



NxGen registrations NOW OPEN!

Dates for your Diary

NxGen 18



Registrations for the 2018 NxGen Forum on June 3-5 are now open.

With the program finalised to ensure a good balance between key industry issues, research and development, local environmental visits, social outings and farm visits, this year's event in Cairns has plenty of opportunities for young growers to educate themselves in all aspects of turf.

From understanding how to make the best of educational opportunities and your greatest asset – your employees, through to understanding how turf is helping to improve the health of the Great Barrier Reef with its erosion control properties, the entire 2.5 day program is jam packed.

[Read More...](#)

- 21-25 March 2018, Melbourne International Garden Show, Melbourne VIC
- 10-11 May 2018, Parks and Leisure NSW/ACT Region Conference, West Tamworth NSW
- 24-25 May 2018, Parks and Leisure QLD Conference, QLD
- 3-5 June 2018, NxGen 2018, Cairns QLD
- 24-29 June 2018, Australasian Turfgrass Conference, Wellington NZ
- 16-17 July 2018, Making Cities Liveable Conference, Melbourne VIC
- 18 July 2018, Safe Cities Conference, Melbourne VIC
- 14-17 October, PLA International Parks Congress, Melbourne VIC

Sir Walter PBR extension sought



Turf growers who grow buffalo grasses are urged to pay attention to the outcome of an extension applications to Plant Breeder's Rights regarding the variety.

The Plant Breeder's Rights for *Stentaphrum Secundatum* turf grass – including the Sir Walter Buffalo variety – is coming to an end on March 28.

However, an application by the PBR holder Brent Redman, director of Lawn Solutions Australia, has been lodged with IP Australia to extend the PBR he has held for Sir Walter for the last 20 years.

[Read More...](#)

Hogs pitch in for new turf



An extraordinary show of generosity was on display in the New South Wales Central West in late February when more than 200 volunteers helped transform an oval at Wellington from dirt to turf with 13,500 square metres of turf laid in just two hours.

The enormous community effort was featured on the National Rugby League Sunday Footy show last weekend (March 11).

[Read More...](#)

For Sale

Have you got something for sale?

Turf Australia members can advertise here for free. For more information contact Rachel Layt, admin@turfaustralia.com.au

For Sale

Massey Ferguson 353 Combination. Can be sold as a complete unit or separately. Pick up Townsville. Contact, Paul Niven

First grower cooperative formed



A new turf grower cooperative has been formed following an establishment meeting in New South Wales last month.

The Greenspace Turf Co-Op was formed following a foundation meeting on Wednesday, February 28, with nine grower members signing up.

[Read More...](#)



Churchill Fellowships close next month



Want to study a turf industry issue abroad? Then the fully funded horticultural Churchill Fellowships for this year could be your opportunity.

Three fellowships, worth approximately \$26,000 each, are on offer for research in horticultural industries, including turf.

Applications close on April 27. More information on the opportunity can be found [here](#).

[Read More...](#)



Hort Innovation performance review



Turf growers have the opportunity to give feedback on Hort Innovation's performance over the last four years as part of an independent review.

The performance feedback helps guide the Australian Government's assessment of the company.

To provide feedback, complete the survey [HERE](#) before April 6.

[Read More...](#)

Sponsored by

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Spray drift feedback sought



The Australia Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is assessing how off-target spray drift is measured and minimised with a new spray drift regulatory framework.

Turf growers should be part of this process by giving feedback on a new assessment framework by March 30.

The new framework should improve the limitations of the current system which is limited by lack of flexibility and an inability to adopt newer systems/technologies to reduce the risk of spray drift.

[Read More...](#)



Turf transforms school



One Victorian school is now a whole lot greener thanks to the Victorian Schools Garden Awards.

In 2017 Northside Christian College in Bundoora were recipients of the Turf Establishment Grant as part of the Awards.

StrathAyr Instant Lawn provided the turf and delivered it in December 2017.

[Read More...](#)



More study opportunities



Additional to the Churchill Fellowship, the International Specialised Skills Institute (ISS Institute), is offering one Agribusiness Fellowship valued at \$10,000 turf growers could apply for to enhance their current skills through an international applied research program.

The '2018 International Agribusiness Fellowship' provides an opportunity for individuals to acquire higher-level skills and drive leading practice and innovation in Australia. It is intended that the Fellowship will demonstrate potential benefits for, and application in, Australia.

Applications close on April 13. Further information is available [here](#).



