

Turf Clippings

AUTUMN 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Spotlight on the ICC Cricket World Cup	2-3
• A day in the life of an ICC Cricket World Cup volunteer	
• Interview with Ian McKendry	
• Grounds around the country	
Pauatahanui Golf Club redevelopment	4
Clifton County Cricket club redevelopment	4
The Turf Team staff changes	5
The reclamation of a city	6-7
Walmsley's Word	7-8

WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN EDITION

Welcome to the autumn edition of Turf Clippings for 2015. Since our last edition we have been extremely busy with a variety of projects coming to fruition, including a number of staff changes. During these six months I have had the pleasure of spending a small amount of time in the field with our reps meeting some of our clients and it is great to see you all in high spirits. I'm looking forward to getting out farther and wider to see you all on your patch of turf soon.

The topic of conversation across many smoko tables over summer has been the lack of rainfall throughout most of the country. The continuing dry period is taking its toll with any forecasted rainfall unable to offset the already moisture parched soils. Despite the lack of moisture this summer, a number of projects are certainly in full swing and we have been very busy over the summer; some of which you can read in this edition.

That said however, the warm weather has enabled us to harvest a bumper crop of turf ryegrass across the Canterbury Plains this year. Our R&D and production teams have been frantically working behind the scenes over this period to bring you NZ bred and grown, high quality, high endophyte and truly winter active ryegrass products you can rely on for true winter and summer persistence. With autumn now

upon us there will be number of turf managers contemplating a rain dance or two to replenish sufficient soil moisture before undertaking any renovations.

The eyes of the world have been watching from afar as we co-hosted the ICC Cricket World Cup. Congratulations must be said to all our NZ turf managers and their teams for the outstanding surfaces that have been produced and put on show to the world. We at PGG Wrightson Turf are certainly proud of the association we had have with all of you during this fantastic event.

Wishing you all the best for the remainder of the autumn and as you head into the winter months.

Jason Weller
Sales and Marketing Manager





A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP VOLUNTEER – JASON WELLER

Our National Sales & Marketing Manager Jason Weller has had a busy summer as a volunteer for the ICC Cricket World Cup. We had a chat about what went on and what the job involved...

What motivated you to be a volunteer?

Having been lucky enough to be involved with Hagley Oval since its inception and construction, I wanted to give something back to the ground that Christchurch so desperately needed. We lost the chance to see the Rugby World Cup in 2011 here due to the earthquakes, so I wanted to do my part and help deliver a memorable event that visitors and the people of Christchurch will talk about for a long time. Many people that know me, know that I also have a general love for the game of cricket.

Can you explain what was involved leading up to the tournament? Did you have any specific training?

There were a number of roles that the event staff were looking for from Fleet Drivers to Commercial and Sponsor Servicing, Spectator and Fan Services, Media and Broadcast Operations, VIP and Hospitality to the accreditation office. Each role required its own specific training. My role was to work directly with the ICC Cricket World Cup Event Manager and I was essentially responsible for the operational delivery of the match. My primary responsibility was to assist in a wide variety of tasks prior to and on each match day, with a

specific emphasis on player facilities. The role also involved delivering the ICC Cricket World Cup Enhancement Program, ensuring players and officials were provided with a high level of service at both the venue and team hotels.

What has been the highlight of being a volunteer for you?

Definitely seeing the success of hosting such an event in Christchurch. To see where the ground has come from to where it is now, it was a definite buzz to be part of. It is a true testament to Rupert, Ash, Steve and Andy down at the ground and to all those that put in the hard yards to get the ground and facilities up to the standard required by the International Cricket Council and NZ Cricket.

Being at the ground on day one knowing that the first game was being broadcast to over 1 billion people was a definite highlight. The whole experience and having the chance to rub shoulders with some of the game's greatest was something I will never forget.

One of the unique experiences was getting the chance to drive the Gatorade drinks cart out during each innings. During the whole tournament only once were we stopped for a drink. Darren Sammy from the West Indies hailed us down, jumped into my cart seat, we had a quick chat and then he started getting down to the music over the loud speakers in true Caribbean style!

Can you talk us through your involvement with the Blackcaps vs Sri Lanka game? What roles and responsibilities did you have?

