



SPORTS TURF REFLECTIONS

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We nurture turf sports of all sorts

WELCOME,

Our land is vast, our seasons varied, our needs diverse, our skills broad, our science profound. As an industry 2011 Census indicates we have 95,590 people employed in sport. Of those it is stated 11,345 are (sports) greenkeepers, the second highest profession! As a National Association we hope to inform, entertain and broaden your appreciation of this your industry as each season commences. It is a global industry and we are just one twig.

GRADUATE OF YEAR. ENTRIES OPEN

Annually with support from Toro Australia, STA in each state select their most suitable TAFE/RTO Turf studies graduate to be considered for the Australian Turf Graduate of the Year.



This award is open to those who graduated in the last year in the Turf studies (or similar) through their TAFE programs. Nominations are made by the TAFE /RTO of the students they consider the most suited.

This award is one of the industries most prestigious awards and it is consciously directed at our newer entrants to the industry. The national winner not only has the honour of winning but also will be awarded a journey of discovery to the Toro Conference held in USA in July 2021 plus a study tour of many of the famed sports fields of America and visits to selected research facilities.

The final Judging this year will be held in Melbourne in June and will be awarded to the winner at the Sports Turf Management and Golf Business Conference Gala Dinner on 22 June

Our People Column in this edition of Sports Turf Reflections shares a story of one of our past state winners who has advanced further his rewarding career in Sports Turf management.



OUR AGRONOMY PATRON.

STA-Australia is proud and privileged to welcome Sports Turf Consultants as our preferred agronomy organization. As an Australian company Sports Turf Consultants being part of the STRI research organization garners in depth knowledge from local and international studies, experience and knowledge for the betterment of the Australian sports field industry.

Sam Myott, General Manager, Sports Turf Consultants, stated;-

"The synergy between STA-Australia and Sports Turf Consultants reflect the same commitments to enhance the outcome for sports fields across the nation, in technical guidance, advice, construction, management, product development & premier maintenance for the sports turf industry."

Sports Turf Consultants was established in 1992 to offer a scientifically grounded independent agronomy service to the Australian turf industry. Today it operates in all states and regions whilst based in Melbourne. Their broad customer base includes golf, bowls, football, cricket, local government, seed producers and soil suppliers to name a few.



NORTH SOUTH
EAST WEST
COAST TO COAST



Drought, Bush Fires Flood

We as guardians of Australia's inventory of turf sports-fields the drought of 2+ year has been a curse across Australia. We are still far from exiting this status.

We continue to battle for water access to sustain our sports fields. A purported taste of future climate change witnessed bushfires exploding in many quarters. As we arc through summer the calamity of flood caps off a season of remarkable seasonal weather contrasts.

The devastation suffered in various parts of the nation is heartfelt. The first of the unseasonal bushfires struck in Mid North Coast NSW in July. During this summer the east coast was dotted with bush fires.

Not isolated to the east, WA & SA did not miss the scourge. Victoria's Gippsland rescue was an unprecedented effort by the Australian Navy off Mallacoota.

The significance of this vast wall of burnt ground is made up of multiple fire fronts stretching from Sunshine Coast Qld to Gippsland Victoria. The same distance as Amsterdam to Rome or New York to Orlando Florida. Dominantly, these fires were in the less populated regions, a mild blessing. Such benefits to human life delivered devastation to our unique wildlife and native forests. Recovery will be slow.

Unsung heroes - Volunteer Rural Fire Fighters sacrificed their time, family comfort & personal safety, travelling beyond home to support communities hundreds of miles away. Canadian and US fire-fighters came to assist, as do Australian volunteers when Canada & USA have their times of need. Tragically a few fire fighters lost their lives in these encounters.

February heavy rains snuffed out much of the long raging bush fires, granting a reprieve but not battle over. Volunteers are still in place.

In the height of evacuations communities offered turf sports fields as refuge sites. We have work ahead to rejuvenate our community sports showpieces. A task significant in emotional healing of a hamlet, a village, a town.

Sport is not just a current day colosseum for today's gladiators. It is a forum to chat, to learn, to grieve, to laugh, to support, to share. Our task is to bring our sports turf fields of all sorts back into pristine condition. A return to a normal life.

As STA members, you have been part of the giving to those affected. Each STA State Association has made a financial donation to the appeals in their state.



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SPORTS TURF PEOPLE & EVENTS

TRAINING ACROSS THE NATION

As the new education year gets under way a drift has been taking place in some states with a limited embracing of turf sports fields in the education curriculum. Sports turf fields are a corner stone of every local government area across the nation. These facilities are a meeting place for community participation and active healthy sports. Their contribution to society is immense.

A further short coming is evident for those distant from the major capitals, where quality turf education is not available. It is an opportunity for TAFE & industry to review to see how we can cater to the remote provincial cities and beyond. We need a level playing field in sports turf education.

Do we have an RTO willing to build a remote or online sports turf learning Program?

ABEL SPORTS EXPANDING INTER-STATE.

Abel Sports, a leading manufacturer and supplier of goal posts and sports ground equipment is soon to join STA NSW and ACT in line with its Interstate expansion.



