Queensland Sports Turf Association

GREEN SIDE UP

FOR THE SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No 8 - 2013 WINTER EDITION

President's Report

Hi Members,

Welcome to the 2013/14 year of the STA. We hope that this year will be a great year for the association with some fantastic field days that I hope that you will enjoy.

These field days take a lot of organizing so please make the effort to get to these days as they are put on for everyone's benefit. Our sponsors also put a lot of effort into these days and would love to see as many members as possible to view their displays.

By now all of you should have had an email from our new administration assistant Tanya Baxter. Tanya will be a fantastic addition to the STA and I believe she will continue the fantastic work that Sue started. Also this year we have added some new committee members to the committee. We welcome Kristy-Ann Pratsch from River Sands and welcome back Terry McPartland onto the committee.

Malcolm Caddies

They, along with Tanya are bringing some fresh ideas to the table and their positive energy is fantastic.

So as we head into the new year let's all come together and drive our association forward and make this year our biggest year to date. Remember to try and promote the STA to everyone you talk to in the industry and lets kick STA forward in 2014.

Sports Turf Association QLD Inc

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Committee Meet second Wednesday of the month

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Growing Turf Under Shaded Conditions

The establishment and management of quality turfgrass under shaded conditions often is possible if the basic requirements for turfgrass growth are known and understood.

Trees have extensive root systems (often quite shallow) that enable them to utilize huge amounts of water and nutrients, and they have dense leaves that severely restrict the light intensity under the trees. These three factors — competition for water, nutrients, and light — are the basic causes of turfgrass failure under shaded conditions. Poor drainage also contributes to poor turfgrass development in shaded areas.

Poorly drained shaded areas often become infested with moss, which provides additional turfgrass competition.

Effects of shade on turfgrasses include shortened roots, reduced shoot density, erect and elongated growth of stems and leaves, decreased plant vigour, increased susceptibility to disease, and reduced wear tolerance. Environmental conditions in shade often are conducive to disease development.

In setting up a turfgrass management program every effort should be made to reduce or eliminate this competition for water, nutrients, and light and to provide adequate soil drainage.

A number of establishment and maintenance practices may improve turfgrass under trees:

- Use shade tolerant grass species and/or varieties. Buffalo's, Zoyzia, Sweet Smother grass and some cultivars of Blue couch are the most suitable.
- Fertilize the grass at slightly higher than the normal rate used for that species or variety in sunny areas.
- Water deeply and infrequently. Frequent, shallow irrigation may result in the development of shallow tree roots, whereas deep, infrequent watering tends to develop deeper tree roots.
- Maintain a soil reaction (pH 6.3 to 7.0) favourable to the grass. Apply ground agricultural limestone according to a lime requirement test to maintain the desired pH.

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- Remove those trees that are not essential to the beauty and/or utility of the landscape plan.
- Prune tree branches as much as possible without destroying the function and the beauty of the tree.
- Prune shallow tree roots as much as possible.
- Plant new trees wisely, taking into consideration the number of trees already present, the density of the trees already present, and the light intensity reduction potential of the new trees. Shade trees should be planted 15 to 30 metres apart, depending on the mature size and density of the tree species. Avoid shallow-rooted trees such as Poinciana's and Jacarandas.
- Provide good soil drainage and aeration to allow adequate penetration of nutrients, water, and air into the soil.
- Adjust mowing practices to suit the grass species present. In most instances, the clipping height should be considerably higher (approximately 20mm higher) than it would be for that particular grass in the open sun. Never remove more than one-third of the total leaf surface at a given mowing.
- Control weeds to improve the appearance of the turf and reduce the competition for light, water, and nutrients. Be sure that the herbicides are safe for use under the tree canopy.
- Remove leaves and other debris promptly by raking or sweeping. Leaves allowed to accumulate may smother the grass, provide favourable conditions for turfgrass disease development, or harbor harmful insects.
- Use other types of ground covers (nongrasses) where environmental modifications are difficult or the cost is prohibitive and where grasses will not provide adequate cover.

Oval Reconstruction at Cavendish Road State High School

By Bradley Cross, Schools Officer (Grounds)

Cavendish Road State High School is located in the inner southern suburbs of Brisbane with approximately 1,300 students and 150 staff. The school promotes and prides itself on their sporting excellence programs of football (soccer), rugby league, touch football and netball. These teams hold various state, national and international championships.

Opportunities to reconstruct sporting fields in a public school environment can be limited due to funding source availability, however, with thanks to the Cavendish Road State High School Parents and Citizens Association, $100,000 was committed to the school oval upgrade.

