



DuraTurf®
Bulletin

EDITION 1 - WINTER 2020

**The turf to stage the world's
greatest endeavours.**

Experts from earth to turf.

Bulletin

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The last few months have certainly been a challenge for not only our industry, but ourselves as individuals & families. While we are not far removed from the effects of COVID-19 throughout the world in the present day, we are very lucky to be living in our own island bubble where as a nation we have all done our part to slow the pandemic and get back to some normal aspects of daily life. As a turf industry we are not immune to what is going on around the world, so it is important to keep in touch with each other as we continue to face challenging times ahead. I'm sure we would all welcome a chat with a friend if they need one and I encourage you all to be strong and reach out if you are finding it hard. It's our duty to look after each other.

Some exciting news of late was the recent announcement of the FIFA Women's World Cup to be jointly held in New Zealand and Australia in 2023. This announcement, along with the IRB Women's Rugby World Cup and the ICC Women's World Cup means we have some exciting sporting talent coming to our shores, continuing the tradition of NZ hosting some truly global events. This will certainly be an exciting period to showcase our industry to the world.

The last 12 months have been exciting period for our business. We continue to grow our R&D programmes throughout NZ as we look to develop new turf cultivars, offering technologies such as TurfKeeper (online Turf Management system), POGO (GPS Soil Data Sampling Tool), Turf Tank (Intelligent GPS Robotic Line marking) and further developing industry testing for our markets. We relocated into our new head office based out at Lincoln University in Canterbury and the final stages of our Auckland warehouse upgrade took place with full storage racking being installed. We will continue to look and invest back into our industry.

Enjoy the refreshed DuraTurf Bulletin where you will see some amazing projects under recent development and some people from within our industry. Finally, remember to reach out and support those around us that need it. Whether it be the environmental/ drought conditions we are experiencing, the roll-on effects of COVID-19 or maybe the uncertainty of what is ahead, we will all be coping with these challenges in a different way. So now is more important than ever to look after each other.



Jason Weller

National Sales and Marketing Manager

New Zealand



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INSIDE THIS EDITION

FMG Stadium Renovation	03
Patches of Perfection	04
The Landing - Bay of Islands	06
A Day on The Covers	08
Lagertha Tall Fescue	10
Faces of Turf - Steve Tsukigawa	11
Feature Profile - Guilherme Barcellos	12



DURING AND AFTER PITCH RENOVATION AT FMG STADIUM

FMG Stadium Renovation

Who: Karl Johnson (KJ) and the team at H3 Hamilton along with contractors FieldTurf NZ.

Where: FMG Stadium Waikato.

What: Stadium Turf Surface Renewal.

When: November 2019 – January 2020.

Why: Within their long-term management plan, H3 recognises the need to keep themselves at the forefront of turf technology. The 10-year life span of the current turf surface was up and with well-timed project management around key events it was favourable to undertake this project.

What have the challenges been in this project? Despite knowing the tight timeframes to work with, the main challenge for the stakeholders was ensuring the project was kept on time and avoiding delays. The project started in late October 2019 and the team needed to have a completed playing surface back in place for the NZ Sevens event in late January 2020.

What has been the best thing about this project? The chance to upgrade the entire surface and incorporate the latest technology available. This includes full field WIFI controlled pop-up irrigation, moving from a Motz hybrid to the next generation Desso GrassMaster system and incorporating a FIFA approved artificial turf ring road around the inside of the stadium. These upgrades have allowed H3 the chance to future proof the stadium for the setup of other events such as concerts, community and other unique events.

What is the process you used to get to this point? Following their last event, H3 and FieldTurf NZ stripped the existing surface and immediately set about recycling as much of the construction material as they could. The need for a quick draining and safe playing surface required a new drainage system to be installed and tested before new irrigation was installed. New sand was applied, and laser levelled before sowing Superstrike® Arena I Ryegrass which was managed closely during the establishment phase. 5-6 weeks following germination the hybrid stitching

was installed. Final preparations were made to get the surface ready in time for the NZ leg of the IRB World Sevens event in January.

