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Cheers from your Chair

The Sports Turf industry has always enjoyed a high profile being a regular feature in the media but 2015 is going to be one of those years when we are truly on show.

NZ Cricket is in high praise of our Grounds men for the outstanding turf they produced for the CWC, with the ICC very happy with the standard of practice and game day pitches produced. A major contribution to what was a very successful sporting event; needless to say I won't mention the final outcome.

Now we get to show case our profession to a few more billion people with the FIFA U-20 World Cup about to kick off. From what I can gather most preparation has gone smoothly due to extensive planning and fore thought and football pitches are ready to go around the country.

The sporting codes always enjoy a spike in players following major sporting events such as these and hopefully as a spin off from all this exposure we will also experience increased interest in our industry and maybe even some new recruits.

**Kellie Rose,
Chair, STANZ**

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Health and Safety Reform

New Zealand has a poor record of health and safety in the workplace when compared to similar countries such as Australia and the United Kingdom which have made significant improvements in the past 10 years. On average there are 75 workplace deaths reported each year, with an estimated further 600 to 900 deaths from occupational exposure to chemicals or harmful substances.

Following the tragic loss of life in the Pike River Mine the New Zealand Government commissioned an investigation into the accident. This investigation returned a number of recommendations highlighting changes required to ensure a safe workplace. Government accepted these recommendations and established an independent taskforce on workplace health and safety to review the current system and make further recommendations for improvement.

As a result of the recommendations of both the independent taskforce and the Royal commissions investigation of Pike River a new crown agency, 'Worksafe' has been established which is responsible for education and enforcement of health and safety in the workplace and a new bill has been introduced to

parliament. The bill is named the Health and Safety Reform Bill and it is expected to pass into law in mid-2015 and take effect from the end of 2015.

The bill will replace the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 and its amendments, while also incorporating regulations currently covered by the HAZNO Act. The purpose of incorporation of HAZNO was to present one location to reference matters relating to the health and safety of workers using or handling chemicals, reducing confusion caused when referencing different pieces of legislation. The new legislation is based around Australian model law and seeks to reduce the number of workplace deaths and injuries through greater participation of workers. It removes the description of employer and employees and introduces the PCBU; Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking.

Information on what a PCBU is can be located on the Worksafe website at the following link;
<http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/about/reform>

The full bill can be found on the Legislation New Zealand website at the following link;
<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2014/0192/latest/DLM5976660.html>

The final form of the legislation will not be known until it has passed through parliament however some key reforms that will affect those in the turf industry include;

Directors of a PCBU will have duties under the new legislation.

Volunteers will be covered in some situations. (Where they are carrying out work either paid or unpaid for a PCBU the same duties as workers of the PCBU apply)

Worksafe New Zealand will also be responsible for producing best practice guides and providing support and education.

Worksafe New Zealand will have regulatory powers to enforce the law in the workplace, with a range of new penalties.

There will be better alignment of HASNO for those using and handling chemicals.

Everett Darlington
NZSTI

A Day in the Life of an ICC Cricket World Cup Volunteer

PGG's 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

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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!

Jason Weller, PGG Wrightson.



Living near a park leads to a better life – study

Living near a good park drastically reduces the wellbeing gap between rich and poor, research shows.

The mental health gulf that divides those in wealth and poverty is 40 per cent narrower for people reporting good access to green space, according to a study from Glasgow and Edinburgh universities published this week.

Analysing responses from 21,294 urban residents in 34 European nations, academics at the Centre for Research on Environment, Society and Health found compelling evidence that open spaces helped to level health inequality.

Using the European Quality of Life Survey, researchers charted mental wellbeing and economic status against how easy it was for respondents to access five different neighbourhood facilities or services. These included public transport and postal, banking and cultural services.

But it was only access to green or recreational space which had a link to narrower inequalities in wellbeing, according to the paper in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

The project led researchers to conclude that countries could use green space to help to reduce socio-economic inequalities.

