

HOSPITAL CORNER SAND CARPET SPORTSFIELD UPGRADE PROJECT

In late 2015 SSDM were engaged by Christchurch City Council to carry out a site investigation and feasibility assessment of both the Hospital Corner sports field areas together with an area adjacent to the main Hagley Oval, used previously as an overflow parking area after the 2011 earthquakes, with a view to upgrade and renewal of both sports fields and cricket blocks.

Subsequently SSDM were engaged to produce detailed construction specifications, drawings, price schedules and documentation for Resource Consent purposes. The physical works component of the upgrading project of Hospital Corner (Hagley Park) was carried out over an 11 month period from January 2016 to November 2016. The scope of works involved the upgrading of approximately 5 ha of existing soil field areas to four full sand carpet sports fields in Hospital corner which include two 4 strip natural + 1 artificial cricket blocks, together with a fully automatic irrigation system.

In addition, a 4 strip natural + 1 artificial cricket block plus a single artificial cricket pitch and full automatic irrigation were also installed in the southern end of Hospital corner. The majority of spoil from the trenching work was removed across Addington Brook by way of a temporary bridge and used to reshape what is now called the No. 2 oval area. The installation of a new 5 strip Kakanui cricket block together with the installation of a fully automated irrigation system for the entire No. 2 oval will allow the oval to be utilised in the future for first class fixtures as a back up to the main oval.

Due to the lack of up-to-date information regarding the extent of existing infrastructure within the site (i.e. drainage etc.), it was necessary to abandon any existing subsoil drains as investigations carried out by SSDM could not identify with any reliability whether these drains were functional and what was the extent of functional drainage.

A number of site specific challenges had to be addressed during the implementation of the project, not least was the fact that the park contained a helipad utilised by the Canterbury DHB and St Johns Ambulance for the transfer of patients to and from the adjacent hospital. This helipad was to remain functional and accessible to helicopters and ambulance throughout the period of construction with no exceptions. This critical element of the project raised challenges and demanded on-going consultation and liaison with the Canterbury DHB and St Johns.

In addition to the helipad, a range of existing infrastructures running through the site added to the complexity of works - waste water, telecommunications and power supply cables all intersected the works area and all had to be considered in the design and specification phase of the work. A combination of ground radar and hydro excavation helped build a picture as to what existing infrastructure was and where it was both in depth and location.

The project has been long running but overall successful in its delivery of a state-of-the art upgraded sports field facility for the central city.

STANZ shall be hosting a field day at Hospital Corner on the 2nd December and you are all invited to find out more about the detail around this complex project from the various stakeholders who were involved in its development.

In this issue;

Hospital Corner

Couch Trial

Gibbs Farm Visit

Move to paid STANZ membership

We have now reached a point where we have to move to a paid membership in order to continue the work we do on behalf of the sports turf industry. We will be invoicing STANZ members in Autumn 2017 for an annual subscription of \$45.

This will cover:

- Free entry to our field days (non-members - \$20)
- Newsletters and media releases via the STANZ network
- ½ price subscription to the NZ Turf Journal

Thank you for your support, the membership revenue will also offset the cost of STANZ input into the organising conferences and seminars, Industry Award Exam and the development of H&S good practise guidelines for the industry.

Kellie Rose

COUCH RECOVERY TRIAL ON EDEN PARKS OUTER OVAL

In the winter of 2017 Eden Park will be hosting the British and Irish Lions on behalf of New Zealand Rugby. Eden Parks Outer Oval will be converted from a First Class Cricket Outfield to a hospitality hub used to cater for up to 10,000 fans for each Test match. Large Marquees, Kitchens, Generators, Toilets and Walk Ways will be in place for 35 days on the couch turf. The outfield needs to be ready for cricket two months later.

The Eden Park Turf Team thought it would be a good idea to try and replicate on a small scale the damage the Marquees may cause to the turf. A research trial was constructed on the Western side of the Outer Oval. This trial was in place for the same duration, at the same time of year and had the same recovery period (75 days) as the hospitality hub will. The objective of the trial was; find which treatment assisted the couch the best to recover before October 2017 so it would be suitable for First Class Cricket again.



Trial structure being built and covered on June 15 2016

Advice given by Dr Phil Ford, PGG Turf agronomist in Australia, was to slow the growth of the couch so it would be less affected by the covering. Growth regulator was applied at different rates to two of the four treatments the day before the structure was built. All four treatments received a systemic and a contact fungicide within a week of the treatments being covered.

