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Summer



Your Quarterly Newsletter from Agriturf

SUMMER 2002

TERRACOTTEM EVALUATION AT LAKE KARRINYUP COUNTRY CLUB

The prestigious Lake Karrinyup Country Club Golf Course designed by renowned Scottish Golf Course Architect Alastair McKenzie took two years to construct and opened for play in 1929. The course takes advantage of gently rolling hills about 12 kilometres Northwest of Perth and 3 kilometres from the Indian Ocean at North Beach.

There have only been five course superintendents at Lake Karrinyup in its seventy four-year history. The four former superintendents all made valuable contributions to the course during their tenure, left indelible marks as a legacy to the future, and will always be honoured by the Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association.

The current course superintendent Trevor Strachan is a talented turf professional and is relishing the opportunity to make his mark at the club. Trevor succeeded Wayne Miller who completed a six year stint at Lake Karrinyup before departing to establish his own turf consultancy business.

Wayne departed on a high note after preparing and presenting the course in magnificent

condition for the 'Johnnie Walker Classic' held at the course in January this year. High on Wayne's priority list in the run up to the tournament was the construction of a practise chipping green that could be maintained with minimal irrigation.

TerraCottem proved to be the vital ingredient in the accomplishment of this demanding task. The green was constructed with a free draining sand root zone to ensure that it had the same putting characteristics as the greens on the course. Situated on high ground west of the clubhouse, Wayne was concerned about lateral run off and leaching of irrigation water from the green.

After studying literature and case histories of successful applications of TerraCottem in sand root zone putting green construction,



Post Course Superintendent Wayne Miller. Very happy with the TerraCottem conditioned root zone.

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Wayne decided to incorporate the soil conditioner into half of the green. His objective was to improve the water holding capacity and increase the biomass of the roots, while leaving the other half untreated for later comparison.

TerraCottem soil conditioner is a homogeneous mixture of superior hydroabsorbent polymers, slow release mineral and organic nutrients, root growth activators and volcanic rock lava. The ingredients work in synergy to convert sand to soil, improve the cation exchange capacity, increase water-holding capacity, promote rapid development of strong healthy roots, and reduce the frequency and volume of watering.

TerraCottem was evenly spread over the prepared surface of the green site at the rate of 150g per m², and uniformly incorporated into the upper 200mm depth of the root zone by rotary hoeing first in an east-west direction and then in a north-south direction.

Following precise application and its incorporation into the root zone the soil conditioner was activated with a thorough soaking after sowing the seed.

Wayne achieved his objective and reported, "that there was significant increase in root mass and a notable change in the colour of the sand in the profile of the treated area ". He also reported, " I was very happy with the results and quite surprised by the effect on sand profile, structure and colour".

TerraCottem has also improved the growth and establishment rate of new plants in the clubhouse gardens where the material was mixed at the rate of 1.5 kilograms per cubic metre with the soil taken from the plant holes. With the mixture back-filled the TerraCottem was activated with a thorough watering.

Trevor Strachan will continue to monitor the excellent results already achieved with TerraCottem. While keen to maintain the traditions of his predecessors, his credentials and passion should ensure he makes his own mark at the Lake Karrynup Country Club.

AN OASIS IN THE CITY

The busy inner Sydney suburb of Glebe is surrounded by many sites of historical interest, including the Fish Markets at Black Wattle Bay and the University of Sydney. Its public library, a genuine 60's period piece, is right in the heart of the bustling residential and commercial district.

Leichhardt Municipal Council, concerned by the degraded state of the library's grounds recently approved renovation plans. Its desire was to provide citizens with a leafy and restful relief from the pressures of traffic and noise pollution.

The brief was to cost effectively establish a shady grassed retreat, that would retain a cared for appearance with only minimal maintenance. Agriturf's submission was accepted by council who agreed that a superior turf variety, established on an advanced root zone mix, would give the best chance of success.



Darby Muller and Russell James discuss on site progress.