Autumn magazine out soon



The Autumn edition of the Turf Australia magazine will reach growers at the end of March.

In this edition, major changes to the chain of responsibility as part of the National Heavy Vehicle rules and regulations are explained, together with regulations on load restraints.

A preview of the NxGen Forum in Queensland, a look at how StrathAyr Turf has innovated its business growing turf in Tasmania, a new research project into sting nematodes and a wrap up of the first few months of the National Market Development Project are also included in the magazine.

Parks Week on now



Celebrating all good things about public open spaces, Parks Week 2018 has been running across Australia and New Zealand between March 10 to 18.

The week is aimed at promoting the value of parks and open spaces, get people outdoors and enjoying the outdoors.

[Read More...](#)

AusGAP extended to project specification



A new partnership between AusGAP and Australian Sports Turf Consultants (ASTC) has begun to extend the reach of the quality compliance program to include planning, installation, and maintenance of turf projects.

Starting in 2015, the first intake of growers has now reached full certification under the AusGAP program which seeks to set quality control standards in all aspects of turf growing.

[Read More...](#)

 Hort Innovation <small>Strategic Levy Investment</small>	TURF FUND	This project has been funded by Hort Innovation using the turf research and development levy and funds from the Australian Government. For more information on the fund and strategic levy investment visit horticulture.com.au .
--	-----------	--

Sent by Turf Australia, PO Box 92 Richmond NSW 2753

[Unsubscribe](#)



Sir Walter PBR extension sought

Turfgrowers who grow buffalo grasses are urged to pay attention to the outcome of an extension applications to Plant Breeder's Rights regarding the variety.

The Plant Breeder's Rights for *Stentaphrum Secundatum* turf grass – including the Sir Walter Buffalo variety – is coming to an end on March 28.

However, an application by the PBR holder Brent Redman, director of Lawn Solutions Australia, has been lodged with IP Australia to extend the PBR he has held for Sir Walter for the last 20 years.

Growers should understand that should the extension application be upheld, any grower found selling licenced varieties of the turf without a licence between March 28 and a successful extension application, could be fined.

Brent said the extension application was to ensure the consumer had confidence in the varieties of turf they were buying.

"What we are doing here is taking action to protect consumers, by ensuring they are getting the correct product, and protecting the single source of revenue for turf research and development in Australia," he said.

It is unknown when a result of the application will be known, but it is anticipated within coming weeks.



Sent by Turf Australia, PO Box 92 Richmond NSW 2753



Hogs pitch in for new turf



An extraordinary show of generosity was on display in the New South Wales Central West in late February when more than 200 volunteers helped transform an oval at Wellington from dirt to turf with 13,500 square metres of turf laid in just two hours.

The enormous community effort was featured on the National Rugby League Sunday Footy show last weekend (March 11).



Spearheaded by Graeme Colless (Evergreen Turf) and David May (Dad and Dave's Turf Supplies), the returfing project was part of the National Rugby League (NRL) NSW 'Hogs for the Homeless' sixth-annual motorcycle journey around NSW.

The underlay and irrigation beneath the turf had also been donated to the project.



The 'Hogs for the Homeless Tour' is a charity program run under the banner of the NSWRL Foundation that has raised around \$600,000 for Father Chris Riley's Youth off the Streets charity.

The NSW Blues coach, Brad Fittler, joined fellow NRL legends Danny Buderus, Steve Menzies and Nathan Hindmarsh who lent a hand in resurfacing the oval.

Read more about the project in the Autumn edition of the Turf Australia magazine, delivered to mailboxes at the end of the month.

Sent by Turf Australia, PO Box 92 Richmond NSW 2753



First grower cooperative formed

A new turf grower cooperative has been formed following an establishment meeting in New South Wales last month.

The Greenspace Turf Co-Op was formed following a foundation meeting on Wednesday, February 28, with nine grower members signing up.

Paul Mahoney, Evergreen Turf, was elected chairman and Greenspace spokesperson, with Paul Saad, Southern Cross Turf; Jason Muscat, Hi Quality Turf; Alex White, Dubbo Turf Supplies and Wayne Davey, Evergreen Turf NSW filling the other Board member and executive roles.

It is the first formal co-op structure to be applied in the turf industry in Australia and comes after support for the cooperative was received from Co-ops NSW and the Federal Government's Farming Together Program.

"Apart from the co-op providing better buying-power for members across their entire supply chain, there's the group-marketing aspects and the ability to pool resources that will ultimately benefit not just our growers, but more importantly our target customers," Paul Mahoney said.