The study leader, Professor Rich Mitchell of the University of Glasgow, said: "Research should explore whether these environments can help stop the wealth gap becoming a health gap."

By Emily Dugan (Reprinted via www.nzherald.co.nz)

ICC World Cup Round Up – Ian McKendry

Without doubt the 2015 Cricket World Cup (CWC) captured the imagination of all New Zealanders. The style and quality of play from the BLACK CAPS was breath taking. No doubt many attending the games would rate as one of the best sporting experiences they have or will ever encounter.

The CWC cricket games across all New Zealand venues were well attended with exceptional buy in from kiwi. The atmosphere at many a game was electric with unbelievable scenes of joy – the site of grown men embracing each other in the stands after we knocked over South Africa was priceless.

Our Turf Management teams at all venues exceeded expectations. The pitches, training pitches, and outfield produced for CWC were of outstanding quality. The key measure of success for our turf teams is the complete lack of focus or any negative feedback from players (no news is good news) when it comes to pitch and playing conditions.

The ICCs Geoff Allardice was complimentary of all venues. He publicly rated the playing conditions as the best of any CWC held and sent a personalised e mail praising the efforts of all turf management teams.

Where to now for New Zealand Cricket - CWC legacy work will continue to focus on areas where we can further enhance the community game and keep our fans engaged, cricket facilities and grounds will play a key role delivering the cricket experience to all our current and future players. Without doubt the world cup reenergised the sport and we look forward to many more fantastic summer days next season following our teams.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the turf managers, councils, contractors, and cricket stakeholders across New Zealand for the massive effort pulling together a CWC that will forever be etched in our memories. In particular a special thanks to Gavin Larsen whom ably lead, pulled together and steered the logistics of the turf management delivery for CWC across New Zealand.

Ian McKendry, NZ Cricket



Up to 70 City Care jobs at risk

Up to 70 jobs are at risk after Christchurch City Council-owned City Care Ltd lost its parks maintenance contracts with the council.

Two companies, Recreational Services and Delta Utility Services, have been awarded three maintenance contracts. City Care had held the contracts since it was established in 1999.

Recreational Services will cover the east and north of Christchurch; Delta will cover the west of the city, while City Care has retained a contract for sexton services [cemeteries]. Together, the four contracts are worth \$7.2 million - less than the previous contract round.

City Care was told it had lost the contracts on Thursday. Chief executive Onno Mulder said he was "disappointed" at the news, which would see the company's national maintenance division in Christchurch downsized.

"This will include the potential loss of up to 70 people currently employed in greenspace maintenance roles, but we are working to reduce this number by retraining and redeploying as many staff as possible to other divisions within our Christchurch business."

City Care gets about 2 per cent of its gross revenue from its parks maintenance contracts.

The contracts were awarded through a tender process.

Council chief operating officer Jane Parfitt said the decision, made by a panel of council parks staff and independent specialists, was difficult to make.

"It was a challenging decision but it was made independently and a very rigorous contract process was gone through."

The two successful companies provided the best value for money, she said.

"Seeking value for money was one of our top considerations and, as well as helping us to achieve that, the new contract model will see city park maintenance delivered in a different, more open way."

Contractors would attend community board meetings, she said, and performance targets and achievements would be publicly available, encouraging competition and efficiency among them.

City Care is owned by the council and pays a dividend to its investment arm, Christchurch City Holdings. Its operations include the construction and maintenance of roading, sewer, water and stormwater services, civic facilities and property maintenance, building construction and repairs.

In September 2014, City Care announced it had more than quadrupled its profit to \$13m in the year to June, with revenue of \$350.8m. At June 30, it had 1543 employees.

The new contracts take effect on July 1.

By Michael Wright
(Reprinted from www.stuff.co.nz)

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Past Forum Newsletters

If you wish to read any past newsletters (including all newsletters from the past year), they are all on the Sports Turf Association's website at www.sportsturf.nz. All contact details for the STANZ Executive and their responsibilities are also listed there.

Best Wishes

Bobbie Harvey – Editor



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