

TURFTALK

BY LAWN SOLUTIONS AUSTRALIA | NOV 2022



World Cup Worthy Turf

STRI LEADING THE WAY IN
ELITE SPORTS SURFACES

[... Read more \[pg 02\]](#)

Turfing The Block

[... Read more \[pg 08\]](#)

Landscaping the Garden City of Singapore

[... Read more \[pg 24\]](#)

1 Billion Square Feet of TifTuf

[... Read more \[pg 60\]](#)





One of the many Soccer fields for the Fifa World Cup 2022 in Qatar

Welcome to TurfTalk,

Australia's most comprehensive turf magazine. Turf Talk is suitable for all turf professionals, from turf growers to landscapers, golf courses and sports ground curators, to government and related industry organisations.

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TurfTalk is a free magazine, distributed to over 3000 landscape and turf professionals.

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Inside this issue

WORLD CUP WORTHY TURF	PG 02	HORT INNOVATION-FRONTIERS INITIATIVE	PG 34
NEXT LEVEL INNOVATION AT TWIN VIEW TURF	PG 06	ALL THINGS TURF IN THE CITY OF WANNEROO	PG 36
TURFING THE BLOCK	PG 08	THE NEW ERA OF GREEN SPACES	PG 40
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PBR	PG 10	THE GREATEST SELLING GRASS OF ALL TIME	PG 44
2022 ASTMA CONFERENCE & TRADE EXHIBITION	PG 12	A WIN FOR WATER CONSERVATION	PG 46
QUEENSLAND GARDEN EXPO	PG 16	SEE EXACTLY WHAT YOUR TURF IS FEELING	PG 48
JOHN DEERE PRECISION FOR GOLD COAST SCHOOL	PG 20	EYE CATCHING TURF AT THE BRISBANE HOME SHOW	PG 52
LANDSCAPING THE GARDEN CITY OF SINGAPORE	PG 24	STA VIC SPORTS TURF SEMINAR AT THE MCG	PG 54
SIR GRANGE SHINES IN PUBLIC SPACES	PG 28	WA TURF INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY DAY	PG 56
THE AUSTRALIAN RACECOURSE MANAGERS ASSOCIATION	PG 30	1 BILLION SQUARE FEET OF TIFTUF	PG 60



World Cup Worthy Turf

STRI LEADING THE WAY IN ELITE SPORTS SURFACES

Through its joint venture Aspire Sports Turf, STRI has put its sports turf and elite event expertise to good use to ensure FIFA standards are met at all World Cup venues in Qatar.

In 2015, the Aspire Zone Foundation in Qatar were looking to bolster their expertise in sports turf and engaged STRI Group to help. Aspire Sports Turf (AST) was then born – the joint venture between the two organisations.

In the months following introduction to the market, AST were awarded two major contracts; the maintenance of all sports facilities managed by the Ministry of Culture and Sport in Qatar, and the design, construction supervision and maintenance

supervision of all pitches for the Qatar 2022 World Cup on behalf of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (The SC).

AST's team comprised of multidisciplinary individuals with world class experience in sports turf consultancy from New Zealand, Australia, and the UK. AST's research capabilities were bolstered by Carlos Sartoretto, who moved from South America to join the team, and later became Research and Business Development Manager at STRI Australia.

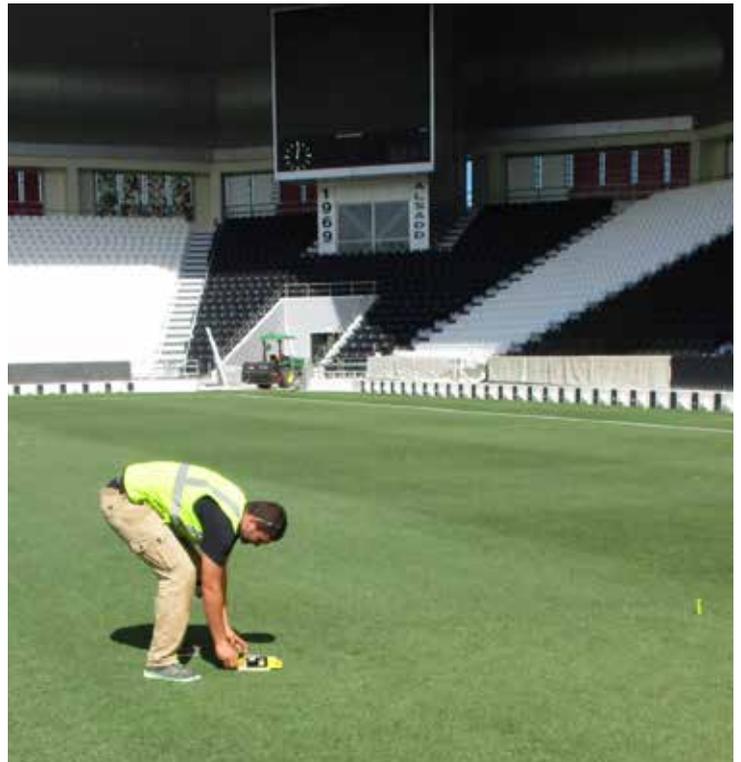
The team at AST continued to grow as the stadium pitches and training sites went from design and research, to construction,

grow-in, turf management and tournament delivery. What began as a small team of four is now over 60.

The Challenges

Climate presented a considerable challenge in preparing elite level turf surfaces. Qatar is one of the driest countries on the planet, with less than nine rainy days per year and average highs of 41 degrees Celsius.

An understanding of these conditions resulted in moving the tournament from its usual summer slot to November and December, meaning that it would be staged over a shorter window of time than usual (28 days). This, paired with the fact that there



would be eight host stadiums rather than the standard ten, meant that the pitches needed to be designed to withstand significantly more play than previous World Cups.

The climate, and the fact that this is the first ever World Cup in the Middle East, also brought several unique and significant challenges to the design and delivery. To mitigate this, AST built a research facility on site to carry out meticulous testing and ensure that the demands of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy were met.

The Solution

The research facility provided vital knowledge ahead of the construction of a turf farm on the outskirts of Doha. It enabled

extensive studies into optimising turf quality for the tournament, as well as identifying the most efficient and sustainable water management practices to be used in that specific climate, by replicating trials that would ordinarily have taken place at STRI's research facilities in the UK and Australia.

The research also helped to establish the signature pitch design to be used at the Qatar World Cup, a unified design to be used across all venues to ensure maximum consistency of surface characteristics. In addition to pitch design, AST also defined the specifications for construction and liaised with the Supreme Committee and other stakeholders for approval on all aspects.

Following this, the Supreme Committee put the construction project out to tender and split the construction between various local businesses to reduce the build time. Consistency was ensured as all companies were working to the exact same design and specification, as well as the supervision and management of the construction being overseen by AST itself.

Running parallel to the early phases of the journey, AST also ran an educational programme, which became the Qatar national training programme for all turf construction and management. The research facility was a focal point for the educational programmes, aimed at



upskilling contractors who had limited experience of elite sports surfaces due to lack of demand in the country previously. This training programme ensured that all contractors were trained and accredited by AST prior to any work taking place, enabling them to deliver pitches to the exact specification, and arming them with valuable transferable skills for the future.

Following completion of the research, design, construction, and maintenance phases, AST will now move into the delivery phase for the tournament itself. This will focus on implementing a team of high-end consultants to ensure elite standards are in place for such a prestigious event.

The Project in Summary

- All pitches delivered in line with the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Sustainability Strategy
- Stadiums ready in line with Supreme Committee’s timings
- Pitch designs in place which mitigate extreme climates and meet elite standards required for the World Cup
- Research facility now being used for a wide range of projects from across the world
- Aspire Sports Turf continuing to operate in Qatar, using skills gained on sports facilities managed by Ministry of Culture and Sport



Turf at The World Cup
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425,000 square metres of reserve grass – approximately 40 pitches in size is growing at a farm north of Doha to be used if required

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Next Level Innovation at Twin View Turf

The washing of turf rolls or slabs for sports turf surfaces involves the removal of the soil that is attached to the turf after harvesting. It is an important step in ensuring the success of the turf, providing several important benefits. Turf washing removes clay and dirt, helps to maintain the consistency of the existing sand profile, provides quicker root establishment, and reduces the weight of the turf for transportation.

Our first turf washer was built in 1997 when we received an order for 2000m² of washed Tifgreen 328 on Wednesday for delivery the following Wednesday. The washer was built very basically in 4-5 days and could only wash 18-inch slabs and small rolls.

That washer provided us good service until it needed to be replaced in the early 2000's when we built a new unit that could wash both slabs and 48-inch maxi-rolls.

The Maxi-roll washer washed a lot of both slabs and Maxi-rolls and was still operational till the replacement was completed this winter.

The New Washer

In September 2021 we received an order for 120,000m² of washed Kikuyu, to be provided over the next two years, and to be delivered 40,000 to 50,000m² at a time.

The last washer had a minor issue with everyone getting extremely wet while washing which wasn't ideal. It also was not as ergonomic as it could be if you had to wash 3000m² per day for a couple of weeks straight.



The Planning Process

Along with the new washer we needed to improve how we handled the soil which results from a big washing job. We already had a retention basin/settling pond, but the back wall needed to be strengthened to allow the excavator and trucks to work on it with the dam nearly full. This had always been done in the past with the dam empty prior to the start of our wet summer. Washing 3000m² a day for days on end meant that we needed to be able to empty this every few days.

The Design Process

We started off thinking that we would just improve the loading process to reduce the workload on staff and help keep them dryer

and a frame system to keep the washed turf as tidy as possible on the pallet. This was achieved with the design and construction of a scissor lift and stacking walls at each end which achieved the aim of less effort and drier staff.

One of the things that slows the washing process is waiting for the empty pallet to be removed from the loading end and the new pallet to be loaded. The same problem exists at the other end, with the process causing a double hold-up with every pallet.

After a lot of thought and talks with our management staff, I decided to rebuild the whole washer entirely. The only thing we kept from the last washer was the spray bars that worked extremely well.



The resulting and final design for the washer was to build it to allow the empty pallets to travel through the washer ready for re-filling at the other end.

The Construction

The construction of the new washer was started in late March with the plan of being finished by the end of May when we had an 18,000m² TifTuf Hybrid Bermuda job to wash.

I completed the full designs with David from Runge Engineering doing all the drawings for the laser cutting. Everything was designed and built so that it could all be hot-dipped galvanised. Meaning a lot of things that would normally be welded together would be bolted so as not to exceed the dimensions of the dip tank.

The construction was done by both Twin View Turf staff and Runge Engineering to keep the project on time. As parts were completed, they were brought to our shed and assembled as a working machine to ensure it all worked. This ensured we would not be cutting and welding bits onto a galvanised machine.

Once we were happy with the finished product it was all dismantled, catalogued and sent to the galvanising plant for treatment. This took place at the end of June and took three weeks to be completed. Lucky for us, the big TifTuf job was delayed till mid-September.

While this was happening, we built the parts and frames for the workers' shade at both ends, along with the frame that keeps all the

spray from the washing section under control. While this was at the galvaniser the machine was being assembled at the washing bay beside our dam with a new Hydraulic power pack, E-stops and foot pedal for the controls.

It was mid-August before we had the project all completed and were able to do the first test wash. This went very well, and all staff seemed happy. It received a better test at the end of August when we washed 1,700m² in one day and everyone was a lot drier and warmer than experienced in the past.



Turfing The Block

THE BLOCK "TREE CHANGE" FEATURING TIFTUF

Lawn Solutions Australia recently teamed up with the Block as the exclusive turf supplier with thanks to Lilydale Instant Lawn for The Block 'Tree Change.'

The reality TV show The Block, returned to Channel 9 and 9Now, swapping the city for the green grass of the countryside. The Block headed to Gisborne South in Victoria's beautiful Macedon Ranges, where five couples built a 500-square-metre

house, tennis courts, wineries, and even a lake with TifTuf Hybrid Bermuda being the turf of choice.

The beautiful TifTuf Hybrid Bermuda was supplied by local Lawn Solutions Australia Member Lilydale Instant Lawn.

TifTuf Hybrid Bermuda

TifTuf was hand selected out of almost 30,000 different varieties, showing superior

qualities in drought tolerance, shade tolerance, wear tolerance and winter colour. These qualities make it the perfect option for the climate experienced in Gisborne.

TifTuf is the only grass to be awarded the Smart Approved WaterMark for water efficiency, it is Australia's best couch grass (proven through extensive independent trials) and it's exclusively available from Australia's best turf suppliers, Lawn Solutions



Australia Members. These reasons and more are why TifTuf was selected as the exclusive turf variety for this season of The Block.

Every team were given their own house to renovate and landscape. Each home needed to qualify for a 7-star energy rating, incorporating solar panels, sewage recycling, and water tanks. Sustainable and environmentally friendly products have long been a focus of the program, with

TifTuf perfectly fitting the bill for these large lifestyle properties.

TifTuf was also featured front and centre as contestants arrived at Block HQ for judging. Host Scotty Cam also got in on the TifTuf action, with his very own involvement in renovating the property's original homestead built in the mid-19th century. The team at Franklin Landscapes

did an incredible job with the landscaping for this part of the project which provides plenty of lush green TifTuf surrounding the rejuvenated homestead.

TifTuf helped create beautiful and environmentally friendly landscaped garden areas for each of the contestant's homes. If you are looking for a new lawn worthy of The Block, you just found it. It's TifTuf.

Australia leads development of new Global descriptor for couch varieties

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & PLANT BREEDERS RIGHTS (PBR)

We sat down with Andrew Hallinan, Nurseryman (ex-sports turf manager) and Senior Examiner Plant Breeders Rights for IP Australia, for an overview on intellectual property (IP) and how plant breeder's rights can help grow your business.

What is intellectual property?

"Broadly speaking intellectual property, or IP, is a type of intangible asset, or similar to, or quite often a part of, 'good will' as it is often called in business. It is a product of your own creativity. It could be an invention or plant variety, an artwork, literary work, branding or many other things. For the turf industry, plant varieties and branding are probably the most relevant forms of IP.

What kinds of IP are there?

"IP can be broken up a few ways. Firstly, rights and non-rights. An example of intellectual property that is not a right is a trade secret, like a secret recipe. The only

protection you have with a trade secret is keeping it secret. Once it's not a secret, you lose control and ownership.

