



# SPORTS TURF REFLECTIONS

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## KNOW YOUR STA AUSTRALIA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*This edition we hear from Canberra/ACT chapter Like all chapters ACT have 2 members on the national committee, Brad vanDam & Chris Bale.*

**Brad vanDam, President STA-ACT and Secretary STA-Australia.**



With summer approaching all our State and Territory members are making 'sports of all sorts' happen across the country. As we saw our members produce amazing surfaces for the winter sports during the challenging times of COVID -19 restrictions. Our members across the country have showed resilience, strength and enthusiasm, I feel this rubbing off on our new STA Australia Committee.

Our new President Jarrod Bird (STA QLD President) taking over the reigns as President has invigorated the STA Aus. committee. We feel there is a large portion of our industry that is forgotten and we STA Aus. will be there to assist in various ways. We are strengthening our existing relationships plus building new and exciting relationships with sponsors, other industry bodies from here and overseas, these will help deliver Education days, Seminars, Field days, research, innovations etc. that we can all gain from the knowledge.

**Chris Bale, STA-ACT Committee, STA-Australia Committee**

Currently I am the Assistant Superintendent at Yowani Country Club in Canberra. I'm 34 and have been involved in the sports turf management business for the last 5 and a half years. I did my Apprenticeship at Yowani and was fortunate enough to be promoted when the opportunity arose. During my time as an apprentice I got involved with the ACT Sports Turf Association as a committee member and now treasurer. Earlier this year I nominated myself to be a part of the STA Australia board so that I can help continue the good work of the board in bringing the sports turf industry in a positive direction.



## WE NURTURE TURF SPORTS ... OF ALL SORTS

### IS COVID OVER YET? ARE WE BACK TO NORMAL?

It has been a time possibly not witnessed by any of us living today. Covid has been a global catastrophe. Some countries are still climbing in numbers infected with a correlating death toll. We in Australia are still emerging from this harsh reality. Victoria has been hardest hit but appears to have overcome the odds and is planning on a return to normal as other states have already been in the process of doing. Many of our members careers were put on hold, for some it has been devastated. We may lose their skills for ever due to them departing the industry and seeking alternate career security not availed to them as the pandemic hit. Their great skills, practical knowledge and know-how will not return to the industry. We thank you for your past contributions and hope we again see you return.

### PATRONS RENEWED SUPPORT

The sports turf industry has the benefit of many suppliers to help us all deliver premium grade sports surfaces in good and bad weather.



For many years a dominant player has been Toro. STA-Australia have benefitted from a close association with Toro over many years and we are delighted and proud that Toro have again voluntarily offered their support for the 2020-2021 period. Without them acting as benefactor the sports turf industries prized award of Apprentice of the Year would not exist. Over the coming year STA with Toro will be seen across Australia with field days and events designed for all our members to get to know the Toro product range and people behind the brand.

As we expand our reach across Australia we will be joined by other sponsors of STA-Australia: Epar- Australia's leading EHS Consultancy, Green Options the foremost landscape & sports turf contract maintenance organization in Australia, Sports Turf Consultants our preferred agronomy company, plus Ground Solutions Australia As STA-Australia and all the State chapters return to a normal operation we will again inform, entertain and educate.

*STA-across Australia only flourishes due to its many members and our valued Patrons & Sponsors.*



**IT IS TOO DRY!**

**IT IS TOO WET!**

*As Summer creeps across the nation the seasonal challenges of adequate watering resurface.*

*We asked our National Patron Toro for their suggested solution to this dilemma. We also called on IPOS Consulting for their review of what levels of watering are needed in this season*

**5 WAYS TORO IRRIGATION CAN PUT TIME BACK IN YOUR DAY**

How many more jobs on your to-do list could you tackle with a few extra hours each day? That's the ultimate benefit of precise water application. The more control and accuracy you have, the less time you need to spend on managing your irrigation — and Toro makes that possible with products designed for the most precise irrigation in the industry.

**Your office goes where YOU are.**

With Lynx® remote access and Lynx Mobile Apps, you can access and operate your control system from anywhere using your laptop, smartphone or tablet.

**You can control irrigation down to the exact second and angle you need.**

This level of precision is exclusive to Toro. With this capability, when you “water by amount,” each sprinkler runs for the exact amount of time to apply the exact amount of water needed for accuracy and cost saving benefits.