MATCH DAY -1

- Liaise with Team Liaison Officer regarding placement of player towels in the team changing areas. This included installation of player's names and photos in changing areas also.
- Ensure venue is ready for match day.

MATCH DAY

- Collect ICC staff radios from Venue Operations Office and distribute to the team.
- Check on Gatorade chilly bins and position fielding team allocation around the boundary prior to game. Check at innings break and re stock if required. Also check Gatorade drinks cart is stocked.
- Assist in positioning the ICC Trophy plinth on the field prior to presentation of the trophy for national anthems.
- Assist with team sheet distribution post toss.
- Assist Great Big Events Head Floor Manager with mid-innings entertainment.
- Review LED boards and vision screen sponsor content to ensure meeting sponsor obligations.
- Sweep venue at least twice per innings for breaches of commercial rights.
- Stay on call during the game for anything that may require urgent attention.

INTERVIEW WITH IAN MCKENDRY

Someone who knows more than most about what goes into the preparation of a ground for a tournament like the ICC Cricket World Cup is Ian McKendry. We spoke to Ian about his role at New Zealand Cricket and what the buildup to this tournament has been like.

What is your role within New Zealand Cricket?

I am the General Manager of Grounds and Facilities. I work with the main cricket associations, and key stakeholders such as local authorities in New Zealand to ensure that venues and facilities are up to a first class standard.

What challenges were there leading up to the ICC Cricket World Cup?

Part of my role has been working with the ICC Local Organising Committee's (LOC's) and venues to ensure the allocation of game venues and practice facilities worked in with the ICC Cricket World Cup. The challenge is balancing the NZC International and domestic cricket program with the ICC Cricket World Cup games and making sure the grounds and facilities are ready for both. I work with the LOC's and develop a risk mitigation strategy and put in place various turf

management systems to support them in making sure their venues are ready.

New Zealand last hosted the Cricket World Cup in 1992, what are some of the changes you've noticed since then?

I was lucky enough to be working at Lancaster Park during the 1992 CWC so for me the changes have been pretty big. The scale of event management for this tournament is huge compared to what went on in 1992. The 1992 tournament was run with half a dozen volunteers, this time round we have over 150 workers across all aspects of event management. There have also been big changes in the standard of turf management and support. The skill level in this area has improved hugely since 1992.

Two of the seven New Zealand ICC Cricket World Cup grounds have portable wickets, do you think there is a difference in the way these pitches play?

Portable pitches have been around for 20 odd years now and the improvements made over the years mean there really shouldn't be any difference between a portable pitch and a

natural cricket block. There has been a lot of technology in the past 5 – 10 years that has allowed stadiums to host multiple sports in the short time frames. Infrastructure like stadiums can't afford to be sitting idle; having portable wickets enables these stadiums to turn around from one sport to another pretty quickly.

What's been the most enjoyable aspect of the ICC Cricket World Cup so far?

At time of writing BLACK CAPS making the final – the way the NZ public have engaged with the event – it has been extraordinary – from the opening game at Hagley Oval to the Wellington Stadium and Eden Park spectacles – all venues have played a significant role in what has been a once in a life time opportunity. All the turf managers and their teams can be so proud of how they have delivered. I've enjoyed working with a group of passionate people across both New Zealand and Australia to coordinate and deliver an event that has been world class.

GROUNDS AROUND THE COUNTRY

The PGG Wrightson Turf team watched the ICC Cricket World Cup games with immense pride, knowing how much hard work had gone into the preparation of the grounds. Every ground that was played on during the tournament

looked amazing and it was wonderful to see them showcased to the world! A big well done to the grounds staff throughout the country, a job well done!

Pictured below is the team from Hagley Oval in Christchurch and Phil Stoyanhoff on the job at McLean Park in Napier.



PAUATAHANUI GOLF CLUB REDEVELOPMENT



"In order to try and hang on to the small amount of water that we are given, PGG Wrightson Turf have supplied us with three products to help us out."

Recently Matt Kidby caught up with Tom Paterson from Grass Ltd to discuss the 7 hole redevelopment of Pauatahanui Golf Club in Wellington. This project commenced in October 2014 and involves the rerouting of the golf course to allow room for the construction of Transmission Gully (a 26 km four-lane motorway).