Alternatively, IP rights such as copyright, patents, trademarks, designs, and plant breeder's rights give you legally enforceable controls to protect your idea or asset.

Intellectual property rights themselves can be used to grow your business by accessing new markets through licensing arrangements or reinforcing brand recognition, and as a result, increasing revenue streams - opening up markets that you couldn't necessarily access by yourself. You can also sell the property rights as an asset, and sometimes they can be worth a lot of money.

"Intellectual property is an important consideration for all businesses. IP gives businesses and individuals an opportunity to get recognition for, and derive profit from, your own ideas and creations.

Why is PBR important to our industry?

Fundamentally it provides the incentive for turf breeders to invest their time and money into continuing to breed improved varieties. Improvements in turf varieties disease resistance, drought tolerance, wear tolerance and maintenance requirements among many others, would not have been possible to anywhere near the same extent if it wasn't for the PBR system, as it allows for Breeders to recoup the costs that they have sunk into developing a new variety

If I'm a plant breeder, what do I need to consider?

"If you are breeder, plant breeder's rights give you the opportunity to profit from your plant breeding work. It gives you control of how a new variety is commercialised. It allows for the breeder to not only manage who grows the variety but allows you to more easily access other markets that were not necessarily open to you before, using



Dr. Brian Schwartz (left) and Andrew Hallinan (right)

licensing arrangements. Alternatively, you can sell your rights as an asset, just like you would sell a house or building, and make money that way - potentially allowing you to just focus on plant breeding.

If I'm not a plant breeder, what do I need to know?

"If you are not a plant breeder but are still part of the industry, it's in your interest to know about plant breeder's rights as well. The reason is, if you commercialise plant varieties without permission, you may be liable for both criminal and civil action, and penalties through the courts. This could lead to fines of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands of dollars. So, it's well worth doing your due diligence and knowing what you can and can't do with regard to protected plant varieties."

What is UPOV?

The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) is the umbrella

organisation that our PBR legislation adheres to. This allows for Australian breeders to protect their varieties across most of the world. It also allows the best breeders from overseas to introduce their varieties to Australia.

Australia to lead the development of the new International descriptor for couch grass varieties

The PBR process requires that we describe all new varieties and how they are different from other varieties. These are then published in the plant varieties journal and are generally done using internationally endorsed technical guidelines for different plant types to standardise how they are described. To date there has never been an internationally adopted technical guideline for any of the common turfgrass species.

This is about to change as Australia is leading the development of the new Technical Guideline for Couch Grass (*Cynodon* sp.).

Initially developed between local turfgrass breeders Peter McMaugh and Don Loch, and myself. We are now, with the generous help of Lawn Solutions Australia (LSA), collaborating with Dr Brian Schwartz of the University of Georgia. The goal is to produce a guideline that provides a clear and standard way to describe new varieties of couch grass leading to streamlined introductions of improved Australian and international varieties to the industry for the continued benefit of breeders, growers, turf managers and homeowners.

Initial meetings were held at LSA's research and development facility at Jaspers Brush, NSW in May. Not only are we now able to receive input from one of the world's leading turfgrass breeders, but also have the ability to test and further refine the guideline against extensive collections of US varieties. This is a great result for turf breeders and the industry.



2022 ASTMA Conference & Trade Exhibition

THE AUSTRALIAN SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION (ASTMA) HOSTED THE HUGELY SUCCESSFUL 2022 AUSTRALIAN SPORTS TURF MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

After a number of years in the making, and with a global pandemic thrown into the mix, the combined ASTMA and Golf Management Australia (GMA) conference was hosted at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, with more than 2,000 attendees coming through the doors across the week. With border restrictions easing earlier in the year, a huge contingent from Western Australia ventured across to Melbourne, while a number also travelled from New Zealand to attend.

In what proved to be a great success, the opening Plenary on Tuesday was a combined session for both ASTMA and GMA delegates, with a full hall for all talks. The Plenary featured presentations from Canadian golf industry guru James Cronk, Paralympian Dr Jessica Gallagher, The R&A's head of sustainability Chris Gray, trend forecaster Michael McQueen and body language

expert Dr Louise Mahler. The opening day culminated with the guest appearance of Melbourne Storm coach Craig Bellamy who talked about some of the tenets that have helped him develop a winning culture over many years in the NRL. As an interesting side note, Gallagher, who spoke about her upcoming appearance at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, would go on to win two gold medals in the velodrome.

Wednesday and Thursday saw ASTMA and GMA delegates break off into their various education streams, with the two-day trade exhibition running concurrently and generating a huge amount of foot traffic. A panel session involving ASTMA and GMA members was also held on the Wednesday and included superintendents Dave Mason (The Brisbane GC) and Patrick Casey (Kalgoorlie GC) who joined with Gray and general managers Peter Busch (Green



Geraldine O'Callaghan



Karen Proctor



Dr. Nikki Vincent



Acres GC) and Gavin Burt (Lake Karrinyup CC). Facilitated by ASTMA and GMA chief executives Mark Unwin and Paul Vardy, the panel discussed a range of current industry issues, with staffing and labour one of the key topics.

Following on from that Jeff Blunden also discussed the results from the recent ASTMA Labour and Resourcing Survey conducted in the lead-up to the conference and some of the short-term strategies superintendents and turf managers can employ to combat current staff shortages. The conference was also the platform for the official launch of the ASTMA's Women in Turf Strategy. In front of a packed room, delegates heard from a range of leading female figures in the sports turf management industry as well as Dr Nikki Vincent (Victoria's Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner) and Tiffany Cherry, Head of Female Engagement at Golf Australia.

Local turf managers also featured prominently within the Golf and Sportsfield streams. Superintendent and VGCSA committee member Hayden Mead spoke to a full room regarding the present development of Kingston Heath's new par three course, while Blundstone Arena's Marcus Pamplin looked back on what was a hectic 12 months in Hobart which culminated in January's Ashes Test. Pamplin's presentation was nicely timed given that earlier in the week he was bestowed the ASTMA's Excellence in Sportsfields and Grounds Management Award at the National Turf Industry Awards dinner.

Former Oaks Cypress Lakes superintendent Craig Molloy, who in the weeks after the conference announced his move to Barwon Heads Golf Club in Victoria, teamed with PGA of Australia chief executive Gavin Kirkman and PGA tournament director Nick

Dastey to talk about The Players Series (TPS) concept. They discussed working with the respective clubs and superintendents to host these events before Molloy recounted the significant weather challenges faced when he and his team hosted the inaugural TPS Hunter Valley event earlier in the year.

Racing Victoria tracks and facilities manager James Cataldo and capital works manager Paul O'Callaghan also presented a session on their turf management works, strategies and projects. Racing Victoria is the governing body of thoroughbred horse racing in Victoria and with more than 550 race meets held in the state annually, with the state's many racetracks (both regional and metropolitan) needing to be at their best.

Bruce Macphee, John Neylan, Jarrod Hill and Peter Manning combined to provide a comprehensive four-hour workshop on all



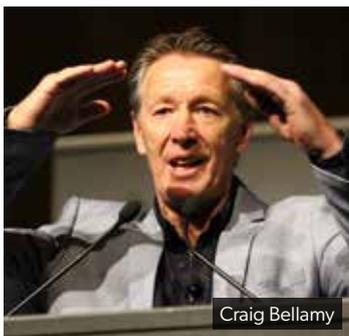
aspects of sports turf drainage. Together they broke down some of the key points involved in understanding, planning and managing drainage projects and the importance of getting the fundamentals correct to ensure a positive outcome. Other workshops held during the conference focused on leadership, management, communication as well as the ins and outs of managing assistants and 2ICs.

To conclude this year's conference, ASTMA and GMA delegates combined again to hear the remarkable story of another Paralympian Curtis McGrath who relayed his journey of resilience and determination after losing both his legs while serving for Australia in Afghanistan. Running concurrently through the week was the Technicians stream, with turf equipment technicians enjoying a mixed program that included a range of off-site visits as well as education sessions at the convention centre.

"From the volume of positive feedback we received, everyone shared the sentiment that it was an outstanding event," says ASTMA chief executive Mark Unwin. "With the huge volume of attendees across the event, it was a great opportunity to bring turf managers from all over the country and overseas to continue learning, networking and to share experiences with each other.

As one turf manager noted, the conference really is the flagship event for the industry and it's a great result to have a record number of attendees after a challenging and difficult few years for the industry. From an association perspective, the collaboration and discussions between the groups was exactly what we were hoping for and presents us the opportunity to continue building on this into the future."

At the conclusion of the Melbourne event it was announced that the 2023 conference will return to the Adelaide Convention Centre for the first time since 2011. The dates for next year's conference are Monday 19 June to Thursday 22 June, with the ASTMA currently working through feedback from this year's delegate survey to frame the planning around next year's event.



Craig Bellamy



Dr. Jessica Gallagher





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The Perfect Recipe Reaps Impressive Crowd For Queensland Garden Expo

With blue skies, speakers, plants and lawn in sight, all the right ingredients were in place when the Queensland Garden Expo took over the Nambour Showgrounds in July for Australia's largest sub-tropical gardening event.

History of the QLD Garden Expo

The Sunshine Coast Branch of the Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland Limited held the inaugural QLD Garden Expo 38 years ago, with the aim of providing the public with expert advice and information on a range of gardening subjects in an enjoyable and accessible format.

This first event, in 1985, was a one-day event with 30 exhibitors, 300 visitors, five workshops and a Plant Clinic. Guided by a dedicated group of volunteers the event quickly grew over the ensuing years to become the 3-day event it is today.

The Queensland Garden Expo provides a wonderful opportunity to learn more about all aspects of gardening and for those without a backyard, keeping indoor plants is catered for too. The benefits of having live plants in your home have long been known and in the past couple of years, indoor plants have boomed in popularity.

This year's Queensland Garden Expo was transformed into a gardener's paradise giving anyone who came through the gates access to a wealth of knowledge and experience from some of Australia's top gardening gurus.

From the diverse range of more than 40 speakers to experts from the 55 nurseries exhibiting practical tips and advice, the Expo provides a once-in-a-year experience for those looking to expand their knowledge as well as enhance their home





From left to right: Greg Pelka (Rosemount Turf), Jason Hodges (LSA Ambassador), Terry Daley (Daleys Turf), Pat Sadler (Daleys Turf)

garden. Visitors to the annual gardening event have access to the best gardening minds in the country — both through the extensive 3-day speaker program and by chatting directly to the people representing the many nurseries and growers exhibiting at the event.

Event Manager Marion Beazley said that listening to feedback from visitors as well as exhibitors every indication was that the event was a huge success.

“The queues at the gates on Friday morning indicated the appetite for this event and with more people turning to gardening than ever before over the course of the pandemic, the demand for plants, information and all things gardening is at an absolute premium,” Ms Beazley said.

“After the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to cancel in 2020, and restrictions created road barriers for some of our key speakers to attend last year’s event, we are delighted to be back in full swing for the first time since 2019,” Ms Beazley said.

“We know plant sales skyrocketed throughout the pandemic, resulting in an increase in people gardening, so we’re excited to see the number of new faces at year’s event.”

Turf on Display

Lawn Solutions Australia (LSA) together with LSA Ambassador Jason Hodges were delighted to be there. This year was a joint effort with LSA Members Rosemount Turf and Daleys Turf taking on the task of building a stand designed by Jason Hodges. The stand highlighted the LSA premium turf

varieties – Sir Walter DNA Certified which celebrated reaching 100 Million Square metres sold in Australia this year, TifTuf Hybrid Bermuda, the only grass in the world to have obtained the Smart Approved Water Mark and Sir Grange Zoysia the only certified and pure Zoysia Matrella turf variety in Australia.

The stand also promoted another grass under trial in Australia, soon to be made available for public release. This new grass is leading the way with independent trials showing strong results in winter colour, wear, shade and texture.

The weekend saw large crowd engagement and interest in the LSA grasses. Staff from Rosemount Turf and Daleys Turf assisted Jason Hodges with advice on what turf is best and in what situation. LSA was



extremely happy to be involved at the QLD Garden Expo, with a constant flow of enquires for lawn sales and advice since.

Landscape Display Garden

Another must-see in 2022 was the stunning landscape display garden, a collaborative effort by three Sunshine Coast landscapers, focusing on rainwater harvesting with a down-to-earth natural feel throughout. With specialists in water features, landscape and structural design, as well as bespoke timber furniture and structures coming together to design and create this vast display, the result was an installation with charming natural features and plenty of take-home ideas for visitors as they wandered throughout the display.

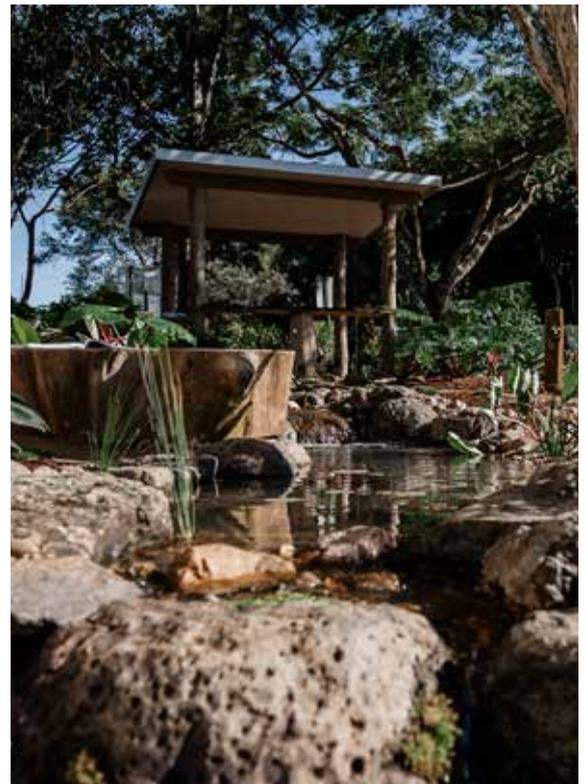
Organic Kitchen Garden

The Giant Organic Kitchen Garden with a fully planted sustainable garden at its centre, was also a hive of activity over the three days with thousands exploring the area looking for ways to make their own garden more sustainable. Permaculture experts were on hand over the three days with tips and tricks to making gardens more productive and advice on the many great products this space had on offer.

