



DuraVeg[®] *Bulletin*

EDITION 5 - SPRING 2020

***Proven systems that reclaim
and restore environments.***

Experts from earth to turf.

PGG Wrightson Turf

Bulletin

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Since last autumn's DuraVeg® Bulletin, Covid-19 has shown its ugly face worldwide, and whilst good governance in Australia has spared us from the high case numbers experienced overseas, Australian states have all been affected in different ways. Many experienced a short sharp lockdown and then relief in finding a new 'Covid normal' state in which to operate. In our business, we have suffered from border closures, workplace closures, working from home and staff having to find new ways of doing things.

We pay particular tribute to our staff in Victoria who have endured 112 days of a second-wave lockdown, and yet kept the business ticking along with minimal outward disruption to our customers. Covid has also impacted supply channels out of the United States and shipping schedules have been affected by the Sydney waterfront strike. Supplies have been particularly disrupted in the closing months of 2020, so thanks for bearing with us over this time.

Feedback is that the market is now emerging with an incredible will to get on with business as usual. There are plenty of projects on the horizon, some delayed jobs are now catching up, and we expect some more to come from the Government infrastructure stimulus.

With 2020 being an historic year, New Zealand has found itself in a fortunate position as the response was 'go hard and go early' to Covid-19 and at the time of writing there is only 1 community transmission case. This has meant infrastructure projects, as well as residential developments, have been able to continue progressing with only minor disruption that occurred during the Level 3 and 4 lockdowns.

Conferences have been cancelled with the latest Minerals Forum in Hamilton being called off last minute, not due to Covid-19, but for security reasons. The cancellation of conferences has meant a notable rise in online training such as webinars from various associations.

We hope that you enjoy this issue and from all the DuraVeg team at PGG Wrightson Turf, stay safe and we wish you all the best for the upcoming season.



Oliver Norton
Business Development Manager
Australia



Joe Johnson
Business Development Manager
New Zealand

Experts from earth to turf.



Sustainable revegetation

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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IECA TRADE HALL

IECA Conference and Expo

Raleigh – North Carolina



AWARDS LUNCHEON

The International Erosion Control Association (IECA) organise an annual event which is considered the world's largest erosion control conference, bringing together the industry's most innovative minds. This year's conference and expo was held in Raleigh, North Carolina. Joe Johnson (Business Development Manager – NZ) and George Tothill (Sales and Marketing Manager – AUS) represented

DuraVeg from PGG Wrightson Turf there and Joe provides a short insight below into what made this conference so good.

From the beginning, opportunities to network and connect with members, known and unknown, from around the world were set with a pre-conference welcome function. This was held at the Raleigh Beer Garden where dinner was supplied along with games. This was well attended and was hosted by the IECA Southeast Chapter.

There was a range of events during the week including the official welcome, the official opening of the trade hall and an awards luncheon which recognised excellence in services to the industry. Manufacturer events such as the Profile Products ESP Distributor Awards Evening and the Profile Products Contractors Evening also took place throughout the week.

The trade hall consisted of 138 exhibitors and

this was a great arena to see what technologies and innovations are available in the market.

In between all the events (which are great for networking), the educational aspect of the conference was also beneficial with a lot of 'industry first' presentations.

Overall the week was great from a networking and educational aspect. We met IECA members and Directors from various chapters from around the world and built a great rapport with them and industry leaders in the field. If given the opportunity, anyone in the ESC industry should attend.



PROFILE AWARDS EVENING



ESTABLISHED VEGETATION

Bruce Highway, Townsville

Situation

This stage of the Bruce Highway upgrade (South of Townsville) is situated at the foot of Mt Elliot in Bowling Green National Park; a culturally and environmentally sensitive area. Many creeks and tributaries feed into Bowling Green Bay and are thoroughly monitored by environmental authorities.

The area is world renowned for the tropical wetland and waterways research by James Cook University and the Australian Institute of Marine Sciences. The project is surrounded by wetland and is therefore a highly sensitive site for implementation of clean water discharge strategies.