Old Oval

Oval Condition Prior to Refurbishment

The school oval experiences high usage and although frequent maintenance is performed the playing surface became in need of restoration.

The turf cover consisted of species including kikuyu, couch and wire grass with cover composition considered average to poor and one aspect of the field that required improving. A high population of wire grass created an uneven surface for sports such as football (soccer) which is predominantly played along the surface.

In regard to overall shaping, the ground has a well constructed gradient and a crown from the centre of the field sloping to the outside with a reasonable fall at each end. Macro and micro levels were considered good in relation to the quality of turf cover. The soil profile had been constructed reasonably well with approximately 200mm of a fine sandy soil, although this was very compacted.

The previous irrigation system was of poor design with pipes laid at a depth of 170mm which left valve boxes exposed due to lack of clearance and interfered with aeration. Lateral lines consisting of PVC material ran across the field and the spacing of sprinkler heads were inefficient. In addition to the availability of potable water, the school previously invested in the installation of bore water and a 100,000 litre water tank dedicated for irrigation.

Scope of Works Completed

Quotes were obtained from five businesses to conduct the scope of works with Twin View Turf successfully appointed. Restoration works of the irrigation and playing surface commenced early December 2012 as this was our best opportunity to complete the works with minimal disruption to classes. Work commenced with a soil analysis then followed by two applications of glyphosate ten days apart to eradicate old vegetation.

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Harrowing Old Profile

New Oval

As budget restricted us from top making the surface and importing additional soil, the surface was ripped and rotary hoed to a depth of 250mm incorporating the old sward into the profile as organic matter. A preliminary laser level was carried out prior to the commencement of the irrigation upgrade. An upgrade of the existing irrigation system was considered imperative as the system interfered with ground maintenance and was ineffective in its design and operation.

Not knowing the quality or age of the existing main line a new 50mm potable fill line was installed from the R.P.Z. (Reduced Pressure Zone) valve back to the storage tank. The storage tank now has the capacity to store either potable or bore water for use at our disposal.

The 75mm irrigation main line is now located around the perimeter of the oval servicing the Rain Bird 40mm solenoid valves and Rain Bird 8005 sprinkler heads, which now waters the oval in grid formation allowing for greater efficiency. All water lines consist of poly (MDPE PN 12.5) ranging down in size from 75mm to 50mm with 350mm cover in lateral lines and 450mm cover in the main line. The existing DAB K55 /200T pump runs four 360 degree 8005 sprinkler heads per station and six 180 degree 5500 sprinkler heads per station on the perimeter of the oval. The irrigation control panel was relocated to the pump shed and a new rain sensor installed.

As the soil PH reading was 5.8, the only amendment required was one tonne of lime per hectare being added to the soil prior to a final laser trim. During the first week of January 2013, 12,000m^2 of Wintergreen Couch was laid in maxi rolls with an application of Ronstar for pre-emergent weed control and starter fertiliser. The sward established well in the coming weeks prior to the onset of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald and with the continuous weeks of rain experienced, an opportunity to fertilise and top dress the oval was delayed until the week prior to Easter vacation. 150 tonne of USGA graded top dressing sand was rubbed into the surface voids along with a NPK 24-2-9 fertiliser.

Prior to handover on 23 April 2013, two applications of Diclofop-methyl was applied for post emerging crows foot and one application of Monument liquid for managing nut grass which germinated from the existing soil mass.

Our intent was to have the new surface ready for use not long after school resumed in 2013, however, South East Queensland's weather played a significant role in the oval not being presented for use prior to 23 April 2013.

Looking Forward

Currently mowing of the oval is maintained by using a John Deere 1445 rotary out front mower. Negotiations are currently taking place to purchase a cylinder mower to create an optimal playing surface. To promote our investment, management have supplied sufficient budget to cater for maintenance needs such as aeration, scarifying, fertilising, top dressing and spraying requirements. Having been employed at Cavendish Road State High School since February 2005 I take pride in continuing to deliver sporting grounds and facilities to the highest standard for our students and staff.

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STOCKLAND STADIUM REJUVENATED

By Brian Perrin (Groundsman)

Stockland Park has been the pre-eminent sports and recreation facility on the Sunshine Coast for the last 10 or so years. The entire precinct is now a Sunshine Coast Council sport and recreation facility. The 45-hectare precinct, which includes Stockland Park Precinct, Western Precinct, Lake Kawana, Kawana Aquatic Centre and Stockland Stadium, is located on Nicklin Way, Kawana.