Another well-frequented feature at the event was the Plant Clinic where visitors can ask any question — from bringing in leaves or photos for identification, to getting free advice related to garden or indoor plants.

The Expo has continued to be a massive drawcard for tourism on the Sunshine Coast for the last week of the school holidays, with 65 percent of attendees arriving from outside of the region. With thousands flocking to the Sunshine Coast over the three days of the event the benefit to the region not only extends to those exhibiting at the event but far beyond the Nambour Showgrounds, including the accommodation providers, restaurants, local tourist attractions, retail and all the suppliers who support these businesses.

With tens of thousands of plants sold over the course of the weekend, combined with the high volume of tourists from out of town,



the Expo also provides a healthy injection into the local economy.

Gardening Speakers and Presenters

Those exhibiting at the Expo and presenting as part of Australia's largest gardening speaker program could not have been happier with the turnout, as the event welcomed back crowd favourite Costa Georgiadis as well as ABC Gardening Australia's Jerry Coleby-Williams, Claire Bickle, Sophie Thomson, Millie Ross and Phil Dudman.

"The Queensland Garden Expo is somewhat of a gardening reunion for our speakers and exhibitors as they all share a passion for gardening and love getting face-to-face

with the public and the end-users of their products," Ms Beazley said.

ABC Gardening Australia's Sophie Thomson comes back year after year and enjoys delving into the positive impacts gardening poses for the mind and body and detailing why she considers gardening food for the soul.

"Various studies have associated horticultural activities and garden settings with reduced stress levels, feelings of calm and relaxation, heightened levels of attention and self-esteem, and enhanced memory function," Ms Thomson said.

"You only have to wander out to your patch and take a few deep breaths to

feel the sense of calm and tranquillity that gardening brings."

Recent surveys show that gardening is always rated in the top three or four most favoured recreational activities and the growing number of attendees visiting the Expo year in and out indicates that gardening as a past time, as well as for sustainability, is still as relevant now as it was 38 years ago.

The Queensland Garden Expo is an annual event held every July. To find out more, please visit www.qldgardenexpo.com.au.



John Deere Precision for Gold Coast School

With around 10 hectares of sports playing fields across two campuses, The Southport School (TSS) on the Gold Coast is considered one of Queensland's premier sporting institutions.

The school boasts former students including US Masters Champion Adam Scott, former Wallabies captain Nathan Sharpe and AFL premierships winner Clark Keating, along with multiple Olympic and Commonwealth Games athletes.

However, while TSS students were performing over and above on-field, the equipment the school's turf managers were

using was struggling to keep up with the demands placed on the fields.

"A lot of our gear was ageing. Some of our mowers were 15-plus years old and on their last legs," TSS Head of Grounds, Nicholas Newman, said.

"We came up with a shopping list of the equipment we needed, and the school threw their support behind the team and said yes, we will do that.

"We got a John Deere 7700A PrecisionCut™ Fairway Mower which we just think is absolutely amazing. We've tried various

other brands, but we just really like everything about this machine.

"And the 4066R Tractor is an absolute powerhouse, eating up everything we have thrown at it."

"We are thrilled, especially with the load and carrying capacity of our John Deere Gator™, and we've also got a couple of ZTrak™ Zero-Turn mowers, the combination of which is allowing us to get through a lot more work with the power we now have. Plus, the equipment is just a lot better."



While excited to chat about each of his new purchases, Mr Newman is perhaps most animated when talking about the John Deere ProGator™ GPS PrecisionSprayer.

"This is going to be an amazing unit for us," he said.

With budget considerations around fertiliser and chemicals, he said the sprayer will not only save the school money, but also cut down on labour and time.

"The precision of the unit, in applying product, whatever it may be, is obviously just going to pay dividends for us in the long

run by reducing the overspray and missed spots you'd normally see with the old marking systems," he said.

"We'll also benefit from improved record-keeping capabilities, with the data that we are getting back from the unit allowing us to see how well it has actually sprayed and where we are still not quite hitting our desired application rates.

"We can then change what we are doing and work on our technique so that we can improve, which might be as simple as changing our spray application speed."

With around 1,500 students from pre-school to Year 12, the school's sporting facilities are high-traffic areas. Fields are in constant use right across the year, meaning maintenance time can be limited.

Mr Newman said the ProGator 2030A GPS PrecisionSprayer had also helped save his team time, which was vital when working under such tight windows to spray. This includes reducing the time spent spraying fields from two to three days, to covering the grounds in just one.

"The other thing we've found operating it is you don't get the same driver fatigue as

sitting behind a spray unit. You can just set it and then it's happy days.

"I don't see it replacing anybody in terms of labour, but it's allowing us to get the job done more efficiently and then move on to the next thing.

"It's creating more time for us, which allows us to get a lot of other things done with a limited amount of resources."

With a year-round sporting program that takes in rugby, cricket and soccer, Mr Newman is confident he now has the right tools at his disposal to ensure the next generation of athletes will play on some of the best facilities in the region.

Article courtesy of The Approach, John Deere Limited, August 2022.

Product in focus: GPS ProGator

John Deere's new ProGator™ 2030A GPS is set to revolutionise spraying in turf applications, thanks to Deere's AutoTrac™ Guidance system; greater accuracy via individual nozzle control, and the proven StarFire™ GPS receiver giving turf managers greater than ever confidence around spray application.

Technology to the Fore

Arguably the most exciting element of the GPS ProGator is the ProGator™ Global Positioning System (GPS) and its integration with key machine functions including rate control, individual nozzle control, field documentation and hands-free guidance.

We spoke with Chris Bond from RDO Equipment's VNET Precision Agriculture team, who see great opportunities for grounds managers around productivity, input costs and operator comfort efficiency.

Autotrak™ Guidance

AutoTrac assisted steering system greatly increases operator productivity by maintaining consistent accuracy and efficiency. Operators remain more alert while they are in the field and are able to focus on implement settings and varying field conditions. "AutoTrac also allows operators to confidently create evenly spaced rows past sunset, as well as in rain, dust, or fog." says Chris.

"AutoTrac allows the machine operator to select from a variety of guidance modes including straight track, AB curves, adaptive curves, circle track, boundary fill, machine access, and swap track. These tracking options allow the operator to select the track best suited for the field and conditions reducing the number of passes needed to cover the field."

Greenstar Rate Controller

The GreenStar Rate Controller allows the GreenStar Generation 4 4640 Universal Display to integrate with the ProGator sprayer to accomplish automatic rate control, field documentation, and map-based prescriptions.

Section Control

John Deere Section Control, which is available via activation, turns on and off individual nozzles and/or the sprayer's three boom sections based on global positioning system (GPS) and field coverage to help reduce overlap in headland and oddly shaped areas.

"Section Control offers far great control of coverage, with benefits realised around input costs, operator fatigue and land stewardship" said Chris.

JD Link Telematics

The JDLink modem and connection allows machine and field data to flow automatically to the John Deere Operations Center™ application, in turn making it visible and useful to ground management teams.



Like to learn more on how John Deere and the RDO Equipment VNET team could help boost the effectiveness of your operation? Contact **Chris Bond** at chris.bond@rdo.com.au or on **0409 626 232** to discuss the unique needs of your operation.

To learn more about Deere's range of Golf and Commercial Turf care equipment contact **Joshua Morris**, Golf and Turf Specialist at RDO Equipment Australia at joshua.morris@rdo.com.au or on **0419 618 872**.

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Landscaping the Garden City of Singapore

BY ADAM MORTIMER, TEHC INTERNATIONAL

In 1967, then Singapore Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew stated his vision of Singapore as a garden city. The city would be full of lush greenery and a clean environment for the citizens to enjoy and an attractive country for tourists and foreign investments.

50 years on from this early vision, Singapore is known for being a global financial centre and a gateway where the east meets the west. It is one of the most densely populated countries on earth with a world-renowned airport transiting passengers around the globe. It has also been described as a 'City within a garden'.

The 'City within a garden' mantra is fully visible before even leaving Changi Airport with manicured landscape displays within the terminals capped off with the critically acclaimed Jewel Changi Airport. The Jewel is a multi-dimension destination housing retail, restaurants, and the world's largest indoor waterfall known as the rain vortex surrounded by six stories of stunning greenery.

TEHC International is one of Singapore's oldest and largest landscaping companies with a proud history of 40 years of transforming landscapes in Singapore.

TEHC International PTE LTD is one of Singapore's premier landscape contractors and is responsible for the implementation and maintenance of the Jewel Changi



Airport. The scope of the project was quite intimidating with a vision of what's typically found outdoors in a natural setting and recreated in an enclosed indoor environment. Covering 21,000sqm, 2000 trees including palm trees, 100,000 shrubs comprising 120 different species originating from countries including Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, China, Spain and the USA. All of the plants had to be imported to an off-site nursery in Singapore and acclimatized for a duration of two years before being planted into the Jewel project under TEHC's watchful eye.

Mr Dick Toh, Managing Director of TEHC International and eldest son of company founder Mr Toh Eng Hock, has been at the helm of the company since 1990 and is credited for taking the small family-run business that started in 1971, to one of Singapore's most trusted partners consistently delivering the highest quality workmanship on often difficult projects that most people would shy away from.

TEHC's contribution to the Singapore landscape is very much on public display at the Jewel at Changi Airport, or his work at the National Stadium maintaining the



Zeon Zoysia lay and play pitch and the construction work on the golf courses hosting international events, to highlight a few. Mr Toh often jokes it is his 'national service' to be involved with some of Singapore's most iconic venues.

1999 TEHC got their first golf course renovation project at the highly acclaimed Sentosa Golf Club, Serapong Course. The flow-on effect from this first project has been significant with at least 15 major golf course renovation projects completed within Singapore and completed projects in Taiwan, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Over the last 20 years, the turf industry has evolved and the demands of golfers and clients continue to grow. Most notably the development of new grass varieties has been something we have witnessed first-hand. In the early 2000s, there was a surge in golf courses using paspalum sp. For greens, tees and fairways. That trend is slowly starting to decline as more Zoysia grasses are released onto the market and are more suited to our tropical climate. Our most recent renovation project on the 27-hole layout of The New Course at Singapore Island Country Club, designed by Graham Marsh, was planted with 'Zeon Zoysia' for tees, fairways and

rough and 'Primo' Zoysia for the greens surfaces, being a first for Singapore.

Singapore is located close to the equator with an average yearly rainfall of 2,200mm. The rainfall combined with the heat and humidity and low-level sunlight makes growing high-quality fine turfgrasses a challenge. We have found with the new Zoysia grasses they are more adaptable to low-level light conditions and more resistant to major disease and insect outbreaks while maintaining an attractive green colour. Having a more resilient turf enables us to produce higher quality playing



surfaces more consistently throughout the unpredictable weather patterns with reduced inputs.

TEHC has approximately 400 staff with around 130 of them dedicated to the turf maintenance division servicing three golf course maintenance projects, the National Stadium pitch and small production turf farms. We pride ourselves on having a modern greenkeeping approach to our turf maintenance. We have internally implemented a surface data performance

template that we use for all our playing surfaces. Collecting hardness, moisture %, NDVI values, green speed and visual characteristics data sets we can create bespoke maintenance programs for our clients and ensure we are maintaining certain standards. All three courses are using different grasses, paspalum 'Sea Isle 2000', 'TifEagle' Bermuda and 'Primo' Zoysia that all require different maintenance that the performance data collection process can guide our Superintendents on the decision-

making process to produce the desired playing surfaces.

Mr Toh freely admits that he needs to be a pioneer in order to create some of the visions clients have so they can become a reality. It takes some out-of-the-box thinking to make things happen. You take the Jewel project where we imported 600-year-old olive trees from Spain. Acclimatize in a controlled environment for two years then hoist them six stories in a massive dome to the final positioning within a landscape and



expect the tree to grow happily. There is no textbook that will tell you how to do it.

It is the same for the National Stadium, where we transport approximately 650 rolls of 'Zeon' Zoysia turf from the nursery location. We roll them out into the dome of the stadium where we need them seamless, matching colour and growth within a two-week period to host major sporting events. Post-event we roll them back up and send them back to the nursery location to prepare again for the next usage. Mr Toh explains that

what we do may be a little unconventional, but we have to make use of as much technology and forward-thinking as possible to deliver the final visions of our clients.

Over the years TEHC has strategically aligned itself with several subsidiary companies with distributorship rights for Singapore including leading products such as John Deere, Syngenta, Floratine and Hunter Irrigation. On the landscape side, we have specific subsidiaries that cater for everything from the design phases all the

way to implementation and maintenance. We also have a fully equipped sand plant importing and producing specific sand or soil mixes to cater for all our projects. With this group of subsidiary companies, we can access the latest technological advancements in each specific industry and be a one-stop solution for our clients on even the most challenging projects.

TEHC International can be contacted at info@tehcgp.com



Sir Grange Shines in Public Spaces

OAK FLATS NSW ROUNDABOUT

Large roundabouts are a consistent hassle for council maintenance teams to manage. With any plants or grass, there is regular upkeep required for the space to be presentable as well as keeping them safe for the community and traffic.

Shellharbour City Council was looking for alternative options for reducing the maintenance requirements of an existing high-traffic roundabout in the town of Oak Flats. The roundabout is centred right next to the local train station, the police station, and numerous businesses, so it is an important part of the community's infrastructure.

