

THE CONFERENCE / June 21-25 / 2004



# 20th AUSTRALIAN TURFGRASS 2004 CONFERENCE



→ Official Guide

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# On Behalf of the Presidents...

MELBOURNE



20th Australian Turfgrass Conference Preview

## AGCSA WELCOME



AGCSA president  
Mark Couchman

On behalf of the Australian Golf Course Superintendents' Association (AGCSA) I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the 20th Australian

Turfgrass Conference in Melbourne.

After the success of the AGCSA's annual conference in Adelaide last year, the conference returns to Melbourne after a four year absence and, along the same lines as the Millennium conference, this year also represents a joint conference that encompasses other associations and companies that all

form part of the Australasian turfgrass industry. To our major sponsors and supporters - Horticulture Australia, Toro, Textron, Nuturf, Syngenta, Rain Bird, John Deere and all the exhibitors, the AGCSA takes this opportunity to also welcome you to Melbourne and we hope that your week is as successful as it can be. Your support of this event only helps to magnify its success.

The AGCSA Board and staff hope that the international and local speakers that have made themselves available this week are able to enlighten and educate all those in attendance in respect to their chosen subject matter.

In respect to the golf management stream it is great to have Dr Robert Carrow (University of Georgia) and Dr Bruce Clarke (University of New Jersey) with us this week and I am sure that Professor Ron Duncan (Turf EcoSystems) will also add greatly to the

content of the week. It is also nice to have Jim Moore (USGA) back here in Australia and I am sure that along with the local speakers and the local fraternity that we can make the overseas visitors' brief stay in this great country a memorable one.

To all finalists in the AGCSA Awards, congratulations and good luck for the week.

Probably the greatest thing about any conference week is the ability to network with peers, renew old acquaintances and to make new ones. Have a great time in Melbourne and please enjoy. 🙏

Mark K. Couchman,  
President, AGCSA.



## ATETA WELCOME



ATETA president  
John Haines

On behalf of the Australian Turf Equipment Technicians Association (ATETA) I would like to welcome all delegates to the 20th Australian Turfgrass Conference in Melbourne.

The ATETA appreciates being involved in this conference as it provides a great opportunity for members of the turf mechanics community to receive the latest information as well as to socialise with members from other states.

The ATETA section of the conference consists of two days of education sessions

followed by a bus tour on the third day. The lectures conducted by John Deere, Toro and Textron will be hands-on workshops.

Also presenting will be Wynns, Silvan, Wurth, Enware and Procus, and in between there will be plenty of time to wander around what should be a fantastic tradeshow.

All indications are that the tradeshow will be one of the best yet and it will be interesting to see what new products will be on offer.

The ATETA will be represented at the tradeshow, and all states will be represented. Membership forms will be available for prospective members to join.

I encourage members and those who want to become a member of this great association to come and visit our stand - No.22 - to have a chat about what we do and how we can help you.

The bus tour on day three (Friday) will take in Holden's engine plant in Port Melbourne before heading to Silvan Australia for lunch and plant tour.

The final stop of the day will be at the Melbourne Cricket Ground maintenance facility. There will also be a conference dinner held on Wednesday.

All ATETA members and non-members are most welcome to attend what we hope will be a most informative and interesting conference.

I hope to see you there.

Have a great conference. 🙏

John Haines  
President, ATETA/VTETA



Welcome to the 20th Australian Turfgrass Conference guide which forms part of this edition of Australian Turfgrass Management magazine.

ATM will act as the official conference guide for the turfgrass industry's premier event in 2004. Over the course of the next 20 pages we will provide you with a comprehensive preview of the week-long event which returns to Melbourne after four years. The preview

includes a full rundown of events during conference week, a look at the two major golf championships, as well as a wrap of the prestigious AGCSA Awards. We have included an easy reference conference program which covers all four education streams, social functions and events that make conference week such a special occasion.

