



Sports Field Forum NZ Monthly Newsletter

June 2008 Vol 5 (3)

Chairman's Cheers

A date has been selected for our next field day and the AGM.

Date: **Thursday 7th August**

Venue: **Auckland Domain**

Time: **10am-3.30pm**

Topics

- **Challenges facing turf grass growth in the ambitious Dunedin multi purpose stadium**
- **Auckland Domain development including urban storm water management, drainage attenuation, meeting the multi use requirements for this venue**
- **Accommodating large non sporting events on sports fields**
- **An update on the Industry submission on the retention of Endosulphan for earthworm control on sportsfields.**
- **Equipment and machinery display**

Contact Secretary Kim Squire (kim.squire1@manukau.govt.nz) if you are interested in displaying equipment for a nominal charge.

Forum Future

Richard Gibbs, Robert Findlay and Secretary Kim Squire met recently to discuss Forum matters, including the way forward over the next few months. Robert will be stepping down as Chairman in July and Richard will be taking over in August when he returns from an overseas trip. A number of housekeeping matters were discussed including getting the finances and business plan up-to-date. The Forum's Treasurer, Lynette Gordon of NZSTI, has left the organisation and Bobbie Harvey, the Forum's current PR Coordinator has agreed to temporarily take over the role from NZSTI. NZSTI have also generously agreed to fund Bobbie to carry out the Treasurer's work during this interim period. Immediate requirements are to complete and file the 2007/2008 tax return so that the completed set of accounts can be used for the AGM and funding applications.

Case for the Retention of Endosulphan for Earthworm Control on Sports Field Submission

I hope that those Councils approached will agree to assist the NZSTI with funding for this cause. David Ormsby of the NZSTI has done a sterling job of taking the case to date however the Institute has reached the stage where some funding support is required.

The Season here to Date

Next week the sports park team at Manukau will be doing our mid season inspection to see how the fields are standing up. The season has been very kind to date with negligible restrictions due to weather conditions. The rain hasn't fallen near the weekends and it's been relatively mild-so far.

At the moment we are accommodating 50,000 users weekly (players and spectators).

Increased Demand for use of Fields

Manukau has been approached to assist with the provision of fields for College Sport. This is a Secondary schools sports organized by a Trust. They have run out of capacity on their school grounds and are having to cancel games. Hence the approach to Manukau City.

The sports park team are looking to identify where we have capacity to accommodate on existing fields or which new the development of new sites can be bought forward.

Council's attitude is that this semi quasi associations needs will be accommodated if we have capacity, after our existing clients (associations and clubs) but only after all the schools involved are using their fields to the maximum.

Sports Surface Design & Maintenance Update

Following on from Ian McKendry's Innovative Turf Management article in last month's newsletter, readers might be interested to know that we spent some time recently with Gavin Darby of the Telstra Dome in Melbourne evaluating the stadium's artificial lighting rigs, as part of the work we are carrying out for the proposed Dunedin Multi-purpose Stadium. The Telstra Dome is well known as being one of the most challenging environments in which to grow turf and the lighting rigs were imported from Europe earlier this year to help with the management of the playing surface. The purpose of our visit was to gain an insight into the practical management and cost effectiveness of the lighting system and see first hand what sort of additional lighting output is achieved – we took with us a quantum sensor and light meter that was capable of measuring photosynthetically active radiation. Results were impressive. For example, in one of the most shaded corners of the stadium, the natural light levels were a desperately low $57 \mu\text{mol/s/m}^2$, a value that was considered well below the light compensation point for photosynthesis and turfgrass growth. However, with the artificial lights in place, the reading increased to over $400 \mu\text{mol/s/m}^2$, equivalent to about 20% of full sunlight in summer.

We hope to provide a few more updates on this work as it progresses.

Greetings from Twizel

Hi to you all out there from the heart of the Mackenzie Country. This is the first time I have written an article for this newsletter, but I do always read the newsletter when it comes out. So thanks to those who have shared with us in the past.

Firstly, I will introduce myself – my name is Dene Madden and I'm the Property Manager for Twizel Area School. My other role at the school is Groundsman, as I am a nurseryman with over 28 years experience in horticulture.

Twizel has the only sports field in the Mackenzie Basin, and this belongs to, and is maintained by the school. The field is 6.8 hectares in area and has rugby, soccer, and hockey fields, a fullsize athletics track with shotput and javelin areas, a large cricket wicket, and I am in the process of establishing two golfing greens.

Those of you who know the area will realise the climate here is very harsh. In summer it is hot and dry, and winters are extremely cold. The field takes considerable watering (water paid for by the Mackenzie District Council) over the long hot summer period. This season we have invested in a mobile irrigator to speed up the watering process, but more to lower the cost of watering the fields. The rest of the watering is done by bayonet-type irrigation, which is wasteful on water, and costly in terms of time taken to shift it.

Unfortunately for us there has been no fertiliser put on the fields since the Ministry of Works folded some eighteen years ago; neither has there been any aeration of the fields undertaken, as there are just no funds within the school budgets to do this work. The fields are now suffering from weed infestation because of this, with the worst weed being hieracium, a very flat and invasive weed indeed.