The roundabout previously had garden beds that required regular site visits for maintenance, around 10 times a year. When works were undertaken it required four traffic controllers at \$200 per hour to manage the logistics of undertaking the

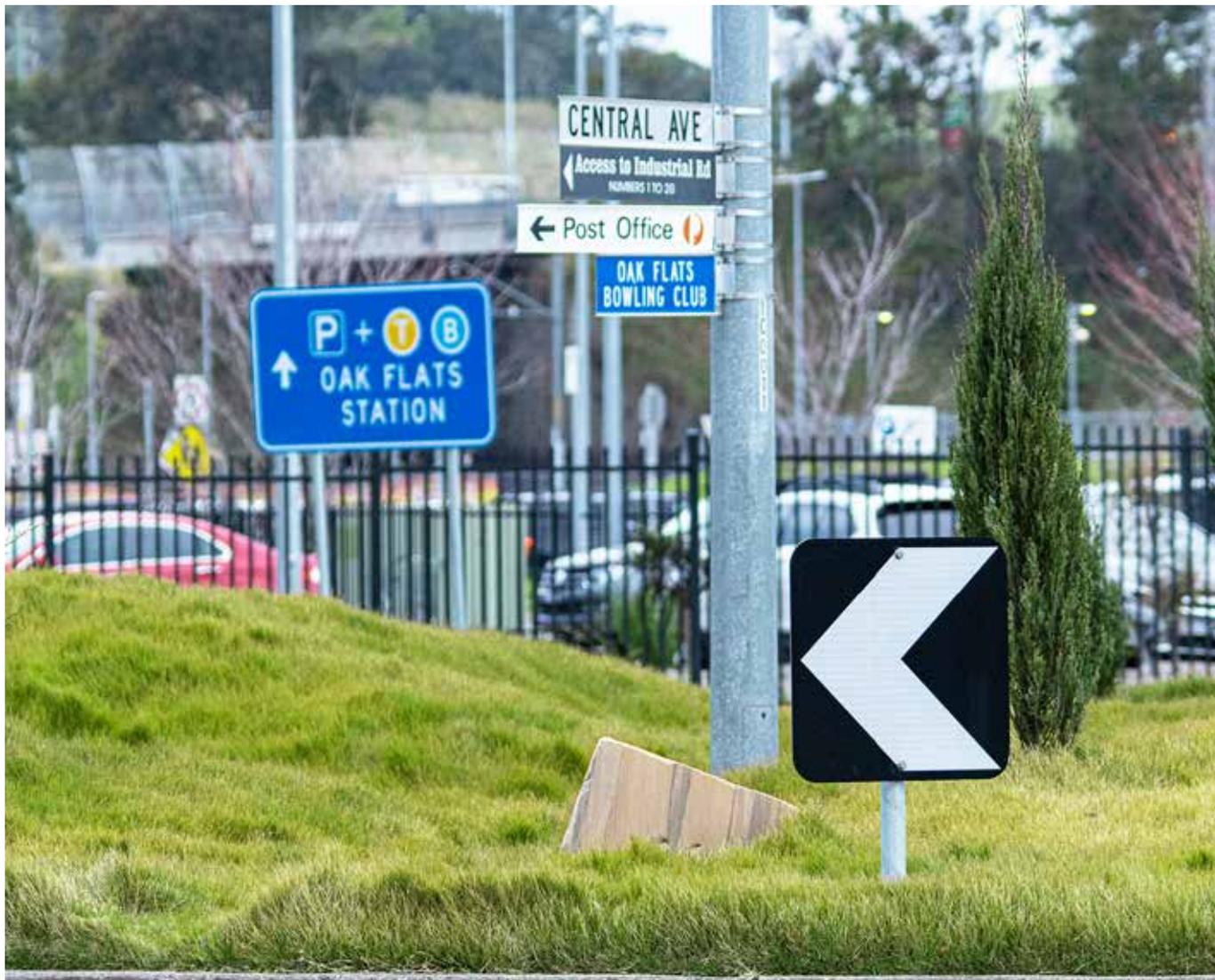
maintenance while continuing traffic flow. Closing off the streets and diversions or detours were simply not an option due to the importance of the roundabout for nearby services.

Turf Selection

Council maintenance employees were invited to an open day at local turf business Turfco where they were educated on the different grass varieties available, and the research and development that goes into their release by Lawn Solutions Australia. It was during this open day that Council representatives were introduced to a relatively new grass variety called Sir Grange Zoysia.

After learning about Sir Grange Zoysia with its low input requirements and the benefits of being able to leave the grass left unmowed, Council decided it was the solution they had been looking for.





The Project

This initiated a new design and project plan to upgrade the roundabout. Community consultation as to the appearance of the roundabout was also an important factor. The roundabout is a very prominent one with locals travelling past it in many cases several times a day. So, it needed to be more than 'just another roundabout' and needed to reflect the environment and the community it represents. Locals were keen to see something green that didn't involve simply concreting it over.

After much consultation, the concept was for the roundabout to become a living art piece, with pencil pines a reference to an avenue nearby and the grass mounds to the coastal headlands.

The roundabout has now been solid turfed with Sir Grange Zoysia supplied by Turfco and the result is outstanding. Council installed underground irrigation to ensure the grass was able to be watered without the need for traffic control to do so, with a sand base installed to ensure the specific preparation requirements of the grass were provided to ensure its success.

The Result

Since installation, Council has only needed to undertake six hours of maintenance over approximately 15 months, with no traffic control measures required. With this time being spent primarily just picking up rubbish that has blown in as Sir Grange has not required mowing, not once. Fortunately, with Sir Grange, any rubbish and debris tend to sit on top of the grass without getting buried, making the clean-up process easy.

Council is extremely happy with the result. They no longer need traffic control at the roundabout when maintenance is carried out. Council is so impressed with how Sir Grange is going they are looking at another two roundabouts in Oak Flats, along with other areas with similar conditions.

"With reduced risk and maintenance costs, what's not to like!"

Council has received incredibly positive feedback from the local community since completion, with many locals commenting on how cool it looks and requesting that more roundabouts in the area be completed with Sir Grange as well.



The Australian Racecourse Managers Association

Professor Chris Whitton (University of Melbourne) presenting on Preventing Racehorse Injuries

The year is 1996 and several thoroughbred Racecourse Managers from across Australia assemble at the Rosehill racecourse in Sydney under the guise of a Conference with the objective to work together to improve track management practices and efficiencies. It's a successful event and quickly becomes an annual occurrence.

ARMA is Founded

The Racecourse Managers in August of 2004 travelled across the Bass Strait for the Racecourse Managers Conference to be held at the Mowbray Racecourse (Tasmania Turf Club) where it was agreed the group be formalised and the Australian Racecourse Managers Association (ARMA) is born.

Delegates of the Conference unanimously supported the proposal as an important milestone in the industry quest for improvements in race and training track construction, management, and presentation of racecourses, to promote and advance best practice, facilitate research and development, and represent racecourse managers, as required, on racing industry matters.

ARMA thrives under the formalisation and extends invitations to their colleagues in New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Africa and the United Kingdom, with New Zealand (2017) and Singapore (2013) becoming future destinations for the newly labelled "Australian Racecourse Managers Association Conference".

The ARMA Conference

The ARMA Conference has become such an important event in the Australian racing calendar where Racecourse Managers, representatives of the different State's governing bodies and industry suppliers gather to discuss important industry issues, trends, practices and innovation as well as to highlight support networks.

So, the blight of COVID-19 and the corresponding impacts of the pandemic not only forced the cancellation of the Conference for two years, but also increased the strain and stress imposed on Racecourse Managers across both Australia and New Zealand as they worked within reduced budgets, staffing levels and strict protocols to ensure that the thoroughbred racing industry could continue to keep the industry going and everyone associated employed.



Jason Petch, founder of Behind The Barriers



All delegates in front of the Winning Post of Royal Randwick

Such was the struggle; it became never more important for a Conference to be held.

The 2022 ARMA Conference was finally held from 18-20 August and hosted by the Australian Turf Club at Royal Randwick Racecourse. Beginning on Thursday 18 August, over 160 delegates and sponsors attended each day of the Presentations & Trade Shows with delegates flying in from every state of Australia, a strong contingent from New Zealand, with some even travelling from the United Kingdom to partake.

ARMA Chairman Lindsay Murphy was delighted with the event that saw a record number of delegates in attendance and a record number of partners. "We are extremely grateful to all our Members who not only made the trip to attend the Conference but contributed throughout all the facets of the event. After three long years of cancellations and postponements, it was a huge thrill to have all our ARMA Members together again.

The support from our 33 partners has been overwhelming as the show doesn't happen without them, it's that simple. A special thank

you to Jackie Hanslo and the Polvin Fencing Systems team for their support as the naming rights sponsor of our event.

We would like to thank Michael Wood and the ATC (Australian Turf Club) for hosting the Conference. The new facilities of the Winx Stand are amazing, and the event and catering staff and service were all tremendous.

We would also like to thank all those that presented at the Conference, with many of them flying into Sydney just to present for the betterment of our Delegates. We worked hard to provide a range of highly qualified speakers to present across a range of topics and we hope that all our Members are going back to their Clubs after the Conference, armed with new ideas and information to help them succeed in their roles.

Topics that were covered throughout the Conference included;

- Using drones for racecourse aerial surveying and analysis

- The impact of climate change on turf management practises
- Major industry project updates of the construction of the Caulfield Inner Track as well as the Gold Coast Turf Club Master Plan
- Recognising and addressing mental health
- The important role Racecourse Managers play in the media
- Advantages of foliar feeding
- Leadership discipline, culture and tackling conflict
- Preventing racehorse injuries with Professor Chris Whitton
- How UK Racing navigated through Covid-19 and TurfTrax future developments
- The impact and management of recent NSW floods on the turf industry

Jason Petch, an ex-horse trainer and founder of Behind The Barriers presented on day one



TurfTrax's Mike Maher demonstrating the Going Stick that is used to rate tracks



Champion Jockey Hugh Bowman with Richie Callander



of the Conference about the importance of recognizing and addressing your mental health. Behind The Barriers is an industry-focused mental health support service which Jason explained before announcing that the organisation has generously opened their service to now include all Racecourse Managers. Behind The Barriers provides free, immediate and confidential support to Racing industry participants and immediate family members suffering mental health issues due to the demands of the industry.

2022 Toro Industry Services Award

One of the highlights of any ARMA Conference Dinner is the announcement of award winners and the 2022 renewal was no different. In front

of more than 180 guests in the Winx Stand of Royal Randwick, it was Sheldon Simmonds from Toro Australia who announced that the winner of the 2022 Toro Industry Services Award was Warren Williams (Racing Queensland) to an eruption of applause.

“Warren’s contribution to the Industry has already spanned almost 40 years so it was such an honour to be able to present this award. He is such a worthy winner” Sheldon explained post announcement.

ARMA Chairman Lindsay Murphy was quick to heap praise on to Warren; “ARMA is so thrilled that Warren’s tireless and continued contribution to the racing industry, which includes his important work

with our Association, could be formally recognized tonight in front of his peers and friends.”

Warren Williams was overwhelmed by the announcement. *“This was so unexpected. I’ve always thought it was important for ARMA Members to have an annual gathering to better the management of racecourses and for this Conference to still be thriving in 2022 since beginning in 1996 is something I am quite proud of. It’s almost been 40 years since I first started at Moonee Valley and I’m so grateful for all the support I’ve had along the way, with a lot of those people in the room here tonight.”*

Anco Turf VRC Carnival Experience

Anco Turf proudly again offered the Anco Turf VRC Carnival Experience which is



2022 Polvin Fencing ARMA Conference was held in the new Winx Stand at Royal Randwick

open to young and enthusiastic racecourse employees to work alongside Liam O’Keeffe, Racecourse Manager of Victoria Racing Club (VRC) during the 2022 Melbourne Cup Carnival at Flemington. Anco Turf’s Projects and Commercial Sales Manager Tim Elligate announced that given the missed opportunities through the COVID pandemic, Anco Turf, in conjunction with the Victoria Racing Club were awarding two winners in 2022. Tim announced the winners were Scott MacKinnon from the Sunshine Coast Turf Club (QLD) and Wayne Tucker from the Bendigo Jockey Club (Vic). Both award winners qualified for the award as full-time employees of an Australian Racetrack and work on the track. ARMA encouraged Clubs to enter a staff member for the award as the winner

will be provided with a unique opportunity to work within the biggest horse racing event in the Southern Hemisphere.

Another highlight of the Conference was the guest speakers during Thursday night’s Conference Dinner, with Richie Callander interviewing jockey Hugh Bowman, aptly held in the Winx Stand. Hugh provided some amazing insights into riding the four-time Cox Plate winner and what his own future holds, while Richie’s comedic efforts were enjoyed by the crowd as always. Many thanks to Evergreen Turf for organising both Richie and Hugh to attend.

The 2022 Polvin Fencing ARMA Conference concluded on Saturday when all in attendance

at the Group 1 Winx Stakes Race Meeting were treated to a magnificent day of high-quality racing and hospitality at Royal Randwick, with Anamoe the star of the show as he dominated the Group 1 Winx Stakes for a successful start to what looks like another epic Spring Carnival preparation.

The ARMA Conference Organising Committee are now working hard behind the scenes to finalise the host Club, date, and a range of other details for the 2023 ARMA Conference.

To ensure that you don’t miss out on your place in 2023, please register your interest – www.racecoursemanagers.com.au/2023-conference



Future focus through Hort Innovation's Hort Frontiers initiative

The grower-owned research and development corporation for Australian horticulture, Hort Innovation, is charged with investing industry levies into initiatives that will help growers meet current and future challenges. Separately, it also partners with research organisations, government agencies and other enterprises to roll out projects through its dedicated Hort Frontiers strategic partnership initiative. Hort Frontiers has a focus on longer-term, cross-industry investments focused on complex areas critical for the future of the horticulture sector.

Greener cities, healthier lives

Hort Innovation is working with the University of Wollongong to compile the first systemic evidence on the health benefits of green space on people, from birth to older age. It will provide industry and policy makers with evidence-based research on the minimum

threshold of local green space necessary for favourable health and societal outcomes through an investigation into five key research questions:

1. Does a greener neighbourhood buffer the harms of air pollution to promote better pregnancy health outcomes and give children in urban areas a healthier start in life?
2. Do adults in greener areas stay mentally healthy, keep slim and physically active over time, resulting in a lower risk of developing certain cancers and cardio-metabolic diseases such as type 2 diabetes?
3. Do adults living in greener neighbourhoods visit general practitioners less, take fewer medications, stay out of hospital for longer and use fewer health sector dollars as a consequence?

