due to resource consent limitations, which restricted the rate at which water could be drawn from the property's bore. This rate was insufficient to meet the demands of the frost fighting system which is essential for protecting the kiwifruit crop. Rather than drilling a new bore at a considerable

distance, the decision was made to install a large tank that would serve as a storage buffer, ensuring an adequate water supply during critical periods.

The tank has a usable capacity of 606,000 litres, a height of 3.0 metres, and a diameter of 16 metres. The tank's design accommodated several key requirements. To maintain water cleanliness before irrigation, a covered storage solution was necessary, with water treated on demand as it came out of the bore. The flat-packed tank components allowed for delivery through confined spaces without machinery, preventing damage to crops. Additionally, a single large tank was preferred over multiple smaller tanks due to its smaller footprint and simplified installation process.

The installation process was overseen by Neil Peterken, the co-founder of KlipTank, who played a crucial role in ensuring the project's success. The site presented some challenges due to its uneven terrain, necessitating extensive preparation to create a sufficiently large and level area for the tank. Despite these challenges, the installation proceeded smoothly, thanks to the dedicated efforts and hands-on involvement of the KlipTank team.

Reflecting on the project, Owen acknowledged the effectiveness of the tank in meeting his needs. He highlighted the tank's value for money and the responsive support provided by KlipTank saying, "The tank has been good. Because our tank was

one of the first ones, they have continued to modify and update them since. But all in all, good value for money and I think we've done well out of it. The team was very responsive, and there to help you."

This early project at Owen Hopping's Omokoroa kiwifruit orchard demonstrates KlipTank's commitment to innovative and practical solutions for horticultural water management. Over the years, this foundation tank has required some maintenance and repairs. As one of KlipTank's earliest projects, this installation provided valuable insights that have informed numerous modifications and improvements in the company's tank designs since then.

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