The facility is home to three Sunshine Coast regional sporting teams - Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles, Sunshine Coast FC (Fire) and Sunshine Coast Stingrays.

The precinct is also home to a number of community sporting teams and competitions including Brothers Rugby Union, Sunshine Coast Rugby Union, Kawana Junior Rugby League, Kawana Senior Rugby League, Kawana Soccer Club, Sunshine Coast Churches Soccer and the Kawana Touch Association. These groups utilise the precinct for training throughout the week, and to host scheduled games on weekends.

The jewel in the crown at this precinct is the main Stockland Stadium.

The main playing surface was rebuilt five years ago with Winter Green Couch the chosen turf surface, and was basically constructed with zero falls, relying on sub surface drainage to get rid of excess water.

It is not just the sporting organisations that use the complex. It is also home to other events, such as rodeos, monster car events, and of course concerts, the most recent being Cold Chisel late last year.

After so much use irregularities were beginning to show up on the playing surface. This was becoming a safety issue for the people that used the field, as there were variations in levels of up to 50mm.

Early discussions centered on rebuilding the entire field however the cost of doing this forced us to consider a second option which was to heavily scarify the field almost to the point of shaving it, as they do on bowling greens, and letting the rhizomes and root hairs regrow to give us a new playing surface. Following this, sand would be dumped onto the surface and laser leveled.

This idea was taken to the next level by employing the services of the Gold Coast based company, Precision Earth Works. The technology that they brought forward with their proposal was very interesting, and was exactly what we were chasing. We could shave the field, get definitive levels back, and restore a whole new turf playing surface. They had a topmaker set up with a difference; it was set up on lasers, to give definitive levels prior to turfing.

The first part of the program was to survey the field to determine the levels on the field. Although the entire field is approximately 2Ha, we were only working with the rectangular playing surface area because that is what the major sports that are played there use, so that brought it in to

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1.1Ha. The survey was done using GPS survey equipment mounted on a quad bike. Once the survey was completed, a design for the field based on zero falls to replicate the original design was created. There were areas on the field that had low spots of up to 35mm, which made them pretty deep. Under normal circumstances if these were just topdressed straight over, then regrowth would struggle to break through and cover in the time frame available for recovery. We couldn't get on the field until December 3rd 2012 and the original timeframe gave us 13 weeks for recovery; the goal cut depth was going to be 30mm. These dates were settled on and the project was booked in.

Once the dates were locked in, we set out how we were going to prepare for this after our last scheduled event, which was in late October. We vertidrained the field using 19mm solid tines to a depth of 200mm (the benefits of a sand profile), fertilized with Turf Gold at 200kg/Ha, and gradually reduced the height of cut from 18mm to 10mm. The spoil that was to come off the field was to be transported to our soccer fields at another part of the precinct, so a week before topmaking; we applied a light feed of 100kg/Ha of high nitrogen to boost leaf structure for the removal and help regrowth on the bare areas of the soccer fields.

When we did get to the job, we were told we only had nine weeks of recovery time due to a late booking for the Queensland Reds to play a trial game. The cut depth was then revised back to 19mm. This was going to reduce the amount of areas that were being shaved considerably, and in total, we probably shaved back about 30% of the surface, as opposed to the forecast 70% to 80%. Once the cutting of the surface started, it took a bit over a day to complete.

STA REVIEW

Since our last (autumn) edition of Greenside Up there has been plenty happening within the STA.

Our first event for 2013 was our annual education day, held at the Villanova College sports fields, "Villa Park", in March.

Recently appointed head greenkeeper, Clyde Wooderson, only a few weeks into his new position, explained how the recent rains had caused the local creek to rise and inundate low lying parts of their fields. In fact numbers were down a little as the first real dry spell for the year had everyone playing catch up at their own facilities.

There were several presentations on the day including subjects on Health and Safety at the workplace and the importance of carrying out tree audits. Several of our sponsors also took the opportunity to display their wares.

Our AGM was held on April 16th at the Glen Hotel where, following the formalities, around 25 attendees enjoyed some fine food and refreshments.

The management committee welcomes new member Kristy-Ann Pratsch from River Sands. Kristy will add a new dimension of ideas and enthusiasm to our association.

Two special presentations were made on the night to two very worthy recipients.