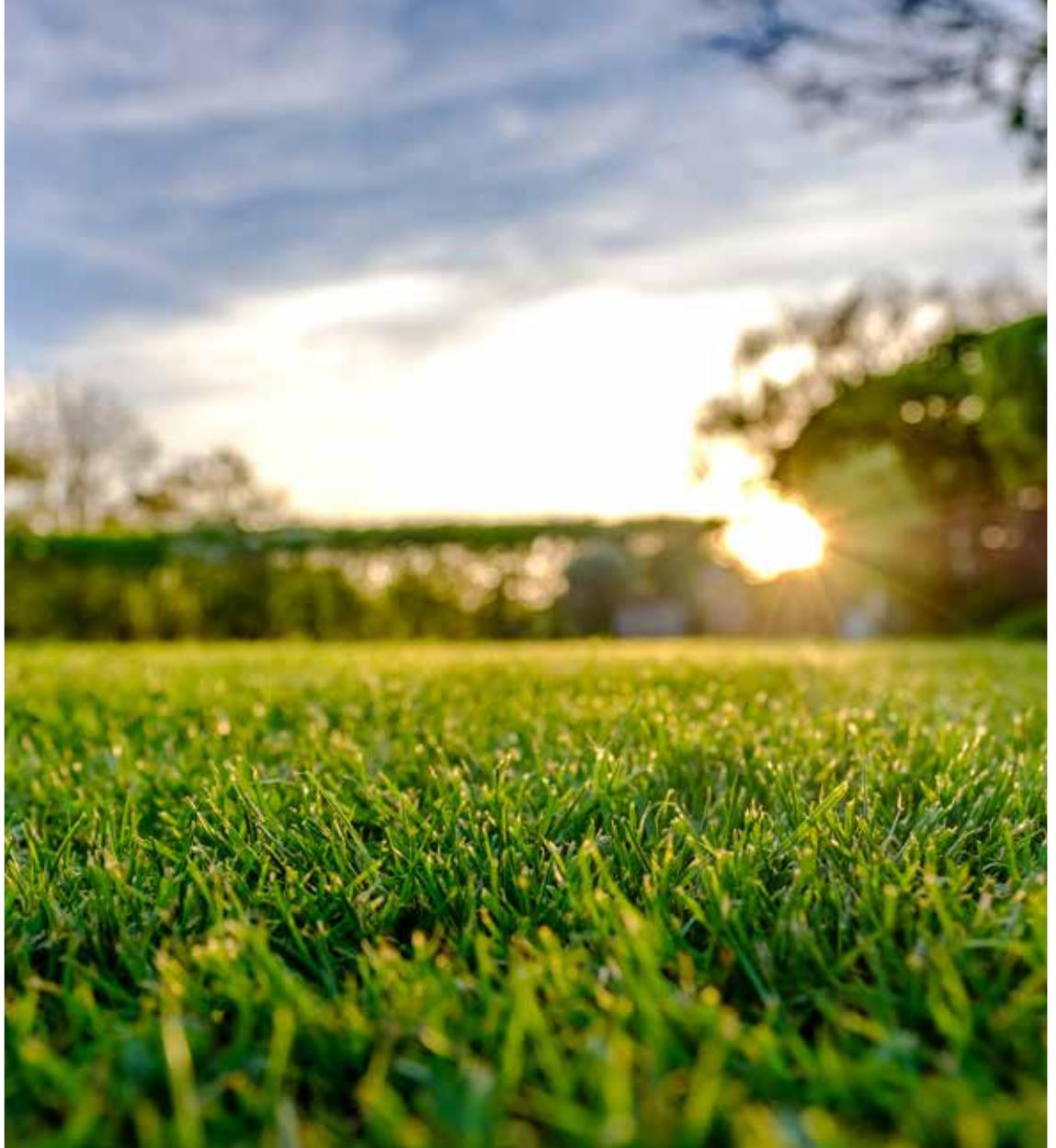
4. Does more green space translate into better educational outcomes because children are healthier and have spaces to grow socially, interact and be physically active?

5. What types or features of green spaces are preferred by older adults, how do these preferences vary between social and cultural groups, and how do they manifest in terms of outdoor recreation?

A report with the project's findings will soon be made available.

Novel microbiome technologies to increase profitability for Australian horticulture

This project aims to unlock a new source of productivity for Australian horticulture and agribusiness sectors, and to future-proof their economic and technological growth. The outputs



of the proposed investment include new products and technologies for sustainable farming.

The project aims to unlock a new source of productivity for Australian horticulture and agribusiness sectors. Key objectives include:

- Providing novel, integrated crop-microbiome based products and tools to transform that improve crop resource-use efficiency, increase resistance to disease and drought.
- Developing cutting-edge microbial, biochemical and plant products for transformational changes in productivity for key horticulture sectors.
- Expanding market accessibility through increased quality and safety via reduced use of agrochemicals.

- Maximising commercialisation and adoption outputs by implementing a co-ordinated commercialisation approach involving all key stakeholders.
- Improving the research and industrial capabilities within the Australian horticulture sectors using bio-based technologies.

Would you like to be involved in trying new technology on your farm?

Hort Innovation is encouraging fruit, vegetable, nut, nursery and turf growers who would like to see a technology demonstrated on-farm to reach out to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland (DAFQ).

The Hort Frontiers investment is transforming the DAFQ research facility at Gatton into a 'Smart Farm' that can be used to showcase technology to the national horticulture

sector. The Smart Farm provides growers with the opportunity to interact with ag-tech innovations in a real world environment and to better understand the costs and benefits of technology adoption.

The Smart Farm will provide multiple sites (research and community farms) for technology providers to showcase the potential of their technology in real world environments, with industry providing feedback and direction on its development.

Head to daf.qld.gov.au/agtech/be-inspired/smart-farms for more information.

Find out more

Visit the Hort Innovation website at www.horticulture.com.au/hort-frontiers for more information.



All Things Turf in the City of Wanneroo

The City of Wanneroo is in metropolitan Perth's northern corridor around 12km from the CBD at its southern boundary and 64km from its northern boundary. It is one of the fastest growing local government areas in Western Australia with a diverse mix of industrial, residential and rural land uses. The City was home to 216,162 residents in 2021 and has a population forecast of 285,013 by 2031.

The City manages over 600 public open spaces totalling over 2,650 hectares, 47 active sports facilities, two 18-hole golf courses, along with over 680 hectares of conservation reserves and foreshore areas.

Active sports facilities cater for a range of sports including AFL, soccer, rugby union, hockey, cricket, athletics, softball and baseball. The facilities include the Kingsway regional Open Space which has over 22 hectares of sports surfaces, several district open spaces and other standalone grounds.

Whilst providing facilities for local sports, the City has hosted a number of state and national sporting fixtures including Western Australian Football League (WAFL) matches and National W Rugby Fixtures.

Ground availability, usage and water availability are the biggest challenges in maintaining the City's public open spaces. The City has a total groundwater allocation of 4,300,000 kilolitres that is allocated under licence by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DoWER) through nine individual groundwater licences. Irrigation Management is delivered through the City's Irrigation Efficiency Program. The key goal of the program is to ensure that the City's current irrigation practices, design specifications and policies allow for the reduction in overall groundwater use. This is based on the need to use water more efficiently through better irrigation management to allow the City to continue to

comply with DoWER bore water allocations whilst providing quality parks, golf courses and streetscapes for the community.

The program is funded through the City's annual Capital Works Program. Under the program, the City spends an average of \$1.4M annually on irrigation upgrades, improvements and renewals in the following areas which complement each other:

- Irrigation system renewals – (based on hydro zoning principles)
- Bore and pump replacements
- Flow metre installations
- Cabinet and controller replacements
- System component upgrades

All irrigation scheduling is based on moisture evapotranspiration (ET) from plants on specific sites to ensure that only moisture that is lost



to the plant through evaporation is replaced. The weather stations and ET sensors calculate (ET) for individual microclimates to fit the exact landscape requirements.

As a rapidly growing growth council, the City has worked extensively with the Water Corporation and DoWER to ensure that groundwater is made available for the provision of public open space to support growing communities. The City of Wanneroo and DoWER have developed a strategy for the use of groundwater in Perth's Northwest Corridor.

It ensures water the government has set aside for this public open space is shared equitably among the communities. It supports water-sensitive urban designed communities that minimise water use on non-active open space areas such as verges and streetscapes and maximise water use on active turf areas needed for sport and recreation.

The demand for sports fields due to a rapidly growing population is a constant challenge that results in some soccer and AFL facilities receiving over 35 hours of combined training and match use per week. The popularity of women's AFL has put additional pressure on ground availability and use in recent years. Whilst the installation and upgrades to existing floodlights have eased the availability issue, this has, in turn, increased usage hours resulting in additional pressure on the turf.

The use of pesticides and in particular glyphosate, continue to be a challenge across the local government sector. The City is committed to reducing its overall pesticide footprint through its Integrated Pest Management Program incorporating both chemical and non-chemical control measures for general non-selective weed control.

Kikuyu is the main turf species across the City's passive and active parks. Over sowing with Striker Regenerator Rye is undertaken in autumn each year to 45 hectares of active sports surfaces to aid in wear and ensure surface quality during the winter season. Extensive reurfing is also undertaken throughout the winter season utilising jumbo turf rolls to ensure turf surface quality with no disruption to play.

West Coast Turf over sow 3000m² of kikuyu with Striker Regenerator at their turf farm for the City's use annually to ensure consistency of replacement turf. The practice of replacing damaged turf with jumbo rolls in recent years has resulted in quality improvements to sports surfaces and an overall reduction in turf replacement each year.

A comprehensive turf renovation program is also in place incorporating regular aeration,



An irrigation injection dosing unit at Scenic Park, Wanneroo



Splendid Park, Yanchep



Pre-emergent herbicide trial with treatments applied pre-mulching, post-mulching and to no mulch plots



National Tree Day Community Event 2022

top dressing, and thatch removal to active surfaces with nutrient applications based on soil and tissue samples throughout the year. With summer and winter seasons going longer each year, the traditional two-week window at the end of each season to undertake turf renovations is almost non-existent. This has resulted in the need to adjust turf management practices to undertake work during sports seasons whilst still providing high-quality surfaces for community use.

Whilst soil profiles are sand based, the age of facilities across the City differs drastically resulting in a number of challenges with heavy organic soils in older suburbs and very poor structured soils in the northern coastal corridor with high amounts of limestone. The use of soil amendments and wetting agents have been critical in managing these diverse soil profiles.

As part of the City's Vision to have a healthy and sustainably built environment; 3,500 additional trees and 20,000 tube stock native plants are planted annually in parks, streetscapes and conservation areas. Community engagement and participation in these works are key to their success with a number of community activities and education events throughout the year. These include planting events, bush care days and education days to connect with our community in the overall management of trees and natural areas.

The City's Vision of 'A welcome community, connected through local opportunities' is bright with an increasing population and key infrastructure projects including the rail extension to Yanchep and Mitchell Freeway to Romeo Road underway. The provision of quality public open space and management of natural environment assets is key to building on this are aligned to our Purpose 'to create a strong community with local opportunities to participate, be active, feel secure, contribute and belong'.

The smart *play*



Tetrino[®]

Introducing Tetrino, a new insect control solution from Bayer, offering an unmatched combination of performance, ease of use and efficiency. Delivering fast control and lasting protection against a broad-spectrum of turf insect pests with a low rate of active ingredient, Tetrino is **the smart play** for flexible and sustainable insect control.

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The New Era of Green Spaces

The pandemic has brought a lot of disruption to the Australian way of life. This includes disruption to the workplace as we know it, specifically around employee expectations and considerations on what the ideal working environment should look like.

The new normal is dictating new, higher standards and expectations. Workplace design, environment and comfort is increasingly impacting companies' brand image. Employees, many of whom have worked from home for extended periods of time, now have an expectation for a workplace to be vibrant, green, healthy and thriving, in turn inspiring and motivational.

The aesthetics and quality of business premises now impacts various areas; brand image, retaining and attracting staff, competing with working from home, sustainability and much more. The adaptation of these emerging trends is becoming crucial in enabling them to keep up with the continuing evolution of the new environment and increased competitiveness in the market.

Current and potential employees have a stronger voice and more choice of role movement than ever before. This is just one area that is driving the rapid shift to

implementing strategies that focus on retaining staff and putting best foot forward in acquiring new talent.

How this is driving business decisions

Investing in and going above and beyond to introduce a variety of unique solutions that elevate the space by incorporating innovative ideas and in turn align and promote the brand and its values is becoming an increased area of focus for Australian businesses.

Focusing on creating that homely feel offering comfort that competes with working from home culture can entice and encourage staff to return to the office environment.

How are companies remaining competitive?

Creating amazing, vibrant and green indoors that stand out!

Captivating green entries and foyers that create a lasting first impression: through to large floor standing container solutions and oversized green walls that provide colour variation and depth, emphasised by bringing various plant species together, creating a specific design.

Unique, inspiring collaborative spaces that promote creativity: through vibrant trailing





plant species that cascade around the space and create a perfect green abode.

Inviting, warm and homely shared spaces: achieved with various techniques such as the use of textured container solutions and most popular plant species such as Kentia Palm, Fiddle Leaf Fig and Birds of Paradise, frequently used in home design.

Quirky designs and features that demand attention: hanging platforms with trailing plants that become the hero in the space and add the 'wow' factor. The charm is in thinking outside the norm and designing a functional space that aligns with the vision.

The new era of Indoor plantscaping

Indoor plantscaping has evolved, it is no longer a plant in a pot as a nice to have addition, but rather it has become an important feature that tells a story, improves brand image, creates opportunities such as Employer of Choice goals, focuses on sustainability and so much more.

The Power of nature

We are drawn to nature, we respond differently when surrounded by the green and vibrant environments. Numerous research studies have shown the multiple benefits nature provides to the indoors, through

creating healthier spaces that promote wellbeing. Directly positively impacting us as a result of that strong bond and innate need to connect to nature.

A recent University of Technology Sydney research study examined various areas of how indoor plants benefit people in the indoors as well as the effects these have on businesses. The findings showed an array of benefits, specifically a significant improvement in people's health and wellbeing in spaces with indoor plants. This also being the foundations of the benefits for the employers and businesses.

Health benefits and how it works:

Through the process of photosynthesis indoor plants absorb indoor nasties such as Volatile Organic Compounds (known as VOC's - chemicals and toxins commonly found in the indoors originating from outdoor pollution, indoor items emitting these and processes), as well as carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. These nasties are effectively absorbed through the leaves of the plant, they travel to the root where they are broken down and Oxygen is released back into the indoor air. This in turn being nature's way of filtrating the indoor air.