Challenge

- To promptly install erosion protection to verges, batters and culverts following completion of road and civil works
- To prevent erosion and subsequent dirty water run off

- To achieve quick vegetative cover
- To select a product that will establish during a period of local water shortages and without the ability to irrigate
- To prevent erosion risks from road camber and sheet flow on banks

Solution & Application

- Soil analysis taken and amendments applied
- Site soils used, creating cost efficiency when compared to importing specified soils
- Specific seed blend selected and applied to meet the various challenges noted above
- Experienced landscape and revegetation contractor Transcape Constructions were engaged to apply Flexterra HP-FGM for highly effective erosion control & longevity

- Collaboration between key stakeholders (Main Road's, principal contractor, supplier and installer) to ensure successful outcomes

Results

- Heavy downpour shortly after application
- Flexterra held in place following rain event and sheet flow
- Excellent early coverage
- Species diversity evident



PRE-APPLICATION



APPLICATION

Toowoomba Landfill Revegetation



PRE-APPLICATION

Situation

Capping and revegetation to close off a landfill site. It had been very dry in this Toowoomba site, and some erosion was already evident because the original plan had not taken into account poor soil quality or the size of the slope.

Challenge

- To promptly install erosion protection to the steep batter

- To achieve quick vegetative cover
- To select a product that would establish during a period of local water shortages and without the ability to irrigate
- To get vegetation on nutrient lacking soils

Solution & Application

- Soil analysis taken and amendments applied with with the hydromulch
- Site soils used, creating cost efficiency when compared to importing specified soils
- Specific seed blend selected and applied to meet the various challenges noted above
- Experienced landscape and revegetation contractor: Queensland Hydroturf were engaged to apply ProMatrix EFM for effective erosion control on the batter

and Profile Wood with Tack for the flatter area on the top

- Collaboration between key stakeholders (principal contractor, supplier and installer) to ensure successful outcomes

Results

- A heavy downpour was experienced shortly after application
- ProMatrix held in place following rain event and sheet flow
- Excellent early coverage
- Species diversity evident



ESTABLISHED VEGETATION

The Landing - Bay of Island New Zealand



APPLYING CONWED FIBERS 2000

The Landing, located at the southwestern tip of the Purerua Peninsula, takes its name from its history as the place of arrival of New Zealand's first European settlers in the early 1800s. The Landing stands on some of New Zealand's most historically significant land and has been developed with the blessing and contribution of the local iwi (Maori tribes).

Maori have lived in this place for around 700 years. Rangihoua and Wairoa Bays were home to Maori settlements for centuries, before the first contact with European settlers. In 1807, the

Maori Village of Te Puna – then located at The Landing – was described as 'the capital of the country'.

The Bay of Islands is the place where The Treaty of Waitangi, modern New Zealand's founding document, was signed by the Maori people and the British Crown in 1840, making New Zealand a colony of Great Britain.

The Landing is a unique place with a rich spiritual history and many natural and historical treasures to discover. It covers a thousand acres of farmland, beaches, native bush, bird sanctuaries and protected heritage sites. As a guest of The Residences, you are free to explore the entire property, either alone or guided by one of our hospitality team members. Discover archaeological sites, artifact and rare book collections and learn about contemporary Maori culture, art and food. Visit restored wetlands, regenerated native bush and bird sanctuaries, and go kiwi-spotting at night. Personal itineraries can be designed to include the activities that most interest each guest. The

Landing's wildlife and heritage reserves can be comfortably explored on foot, by mountain bike or on a personal guided tour of the property by 4WD vehicle.

Who: Dane Hawker, Turf Technician.

Where: The Landing, Bay of Islands.

What: Establish low maintenance areas of grass on the edges of bush and track areas. The Landing is in the high end tourism market and has guests come from around the world. We have an extensive grass track network for walking and mountain biking. We are creating open areas for Kiwi to walk and feed and easier viewing for guests at night. The tracks are also being framed to a high standard while trying to keep it looking natural and weed free.

When: 2018/2019 onwards.

Why: Removing noxious weeds and overgrown Kikuyu. Thinning back vegetation to allow light to get to the grass kikuyu tracks to improve the walking surface.



What have the challenges been in this project? The areas have been mostly on banks and slopes where cultivation equipment cannot be used. We hydroseeded with Conwed Fibers 2000 which has worked great during favourable weather conditions. Due to the low rainfall in the microclimate, the peninsula areas have been prone to difficult establishment due to drought conditions. There is no realistic irrigation systems available and very low water supply on the peninsula. The window for perfect establishment is short and tends to be for the month of May. We have had establishment through winter but this is a lot slower and opens up the chance to erosion from high rainfall events that we experience during July and August.

Initial grassing does get some weed establishment from the years of seedbanks that have built up. Due to our vineyard we cannot use selective herbicides during October-March in some areas, as grapes are highly susceptible to spray drift.