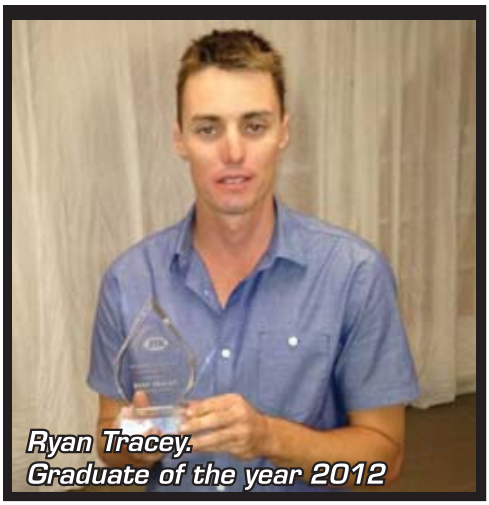
The first was our annual STAQ 2012 Graduate of the Year Award. This was won by Ryan Tracey from Landscape Solutions.

Fellow State finalists, Trent Williams and Chris Hurley from Brisbane Racing, must also be congratulated on their achievements.

As the State winner, Ryan flew to Sydney to be interviewed by a panel and give his presentation, along with other State winners, in the Toro National Graduate of the Year Award.

All State winners will be hosted at the National Turfgrass Conference at the Sunshine Coast in June where the National winner will be announced and win an eight week education trip to the USA.

Congratulations to Ryan on his award



Ryan Tracey. Graduate of the year 2012

Brian Dale with STAQ President Mal Caddies

and good luck in the National title.

Our next presentation was a Lifetime Commitment Award. This award was presented with great pleasure to a person most of us know, and many were taught by, Brian Dale, formerly of Grovely TAFE. Brian is an extremely well respected figure within the turfgrass industry and a perfect choice for receiving a life membership of STAQ.

Gary Lee from Grovely TAFE recently contacted us regarding some incorrect rumours being spread about the imminent closure of the campus. Gary would like to have it known that this is not the case and that they will be accepting students next year and beyond. There was talk of some TAFE closures last year and following representations from industry bodies

river sands

it was made clear to the State Government that Grovely TAFE was very much a required campus. In a response to Golf Course Superintendents Association Qld. concerns, Premier Campbell Newman wrote; "Thirteen properties have been identified for sale.....You will be pleased to know that his does not include the Grovely campus". If you have any further queries regarding this matter please contact Gary direct at gary.lee@tafe.qld.edu.au

Our much anticipated bus trip to the 6th annual Bonville Turf Conference and Trade Show early in June was a great chance to do some networking and compare notes with fellow greenkeepers.

Our intrepid group Queensland STA members, including two from NZ especially joining us for this event, flew the State flag into NSW during the first State of Origin match, watched and outnumbered, in the clubhouse that evening.

Although unfortunately Queensland lost that match, team STAQ did themselves proud by winning a trivia night contest at a local hotel. The prizes consisted of a food voucher and a blower, both of which I've heard were traded back in with the publican.

Day one at the golf resort revolved around the trade show, several interesting presentations and information sessions and finished up with an open forum.

On day two a round of golf was had on what has to be one of this country's most picturesque, hilly and in my case challenging golf courses.

This is the first year we have organised a bus trip to this event and although the numbers were lower than we had at first hoped I'm sure everyone that came agrees it was a great success and will be looking forward to next year's trip.

Susan Smith our Administration Assistant has moved on. Many of you would know Sue from her friendly reminder phone calls prior to our field days, just one of her many roles. The Committee would like to thank Sue for her time with us and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Tanya Baxter

Joining us as our new Administration Assistant is Tanya Baxter. Tanya joins us with a wide range of skills and experience all of which will be of great benefit to our association. The Committee, and I'm sure all of our members, would like to welcome Tanya to the STA.

Don't forget, if you have any articles you would like in our newsletter perhaps on your own venue, and why not show them off, please get in touch with us.

Bush Turkeys

Australian Brush-turkey (Alectura lathami)

Other Common names: Bush Turkey, Scrub Turkey, Wild Turkey

Living with Brush-turkeys

The sight of your backyard bush-landscape being converted into an unattractive pile of decomposing compost matter is enough to infuriate any proud home owner. With his powerful legs and insatiable desire to mound and breed, the suburban backyard is no match for these industrious birds. A single male is capable of raking material into the mound from not only yours, but also surrounding neighbours' yards, when required.