What have the challenges been in this project?

"Water, water, water. This site has had a few different challenges but water is the major issue. As part of the resource consent given to do the works, we were only given consent to pump 55m³ out of the stream that runs through the course. Given that we have to try and grow in 6 greens, 7 sets of tees and 4 fairways, as well as keep the existing course

intact for play to continue; you can guess this was never going to be enough, so we have to import water by truck. In order to try and hang on to the small amount of water that we are given, PGG Wrightson Turf have supplied us with three products to help us out. When installing the rootzone layer on the greens and tees we have been putting on Sand-Aid® and raking in to the soil profile. Then just before we drop the seed onto the sand we will apply Restore wetting agent. The other products that we use and have been using for a long time are cellulose paper fibre and Conwed 1000 Hydromulch. We find that mixing these two products in our hydroseeder seems to provide us with the best instant erosion control, seed germination and water retention."

What has been the best thing about this project?

"The same as all the remodelling projects we are involved with; seeing the big change from start to finish and meeting the needs of the golf club, golf course architect and the client (for this site the client is NZTA)."

What is the process you used to get to this point?

"The seed used on the greens and tees are a blend of Arrowtown browntop and Egmont browntop. The sand is amended with Regen-R-8.

Fairways and roughs are a blend of Colosseum turf ryegrass /Arena turf ryegrass 30%, Shadow II chewings fescue 30%, Merlot creeping red fescue 30%, and browntop 10%."

CLIFTON COUNTY CRICKET CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Sam Howard from Clifton County Cricket Club in Te Awanga, Hawkes Bay caught up with Matt Kidby to discuss the development of their new cricket ground during the spring of 2014.

What have the challenges been in this project?

"The major challenge was that as a not for profit group we relied on the goodwill of our volunteer and supporters. This meant the timing of developments did not always match the best seasonal timing. For example, the sowing of grass was not able to happen until spring which was more challenging than autumn would have been."

What has been the best thing about this project?

"The bringing together of experts who saw a fantastic opportunity to build something special. Expertise from PGG Wrightson Turf and Napier City Council turf specialists, together with dedicated club volunteers, formed a strong team which overcame the challenges."

What is the process you used to get to this point?

"The first part of the project had been extremely labour intensive. After Cardno NZ Limited had prepared the ground, Napier City Council staff finished the playing surface ready for sowing. At

this point the expertise of PGG Wrightson Turf to recommend the right product was important. We needed a grass mix that was hard wearing, easy to maintain and looked good. The mix we have has performed beyond our expectations, and surprises people when they see it for the first time."

How is this going to improve your grounds?

"It has made our ground. Before this was completed, the grounds were simply a paddock in the back of the farm planted in browntop. It is now a high quality cricket surface. Soft enough to spend a day standing on; cool in the Hawkes Bay heat and it looks stunning."



"In every part of our Club's development we have sought out expertise. PGG Wrightson Turf and Matt Kidby brought a very high level of expertise to this project that we are very grateful for. They are a major part of our Club."

THE TURF TEAM STAFF CHANGES

There have been a few staff changes at PGG Wrightson Turf over the past six months. We welcome Jason Weller to the role of New Zealand Sales and Marketing Manager, taking over from George Tohill who has settled in nicely over the ditch in our Australia turf business. Brandon Parker has rejoined the Turf team, based in Christchurch, and is looking after the top of the South Island and West Coast. In our marketing department we welcome Liz Inglis our new Marketing Coordinator. Liz takes over from Kate Goldsmid who has taken up a Marketing Coordinator role in our Melbourne office.

BRANDON PARKER, TECHNICAL TURF REPRESENTATIVE



- **Describe yourself in three words.** Easy going, (closet) bogan, ginger.
- **Hobbies.** I enjoy getting out on a motorbike every now and then.
- **What is your favourite food?** Schwarma – unfortunately I was introduced to it in Doha and it changed me.
- **What do you like to do in the weekends?** Play a bit of golf, ride motorbikes, and don't mind

the day spent on the couch watching sport and movies.