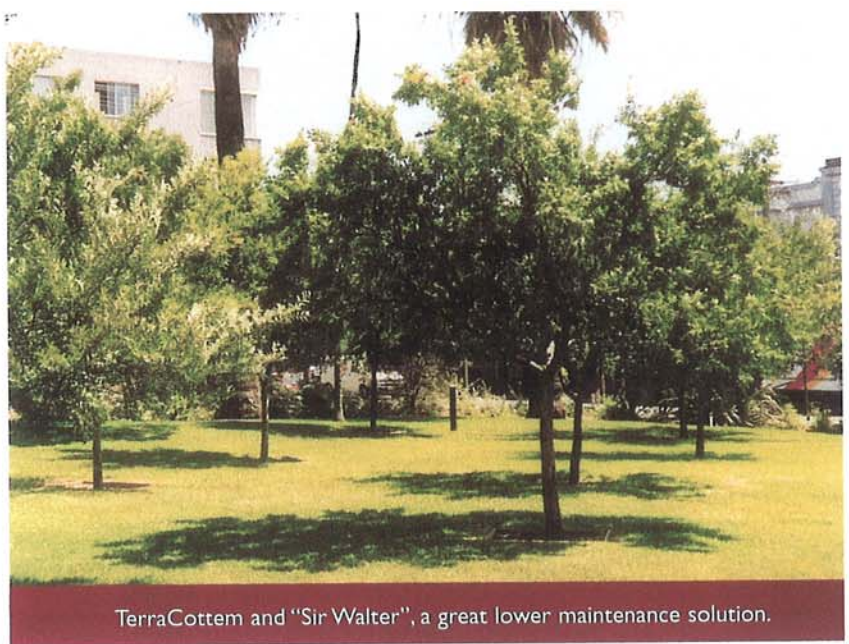
The choice of a root zone mix was quickly finalised. Experience across a broad range of installations has taught that TerraCottem at 700 grams per cubic metre blended with a 90/10 sand mix, and spread to a depth of 175 to 200 millimetres provides an exceptional turf growing medium.

In this free draining mix healthy roots are established more quickly. Also, with the TerraCottem acting as a water and nutrition catchment, the effects of leaching are minimised, with stored moisture and nutrients available over a much extended period.

The benefits of TerraCottem are threefold. Firstly – healthier, sustainable, robust growth can be achieved quicker because establishment time is shortened, while root systems are encouraged to penetrate deeper. Secondly – more responsible environmental management will result because the frequency and volume of irrigation water and fertiliser is reduced. Lastly – a higher survival rate combined with lower chemical and water bills, will go a long way towards lowering maintenance costs.

The correct turf choice was also a critical factor. The decision was to lay “Sir Walter” Premium Lawn Turf, the only Australian born and bred P.B.R soft leafed buffalo variety. It not only has the hardiness to cope with the extremes of Australia’s varied climate, but also better stands heavy wear and tear, substantial shade, and elevated levels of insect and disease challenge. Even when damaged it quickly recovers to regain a complexion that is second to none.

Vermont Sands blended the root-zone mix off-site to ensure even TerraCottem dispersal,



TerraCottem and “Sir Walter”, a great lower maintenance solution.

essential for the encouragement of maximum root spread. The site preparation and shaping was undertaken by well known Sydney contractor Darby Muller of ‘Golf Shapes’. Windsor Turf Supplies, one of Sydney’s eight licensed “Sir Walter” growers, supplied and laid the turf.

They point out that “Sir Walter” is easily established provided a few simple rules are followed. The site should be cleared of all grasses and weeds prior to the spreading of the root-zone mix, topped with an application of starter fertiliser. The turf should be laid in a ‘brickwork pattern’ followed by a dressing of washed coarse river sand at a rate of 1.5 tonnes per 100 square metres. In most cases rolling is advised to bring roots in contact with the root-zone mix. Finally the job should be thoroughly saturated and thereafter provided with enough moisture to encourage strong root growth.

While the site preparation and laying caused few problems, manoeuvring semi-trailer loads of material through Glebe’s narrow streets and on to the site gave some anxious moments. Community reaction to the completed renovation has been very positive and what was once an area ignored by locals is now attracting favourable comment.