So what can you do to try and deter an industrious turkey in your yard? Firstly the Brush Turkey is protected within Queensland and attempts to harm the bird or trap it without the appropriate permit are illegal. Although often frustrating to live with at times, these birds are merely taking advantage of the suitable conditions you have provided through your constructed garden landscape. Remember, the Brush Turkey favours moist gardens with a combination of intermittent shade, tree litter & mulch, and available food resources,

which facilitates both foraging and nesting behaviour. Don't waste time trying to destroy a mound or chase the bird away. This will only result in further frustration and will have no long term effect. If it is only just established, cover the mound with a heavy duty tarpaulin or shade cloth. This may encourage the bird to change location. Never feed turkeys. Any food source may encourage the bird to remain nearby. This also includes leaving food available for other native species & household pets. Keep piles of spare mulch, leaf litter & compost covered with tarpaulins. Communicate with your neighbours as the bird may also be affecting them

Garden Design & Pre-planning

When planning your garden consider the use of rock combined with heavy planting. Species such as Lomandra, Dietes, Bromeliad, and some low growing Grevillea varieties can be planted en-masse and provide thick ground cover. A layer of diamond-wire or chicken-wire below the surface of your mulch will discourage or make it difficult for the Turkey to rake the ground.

Use tree guards around small or newly-established plants for protection.

Heavy covering such as larger-size river gravel may be incorporated around the base of trees & plants to protect from root disturbance.

Advice & Relocation

If your best efforts of deterring the bird fail then further advice or relocation may be your last resort. Ecologically-minded turkey advice, specialist trapping requirements, and ecologically sound translocation methods are employed by licensed professionals for effective turkey relocation.

Contact - your local Brush Turkey specialist.

Trapping & relocation of the birds is done in accordance with requirements stipulated by the Environmental Protection Agency and permits are issued after stringent examination as to knowledge and suitability to actively manage conflict turkeys.

Every effort is made to ensure the birds are managed as to welfare, and to minimize any possible harm whilst being trapped, upon trapping, and through transit to a suitable release site.

Sites for release are selected prior to inspection as to their suitability for turkey habitat.

living turf

First Australian glyphosate resistant broadleaf weed confirmed

EIGHT POPULATIONS of flax-leaf fleabane (Conyza bonariensis) have been confirmed resistant to glyphosate in northern NSW and southern Queensland. This is the fifth weed species to be confirmed resistant to glyphosate in Australia in the past 10 years, with four being found in the past three years, and is the first glyphosate resistant broadleaf weed found in Australia.

This should ring alarm bells with no-till farmers and road managers whose heavy reliance on glyphosate as their herbicide-of-choice continues unabated.

Steve Walker of the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) at The University of Queensland, whose Department of Employment Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) team made the discovery, says that growers must be even more vigilant in their spring and summer weed control because these weed seedlings can withstand up to eight times the normal rate of glyphosate. In other words, the glyphosate just won't work!

This species has also developed resistance to glyphosate in South Africa, USA, Brazil, Spain, Colombia and Israel.

Fleabane has become one of the major weeds of no-till farming in Australia through its ability to germinate on or close to the soil surface across a wide part of the year. Fleabane is also a major weed of road shoulders and verges.

In summer it quickly exhibits moisture stress, yet can survive long periods of high temperatures and regrow following rain.

Fleabane can produce over 100,000 seeds per plant, which are easily spread by wind and water. Fleabane seed has been measured travelling up to 500 m from the parent plant; thus resistant plants can easily spread from other areas.

"While small susceptible plants can be well controlled under ideal conditions with glyphosate, control of large fleabane in fallows using glyphosate alone often gives poor control of susceptible plants," says Dr Walker. "Often these plants have germinated in the previous winter crop and are large, woody and stressed when sprayed after harvest."

"Of the herbicides that are registered for weed control in fallows research and farmer experience has shown that the "double-knock" technique where glyphosate plus 2,4-D is applied followed by paraquat 7-10 days apart provides the most consistent commercially acceptable control of this tough weed", Dr Walker said.

Herbicides are more effective on small seedlings, so farmers need to be looking for seedlings following rain to get high levels of control at lower cost.

Using a range of management techniques is always the best option to prevent the development of glyphosate resistance. Cultivation is very effective at controlling seedlings and preventing further germination and can be economic if combined with redistribution of phosphorus or liming. Growing a competitive winter cereal is another effective non-chemical option, especially when combined with spraying small fleabane with a robust rate of post-emergent selective herbicide.

If you suspect glyphosate resistant fleabane on your property contact your relevant state expert. If found on roadsides contact your local council. Details of who to contact in each state are available from the Australian Glyphosate Working Group web site - http://www.glyphosateresistance.org.au/suspect%20glyphosate.htm

The Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group, is supported by the Grains Research & Development Corporation, and key R&D based crop protection companies with an interest in the sustainability of glyphosate. Their web site has a range of information about glyphosate resistance including a register of glyphosate resistant weed populations and guides and links for management of glyphosate resistance in different crops and management situations.