- **How long have you been in the turf industry and where have you worked prior to PGG Wrightson Turf?** Just gone 12 years now, started out at Kaiapoi Golf Club under the watchful eye of Peter Commons. I had two and a half years as 2IC under Richard Belcher at Waitikiri Golf Club, before moving to PGG Wrightson Turf the first time around, where I started in dispatch before moving into a sales role, servicing the great regions of Otago, Southland and the West Coast, and parts of Canterbury. I then took up the Assistant Sportsfield Managers role with the Doha Golf Club in October 2012, moving into the Sportsfield Managers role after one day on the job.
- **Career highlight so far?** Preparing football pitches in Doha for Bayern Munich, Paris – St Germaine, Juventus and Schalke 04 – some absolute legends of the game.

- **What do you enjoy about working for PGG Wrightson Turf?** The people, both in the turf industry itself and PGG Wrightson.
- **What PGG Wrightson Turf product appeals to you the most and why?** Acelepryn – it's a gamechanger for the pesticide industry.
- **What is your most memorable moment with the turf team so far? (this time around...)** The week just spent at The Hills and Millbrook for the New Zealand Open. Got to see some great courses with a great bunch of people.
- **If you were stuck in traffic and your CD player was stuck on repeat what CD would you choose to be playing?** Metallica – Kill Em All, or if I got a second choice, any 12th Man.
- **What is your favourite New Zealand sports venue?** Forsyth Barr stadium – amazing.
- **What sports have you played?** Rugby in my younger years, and a lot of frustration on the golf course.
- **What's your favourite sports team that you follow?** Warriors!

LIZ INGLIS, MARKETING COORDINATOR



- **Describe yourself in three words.** Positive, determined, competitive.
- **Hobbies.** Running, cooking, watching sport.
- **What is your favourite food?** Anything Asian.

- **What do you like to do in the weekends?** Watching either my husband or daughter play sport, going for a run and having a few beers with my friends.
- **How long have you been in the turf industry and where have you worked prior to PGG Wrightson Turf?** This is my first job in the turf industry. Previously I was marketing in the insurance industry for 10 years, it was time for a change!
- **What do you enjoy about working for PGG Wrightson Turf?** The team I work with are great, and no two days are the same!
- **What is your most memorable moment with the turf team so far?** On my second day Grant Bunting took me to visit Hagley Oval, couldn't wipe the grin off my face!

- **If you were stuck in traffic and your CD player was stuck on repeat what CD would you choose to be playing?** Ellie Goulding.
- **What is your favourite New Zealand sports venue?** Hagley Oval – can't beat it on a good day.
- **What sports have you played?** Squash, touch rugby, netball, volleyball (and 3 games of cricket when we were living in Wales!).
- **What's your favourite sports team that you follow?** The Blackcaps and the Tasman Makos.



This is the site after the demolition was completed (Photo taken 4/2/2014)

Four years have passed since the earthquakes in Christchurch and areas of the CBD still feel like a war zone. However, progress is being made. With revegetation and erosion control as well as suppressing dust a focus in all areas, hydraulic mulch applications as well as quick establishing turf grasses have now become a critical part of the reclamation work.

Currently the Christchurch CBD has a lot of demolition work going on. In the next 12 months there is over 400 hectares in the red zone to turn into green space. Above is an example of one of the many sites around Christchurch that has been demolished and leveled. It has then had top soil introduced, been cultivated or stone buried, hydraulic mulch applied and revegetated.

All the photos are taken on the corner of Manchester and Worcester Streets (what was formally SBS House).

Irrigating the area is critical to getting full turf establishment. The dry nature of the Christchurch summer has made establishing vegetation without irrigation near impossible. The advantage of using thermally refined wood fibre mulch is that it can retain a lot more water than other mulch applications, such as paper or atmospherically refined wood fibre mulch, reducing the amount of watering required. The above work was carried out by Stoneburier.com



Leveled, cultivated with hydromulch and seed on top. Germination is critical for dust suppression as well as ground stability. (photo taken 18/2/14)



Complete cover four weeks after application. (Photo taken 17/3/14)

The Port Hills is another area where PGG Wrightson Turf are working closely with contractors and CERA to find the best solution for difficult areas. For most of the sites which are being worked on in the Port Hills a “rock watcher” is employed to ensure the safety of the staff as the ground is still fairly unstable. These diggers (pictured right) also have the capability to be remote controlled from a distance for any “cliff edge” work that is required, meaning it doesn’t need to be manned whilst in operation.