Science shows that as a result of this, specifically improved indoor air quality, we

feel and respond better. Indoors with plants have shown:

- Increased productivity and creativity
- Improved office relationships
- Anxiety and negative mood feelings reduction of over 40%, and much more

What this means for the business:

Clearly happier, healthier and more productive staff is a win in itself. However the same study also showed the benefits of plants in relation to the perception of the brand image. Companies with greenery and plants are viewed as:

- Trustworthy
- Warm and welcoming
- Stable and well run
- Patient and caring
- Concerned for staff wellbeing
- Spend time on adding calmness and beauty in their indoor space
- Provide an overall healthier and cleaner indoor atmosphere



Creating amazing indoors with indoor plantscaping

Ambius Australia, is Australia's leading interior plantscaping partner, specializing in the supply and installation of a large portfolio of quality indoor plants, complemented with a range of contemporary container solutions, a selection of green walls suited to spaces of all sizes and budgets, as well as custom/bespoke solutions.

Working with clients across industries, we are certainly seeing these trends and the need for innovative indoors, all with the same focus even though the strategies may differ.

The leading brands in banking feature amazing installations that are fresh and inviting, and the same applies across most other large sectors. From large scale projects to smaller indoors, employee focused to customer facing spaces.

As a result of the ever changing environment and specific design needs Ambius is continually evolving in our portfolio offering. Our goal and passion is delivering amazing indoors that enable businesses to create and deliver thriving spaces that ooze charm, impress and promote health and wellbeing.

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Improved performance through patented technology

- Unmatched post emergent control of Summer grass and clover in turf
- Unique soluble liquid formulation which improves leaf penetration, efficacy and rainfastness
- Drive XL offers superior flexibility in its ability to be mixed with pre and post emergent products to increase the spectrum of control
- Rapid rain fast technology in as little as 30 minutes



Contact your local **Nuturf Territory Manager** to place an order or learn more about Drive XL Herbicide at turf-solutions.basf.com.au

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BASF
We create chemistry



The Greatest Selling Grass of All Time

100 MILLION METRES OF SIR WALTER SOLD

Sir Walter Buffalo today is an iconic 'Aussie' brand and is undoubtedly the most successful turf variety in Australian history.

Did you know Sir Walter has reached a sales milestone in the Australian turf industry? Sir Walter has passed the 100 million metres sold mark, an achievement no other buffalo grass or grass has ever achieved!

To put this into perspective, if you laid this much Sir Walter in a line it would be able to cover the entire circumference of the moon almost 10 times over. Or

in terms of Australia, it would be like driving all the way around Australia's coastline almost four times. It's a truly extraordinary amount of grass.

The Birth of Sir Walter

Brent Redman discovered the great 'Sir Walter' in the NSW Hunter Valley in 1996. Brent grew buffalo grasses on his farm, but there were always particular issues that prevented them from achieving high quality. This was until Brent noticed a small area on his farm where an off type was growing. This off type maintained a

greener winter colour, had a healthier root system and it was taking over the existing buffalo. Brent realised the potential of this new variety and began propagating the grass to protect the purity and integrity of the variety. From these first few square metres, the superstar that would become known as Sir Walter was born.

The rest is history as they say, with Sir Walter being expanded and produced right across Australia through a network of licensed turf suppliers.



With Greatness Comes Great Responsibility

As a result of the success Sir Walter achieved, deception and substitution by competitors has occurred. Many varieties over the years have claimed to be 'just like', 'same as' or 'bred from' Sir Walter. None of which is true, which is why there needed to be a way to ensure the Sir Walter that consumers were buying was genuine.

To remedy this, Sir Walter supplied by accredited and licensed suppliers is now known as Sir Walter DNA Certified. This

extension of the Sir Walter name was developed to provide the assurance to consumers that the Sir Walter they are buying is DNA tested and the genuine product. This turf matches the original breeder Sir Walter plant material bred at Brent Redmans farm developed over 20 years ago.

Lawn Solutions Australia

Sir Walter DNA Certified is now part of a greater stable of turf varieties supplied nationally through the Lawn Solutions Australia (LSA) network. Members of

LSA are the only turf suppliers who can provide Sir Walter DNA Certified with this 'Original Breeder' guarantee. If you want genuine Sir Walter, validated by DNA testing, look for Sir Walter DNA Certified from accredited suppliers with the Original Breeder Guarantee.

Sir Walter continues to lead the turf world here in Australia and even after 25 years, is still considered the benchmark for Aussie lawns.



A Win for Water Conservation

TIFTUF BERMUDAGRASS RECEIVES 'MAJOR AWARD' FOR WATER CONSERVATION BRYAN TOLAR, TOLAR CAPITOL PARTNERS

Mention winning an award and the first thing that comes to mind, for me, is the leg lamp. You know, the infamous prize in the cult classic movie "A Christmas Story." Ralphie Parker's father – "The Old Man," as he is described – is elated after winning a "major award:" a table lamp in the shape of a woman's leg in fishnet stocking and high heel. As cameras roll, the lamp is feverishly assembled and proudly placed in the home's feature window, in full view of the neighbors and passersby.

Indeed, an award typically validates the effort and/or rewards the accomplishment of outstanding labor. Some industries, such as music, sports and film, regularly fill auditoriums and arenas with hordes of industry leaders, passing out top awards to celebrities. Landscaping and green industry sectors, too, present awards. They usually honor outstanding design and beautification. But never have we seen awards for water conservation from these sectors.

Not until now, that is. Over the past few years, the focus on reducing outdoor water use has grown, and with it, the growing recognition of water conservation accomplishments in landscaping. One beneficiary of this increased attention is the University of Georgia's Dr. Brian Schwartz for his work to breed TifTuf Bermudagrass. The accolades are deserved: Data continue to validate reduced water needs for TifTuf to maintain high quality for lawns, parks, sports fields, and more. In fact, put this in the feature window: Research shows a whopping 38% less water is required for TifTuf compared to the most popular bermudagrass.

It's no surprise then, that the latest kudos for TifTuf, in July 2022, came from no less venerable an organization than the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP), which bestowed its Phil Karr Water Wise Award upon Dr. Schwartz as recognition for his great "contributions to water conservation





in Georgia” as TifTuf continues to show effectiveness for reduced outdoor water use in landscapes. More than 800 attendees from the water industry sector attended the presentation.

The recognition reinforces the importance of UGA’s Turfgrass Program and the role of TifTuf. But make no mistake: From this association, this is a “major award.” During Georgia’s deep drought of 2007-2009, as lake levels and stream flow plummeted, GAWP was a key voice in the regulatory arena urging a ban on outdoor water use.

Regulators concurred. The ban resulted in billions of dollars lost and closed businesses in the landscape, sod, and green industry sectors as consumers stopped buying products and associated services. It was devastating.

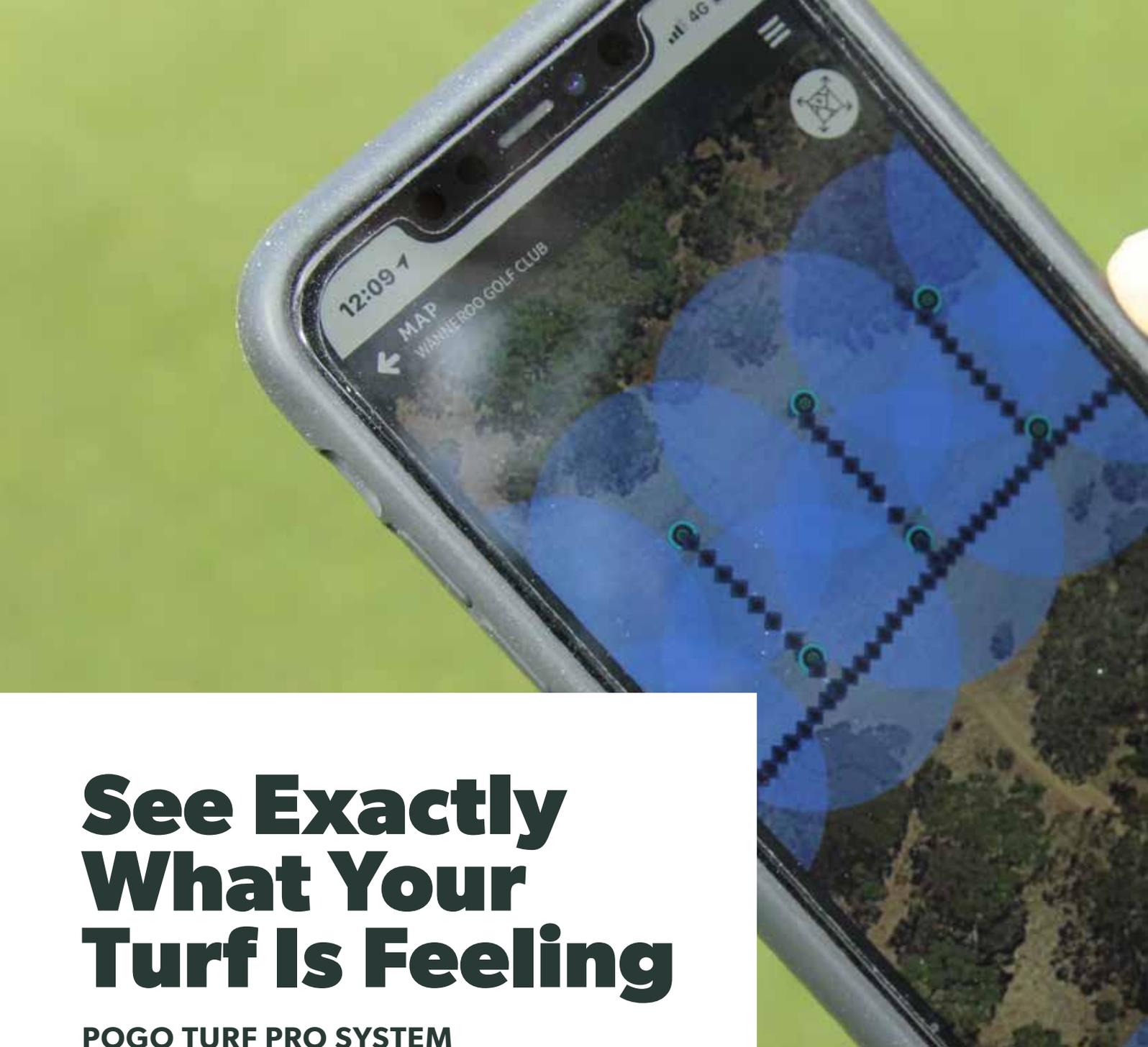
Since 2016, TifTuf has given Georgia and a growing list of states an answer to water conservation in the landscape. And this award demonstrates that former foes in the water industry have taken notice.

Dr. Schwartz and TifTuf have received other state and local awards and recognition. Among them:

- Resolutions passed by the Georgia House and the Georgia Senate during the 2020 Georgia legislative session
- A Commendation issued by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp in 2021 as part of his recognition of water conservation initiatives in the Atlanta region
- A water stewardship award from the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government in response to the success of TifTuf in 2021

In “A Christmas Story,” Ralphie Parker’s parents feud over the leg lamp (which “accidentally” breaks), highlighting that not everyone agrees on major awards. Yet TifTuf has earned praise from diverse groups: conservation-minded organizations, state leaders, and local governments. This is indeed extraordinary validation of a green industry viewed very differently just a decade ago. The marketplace, too, has taken notice: TifTuf is now the fastest warm-season turfgrass to achieve the milestone of 1 billion square feet sold and installed.

Water conservation efforts must carry on. TifTuf continues to show what is possible through science, research, and leadership. In the world of outdoor water use and conservation, each special recognition of TifTuf is a true “major award” for the future of water stewardship by the landscape industry.



See Exactly What Your Turf Is Feeling

POGO TURF PRO SYSTEM

The POGO system matches superior GPS and testing hardware with scientific analytical software to deliver accurate, instant and reliable insights into your turf conditions. The POGO Pro+ is a portable, wireless and easy-to-use tool that collects precise data including moisture, salinity, and soil temperature.

The POGO system comprises three main components:

1. POGO Pro+ which is the instrument used to take readings. Random, regular sampling is the key to managing soil moisture accurately.
2. TurfPro Mobile App which connects the POGO Pro+ and collects all the data to sync with the cloud.
3. POGO TurfPro Cloud analytics and mapping system analyses the data and displays it in an easy-to-see visual display either on your phone or your PC. All the data is stored for analyses and can be compared to older data to discover trends or possible improvements. There is an ongoing annual subscription for software access.

In turf management, knowledge is power, and visibility is knowledge. The POGO system

provides a visual report of whats going on under your turf and across your entire field or course. Using a patented soil sensor, POGO automatically analyses influential parameters for an in-depth scientific interpretation – presenting trouble spots, colour-coded maps and information to help with decision making. It then saves you from discerning endless files through its Visual Insight, highlighting all the critical information.

In turf management and importantly also commercial turf and turf farms, the more information you have about water

movement through your soil profile, the better you can manage your turf. The POGO system allows us to receive site-specific information per area that can be monitored on a regular basis and even remotely for better water management of turf, particularly in the peak of summer.

Anyone can take readings and instantly see variations of moisture, salinity, temperature, firmness and more across every zone of the farm or facility and adjust irrigation schedules accordingly.

The distributor of the POGO system in Australia is Living Turf. Jeff Lane, Living Turf, Technical Sales representative says, "By providing accurate soil moisture data on a regular basis the POGO system enables you to not only fine-tune your irrigation needs to save water, but also improve turf quality. The POGO is a manual device so you can use it on different areas, which is advantageous over fixed soil moisture sensors that report limited information."

In addition, the POGO system can map all of your utilities and irrigation system so you can have a clear picture of your sprinkler heads and irrigation lines. This is a valuable feature because of its simplicity, accuracy and practicality for turf management applications.

"The mapping feature of POGO can create and store thousands of assets such as irrigation lines, valves sprinkler heads, bores, isolation valves and display them as they were created using the GPS technology. A

new product only just released, is the POGO mapper that simply clips onto your waist so there is no need to even carry the POGO Pro+ instrument”, said Jeff.

