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Future conferences decision

Hopefully you are aware by now that the STANZ executive is changing its approach to conferences in the future. STANZ has been a partner in the NZ Turf Conference and Trade Show for several years now but along with our partners have seen a steady decline in attendance to these large events.

So, we surveyed you to get a better handle on what our membership actually wants and received a brilliant 115 responses from you. This was crucial in giving us a clearer picture of how to better meet your needs. Crucially price has become a big factor (34% want registration lower than \$250 with a further 44% below \$390). Another point being our membership (around 360) is extremely diverse, school groundsmen, managing directors and everything in between!

Therefore, we concluded that a one stop shop approach was not going to cut it anymore and we need to support the development of our industry with a range of knowledge sharing/networking opportunities. 84% of you told us that you want to continue to interact with other sectors and following the success of merging with golf at the Fine Turf conference in Dunedin last month, we will continue to work with NZGCSA to strengthen that relationship. We feel this conference model meets the needs of most our membership.

Meanwhile there are a few other events on the horizon in 2018 that will appeal to some of our members such as NZRA's Green Pavlova conference in Christchurch where you can interact with our council colleagues. Also, the Australasian Turfgrass conference is coming to Wellington in 2018. Several of our members currently attend these in Australia and I am sure will take the opportunity to attend one on our side of the ditch. STANZ will work with both NZRA and AGCSA to provide you with information about these two events as they develop.

Meanwhile another portion of our member base would prefer regional seminars and field days which we will endeavour to put together for you, please let us know what sort of material you would like to see at events such as these?

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I also want to take this opportunity to clarify a question in the survey that generated a certain amount of confusion. We asked that “given having a Trade Show increases the delegate fee, how important is a Trade Show to you”? Our Trade partners are not a cost to an event, in fact they are the financial back bone of most events! The issue is that having a Trade Show requires a much larger venue with exhibition facilities. This subsequently limits the venue options and tends to result in a higher delegate price.

Thank you again for your response to our survey and as a result we plan to provide you with learning and networking opportunities that work for you.

Kellie Rose
STANZ Executive

2017 Fine Turf Seminar – Dunedin 20th-22nd August

The staging of the 2017 Fine Turf Seminar (FTS) at Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin also marked the 50th anniversary of the Southern Turf Managers Association. The impressive commitment and level of work put in by the organising committee was evident. A Facebook page, twitter feed and a diverse and line-up of speakers all contributed to the staging of a highly enjoyable and worthwhile educational event.

For the first time at a regional FTS STANZ had full representation and a dedicated sports field stream was established. This included speakers from private clubs, national associations and government agencies all discussing topics relating to the management of sports facilities (other than golf courses).



FTS Dunedin

The conference definitely benefited from the wide diversity of presentations including; Daryl Sellars presentation (*‘the tipping point’*) on mental health and managing stress in and out of the workplace, through to guest speakers such as Scott Stevenson and Radio Sports Guy Hevedlt. Having two independent streams also provided an opportunity for delegates to swap and change topics as desired, with free access to sports field and golf streams for all delegates. It was great to see the discussions going on between stadium managers and golf course managers.

Some of the stand out presentations from the event included:

- *Poa annua* suppression
- Resurfacing Westpac Stadium
- Use of growth regulators
- Tour of Dunedin City sporting facilities
- ‘Inside the ropes of Augusta National’
- Pest management – what the future holds

On the Monday of the conference delegates were taken to two of Dunedin's major sporting venues: Forsyth Barr Stadium (the venue for the 2 days) and the nearby University Oval. It was a great opportunity to see first-hand the impressive scale of the world's only permanently roofed, natural turf stadium as well as learn more about the developments and upgrades that have been taking place at the adjacent University Oval. Apart from the rained off golf event on the Sunday, delegates were able to walk around the city and attend these facility tours freely under blue skies!

As an added bonus, many of the delegates shared their hotel with the visiting All Blacks who were in town ahead of the 2nd Bledisloe Cup game against the Wallabies. During the day's sessions, glimpses of the All Blacks training out on the stadium field were enjoyed by all those attending (even if we weren't supposed to be looking!).

The conference was attended by just under 200 delegates over the course of the 2 days and one noticeable trend was that each day all of the delegates attended, seminar rooms were full and break-out sessions provided a great opportunity for discussion and chat.

In summing up, a huge thanks and congratulations must go to the organising committee (including STANZ very own Grant Bunting) who did a stellar job of pulling all of this together over the past year or so. The success and appeal of the FTS appears to grow with each event and has proven itself to provide a worthwhile model for the future. It is always great to see the ownership and pride that local delegations take in hosting these events every 2 years.