Profile Products along with PGG Wrightson Turf donated some Flexterra HP-FGM for trial purposes to an area in the Port Hills to see how it would perform in establishing seed in difficult areas such as steep slopes. Flexterra is a flexible growth matrix that is hydraulically applied through a hydroseeder with seed. The product instantly binds itself to the soil and is 99% effective against erosion lost.

The Flexterra HP-FGM proved to be successful with the area getting 80mm of rain the week the product was applied to the site (pictured below). As the site was on a steep slope, if the rain had come prior to the application of Flexterra, the erosion and sediment loss could have been severe.



Photo taken the week after the 80mm rainfall (30/4/14)



‘Cliff edge’ work in the Port Hills

The Flexterra HP-FGM will stay visible on the ground for up to 18 months. The faster the establishment of vegetation, the quicker Flexterra will biodegrade.

While Canterbury suffered a phenomenal amount of damage four years ago, progress is

being made. Through innovative solutions PGG Wrightson Turf are doing their part in the rebuild. By working with parties involved in the rebuild we are providing environmentally green solutions for areas that require erosion or sediment loss, as well as revegetation.



Photo taken two weeks later (13/5/14)

WALMSLEY’S WORD

CERTIFIED SEED IS IMPORTANT



Bill Walmsley
Turf Agronomist
PGG Wrightson Turf

It’s always good to be reminded of the importance of things we learned in our training and may have forgotten. One of those things relates to seed certification. Certified seed is seed that is grown in a certification scheme,

meaning it is certified as genuinely the named cultivar. Certified seed crops are inspected during production for contamination and off types. Certified seed needs to pass minimum standards of testing for germination and weed content. The certifying agency used here is Assure Quality New Zealand. Other agencies operate seed certification schemes overseas. Seed certification is needed for

trading in named cultivars of seed. Certified seed provides a minimum standard for seed and generally higher standards are desirable for professional turf use.

Seed of a named cultivar that is not certified should raise a red flag. Generally there is a reason why the seed is not certified and it often relates to off types or contamination. Seed that fails certification should strictly be sold as “variety not specified” (VNS).

Professional buyers of turf seed will also want to see the purity and germination test certificate. Germination testing is routinely done at harvest and should be good for 18 months to 2 years. Seed older than this should have a re-test done within 6-9 months old. The purity test is done on a 50g

sample of seed and looks at things other than pure seed. The presence of a few broadleaf weeds is not a big issue, but other grass weeds are. Hairgrass *Vulpia sp.* is becoming an increasing problem in the seed growing areas of the world. Both these tests should be carried out in New Zealand to account for any deterioration in transport.

We have recently looked at the seed quality and levels of contamination of our own and our competitors lines of perennial ryegrass. We tested them for purity, germination and presence of endophyte. We also did a grow-out test where we planted 3x3m plots of each perennial ryegrass replicated three times and we counted the number of weedy grasses found.

TABLE 1 – PURITY TEST RESULT

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS	Pure seeds	Inert matter	Other seeds	Grass seeds
Colosseum AR95	99.8	0.2	0	1 <i>Vulpia myuros</i>
Soprano	99.8	1.2	0	
Colosseum HE	99.7	0.3	0	
Competitor	99.6	0.4	0	
Competitor (uncertified cultivar)	98.5	1.5	0	10 <i>Vulpia myuros</i> , 1 <i>Phalaris aquatica</i> .
Competitor (uncertified cultivar)	99.3	0.7	TR	9 <i>Vulpia myuros</i>
Tambour	99.1	0.9	TR	1 <i>Vulpia myuros</i> , 1 <i>Agrostis spp.</i>
Competitor	99.6	1.3	0.1	17 <i>Vulpia aviculare</i>
Competitor	99.7	0.1	0.2	83 <i>Vulpia myuros</i>
Unnamed	99.7	0.1	0.2	104 <i>Vulpia myuros</i>
Competitor	91.4	0.8	7.8	0.8% <i>Agrostis spp.</i> , 7.0% <i>Festuca spp.</i>

The results of the purity test are given in Table 1. Two uncertified lines are shaded grey. Unsatisfactory results are shaded orange. It is alarming to see that one cultivar contained so much *Agrostis sp.* and *Festuca sp.* that it could be classed a seed mixture. It is good to see that most PGW cultivars perform better than the competition.