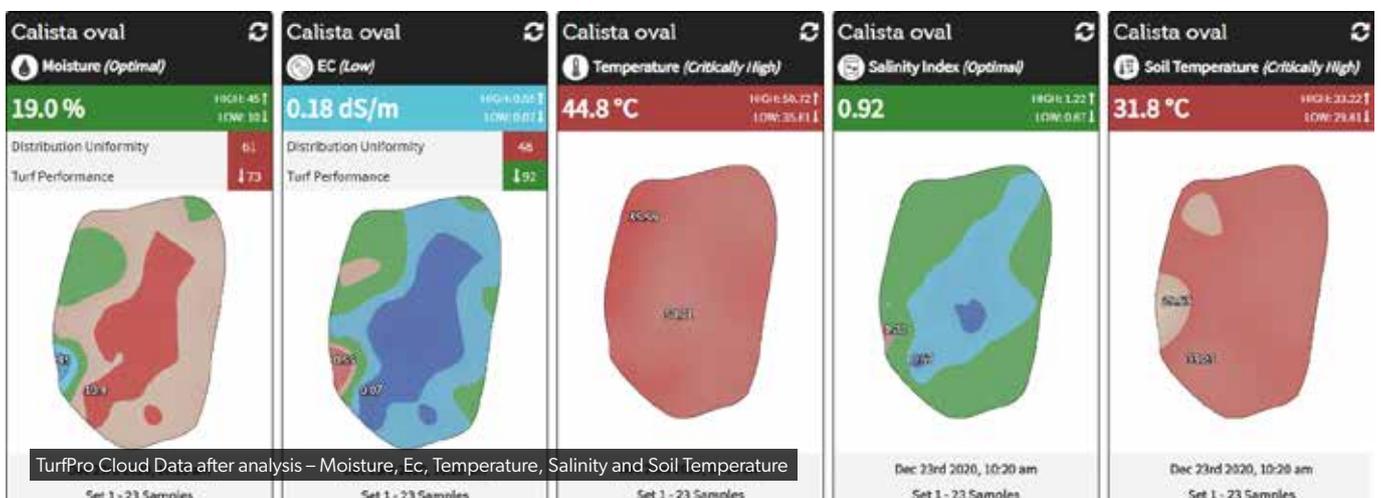
The POGO Mapper is the size of an iPhone although slightly thicker and has been designed to be easy-to-use. You can map out your property assets noting fence lines, sprinklers, underground pipes or electrical cables etc. The POGO Mapper is a one-off purchase and operates on the same subscription as POGO Pro+ and integrates with POGO TurfPro Mobile App so anything you map will be sent from the mobile device to the your desktop or mobile for easy viewing.

Colour coding of the visual insights is fully adjustable for every zone – so you can decide your optimal moisture content. The colour code warnings are also adjustable for the key variables that can be measured which are Soil Moisture, Ec (electroconductivity), Soil Temperature, Salinity, Temperature (surface or canopy). User-definable warnings (thresholds) are learned quickly with the intuitiveness of the TurfPro Mobile App. Once set, easy relative analysis is used for not only POGO hardware-measured variables but several customizable variables as well.

POGO is a digital tool for turf management that monitors trends for superior insights which improve decision making and ultimately delivers healthier turf.



Setting up the system is easy



We go above and beyond for **Down Under.**

Get your machines faster.

We have increased production capacity and reserve specific manufacturing slots for Australia that limit wait time.

We're working hard every day to keep up with orders and have actually been having record production, despite supply chain challenges.

Take advantage of our Australia shipping reservations and bring today's technology home sooner.



Local parts and service.

We stock most of the parts you need in country to minimize the delay and cost of international shipping.

Our regional service technician can get to you quickly when you need service and training. We also provide remote support and updates through in-cab cellular modems and our online FireFly Support Portal for live help and a searchable knowledge library.



Our core purpose is to improve people's lives by solving problems through creative disciplined engineering, operational excellence, and epic TEAMwork.

Since 2010, we have pioneered hybrid electric technology to build the smoothest, most fuel efficient turf harvesting equipment in the world. We are humbled to be a part of your success and strive every day to improve. We would be honored to earn your business.



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Eye Catching Turf at the Brisbane Home Show

Brisbane's leading home improvement expo took place from Friday 9th of September to Sunday 11th of September. This year's expo was unbelievable, attracting more than 16,000 visitors and bringing together over 280 exhibitors in building, renovation, furnishing, sustainable and outdoor living.

This year's show was bigger and better than 2021, with everyone able to come out and explore the expo and what it had to offer.

All Turf Solutions Display

Turf producer All Turf Solutions has been an exhibitor at the Brisbane Home Show for many years now and loves being able to give guidance and ideas to many homeowners looking to improve their outdoor space.

All Turf Solutions is a family-owned and operated farm located in the heart of the Scenic Rim situated at Tamborine and Rathdowney. All Turf Solutions supply quality

turf throughout Southeast Queensland as a Lawn Solutions Australia Member. The people within the business are locals and have a strong focus on producing quality products and excellent customer service. Their passion is helping people find the right lawn solution for their needs.

This year's lawn display was all about bright and eye-catching colours. The setup took place on Thursday the 8th of September leading into the start of the show. The display



Maddy Lamrock (All Turf Solutions) and Jason Hodges

featured premium turf varieties, Sir Grange Zoysia, TifTuf Hybrid Bermuda, Sir Walter DNA Certified Buffalo and Nullarbor Couch.

Madeleine Lamrock, General Manager of All Turf Solutions was particularly focused on catching the attention of visitors as they walked around the show.

"We really wanted to make the display pop this year and catch the eye of our visitors, hopefully bringing them a little bit of

happiness as they looked at our display." Ms Lamrock said.

"Everyone was eager to touch and feel the grasses on display, with some people even asking if they were fake!"

There was plenty of interest in Sir Grange Zoysia and TifTuf Hybrid Bermuda, with people loving the idea of being able to keep Sir Grange at a no-mow level or TifTuf's extreme wear tolerance and sturdy drought

tolerance. Sir Walter DNA Certified Buffalo will always have a place in Aussie's hearts and is always loved as the best all-around variety.

With the show ending at 5 pm on Sunday 11th of September, the team tackled bump out beaming with how successful The Brisbane Home Show was this year and looking forward to what next year's show will bring.

STA VIC Sports Turf Seminar at the MCG

BY STA VIC

The STA (Vic) Sports Turf Seminar was enjoyed by a record number of sponsors and delegates on the 14th of July at the MCG.

Thank you to Bayer for your continued support over many years. Thank you also to our sponsor members who set up tables around the perimeter of the room enabling plenty of networking to take place during the breaks.

Tony Jones (MC) and guest speaker, along with Jane Bunn stole the show with their professionalism, knowledge, and humour. The room was silent more so than I can remember in the last 7 years anyway! Can only think we "hit the nail on the head" with the program of excellent speakers and talent.

Mark Doyle, President STA (Vic) welcomed delegates and conducted the Annual General Meeting.

Mark made mention of the huge contribution made over many years to the Association by John Cann and Jim Porter who are retiring from the Committee. Welcome to the committee - Jasmine Cooke and Nathan Tovey.

Life Membership Awards were presented to very worthy recipients being – Garry Woolard after 20 plus years on the committee and Danny Edmunds after 10 plus years on the committee.

Adrian Black was acknowledged with an Industry Recognition Award after many



years of serving on the committee and huge ongoing support unconditionally to the STA (Vic) and the turf industry.

Thank you also to Grant Greenway, ETP Turf who has stepped up at AGMs to take over voting for many years now and has generously provided storage space for the STA (Vic) historical papers.

Delegates enjoyed a great lineup of speakers at the Sports Turf seminar at the MCG. Jyri Kaapro from Bayer discussed the research results and use of Bayer's new product Tetrino on Scarab Larvae. It has a new active ingredient (Tetraniliprole) and is absorbed via roots and shoots. It has broad-spectrum control of scarabs, stem weevil, caterpillars and billbug.

Liam O'Keefe, Senior Manager, Flemington Racecourse gave us an overview of the

Flemington Racecourse tracks and facilities and racetrack preparation for Raceday.

Hugh Gardner, Secretary of STA (Vic) provided an education update including a discussion on the changes and the benefits for the future apprentices. Hugh introduced Jayde Robson, Scott Nicolson and Nathan Andrews, all recipients of STA (Vic) Graduate Awards.

We heard from Grant Greenway (ETP Turf Professionals) about NDVI technology that, while it has been around for decades, can now be used with small handheld units for performance monitoring benchmarking, plant health and density, among others.

Jane Bunn, our guest speaker is a highly credentialed meteorologist with an infectious enthusiasm for the weather. Jane explained the two elements needed for rain: tropical



Jyri Kaapro (Bayer - Major Sponsor)



moisture and low pressure and shared tools she uses to monitor weather patterns and provide actionable data for us all.

Jyri Kaapro from Bayer stepped back onto the stage to share a controlled test Bayer did on the application of Specticle on Kikuyu during times outside of spring.

Erik Kinlon is the Business Development Manager at HG Turf Group and came along to discuss Hybrid grass for sportsfields.

Tony Jones changed hats from his role of MC keeping proceedings running smoothly throughout the day to entertaining with stories from “the ever-changing landscape of sports media and the influence and use of social media”.

Constructing a Demon was the title of the Panel presentation including:

Adrian Black (MOPT), Jarrod Hill (Sporteng) and David Drohomiccki (Pitchcraft). They discussed the challenges that arose during the upgrade of Melbourne Football Club’s training ground at Gosch’s Paddock.

Adrian showed us how MOPT has evolved over the years and explained how the Punt Rd corner was constructed to enable three different sporting codes to train (soccer, footy, league). Jarrod shared how the tree protection zone became a limiting factor on how they could get trucks in and out, and the tree root zone became the minimum level around the outside of the ground. This- at least in theory- had the added benefit of minimising excavation and speeding up production.

Dave explained the challenges of working with VicRoads and Transurban and the

resulting effort of moving 2,700 tonnes of drainage gravel (70 trucks and trailers!) and 8,300 tonnes of sand.

This fantastic panel was moderated by Erik Kinlon and we thank all participants for such an interesting discussion.

Delegates joined Michael Salvatore for a chat on the hallowed MCG turf and tour to round up a great day.

The STA Vic committee and members would also like to thank Jan Fenton for her hard work and dedication over the past seven years. Jan has decided to retire from her role of Administration Officer with STA VIC and we wish her all the best in retirement.

Thanks to all who spoke, attended, and organised. It really was a great day.



WA Turf Industry Innovation and Technology Day

BY EVA RICCI, WA TURF INDUSTRY EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On probably the most miserable day for the weather of the year, the WA Turf Industry held a combined industry event at Greenacres Turf Group, in Serpentine. The purpose of this day was to share new innovations and technologies and to also provide a farm-to-facility experience for those in the sports turf sector and turf production.

The day was planned, coordinated, and articulated by the WA Turf Industry Executive Officer on behalf of the Sports Turf Association (WA) and the Turf Growers Association WA, with plenty of willing support from both the STA (WA) executive and Greenacres Turf Group. All the very best plans were laid, with special guest presenters from the eastern states engaged,

locked in, and committing to bringing new technology across to WA with them.

The STA (WA) and the TGAWA members and significantly, executives, cannot express how impressed and grateful they are to Adrian, Leanne and Darcie Pitsikas and Tina Hutton from Greenacres Turf Group, for their tremendous support, and huge effort contributed to holding this inaugural event on the farm. Seriously, there was machinery moving out of the way and a mile a minute, sheds were being cleaned to spotless, an amazing sound system and huge screens installed, chairs being washed, limestone topped up for car parking, there was movement on the station everywhere. They

even organised for a larger bus from a local school to transport delegates around the farm.

Delegate registrations came in thick and fast, with registrations from all aspects of our industry. There were delegates from all over WA, including regional local government authorities, (LGA's), metropolitan LGA's, large landscaping companies, the Department of Education and Training, private schools, turf farms, allied industries, the Department of Sport and Recreation, and private businesses, turf consultants and turf contractors. It was a great crowd of very enthusiastic industry representatives and apprentices from South Metropolitan TAFE, all keen as mustard to see the new and upcoming and to experience



Tony Guy (STA WA President)



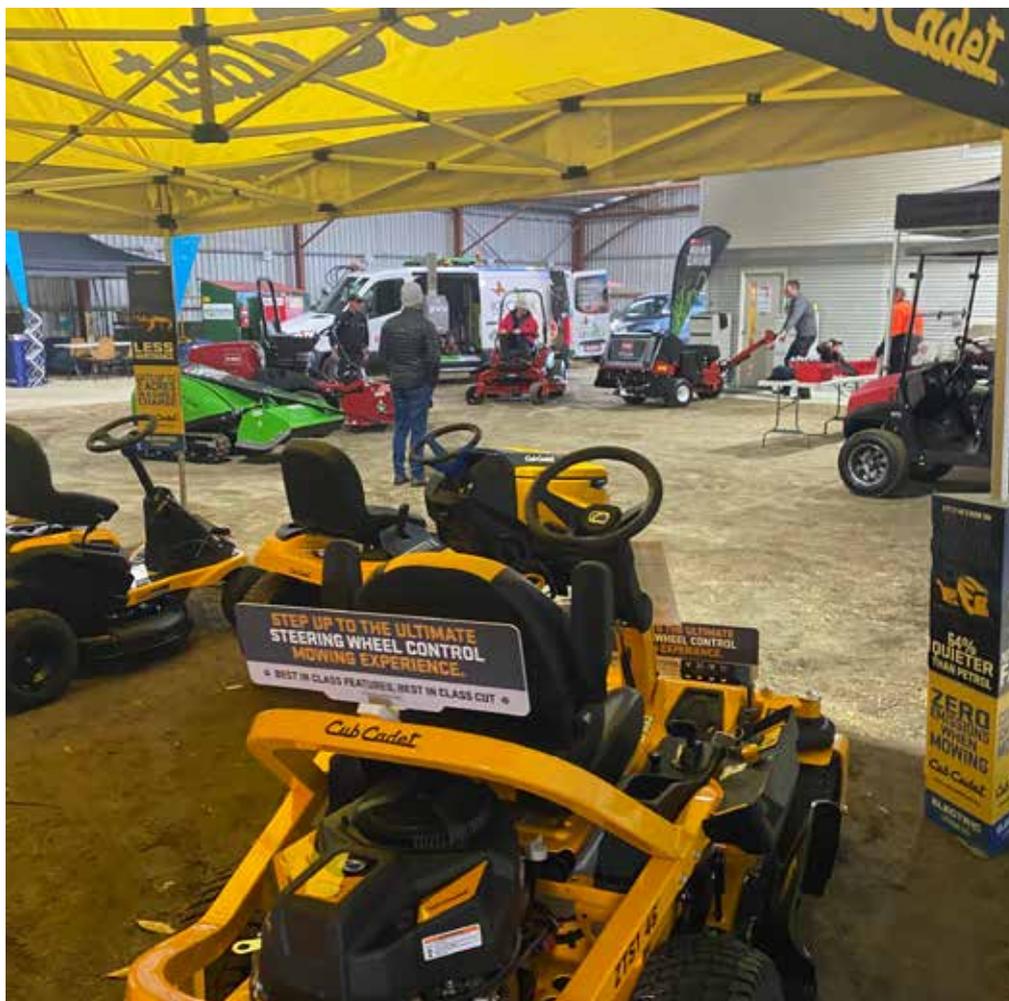
the onsite farm tours and networking that comes with such an enthusiastic group. The WA Turf Industry support Turf apprentices to attend all events free of charge. We had the full contingent of apprentices attend this event, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience and exposure to new innovations and technologies.