How is this going to improve your grounds? Renewing the surface will help us achieve our goal of attracting world class events to the Waikato region. KJ notes “Heading into the IRB World Sevens event on an untested surface, the team was obviously nervous. Hosting worldwide events was not new to us, however at the completion of the tournament (where 67 games were played), the surface was in perfect condition with no divots. This is testament of the effort and dedication the team has put to this project”.

Working with global sporting bodies such as the IRB, FIFA and RLIF ensures H3 can meet all the specifications required to host further sporting events.



BLESSING THE NEW TURF



KEITH SAULSBURY PLANTING BROWNTOP PLUGS AT A TRIAL IN CANTERBURY, NEW ZEALAND.

'Patches of perfection' to stunning new cultivar.

*Written by Keith Saulsbury –
PGG Wrightson Seeds Senior
Plant Breeder*

While we play the entire course in a round of golf, (and some of us see more of the remote areas than others), the game is so often defined by how we perform on the greens. This wonderful surface however doesn't just happen; it takes the skill, dedication and hard work of the course Superintendent to achieve this.

As innovative plant breeders, PGG Wrightson Turf are constantly seeking the next improvement in plant performance to enhance the playing surface of greens. There are multiple ways to create a better grass, but

like a gourmet meal, you need to start with the best ingredients. For PGG Wrightson Turf, these ingredients are plants with a proven genetic potential for creating a great playing surface.

On many greens throughout New Zealand there are patches of browntop that stand out from the rest. I'm sure we have all seen them and thought "how great would it be if the whole green looked like that?". From Southland to Northland PGG Wrightson Turf enlisted the help of many generous Superintendents to help collect these 'patches of perfection'. Every golf course is unique, and the grasses collected mirror all those differences. The climate, soil type, management and playing pressure will all influence what material will survive and prosper. It was utilising these natural variations in plant type that enabled PGG

Wrightson Turf to select the best for their latest release Charles browntop; proudly named after New Zealander Sir Bob Charles, the first lefthanded golfer to win a major golf championship and to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Small plugs were collected from a number of golf courses in the South Island and sent to PGG Wrightson Turf's research centre in Canterbury. Each plug was potted up and allowed to grow for a couple of months, then divided up and allowed additional growth. When they reached approximately 50-70 mm in diameter they were planted out.

The area shown on the next page was maintained at close to greens condition i.e. a mowing height of 4-5 mm year-round. The second area was a seed production area, and here each plant was allowed to grow as if it was a seed crop. This way PGG



THE TURF TRIAL AREA AT THE KIMIHIA RESEARCH CENTRE

Wrightson Turf could ascertain how each plant performs in different environments. A great greens grass that does not produce much seed is of very little use; similarly, a high seed producer with poor turf qualities is not needed. PGG Wrightson Turf ran these trials for more than two years to get good year-round observations on each plant.



CHARLES BROWNTOP (middle left) pictured next to **ARROWTOWN BROWNTOP** (middle right) in a greens condition trial in Canterbury, New Zealand.

When enough information had been collected, PGG Wrightson Turf selected plants that had both great turf qualities and good seed potential. These four plants were then grown together in isolation to

allow them to inter-pollinate and to ensure other pollen sources were kept out.

Unfortunately, it doesn't matter how good an individual plant may look, it is how it combines genetically with the other chosen parents that is crucial. So, before the new selection was able to be released, there was extensive testing of this new combination.

With that first seed, turf trials and seed production rows were sown out. In those first trials what eventually became Charles performed outstandingly, resulting in an exceptional fine, dense turf. Not content with just one set of trials, PGG Wrightson Turf always sow a second trial to confirm their observations. Again, Charles looked incredible; so this seed was sent to the Sports Turf Research Institute in the UK for inclusion in their prestigious trialling system. Because PGG Wrightson Turf cultivars are also developed for overseas markets, the trialling involves the testing and listing of these new selections in the UK and EU. The level of scrutiny required before EU listing is intense, and this process takes more than four years. Not only does the

cultivar have to perform under turf trialling conditions, it must also pass various tests of uniformity, distinctness and stability before it can be listed. Again, the potential of this new cultivar was seen setting new levels of performance in those trials in the UK.