One of the highlights of the week is the bumper trade exhibition which features over 80

of the turf industry's leading companies, including 25 who will be exhibiting in Melbourne for the first time. In the second part of the conference guide there is a comprehensive nine-page listing of exhibitors and what each will have on display during the two days.

So it's all here for you. Enjoy the conference and make sure you get the most out of what is set to be a fantastic week.

**Brett Robinson, Editor, ATM**

## TGAA WELCOME



TGAA president,  
Anthony Uhr-Henry

On behalf of the TGAA committee I would like to welcome all delegates and exhibitors to the 20th Australian Turfgrass Conference. With so many wonderful speakers spread

across the different streams all delegates can look forward to excellent professional development opportunities, as well as keeping abreast of the latest product developments by visiting the Trade Exhibition.

I would just like to highlight some of the real areas of interest within the Sportsfield Management Stream.

On Tuesday afternoon John Neylan and David Aldous will be covering the area of ground hardness, sportsfield injuries and turf safety audits.

This subject has been in the media lately, and is of great concern to all sportsfield curators as the threat of legal liability, duty of care and user safety is a common theme that we are dealing with daily.

It is hoped that a representative of the AFL may also join John and David during this session to give us a perspective of what is expected at the elite level.

With the assistance of Graden Industries, celebrity speaker for the Cricket Wicket Seminar is Chris Wood who is a ground/pitch inspector for the English Cricket Board.

With the English domestic season in full swing, we really appreciate the effort Chris has made to attend this conference.

Therefore I urge all members to make the effort to attend what should turn out to be a most informative seminar.

The rest of the program is very self explanatory and I am sure most will agree quite comprehensive.

Please come and visit us at our stand – No.20. Come and introduce yourself to Simone and myself, feel free to give us some suggestions and feedback on the conference, get some information on what's coming up or just buy a souvenir.

Whatever you do while in Melbourne have fun and enjoy. 🍷

**Anthony Uhr-Henry**  
President, TGAA (Vic)



## VGA WELCOME



VGA president  
Doug Agnew

On behalf of the members of the Victorian Greenkeepers Association I wish to welcome everyone to the 20th Australian Turfgrass Conference in Melbourne.

We appreciate the invitation to participate at this conference as it is a great opportunity for greenkeepers to receive information from international speakers and mix with turf professionals from around Australia and the world.

The Victorian Greenkeepers Association was established 93 years ago and was formed to support greenkeepers and

encourage the exchange of ideas, information and new developments.

Over the past few years we have started conducting our own research to help bowling clubs and our members.

One project is a study to find the best treatment for rhizoctonia disease in bentgrass greens and the other a comprehensive study into the comparisons of synthetic surfaces and natural grass greens.

Bowling greenkeepers across Australia are under threat from clubs who want to replace their turf greens with synthetic surfaces.

The report found that 85 per cent of all bowlers prefer bowling on grass, while detailed financial analysis showed no significant cost difference between grass and synthetic.

Greenkeepers in southern Victoria are undergoing a few changes such as encouraging clubs to change their grass from bentgrass to dwarf type couch to compete with the

synthetic surfaces. This study will form the basis of one of our workshops during conference week, a must-attend for bowling greenkeepers.

Enjoy the conference and I look forward to catching up with those coming from out of town. 🍷

**Doug Agnew**  
President, VGA



## It's winter, it's June and that means one thing for the turf industry - conference time. ATM looks forward to this year's massive 20th Australian Turfgrass Conference in Melbourne, previewing keynote speakers and the range of social functions which make this a not-to-be-missed event.

After a hiatus of four years, the Australian Turfgrass Conference returns to Melbourne for what is set to be one of the biggest turf industry gatherings since the Millennium conference.

