

AUSTRALIAN

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# Turfgrass



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MANAGEMENT JOURNAL

## Best of Both worlds

From Nhill, Vic to Naples, FL

### Regional profile

Warrnambool GC

### Is your course a cut above?

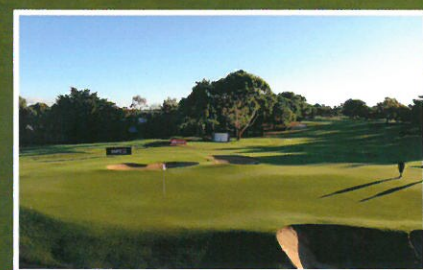
Managing mower  
unit set-up

### Greens reconstruction

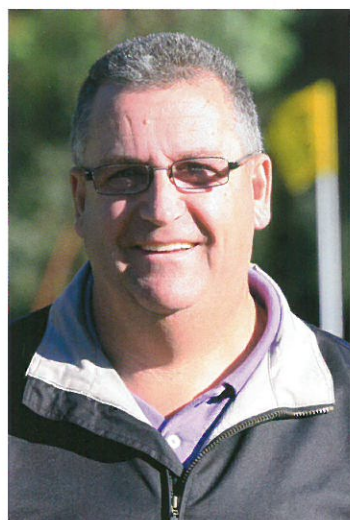
To rebuild or not to rebuild?

## 2016 Women's Australian Open

The Grange puts Adelaide back on major tournament map



## Yelverton adds to class line-up for Melbourne conference



**AGCSA**



**GolfAustralia**

While the calendar would indicate that summer is behind us, some of the temperatures and weather events being experienced around the country suggest that summer is happy to continue into a fourth month. Swan Hill in Victoria has seen maximum temperatures hovering around 40 degrees for the first week of autumn, while up north the wet season has come late to some regions thanks to the remnants of tropical Cyclone Winston.

I had the pleasure of attending the Golf Industry Show (GIS) in San Diego in early February where I was fortunate enough to sit in on a couple of sessions presented by speakers who have expressed interest in travelling to our event in coming years. It is wonderful when people *approach us* to make the trip to Australia to present, such is the reputation that the Australian Turfgrass Conference carries on the international stage.

For those that may not have been to San Diego, it is a great city and this year, with southern California experiencing significant drought, the weather for visiting delegates was perfect. It was also great to catch up with those Australians who made the trip this year and while there were only about a dozen practitioners there was a large contingent from the trade. One of the highlights of the week is the opportunity to catch up with ex-pat Australian superintendents working around the world. Keep an eye out for a couple of articles

in this and coming editions of ATM; ex-pat articles always prove popular reading and the upcoming features should not disappoint.

As reported in the previous edition of ATM, Mike Richardson will not be presenting at the 32nd Australian Turfgrass Conference in Melbourne. I am pleased to confirm that we have secured **Professor Fred Yelverton**, extension specialist with the Centre for Turfgrass Environmental Research and Education at North Carolina State University. As many would be aware Fred is a semi-regular visitor to Australia and spoke at our conference in Brisbane in 2006.

Fred is one of the world-leading researchers regarding the management and control of *Poa annua* and I am sure he will be greeted with many questions from delegates looking for some quality advice and the 'silver bullet'. I had the pleasure of catching up with both Fred and his fellow Melbourne conference keynote **Dr Frank Rossi** at the GIS and they are both very much looking forward to the trip in June. And just as a heads up, be sure to keep an ear and eye out for more news regarding one of our guest speakers as we get closer to the conference.

In other news regarding the conference, I am pleased to advise that **Golf Australia** has come on board as a principal partner for the event. As the peak body for golf in Australia

it is pleasing that they are willing to contribute to the education of those that prepare the courses



Professor Fred Yelverton

on which golfers play. Thanks must go to chief executive officer **Stephen Pitt** and golf development director **Cameron Wade** for their support in this partnership; it is greatly appreciated.

While on the subject of conference partners, I would also like to thank those companies that have signed on as major sponsors – **HybridAg, Jacobsen, Nuturf, Rain Bird, Syngenta and Toro**. This year in the trade exhibition, which as usual is free to enter, there will be free educational sessions on the Wednesday and Thursday. Our major sponsors will be presenting on the trade exhibition stage and it will give the opportunity for all that attend to not only see what is new in the industry but also hear from our industry leaders.

Finally, as this edition of Australian Turfgrass Management goes to print, the AGCSA Board will be meeting where the Strategic Plan will be formally adopted. A part of the strategic direction is to 'enhance member engagement through the use of social media'.

For those Twitter users out there, you are probably aware that @AGCSA2 has been active since August 2015 and we have developed a good following. I am pleased to advise that you will also now find me on Twitter @AGCSACEO. Twitter is a fantastic medium to get news out to the industry and given I rarely partake in alcohol it should be pretty safe! I look forward to making contact in the 'Twittersphere' at some stage.

I look forward to catching up when our paths next cross and please feel free to contact me at any time if you have an issue or suggestion; any feedback is greatly appreciated. 🙏



The Tru-Turf (top) and Brandt (above) stands at the Golf Industry Show in San Diego



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