With Charles you have a huge investment of time and experience from PGG Wrightson Turf. It has taken at least 12 years from those original selections to produce this new cultivar. Just as well browntop breeders are a patient group of individuals!

So remember, when you purchase Charles it has had a long history:

- Likely several decades of natural selection across different golf courses.
- The observations of many dedicated Superintendents.
- In excess of another decade of work from the Plant Breeders.

It's not just seed! Charles is the result of years of selection by passionate individuals, whose aim is to create the best possible playing surface, wherever you are!

The Landing - Bay of Islands



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 drift.

We just 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



A Day on The Covers

Written by Deon Biggs - Trainee Turf Technician



DEON BIGGS - TRAINEE TURF TECHNICIAN

As the alarm goes off at 4:45am I've got an hour's drive ahead of me as I'm washing my face before one of the biggest days of my young turf career. I rush around packing my

bag before hopping into the car without any breakfast. About 35 minutes into the trip I see BP Rolleston on my right looking very inviting; I grab a quick snack and arrive at one of the world's best cricket grounds at 6:30am without knowing what I am in for. As I go inside to the Hagley den all the lads are chilling with a coffee looking at the rain radar, bustling with excitement.

At 7:00am we go outside with a cool southwest breeze coming across my face which has me guessing whether a few showers are going to arrive or not. We quickly get into action getting all the water off the covers and then taking the largest cover off leaving the small one there for protection. Half an hour goes on and we can finally take the small cover off and the mat to reveal what would be a true green seamer. As we take the cover off a freak shower happens bringing 1 mm to the ground in a matter of 5 minutes and

we have to quickly put all the covers on again. I've never seen 10 men run so fast. As the rain clears we get the squeegees and push the water off for the next 45 minutes; currently it's 9:30am and the umpires start to arrive. We quickly prepare the practice wickets and got them ready as the mighty Kane Williamson was coming in to have a bat.

At 10:00am the gates are open; the crowd starts coming in and we have a well needed coffee break. The 4th umpire joins us for a yarn and we let him know the info on what the ground is like. At 10:30am we get an update that play is delayed until 12:15pm. We relax and wait; our lunch has arrived – 6 plates completely filled with goodness and I'm scoffing my face for the next half an hour. At 11:25am we walk out to the roped off pitch where Mark Richardson is giving a detailed interview to Sky Sports about how the pitch is going to play. The players come on to warm up which is one of my



THE HAGLEY OVAL GROUNDS TEAM

favourite moments, being beside the world's best team India and rubbing shoulders with players I've grown up watching on TV was absolutely insane. One of my favourite moments was watching Jasprit Bumrah warming up and bowling 140+ on the warmups. We are 30 minutes out and Kane Williamson wins the toss and decides to bowl. The grounds staff are checking that everything is perfect as they come off with 10 minutes to go.

As the clock struck 12:15pm the game was on and the lads watch nervously, seeing what would the pitch do. Every hour there's drinks and we go out for a quick sweep and paint, I've never felt so much pressure sweeping in my life with 10,000 people watching you looking at every detail. Everything is going well, NZ are on top and India are dropping like flies. We rest in the den for a few hours, getting out of the sun watching NZ do their work. At 2:15pm it

is lunch and we rope off the pitch to let a few thousand from the crowd out into the middle of the ground to feel what it would be like to be out there, I kept getting asked random questions by strangers; the funniest part was one stranger asking "if they use different types of grasses on the block". Play resumes, the NZ bowlers keep dominating and everyone begins to relax. Gary Stead is on the phone and says what a great pitch it is as NZ bowls them out for 242 and big Kyle Jamieson gets his first 5 wicket bag. As the innings break happens we have 10 minutes to sweep, paint and roll. Waiting for NZ to say what roller they wanted took about 3 minutes as a bit of confusion went on. As they rolled with the small roller for exactly 7 minutes, we rush off with the roar of the crowd as the opening batsmen come on with 29 overs to negate. As 7:45pm rolled on everyone was a little tired being there for 13 hours already and a few beers deep.