As with the 2000 conference, which was also hosted by Victorian capital, the 20th Australian Turfgrass Conference will bring together all facets of the turf industry. The AGCSA has worked in conjunction with the Australian Turf Equipment Technicians Association (ATETA), the Victorian Greenkeepers Association (VGA) and the Turfgrass Association of Australia (TGAA) to formulate a comprehensive week of education and festivities.

Four management streams are on offer at this year's conference - golf course, sportsfield, turf mechanics and bowling greenkeepers. At the beginning of May, just under 500 delegate registrations had been processed and with plenty of time remaining it is expected that over 800 will descend on Melbourne.

### Please Welcome...

Six keynote speakers have been brought from around Australia and the United States for the general conference sessions which cross all streams except turf mechanics.

Kicking off proceedings on Tuesday is University of Georgia's Dr Robert Carrow who will present a paper entitled 'Cutting edge strategies for water conservation'.

Dr Carrow has conducted key research into turfgrass environmental and soil physical chemical stresses, turfgrass water conservation and climatic based water, salinity and stress monitoring. He has also played an important role in the release of new couchgrasses, tall fescue, and seashore paspalum.

Dr Carrow has also published many turfgrass books and his editorial partner in a number of these is Professor Ron Duncan who will also be presenting at the conference. Originally hailing from the University of Georgia and now working out of Turf EcoSystems, Prof Duncan has been involved in many areas of research including breeding and genetics of edaphic and abiotic environmental turfgrass stresses on tall fescue and seashore paspalum. Prof Duncan will give a talk on 'Irrigation quality assessment and amendments'.

Also coming across the Pacific from the United States is Dr Bruce Clarke from the University of New Jersey. Holding several key positions at the university, including director of centre for turfgrass science and professor of

plant pathology and extension specialist in plant pathology, Dr Clarke's keynote address will look at the influence of management practices on turfgrass diseases.

The United States Golf Association's Jim Moore makes a welcome return Down Under to present a range of talks at this year's conference. Moore, the director of construction education at the USGA, will advise delegates on the latest changes to USGA greens construction specifications.

Heading the list of Australian keynote speakers are Terry Muir and Ray Young. In light of the recent Warringah Golf Club verdict in which a golf club and superintendent were heavily fined for a pesticide spill, Muir's presentation on the application of systems based environmental management is a must for all superintendents and turf managers.

Young, director of Young Consulting Engineers, will host workshops on stadium construction and management.

From Tuesday afternoon each stream breaks into its own program. The following is a quick rundown on some of the highlights from each.

### Golf Course Management

Respected architect Ross Perrett will present a keynote address on golf course design and the modern game, while Alex Glasgow from the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute will talk on organic matter levels in turf.

As well as their main presentations, the keynote speakers will conduct a series of workshops including those on seashore paspalum (Prof Duncan), managing new bermudagrasses and bentgrasses (Jim Moore), climatic based irrigation systems (Dr Carrow) and anthracnose management practices (Dr Clarke).

Graham Little will talk on the construction of washdown facilities, Syngenta's Mark Zajac



Robert Carrow



Bruce Clarke



Ron Duncan



Terry Muir



Jim Moore



Ray Young



returns again to discuss insect management, while John Neylan and Moonah Links superintendent Leigh Yanner will conduct a workshop on their Australian Open experiences.

On Wednesday, the AGCSA will hold its AGM. The president's post and one Board position will be voted on. On Thursday, golf management delegates will get the opportunity to listen to presentations made by winners of the AGCSA Awards, while the final education session will involve a panel discussion by all keynote speakers.

### Sportsfield Management

The popular Cricket Wicket Seminar will be the highlight of the sportsfield stream with English Cricket Board ground/pitch inspector Chris Wood as guest speaker.

The seminar will be held over Wednesday and will feature talks from Andrew Peart (AGCSATech), Brian Way (NZSTI), Mark Zajac (Syngenta), Ron Makin (City of Manningham), Alex Glasgow (NZSTI) and Karl Johnson (Westpac Park, NZ). The seminar will end with an open forum discussion.