While many of the grower members are currently spread across NSW the cooperative was open to grower members from across Australia and would look to boost its member numbers initially in Eastern states.

"We're looking to work with a range of growers of different sizes from around the country and enable a unique network of resources to assist not just large operations, but also smaller growers, and all-the-while promoting the 'grower-owned' nature of the Co-Op."

The Co-Op aims to assist members in addressing industry issues in a consistent and compliant manner and is working on the buying group capabilities for members, as well as some new turf varieties, and other new technologies to support its growers.

Sent by Turf Australia, PO Box 92 Richmond NSW 2753



Hort Innovation performance review

Turf growers have the opportunity to give feedback on Hort Innovation's performance over the last four years as part of an independent review.

The performance feedback helps guide the Australian Government's assessment of the company.

To provide feedback, complete the survey [HERE](#) before April 6.

The Review of Performance into Hort Innovation is conducted every four years as part of its Statutory Funding Agreement (SFA) with the Australian Government. The Review looks at the company's compliance against the SFA, as well as how it has performed against its strategic objectives.

It is an opportunity to provide feedback on Hort Innovation's performance in the last four years, in particular, transitioning from the previous governance arrangements of Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL), delivering against Strategic and Operational Plans, and delivering benefits to Australian horticulture industries.

Hort Innovation is the grower-owned research and development corporation for Australian horticulture, therefore it is imperative that the views and insights from our key stakeholders are gathered and used by the Australian Government to inform the levy system operations.

GHD has been appointed as the independent reviewer.

GHD is hosting a purpose-built webpage for the Review where you can complete a survey. If you don't want to give feedback online, you can make a written submission by emailing it to hortreview@ghd.com or posting it to: Hort Innovation Review Team, GHD Pty Ltd, Level 15, 133 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000.

The survey and submissions are open now until April 6.

The Review process is expected to conclude in early May and a final copy of the Review will be published for public viewing.

Sent by Turf Australia, PO Box 92 Richmond NSW 2753



Spray drift feedback sought

The Australia Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is assessing how off-target spray drift is measured and minimised with a new spray drift regulatory framework.

Turf growers should be part of this process by giving feedback on a new assessment framework by March 30.

The new framework should improve the limitations of the current system which is limited by lack of flexibility and an inability to adopt newer systems/technologies to reduce the risk of spray drift.

The current approach is based around worst case scenarios and provides no incentive for spray applicators to adopt best practice, new technology and/or operations that will limit spray drift.

As part of its assessment, the APVMA is seeking grower and industry input into a new spray drift regulatory framework is proposed that will enable more reasonable buffer zones to be set and supports the use of drift reducing technologies (DRT).

Feedback on the new framework from growers is encouraged, particularly as turf is often grown in areas of high population growth, but should be lodged by March 30.

Information on the framework can be found [here](#).

Sent by Turf Australia, PO Box 92 Richmond NSW 2753



Turf transforms school



One Victorian school is now a whole lot greener thanks to the Victorian Schools Garden Awards.

In 2017 Northside Christian College in Bundoora were recipients of the Turf Establishment Grant as part of the Awards.

StrathAyr Instant Lawn provided the turf and delivered it in December 2017.



An eager group of Year 7 students gave up a day of their holidays to come and help lay 300m² of instant turf in a number of areas of the College's grounds. They were encouraged and supported by College staff and learnt skills in laying and caring for the instant turf.

The school reports: "The grass is now well established and has brightened up the College. Students and staff are enjoying some much more usable and lush areas."

Sent by Turf Australia, PO Box 92 Richmond NSW 2753



AusGAP extended to project specification

A new partnership between AusGAP and Australian Sports Turf Consultants (ASTC) has begun to extend the reach of the quality compliance program to include planning, installation, and maintenance of turf projects.

Starting in 2015, the first intake of growers has now reached full certification under the AusGAP program which seeks to set quality control standards in all aspects of turf growing.

AusGAP's Nick Dorney has been working with the Director of ASTC Matt Roche to bring the AusGAP program up to a standard that will resonate with specifiers and commercial clients.

ASTC provides independent technical and agronomic advice to sports organisations, the turf production, environmental, commercial and residential sectors.

Matt recently completed a system audit of the AusGAP program to review the standards and inspection regime used by growers and inspectors. In order to review the effectiveness of the AusGAP program, Matt has also begun carrying out independent audits of certified farms and will continue to do so over the course of the next year.

Sent by Turf Australia, PO Box 92 Richmond NSW 2753