Story released by Andrew Storrie, Agronomo
On behalf of the Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group
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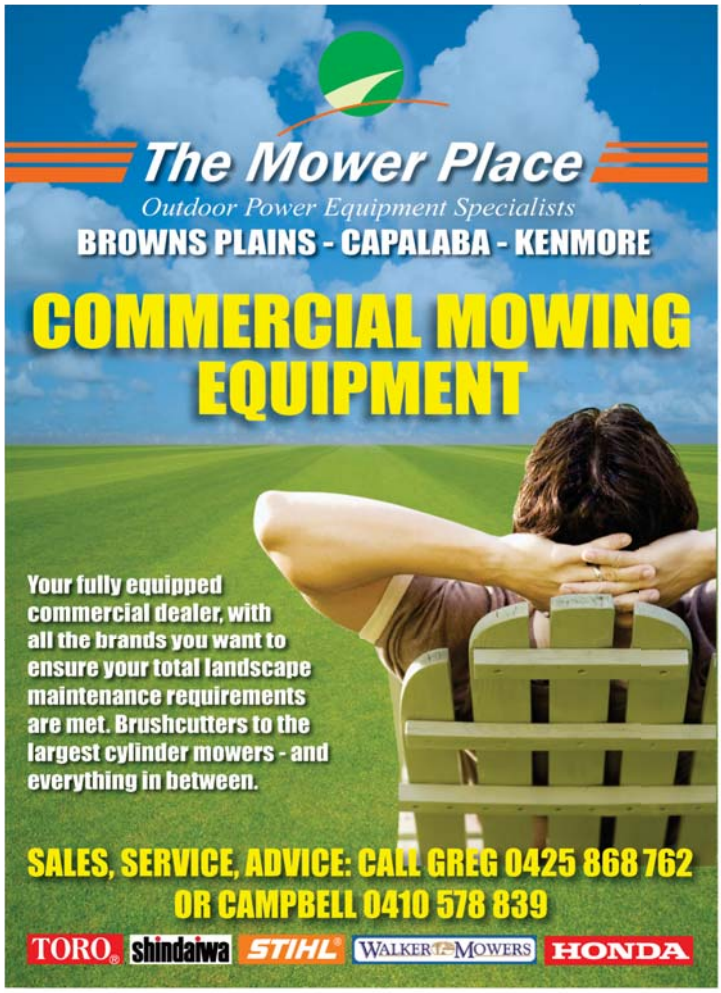
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Sponsor	☐	1 Year Sponsorship $ 1,750.00 (includes GST)

Step 2. Complete personal details (please print clearly)

☐ Renewing Member or ☐ New Member

Name: _____ Position: _____

Employer or educational institute name: _____

Postal address: _____

Suburb: _____ State _____ P'code: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Fax: _____

Email address: _____

☐ Tick this box if you ***do not wish*** for your name and postal address to be provided to the Australian Turfgrass Management Journal, TurfCraft International and the New Zealand Turf Management Journal.

Students only

Student ID Number _____ Current Year _____

Step 3. Complete details below and send the entire page to STA QLD

☐ Cheque ➔ Mail to Sports Turf Association QLD, PO Box 5203 Alexandra Hills Q 4161

☐ Credit Card ➔ Mail to address above or email to admin@staqld.com.au

Type:- ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard Expiry Date:- _____ Amount: _____

Card holder name :- _____

Card holder number:- _____

☐ Direct Deposit ➔ National Australia Bank, BSB: 084-129, Acct: 161637352
Reference: First initial and last name e.g. D.Jones (and invoice # if applicable)

☐ Purchase Order ➔ I require a tax invoice to be sent to me so that payment can be made (attach your purchase order if applicable and send to address above)

By completing this application you consent to receive email updates and or information to be mailed to you which is directly related to STA QLD's activities. You also give consent to all photographs, audio and or video recordings taken of yourself by STA QLD or their designee. You understand that any such material become the property of STA QLD and may be used by STA QLD or others with their consent, for educational, instructional, or promotional purposes determined by the STA QLD committee in broadcast and electronic media formats now existing or in the future created.

******* FOR STA QLD COMMITTEE USE ONLY *******

Member # **Receipt #** **Processed** / / **Merchandise Collected** ☐

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