As play concluded for the day NZ were 68 without any loss and we have another hour

of work before we can finally put our feet up. Quickly all ten of us put the covers on the main wicket and the practice wickets as well before we can go back into the den and can finally relax. I got home at 9:30pm after doing 15 hours of work. I was very tired but it definitely was all worth it, I received an experience not many people would get. I roll into bed and set my alarm for another very early start as I know I have another big day on the covers.



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STEVE TSUKIGAWA AND PGW TURF TERRITORY MANAGER CRAIG GOSNEY

Faces of Turf

Name

Steve Tsukigawa.

Job role and company

HPC Turf Manager, New Zealand Cricket.

How long have you been in the turf industry?

10 years.

Where have you worked?

New Zealand Cricket and Hagley Oval.

What led you to work in the turf industry?

The love of sports!

A turf ground you would most like to visit?

Eden Gardens because it is a hugely iconic test ground, and India is an exciting place that I would love to visit.

What's your favourite turf ground?

Carisbrook because I have so many fond memories of the games I attended there; it had an atmosphere that no other NZ stadium will ever be able to match.

Who's your turf idol?

Rupert Bool - Hagley Oval. Because in the time I worked with him I learnt so much, and we had the opportunity to be involved in some of the major development work at Hagley Oval.

Something interesting about you...

I enjoy beekeeping; it is something my family has done for many years and it keeps me on my toes. I also enjoy dabbling in a bit of DIY around the house, which sometimes works well and other times doesn't...



FEATURED PROFILE

Guilherme Barcellos

Agronomist / Product Development Manager

Describe yourself in three words

Friendly, honest, Brazilian.

Hobbies

Hiking, running, rock climbing.

What is your favorite food?

Lasagna.

What do you like to do in the weekends?

Explore the outdoors. New Zealand has such a diverse nature that a couple hours drive makes you feel like you have been teleported to a different continent.

How long have you been in the turf industry and where have you worked prior to PGG Wrightson Turf?

Since 2013 when I did my first internship at Woodmond C.C., USA. Back in Brazil in 2014 I started as an intern at Greenleaf Gramados where I worked on stadiums and training centres in Rio de Janeiro and later became an Agronomist.

I moved to New Zealand in 2017 to work as a Greenkeeper at Wainui G.C. and from there I went to the Gibbs Farm where I started as a 2IC and later became the Turf Manager. I have been working for PGG Wrightson Turf for a little over 6 months and it has been a great journey.

Career highlight so far?

Preparing the Olympic Stadium in Rio for the reopening match after it had been shut for over 2 years due to repairs.

What do you enjoy about working for PGG Wrightson Turf?

Being part of a team of highly knowledgeable people. I share an office with four others who have way over 100 years of turf experience combined, so I feel privileged to be able to learn and be a part of this team.

What PGG Wrightson Turf product appeals to you the most and why?

Endophyte technology. To know that a symbiotic relationship increases the grass resilience.

What is your most memorable moment with the turf team so far?

When we cooked breakfast for the NZ Open Greenkeepers. The whole team went the extra mile to support the guys after they have put so much effort into the tournament preparation.

If you were stuck in traffic and your CD player was stuck on repeat what CD would you choose to be playing?

Foo Fighters – Wasting Light.

What is your favorite New Zealand sports venue?

Arrowtown Golf Club, for the way it fits the landscape.

What sports have you played?

As a teenager I played rugby in Brazil.

What's your favorite sports team that you follow?

Botafogo F.R.

Last words...

Keep moving forward.

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