After the 35 day covering period ended the structure was removed with surprising results. All treatments still had a percentage of green leaf and there was no sign of fungal disease.

Over the 75 day recovery period the treatments were scored on colour, percentage of green leaf and leaf growth per day. As well as the treatments receiving a range of fertilisers an average of 5.2mm of rainfall fell per day. There were only 14 days without rainfall throughout the entire recovery.

The covered treatment without growth regulator started the recovery period with elongated yellow growth but responded well to all fertiliser applications and continually improved. The growth regulated treatments did not fully recover by early October but made no significant improvements until late September and this is why these treatments will not be replicated next year. The Eden Park Turf Team was very encouraged by the recovery of the treatment without growth regulator.

This treatment had fully recovered by early September and has given confidence that the Outer Oval can be used to cater for New Zealand Rugby and then be returned back into a First Class Cricket Outfield.



Trial structure removed July 20 2016



Day 14 of recovery August 3 2016

When possible I would encourage everyone to do trials of new treatments or techniques in advance of their implementation. This way you can be confident in the outcomes you would expect to see when implemented in your maintenance programs. Without us doing this particular trial I'm sure we would have managed the turf differently and not achieved the same outcome as we hope to in winter 2017.



Day 75 of recovery October 3 2016

Adam Hansen, Eden Park Trust

STANZ VISIT TO GIBBS FARM

On October 20th a number of STANZ members took advantage of an opportunity provided by Parkland / NZSTI sponsorship to visit Gibbs Farm. Bus travel to and from Gibbs Farm, lunch and afternoon tea were all provided. "Farm" is an understatement – it is both an internationally significant sculpture park and a zoo.

For those of you who are not aware of it, Alan Gibbs has been commissioning large scale sculptures by international artists for this private property since 1991. Many are on a massive scale to be in proportion with the large rolling hills of the property. Some of you may have spotted a few pieces as you drive past the Kaipara Harbour along State Highway 16. This visit was organised as part of one of the occasional open days held at the farm when members of the public are able to visit the property. Pretty much everyone who visits the farm is amazed by what they see. If you ever get an opportunity to go it is highly recommended.

The sculptures are very carefully positioned in the landscape to enhance their visual impact. The turf that they sit in "frames" the artworks and hence turf quality is of great importance. The turf species of choice is Kikuyu as it can provide a green and uniform sward in the summer in the absence of irrigation.

The scale of the property is huge – well in excess of 100 hectares is mown. In addition large areas are grazed by various animals including zebras, giraffes, bison, yaks, deer, various exotic cattle breeds, llamas and the occasional sheep.

Alex Glasgow, NZSTI



Thank you to our
Sponsor Members for
their continued
support



STANZ SOUTH ISLAND FIELD DAY & 20/20 MATCH
MEET AT PGG WRIGHTSON TURF RESEARCH FACILITY,
TANCREDS ROAD, LINCOLN
FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER 9.30am to 4.30pm

- Visit PGG Wrightson Turf Research Facility with Bill Walmsley, Blair Dibley, Louise Carpenter
- Visit/lunch at NZ Cricket Headquarters with Ian McKendry & Al Gilmour
- Visit Hagley Oval with Ash Head, Christchurch City Council
- Visit Hospital corner field development with SSDM Matt Cresswell and Ed Hadfield Recreational Services

20/20 Match at Hagley Oval – 4.30pm
Canterbury Kings v Sydney Thunder
\$20 per ticket
Post-match refreshments at 8.30pm

Please RSVP to gbunting@pgwturf.co.nz or mob 0277047520

STANZ NORTH ISLAND FIELD DAY & 20/20 MATCH
EDEN RUGBY CLUB – GRIBBLEHIRST PARK
225 SANDRINGHAM RD, KINGSLAND, AUCKLAND
FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2017 – time TBC

- Hybrid construction of Gribblehirst Sports Field
- 2017 Master Games – Bigger than Ben Hur

20/20 Match at Eden Park
Black Caps vs South Africa
(5 minute walk from Eden Rugby Club)

STANZ are invited to the 2017 Fine Turf Seminar
Forsyth Bar Stadium

The Southern Turf Managers Association (STMA) are hosting the 2017 Fine Turf Seminar in Dunedin on the 20 – 22 Aug and have kindly invited STANZ members to join them.

STMA are also celebrating their 50th anniversary and the seminar will comprise of an anniversary dinner, golf day and shared sessions along with a STANZ program focused on sports fields.

So book this into your calendar now for 2017!

We will issue more details as things are finalised.

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

Best Wishes
Shona Calder – Editor

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