The results of the germination test are given in Table 2. Again the PGW cultivars beat out most of the competition. Seed with a germination of 80% can still be used provided an allowance is made by increasing the seeding rate by 1.25 times and decreasing the price to 80%.

TABLE 2 – GERMINATION TEST RESULT

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS	Germ 7 days	Final 10 days
Colosseum HE	96%	97%
Competitor	96%	97%
Colosseum AR95	96%	97%
Arena 1	97%	97%
Tambour	96%	96%
Soprano	87%	89%
Competitor	86%	88%
Competitor	81%	88%
Competitor (uncertified cultivar)	78%	85%
Competitor (uncertified cultivar)	73%	80%
Competitor	68%	71%

The results of the endophyte test are given in Table 3. Seedborne endophyte is tested using the squash test. This test only detects the presence of endophyte. It cannot tell whether the endophyte is still viable. A grow out test is needed for this. A higher seedborne endophyte test and a lower grow out test may indicate that the seed has been stored in sub optimal conditions or has died for some reason. It is clear from this test that a number of PGW cultivars have above 70% viable endophyte, and no competitor cultivars achieved this standard.

TABLE 3 – ENDOPHYTE TEST RESULT

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS	Seedborne endophyte	Grow-out endophyte
Colosseum AR95	86%	96%
Tambour	80%	90%
Soprano	100%	74%
Arena 1	88%	74%
Competitor (uncertified cultivar)	78%	68%
Competitor (uncertified cultivar)	50%	46%
Competitor	54%	38%
Unnamed	84%	2%
Competitor	4%	2%
Competitor	20%	0%
Competitor	78%	0%

The grow-out test plot trial was a talking point amongst many visitors. What stood out in the trial was the level of coarse perennial ryegrass contamination in two lines in particular (Table 4). One of these was uncertified, perhaps for this reason. The trial was sown on 7 May and the winter active PGW cultivars with Mediterranean genetics established rapidly and achieve full coverage well ahead of the competitors, where coarse grass contamination stood out prominently.

Whatever quantity of seed you are purchasing, your best guide to quality is to purchase certified seed. You will also want to see a purity test and a germination certificate less than 12 months old. The weeds present should not be ones troublesome to control. Finally always deal with a reputable seed company that can supply the information you want.

TABLE 4 – GROW-OUT TEST

25 WEEKS AFTER SOWING PLANTS PER 9M ²	Coarse grass
Colosseum HE	0.0
Arena 1 Soprano	0.0
Colosseum AR95	0.3
Tambour	0.7
Competitor	2.7
	2.7
Competitor	5.0
Competitor (uncertified cultivar)	6.3
Competitor	7.7
Competitor (uncertified cultivar)	24.2
Competitor	346.7

KEY

- PGW cultivars
- Unsatisfactory result
- Satisfactory result

PGG Wrightson Turf Stores and staff contacts

CHRISTCHURCH 03 372 8719 AUCKLAND 09 570 2570 PALMERSTON NORTH 027 487 4002 pggwrightsonturf.co.nz

NZ Sales and Marketing
Jason Weller
027 596 3974

North Auckland/Northland
Brian Griffiths
027 430 2992

Greater Auckland
Bevan Houghton
027 344 6439

Greater Auckland
Phil Gould
027 477 0096

Central North Island/Bay of Plenty/Waikato/Coromandel
Julian Holden - 027 289 2244

South Waikato/Taranaki
Karen Crake
027 430 2995

Lower North Island/Wellington/Hawke's Bay
Matt Kidby
027 487 4002

Upper South Island/Christchurch/West Coast
Brandon Parker
027 801 0034

Otago/Southland
Joe Johnson
027 596 3565

Christchurch/Central Otago
Grant Bunting
027 704 7520

International
Mark Shaw - 027 499 8327



© PGG Wrightson Seeds 2015. This information has been checked for accuracy and published in good faith. However PGG Wrightson Seeds accepts no responsibility expressed or implied for misuse of information in this publication. This information is not to be reproduced without the expressed written permission of PGG Wrightson Seeds.