We had a very dry summer with drought conditions and high temperatures. In some areas where the Governors fine fescue had exceptional establishment the grass got too long and thick, this led to suffering and there was some die back. This is put down to the canopy getting too hot and rainfall not reaching the soil. We also had some cricket damage. We will now do an annual knockdown of the areas in late spring to reduce this from happening.

Due to our climate we will limit future seeding to autumn.

What has been the best thing about this project? Transforming areas to look like they are natural and not man made. Walking at night and seeing Kiwi clearly walking through the fescue when in the past these would have been hidden in bush. Covering bare banks to reduce erosion which reduces silt making it to the extensive wetlands.

What is the process you used to get to this point? Removing vegetation and noxious weeds. Using weed eaters to remove kikuyu and brush. We use these to get the areas back to bare ground. We then keep

area bare for two – three months to allow as many weeds as possible to establish before applying a final glyphosate application before seeding. Using Conwed Fibers 2000 and Governors fine fescue at 30 g/m².

We built our own hydroseeder in house. This has worked incredibly well and is a fine piece of machinery.

Quote from interviewee: *“Governors fine fescue is a great grass when given the time to establish. It is not an overnight success like ryegrass but once it has had a year to settle it becomes very low maintenance.”*

The fescue receives one light fertiliser application in autumn in some areas.



GRASS SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHED ON THE WALKING TRACK

FEATURED PROFILE

Mason Trouchet

Rainstorm



How long have you been in the industry?

Life in the industry evolved from a humble start in 1988. It even surprises me when I say that was 32 years ago. In a sense I have had my hands in the dirt even longer than that; starting out in clay brick manufacturing at 19, from there soil stabilisation was the next step. We did not have a crystal ball 32 years ago and the industry was its own seed in growth. Over the past 32 years we were in the mix with anything and everything associated with soil stabilisation and dust control. The evolution to hydroseeding was just part of this process and with Rainstorm really grew up with the contracting services to civil and mining.

Where have you worked? For the most part the work has been focused in Australia and more so WA, but as our industry changed and matured internationally we have supported projects around the globe including China, Singapore, Vietnam, India, Mongolia, Colombia, Africa and NZ in one form or another.

What led you to work in the revegetation industry?

Western Australia is a main base for hydroseeding, where it started with just a base hydromulch for dust control on the open civil projects, suited for WA's sandy and windy conditions. Paper and polymer were the main mix and to extend the stabilisation we started mixing grass seeds to generate root structures. Rainstorm have always had business in the mining industry and through our base in mining we started to work with rehabilitation projects, which always involved native seeds.

In Western Australia native seeds are both costly and need special care to get it right. Rainstorm was founded on innovation and is willing to expand on ideas. The goal is always to improve what we do, and when the DuraVeg team walked into our office with their product range we escalated to the next level; now happily specifying this product range for hydroseeding projects.

What is your biggest motivator? That's easy, every day is a new challenge, different, and I love pooling the team's knowledge to try a new approach to get a better result. Our team at Rainstorm have been together a long time, and it's a big family where we all get to do what part of the job we do best. We have freedom to not have restraints on ideas and cap it off with good results and happy clients that seek us out to solve their problems. Being a problem solver and working in a respectful environment is a key to my motivation. As the revenue guy in the company it's immensely satisfying to see my work trickle through to our employees with job security and a team atmosphere.

Something interesting about you...

Passion at work is one thing, but not my only buzz. I am very competitive sailor and race a retro style yacht called a Couta Boat, once famous off Port Phillip Bay as a fishing boat, now a very competitive racing boat. We race in WA on the Swan River and have campaigned with the big guys on Sydney Harbour and Sorrento. After 45 years sailing it still has me learning from dumb mistakes - when will that end?

PGG Wrightson Turf Contacts

 facebook.com/pggwrightsonturf

 linkedin.com/company/duraveg

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NEW ZEALAND

Customer Service

info@pggwrightsonturf.co.nz
Christchurch +64 3 966 9309
Auckland +64 9 570 2570
www.pggwrightsonturf.co.nz

Joe Johnson

**New Zealand Business
Development Manager**
jjohnson@pgwturf.co.nz
+64 27 596 3565

AUSTRALIA

Customer Service

info@duraveg.com.au
Freephone 1800 3872 8873
or +61 3 8379 7412
www.duraveg.com.au

Oliver Norton

**Australian Business
Development Manager**
onorton@pgwturf.com.au
+61 477 802 010