Will Bowden
STANZ executive



FTS Forsyth Barr Stadium

Thank you to our Sponsor
Members for their continued
support



Paid membership

STANZ, previously operating as Sports Field Forum, has traditionally been run by a passionate group of volunteers that are keen to give back to the industry. We somehow manage to do this on a shoestring but now feel our membership deserves more and will subsequently be moving to a paid membership.

Subscriptions will be a straight \$45, however we will continue to offer free membership to trainees and our sponsor partners will receive 5 free memberships plus a discount on the remainder. Look out for our subscription form that will be issued shortly.

STANZ Executive

Online pitch preparation manual

NZC is pleased to release *Pitch Preparation Manual*, an online, interactive resource designed to assist with explaining the basic fundamentals of cricket pitch preparation, for all cricket venues across all levels of participation.

The intention of *Pitch Preparation Manual* is to provide a continually updated guide to all facets of ground maintenance and pitch preparation, so that readers can gain a practical insight into the basic methodologies of the craft. It is a means to connect with the personnel responsible for the preparation and delivery of cricket surfaces across New Zealand.

Ian McKendry, NZC's GM Grounds & Facilities has endorsed *Pitch Preparation Manual* as a key tool for every cricket venue – in terms of encouraging the preparation of cricket surfaces that will allow players to express and develop their skills, ensuring a rewarding cricket experience for players and supporters alike.

We encourage you to read and share this resource to assist in the preparation and delivery of cricket surfaces across New Zealand.

<http://nzc.nz/community/resources/pitch-preparation-manual>

Regards



Ian McKendry | GM Grounds & Facilities

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Sportsfields Ranger

Taupo District Council is looking for a Sportsfields Ranger whose primary responsibilities will involve the efficient moving and maintenance operations of sportsgrounds and reserves in the Taupo district.

You will need a full NZ Drivers license and a National Certificate in Turf Maintenance is desirable. If you are a team player who has a minimum of 3 years sportsground or reserve maintenance experience then this may be the job for you. We are looking for someone with great interpersonal skills who enjoys interacting with sportsfield users. Tractor driving experience and a knowledge of sporting code requirements would also be beneficial.

Applications close 4.00pm, Friday 29 September 2017. For more information and to apply, please visit taupo.govt.nz

Seek: Until closing
Trade-m: Until closing

People on the Move

New positions;

<u>Name</u>	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Position</u>
Crispin Richards	City Care	Sportsfield Team Leader
Paul Reive	City Care	Supervisor Turf
Matt Udall	Landscape Solutions	Operations Manager, Tah
Tom Littlewood	Landscape Solutions	Turf Manager, Tah
Mike Brown	Landscape Solutions	Operations Manager, Wha
Matt Wildman	Landscape Solutions	Area Manager, Tah
Freddy Lourens	Landscape Solutions	Turf Manager, Wha
Dave Ross	Landscape Solutions	Area Manager, Wha
Mike Sellars	Recreational Services	Operations Manager, Gisbourne
Shane Maddren	Mexteds	Contract Manager
Elliot McKinnell	FMG Stadium Waikato	Assistant Turf Manager
Gary Smith	Molyneux Park	Turf Manager
Daniel Hooper	Porirua City Council	Turf Manager
Glen Jacobsen	Porirua City Council	Turf Supervisor
Daniel Burrows	Downer	Contract Manager
Glen Smith	Wellington City Council	Team Lead Sportsfields
Dave Evans	Palmerston North City Council	Parks and Reserves Supervisor
Sam Goodwin	Urban Maintenance Solutions	Team Leader
Greg Keane	Urban Maintenance Solutions	Supervisor Revocations
Will Maber	Urban Maintenance Solutions	Regional Coordinator
Steve Tsukigawa	NZ Cricket	2IC Lincoln High Performance Centre
Jayden Tohill	University Oval, Dunedin	2IC
Grant Paterson	FMG Stadium, Waikato	Groundsperson
Kevin Walker	City Parks	Foreman Sports Team
Vijay Mitha	City Parks	Leading Hand Sports Team

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STANZ AGM

Will take place in November. Date and venue to be advised. We are now calling on nominations to the executive. Please reply to Shona Calder at sportsturf.nz@gmail.com

If you wish to read any past newsletters our most recent ones are available 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.

Any queries regarding our Newsletters, Website, Sponsorship and membership please email sportsturf.nz@gmail.com

Best Wishes
Shona Calder – Editor