On the brighter side, we do now have a new tractor and rotary mower, a new irrigator, and a new lines marker, so very slowly money is being spent, but only by the school. As I said earlier, the field is actually a community asset. This is made obvious when you see so many different groups using the fields for all sorts of activities. It is difficult to put a dollar value on this sort of asset, and Twizel will not be the only small town with this problem.

So if anyone out there has any aeration equipment, such as a vibramole, that they do not want or need I would be very glad to hear from you.

In the meantime people, keep warm and dry, and have a great winter!

Dene Madden

Update – Manukau City Council

Mid winter inspection of Manukau Sports fields

A recent inspection has revealed the fields are in exceptional condition for this time of the year. While this can largely be attributed to the favourable weather to date I am sure the contractors operations and the use management applied are all important components.

It was good to have the use figure recorded to date for each site at the time of inspection. Of course conditions can still change but to date no major restriction or transfers have been necessary.



Sports park Rangers Shane Maddren & Scott Malcolm at Te Rakau Park No 1 League field which has recorded 15hrs per week on a soil field still holding a reasonable turf cover.

The highest use recorded was 17hrs on a soccer dedicated training area.



New fitness training stations have been installed at Meadowlands Reserve

Member Profile – Maurice Manington

Name: Maurice Manington

Qualifications/previous experience: Previously parks manager in the UK – 29 years from pushing a mower to parks management. City & Guild Amenity Horticulture, National Certificate In Horticulture, Diploma in Landscape Management. Diploma in Business Management, plus several leisure management qualification all from the UK and an NZ Open Poly Diploma Environment and Sustainability.

Who do you work for currently? Waitomo District Council

What is your position/responsibilities? Property Manager includes open spaces and buildings

What do you enjoy most about your job? Variety and being in a great part of the country

What are your passions outside of work? Gardening, kayaking – the great out doors

What do you enjoy most about the Sports Turf industry? Satisfaction of people using the facility

Where do you see the industry going in the future? More technical, machinery becoming more complex being able to carry out several tasks.

Jobs -Manukau City Council

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE:	Park Ranger <i>Passive Reserves</i>
Unit/Group:	Manukau Parks Department
Responsible To:	Manager, Parks Recreation
Responsible For:	Seasonal student Assistant Rangers
Purpose of Position:	This Position exists to provide: A uniformed field-based position facilitating public enjoyment, understanding, and security on parks, protection of park natural and cultural resources, and the performance of parks operations by contractors. <i>The position has a current role emphasis in:</i> <i>Passive Reserves</i> <i>Sports Parks/Programs/Horticulture/Volunteers/Heritage/ Education</i>

SALARY RANGE: On application

A designated work car, which may be used for commuter use between work and residence, is assigned to the role. However this is not a condition of employment and may be subject to change.

HOURS FOR WORK:

40 hours per week including a weekend roster

Job share arrangements can be considered.

This is advance notice of vacancies that will be advertised shortly to do with John Walker's, "Find your field of dreams" initiative. To get every kid in Manukau active and involved in sport.

Three types of programs are involved: Youth drop in programs after school and in the weekend, Community level mini events for families in the weekend, and Youth team building programs in weekends and limited weekdays.

One Senior Park Ranger- Programs (Love Parks)

Several Park Ranger-Programs. *Leading a mobile team, management of unit, health & safety practices, program development and delivery, implementation of the overall management plan targets for the facility / park site.*

Several Assistant Park Rangers programs

Also One Park Ranger (Passive reserves)

For 1,2&3 email kross@manukau.govt.co.nz

For 4 rwebster@manukau.govt.nz

Executive Committee

Feel free to contact any member for assistance:

Name	Current Responsibilities	Email
Spencer Myer	Co-Opted Member	smyer@tigerturf.co.nz
Richard Radonich		richard@radmarketing.co.nz
George Tohill		gtohill@pggwrightsoneturf.co.nz
Neville Brightwell		nb@dlfseeds.co.nz
Robert Findlay	Chairman	RFindlay@manukau.govt.nz
Peter Gray	Delegate to NZSTITO	peterg@nelmac.co.nz
Richard Gibbs	Vice Chairman , Best Sports Field Competition	richardgibbs@ssdm.co.nz
Kim Squire	Secretary	Kim.Squire1@manukau.govt.nz
Mark Perham		mperham@edenpark.co.nz
Tara McLeod	Co-Opted Member	tmcleod@nzsti.org.nz
Harold Driver	Co-Opted Member	hdriver@dcc.govt.nz
Bobbie Harvey	Treasurer	sportsfieldforumnz@gmail.com

If you are interested in advertising in an upcoming newsletter, have a news flash or job vacancy you want circulated to the forum membership, or have suggestions for material in future newsletters, please contact Bobbie-Jo at sportsfieldforumnz@gmail.com

We are also looking for regional contributors to update us on happenings around the country. If you would like to become a regional contributor, please email me.

That's all for now
Bobbie Harvey
PR Coordinator
Sports Field Forum Inc