STA (WA) President Tony Guy opened the day, previewing the changes in plans and introducing speakers. He has been the President for longer than I can remember and contributes an enormous amount of volunteer hours to the industry. Tony was extremely pleased with the turnout on the day and really enjoyed catching up with those from the trade who took up the opportunity for the event and

clearly enjoyed the networking interactions with colleagues new and old. He is a great leveller, and the words "Don't worry, she'll be right", rang in my ears all day.

Bec Sellick, Turf Australia President, followed Tony and provided a comprehensive update on Turf Australia's mode of operandum, recent projects and what the future looks like. It was great to see how confidently she presented, and more importantly, that delegates appreciated the information shared. The WA Turf Industry has a strong connection and great synergy between the production and maintenance sectors. We strive to include Turf Australia at every opportunity we can for the benefit of all and were grateful that Bec was prepared to share briefly at the event.

Every presenter was exceptional, no doubt about it. We congratulate them all for the information so succinctly shared and for being so proactive and exceptionally supportive in terrible weather conditions. Dean Mosch from Syngenta, Scott Wallace from Toro, Erik Kinlon from HG Turf and Adrian Knapping from STRI Australia, all made a huge effort to get across to WA to present at the event and to transport across equipment such as the SIS Stitch machine, and new Toro machinery, and a drone specifically designed for turf. It was a mighty effort by very significant sponsors and STRI Australia, for which the organising committee was very grateful. Delegates very obviously appreciated their presentations, with the topics inspiring a lot of conversation throughout the day.



A special mention must go to Adrian and his team at Greenacres Turf Group. Adrian presented a Farm to Facility presentation that was inspiring, and full of information that many delegates had not realised was a reality, even though they work in the turf maintenance sector. The old saying ‘you learn something new every day’ was indeed true at this event. The boys who work on the coal front of the farm, willingly and with great finesse acted as tour guides for the farm tours. It was all-in-all a terrific display of teamwork, notably undertaken without pecuniary interest.

Bec Sellick, Turf Australia Chairperson and her husband Terry, and two staff attended this event. Bec stated after the event “I am so proud of Adrian Pitsikas as an industry representative. He honestly and transparently represented the entire TGAWA membership with great ethics and integrity. A great person who did not once use the day to highlight his own business. It is no wonder we all respect him so much.” Never a truer statement could

be made. Adrian is a mighty man, who always has the wider industry at heart. We are indebted to Adrian and his team for making it so easy to make the day a good one.

Our industry wanted this day to be an opportunity for valued industry sponsors to benefit too. Free trade booth opportunities were offered to sponsors who had new innovations and technologies to share. This saw STA (WA) sponsors; AusGAP, AFGRI, Club Cadet, Farm and Turf Equipment, ICL, Living Turf, Mineral Magic, Sprayline WA, T-Quip, Toro, Syngenta, and HG Turf take up the opportunity of displaying their latest and greatest in innovations and technologies. What a great bunch of industry supporters they all are too. Right in there, interactively networking, sharing laughs, encouraging, and engaging all day. Without a doubt the best in the West.

Given the weather on the day, what was planned to be an amazing outdoor area of displays, ended up with everyone, bar

AusGAP, and Sprayline WA, taking the opportunity to move indoors to the workshop area of the shed. It was cosy, warm, and great for networking. But poor old Mick and Brent from AusGAP and LSA, and John from Down South Turf weathered the weather literally. Albeit with a great set-up. I looked across at them about a hundred times on the day, with huge empathy. In true turfie spirit though, they were having a great time and made the very best of terrible conditions.

I was personally very grateful to Brent Redman on the day, if he didn’t tell me once he told me ten times to “*stop worrying and just smile, all will be okay*” and you know what, it was! Thanks for your kindness, Brent, it meant more than you probably realised at the time.

The day was supposed to be one of rotations, with groups of 30 or so moving through different presentations, the trade area and farm tours. Let me tell you that working out that roster was probably the most time-consuming



part of the organisation for the day! The day before we realised that the weather was going to be what we call, “mongrel” weather over here in WA, and so we decided to put the five major speakers on one after the other for a morning session and move on to organised chaos of rotations across the trade booths and on-farm for the rest of the day.

There was a stream of delegates heading out to the farm, all wearing their protective boot covers, to mitigate biosecurity risk. They all also moved through trade booths, and truly it was wonderful to see the camaraderie between “trade and delegates, ‘trade and trade’ and ‘delegates with delegates.’ Honestly, in retrospect, it was one of those 100% feel-good days.

Not only was it a cold day, with plenty of rain, it bloody well hailed as well! But in the great spirit of our industry, there was not one whinge or complaint from either trade or delegates. In fact, quite the opposite. There was such

a great spirit of camaraderie, with loads of laughter, and complete satisfaction in how the day was progressing. Plus, the food was only excellent! We always feed our industry well, and I have to say, the glorious hot roast lunch went down a treat with everyone. There was more than plenty for all, seconds and thirds were taken up, and it was piping hot. We had directors of major industry allied businesses, and eastern states presenters all jumping in to help get the food set up and ready to go. It was just fabulous.

In fact, the food was the one common denominator included with all the complimentary feedback about the day. Delegates and trade provided great feedback, about the content and information sharing from the day, but they all mentioned how much they loved the food!

All in all, it was without a doubt, one of the best WA industry events that I have had the pleasure to coordinate. I think that the terrible

weather was in fact a bonus, it brought out the best in us all. I don’t remember even feeling tired at the end of the day. There were too many funny yarns to recall, lots of new faces to remember, and old faces that required a hug on departure. We had a great day. I remain grateful to every single person who attended and participated in any way shape or form. For the WA Turf Industry, it really did end on a high.

A final quote Bec Sellick sums the day up for us all *“It was an awesome day! I have never seen so many in our industry in one place at one time, keenly interactive, eager for knowledge and enjoying the camaraderie of an event such much. I don’t know that this can be replicated, it was so awesome. Well done to all involved”*.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who assisted, attended, and supported the day. It was a ripper one, and it is thanks to everyone that attended, regardless of the very poor weather conditions. Good work WA.



1 Billion Square Feet of TifTuf

**BY LEY PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA
OPERATIONS MANAGER, SUPER-SOD**

For several years now, we have been promoting the benefits of TifTuf Bermuda, and it's obvious that many customers have recognised the enhanced values of this grass variety. In only six years, the network of TifTuf growers across the US has produced over one billion (yes, that's billion with a "b") square feet of TifTuf sod! (Over 92 million square metres)

But what does one billion square feet of TifTuf really look like?

The typical sod roll measures two feet wide by five feet long for a total of 10 square feet (just under a square metre). That means that one billion square feet is made up of 100,000,000 individual rolls!

- Laid end to end, those rolls would stretch 500,000,000 linear feet – or the equivalent of 94,697 miles! (Over

152,000km) The circumference of the Earth at the equator is 24,901 miles. So, you could place those sod rolls end-to-end and literally circle our entire planet three times and still have enough left over to lay a strip of TifTuf turf wide enough for 3 golf carts (the golf cart version of the Cannonball Express) coast to coast from New York to Los Angeles.



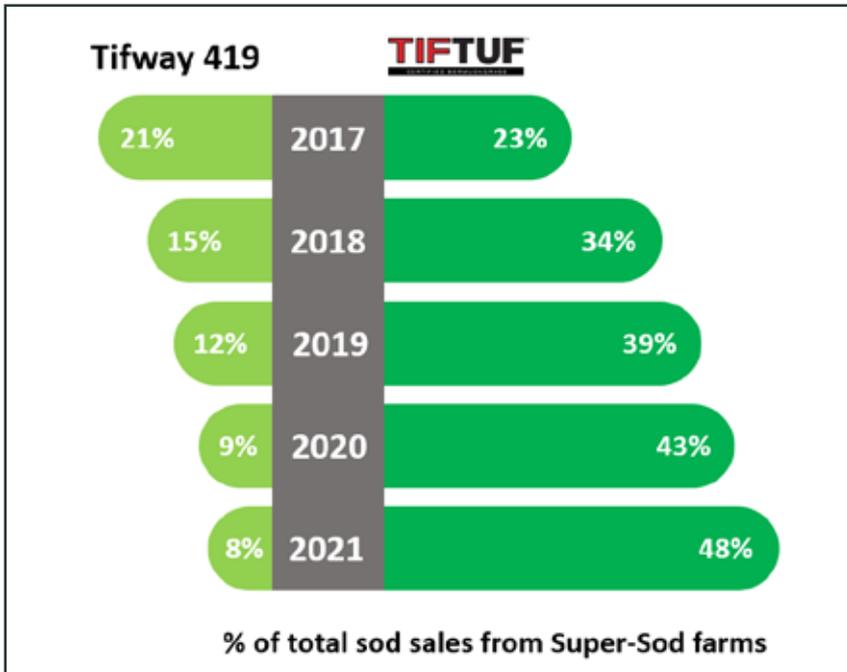
- Speaking of New York City, one of the most iconic buildings in the United States is One World Trade Center, standing a skyscraping 1,776 feet tall. If we were to take those 100,000,000 rolls of TifTuf and balance them end-to-end straight up (granted that would take some serious talent) how high would they go? Well, you would need 281,531 World Trade Centers stacked on top of one another to reach the last sod roll.

- TifTuf Bermuda was a new sod variety studied and released by the University of Georgia. How 'bout them Dawgs! The 2021 college football National Champions certainly deserve a premium playing surface for their gridiron activities on Saturdays. With 6 home games each year, that one billion square feet of sod would cover Dooley Field at Sanford stadium with fresh turf before every home game for the next 2,893 years.

TifTuf is growing strong at Super-Sod

Not that we want to brag (okay, maybe just a little) but a significant amount of those one billion square feet of TifTuf sod was harvested at our Super-Sod farms.

For many years, even decades, Tifway 419 Bermuda was the standard bearer and the variety by which all other bermudagrass varieties were measured. But that is no longer the case. If we look back five years,



2017 marked the first time in our company's history that TifTuf Bermuda sales outpaced Tifway 419 sales. And every year since then, our TifTuf sales have increased.

Take a look at the chart to the left.

In terms of actual volume:

- We harvested almost three times as many square feet of TifTuf in 2021 as we did in 2017.
- We now harvest over six pallets of TifTuf for every one pallet of Tifway 419 we produce.
- Our TifTuf sales in 2021 were greater than our Tifway 419 sales in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 combined. Amazing!

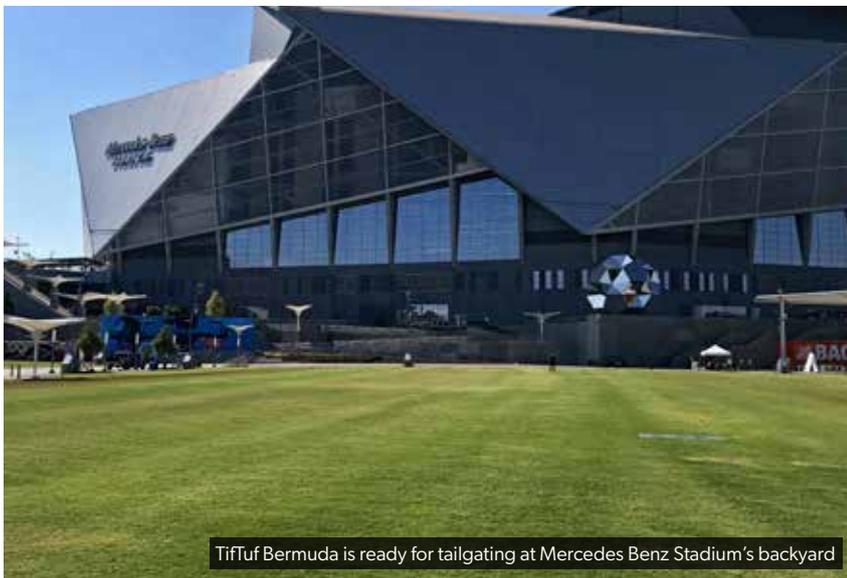
In essence, Tifway 419 is a traditional but aging steam locomotive and TifTuf is a Tesla.

Simply the Best

But what has put TifTuf Bermuda on this trajectory to becoming so popular? Why do we call it a "game changer" in the sod industry? Consider the following TifTuf facts...

- Drought tolerant - uses 38% less water than Tifway 419
- Better overall turfgrass quality and aesthetics under drought conditions than any other Bermudagrass
- Superior in color and density to Tifway 419
- Better shade tolerance than other Bermuda lawns
- Excellent resistance to traffic and recovery from wear and tear
- Quicker spring green up and better color retention into fall than other bermudagrasses for improved visual appeal

Simply put, TifTuf is just a better product, and its attributes make it far more environmentally friendly and less problematic to maintain than other Bermudagrass varieties.



LESS WORK
MORE PLAY



AUSTRALIA'S #1
COUCH GRASS



Smart
Approved
WaterMark

*Excluding Western Australia and Northern Territory

**Proven drought tolerance,
speedy recovery and toughness**

TifTuf is *the* smart grass



Performance of bermudagrass cultivars under different shade, irrigation, and wear treatments. AU106983 May 2020 STRI Research. Scan the QR code to the left for more information.

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