Other major presentations include David Aldous' talk on sportsground injuries while John Neylan (AGCSATech) looks at the issue of turf surface safety audits.

### Turf Mechanics

A series of hands-on workshops from Toro, John Deere and Textron will be among the highlights of the turf mechanics stream, while the likes of Wynns, Silvan, Wurth, Enware and Procus will also conduct lectures. The ATETA will host its AGM on Thursday.

### Bowling Greenkeepers Management

A main focus for bowling greenkeepers at the conference will be the recently released study into natural vs synthetic surfaces conducted by the VGA and Sport and Recreation Victoria. Sally Jeavons from @ Leisure will talk about this wide ranging study which has created much interest within the industry.

Phil Ford (NMIT) will present a talk on beneficial nematodes, Jim Moore (USGA) will discuss hybrid ultradwarfs and Dr Clarke will conduct an open forum on Take-all patch.

### Teeing Up

For the golf course management stream, conference week will literally tee off with the hosting of the AGCSA Golf Championships on the Monday at Metropolitan Golf Club. This event is only open to superintendents.

For remaining conference delegates, do not despair. The AGCSA Corporate Cup will also be staged on the Monday at Commonwealth Golf Club which is open to all delegates. To be involved simply call the AGCSA.



Superintendents will vie for the handsome AGCSA Golf Championships trophy

### Conference Tours

Two post-conference tours have been organised for the golf course management stream and will take in six of the finest courses Victoria has to offer. The first tour will take in classic sand belt courses Huntingdale (Mike Freeman), Metropolitan (Richard Forsyth) and Australia's No.1 ranked Royal Melbourne (Jim Porter).

The second tour heads down the Bay, stopping first at Patterson River Country Club (Michael Riordan) before visiting the Mornington Peninsula, stopping at The Dunes (Mark Gahan) and Moonah Links (Leigh Yanner) which hosted last year's Australian Open.

Also on Friday, the turf mechanics stream will conduct a day-long tour which will take in Holden's engine plant in Port Melbourne, Silvan Australia's plant and the maintenance facilities at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The TGAA has organised a tour of the Telstra Dome for its sportsfield management stream which will take place on Thursday.

### Trade Exhibition

AGCSA's business development manager Scott Petersen has done a sterling job to pull together what is set to be one of the biggest and most innovative trade exhibitions the industry has ever seen.

And he has done all this while in the middle of selling his house and battling for Olympic qualification!

Wednesday and Thursday are the days to jot down. Plenty of surprises abound.

### Cheers

While a large emphasis is placed on furthering the education of turf industry members, conference week also has a huge social element and many conference delegates will agree that the week is the best time to renew old acquaintances and meet new members of this great industry.

The Welcoming Cocktail Reception to be held at the Telstra Dome (all fully registered delegates in either of the streams are eligible to attend this function) on Monday will kick off the week in style. A footy theme will prevail for the evening and all delegates are urged to sport their team's colours – all codes accepted, even union!

The week officially concludes with the Conference Dinner on Thursday at Melbourne Park. This is a great opportunity to wind down and relax after a hectic week.

Partners of conference delegates have not been left out and there is a dedicated partners program which includes a winery tour and a shopping excursion.

*For a full rundown of the week's events flick forward a couple of pages to 36 and 37.*

### It's Not Too Late

Although the conference is now just a few weeks away, there is still time to register. Log on to [www.agcsa.com.au](http://www.agcsa.com.au) to download a registration brochure or fill out an online registration form, or call the AGCSA office to get one posted.

Any queries about the conference program or registration contact the AGCSA on (03) 9548 8600 and talk either to Fiona McPadden (events manager) or Jane Phelan (administration and membership officer).

Delegates can also register at the actual conference although it is preferable to do so before conference week. A registration desk will be set up with eftpos and credit card facilities.



Melbourne will host the 20th Australian Turfgrass Conference