John Cann, Abel Sports General Manager, enjoyed the networking opportunities being a Member / Sponsor of STA Victoria has offered and would like

to take advantage of similar opportunities by becoming a Member / Sponsor of other States STA' s.

Abel Sports already has a strong Interstate presence, supplying and installing AFL , Rugby and Soccer goals in major Stadiums like , Sydney Cricket Ground [SCG] , Adelaide Oval , Perth Stadium , and Parramatta Stadium

Green keeper to Track Manager

Abbreviated editorial originally written by Frank Dempsey

The young man feels his heart beating through his chest and his breathing is fast as he presses the security button to gain entry to Rosehill Racecourse.

The young man says nervously and the gate slides open and he steps inside. His name is Shaun Patterson. That apprentice gardening job turned out to actually be an apprentice greenkeeping job. He got the job and he is now the recipient of the 2019 Rising Star Award which is presented by the Australian Racing Managers Association.

Looking back Shaun did not realize that as he took his first steps inside that racecourse his life changed forever. Only 12 years later he is now the track manager responsible for 20 track staff, 4 gardeners and office staff.

He now deals with the trainers of 400 horses and has regular meetings with some of racing's royalty, with names like Waller, Waterhouse, Cummings and Freedman.



"I started as an apprentice greenkeeper here in 2007. I attended TAFE at Richmond College for my Greenkeeping Trade Course. My teachers there were Ken Smith and Jay Wood.

I also attended post trade courses at Ryde TAFE and did Turf Management Certificate IV".

Shaun was awarded the STA NSW Graduate of the year in 2011. Shaun says "I felt very honored. I really did not know what to expect, it was a great opportunity to mix with other state graduates and attend the National Turf Conference in Adelaide. It gave me a belief that I could progress further in the industry".

"Over the years I learnt a lot from a group of guys including Chris Toogood, Lindsay Murphy and Daniel Beckhouse. They all helped me a lot."

The interview with Shaun took place only 10 days out from the feature race of the year. The \$7.5 million Golden Eagle. We walk out to look at the track and it is in very good condition. He is looking forward to the big race.

After the race and he was really happy. He said the International trainers were very complimentary with the track both the day before and on race day. Shaun was very busy leading upto the big race with television and radio interviews.

He is an inspiration to all involved in the sports turf industry. However more importantly he is the pride of all those who have been part of his journey. His rise reflects just one of the opportunities within the Sports Turf industry.



SPORTS TURF WORLD



03 February 2020

In the 74th year of OIG (Institute of Groundsmanship) was possibly the most successful and rewarding trade exhibition for those in the turf and leisure fields business.

SALTEX (Sports Amenities & Landscaping Exhibition) once again proved to be the UK industry's showcase event with over 500 brands on display and a record-breaking 9,104 visitors from 49 overseas markets in attendance.

This year's SALTEX Innovation Award certainly caught the eye. From robotics to hybrid mowers,



ground printers to state-of-the-art irrigation, grow lights to line trimmers – visitors had the opportunity to see the record-breaking 34 entries on the show floor.

The INFINICUT® gained rave reviews and 1st prize with the panel of judges claiming that it “has taken the rotary mower into the 21st century,” and that “the revolutionary introduction of a side collector has allowed for rollers, not wheels, thus eliminating wheel marks on the turf.”

All eyes now turn towards SALTEX 2020 the exhibition's 75th anniversary and CEO Geoff Webb is already looking forward to the celebratory event.

“SALTEX has moved from a horse racing track in Windsor to the National Exhibition Centre in the middle of the country and the fact that we are now gearing up for our 75th annual show next year is testament to the community of the sports turf industry and how it has grown.”

SALTEX 2020 will take place at the NEC, Birmingham on 4 and 5 November.



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Golf Saudi drives toward a green future with help from STRI Group

STRI Group, the world's leading sports surface provider, is delighted to announce that it is supporting Golf Saudi in the creation of a regional and a national strategy for the development of golf courses.

The strategies are being prepared to inform golf course developers about the particulars of golf course construction in Saudi Arabia with regard to the environment, turf management, water management and materials selection.

Golf Saudi unveiled its progressive environmental strategy during tournament week of the Saudi International powered by SoftBank Investment Advisers. During the first day



of press conferences, Majed Al-Sorour, CEO of the Saudi Golf Federation outlined a series of initiatives the group have put in place over the last twelve months, with particular reference to

its pioneering environmental initiatives.

“It has been a productive twelve months, but we have only just begun,” commented Al-Sorour. “A key driver has been our environmental strategy; bringing together a consortium of industry leaders to develop a national policy that will propel Saudi Arabia to the forefront of environmental development. It is of paramount importance to our national transformation and is a top priority.”

West Canada Turf As soc.- Annual Conference

As we look across the globe, the Western side of Canada have recently held their 3 day Conference in Vancouver with a new level of attendance.

The agenda was a traditional mix of subjects with one in particular warranting our reflection. In essence the subject was “Community value of sports fields”.

Do we undersell our product? Much has been said of the major sports stadiums, but in each local Government area are sports showpieces that warrant much praise. This praise & appreciation is ‘thin’ and muffled. A louder appreciation of the education, experience and skill executed should be encouraged.