NATRAKELP — HELPING CREATE HEALTHIER, LOWER MAINTENANCE GREENS

John Marsden who has been Course Superintendent at Cronulla's Woollooware Golf Club for over 26 years is a self confessed Natrakelp enthusiast. "I've been using it for about ten years now," he tells us. "And there's no doubt about it, it produces great results".

The 'great results' John and many others are achieving with Natrakelp stem from its unique formulation. Unlike many other liquid seaweed products Natrakelp is not an extract or reconstituted powdered concentrate. It is a condensed 'whole product' whose manufacture employs a natural bacterial fermentation to gently breakdown and liquefy the kelp. This low temperature procedure leaves the nutrients and trace elements intact, unlike high temperature methods where many are lost.

John's treatment programme involves an all year round, twice monthly spraying of all greens, including their surrounds. "Week one sees us applying standard Natrakelp at a rate of 20 litres per hectare. We follow that up with Natrakelp 12-0-20+Fe during the third week at 50 litres per hectare." These are morning jobs with all applications followed by a watering-in that lasts about 15 minutes.

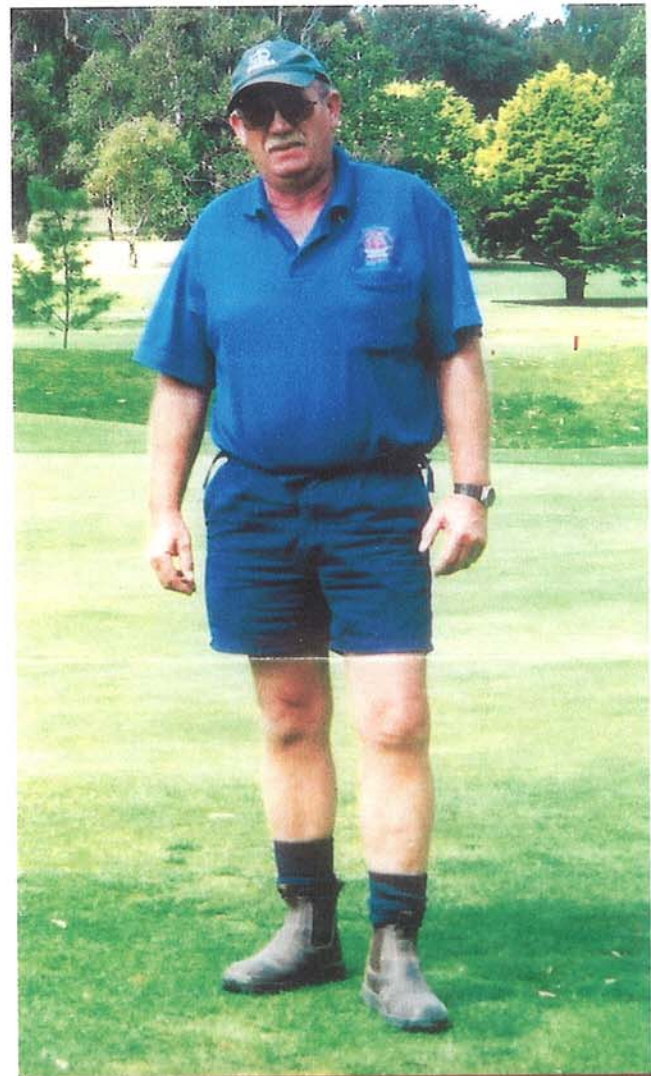
12-0-20+Fe is the newest in a growing stable of products. It provides all the proven benefits of standard Natrakelp with the added advantage of a high nitrogen potassium dose to deliver strong robust growth with instant greening.

The greens and their surrounds have never looked better at Woollooware. John's expertise and the Natrakelp programme has created

healthy robust greens that show excellent root mass, an ability to better resist disease challenge and the effects of every day wear and tear.

There have also been environmental benefits. "Its been at least three years since we have had to spray for nematodes and we have no disease problems worth talking about, either." This lower maintenance requirement has not only freed staff for other activities, it has reduced costs as well, with savings resulting from lower chemical usage.

John Marsden is fully committed to his Natrakelp programme and he likes the fact that it's a 100% Aussie company as well.



'Ten years of great results with Natrakelp.'

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