**Making informed irrigation decisions is easier.**

Toro Lynx Central Control gives you the ability to see the history of water application, weather station data, pump station data, soil moisture data, and much more. With so much information at your fingertips, you'll have the insights you need to make informed decisions on the go.

**Technology is on your side.**

Toro irrigation products leverage technology to save time in major ways. For example, the Lynx Mobile App saves favourite commands for operations you frequently use, so you don't have to memorize numbers or know the names of commands. The technology does it for you at the touch of a button.

**You get more data, faster (so you can water more efficiently).**

With our latest Lynx Central Control system — Lynx 7.0 — we have created a new high-speed network that allows us to communicate more information in less time. It's essentially 100 times faster than our previous communication network.

**LYNX®  
MOBILE APPS**

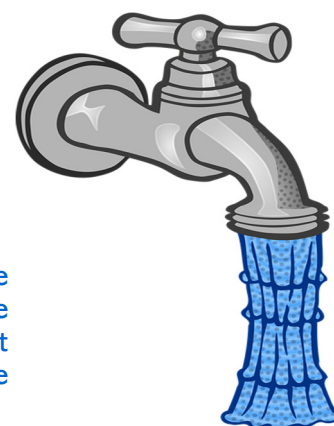
Available for both iPhone® and Android™ devices.

**TORO®** **Count on it.**



# HOW MUCH WATER DO WE NEED TO KEEP OUR TURF HEALTHY?

By Gerry Charlton, Director,  
IPOS Consulting



The impacts of climate change affect us in many different ways, bushfires, extreme weather events, higher temperatures, less rainfall and reduced access to water. The summer of 2018 and 2019 saw many communities faced with water restrictions that could have decimated much of the sports and recreational turf, particularly on the east coast of Australia.

The irrigation requirement is directly relative to the climatic factors of rainfall and evapotranspiration (ET<sub>o</sub>). Using Bureau of Meteorology data, sourced from weather stations located at each Capital City Airport, we are able to calculate the irrigation requirement across the nation. This is modelled using the methodology developed in the Code of Practice – Irrigated Public Open Space which is based on FAO 56. IPOS Consulting has carried out modelling for the past 11 years, from 2009 to 2020.

The table below provides a summary of the irrigation requirement for 4 classifications of warm season turf in each Capital City together with the annual rainfall and ET<sub>o</sub>. Whilst requirement varies considerably, the trend clearly shows an increase in the last 2 years compared to the 10 year average. Of particular note is the increase in the cities of Sydney, Canberra and Brisbane. Also surprisingly Darwin has the third highest irrigation requirement, whilst it has the highest rainfall of all Capital Cities.

Location	Annual Irrigation Requirement (kL/ha)				Climate Data	
	TQVS 1 Elite Sports Turf	TQVS 2 Premier Sports Turf	TQVS 3 Local Sports Turf	TQVS 4 Passive Turf	Annual Rainfall (mm)	Annual Eto (mm)
<b>Perth Ap (10 Yr Avge)</b>	<b>11,812</b>	<b>6,376</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>3,911</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>1,748</b>
Perth Ap (2018/19)	13,243	7,608	6,200	4,790	655	1,843
Perth Ap (2019/20)	13,626	7,668	6,244	4,823	563	1,960
<b>Adelaide Ap (10 Yr Avge)</b>	<b>11,276</b>	<b>5,873</b>	<b>4,598</b>	<b>3,427</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>1,603</b>
Adelaide Ap (2018/19)	12,100	6,529	5,230	4,050	374	1,651
Adelaide Ap (2019/20)	11,496	6,039	4,659	3,477	352	1,565
<b>Darwin Ap (10 Yr Avge)</b>	<b>10,332</b>	<b>5,253</b>	<b>4,127</b>	<b>3,135</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>2,109</b>
Darwin Ap (2018/19)	11,576	5,616	4,509	3,399	1,234	2,104
Darwin Ap (2019/20)	12,656	6,757	5,404	4,109	1,192	2,148
<b>Melbourne Ap (10 Yr Avge)</b>	<b>9,456</b>	<b>4,394</b>	<b>3,125</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>1,464</b>
Melbourne Ap (2018/19)	10,566	5,311	4,076	3,049	455	1,542
Melbourne Ap (2019/20)	8,139	3,402	2,326	1,501	654	1,381
<b>Hobart Ap (10 Yr Avge)</b>	<b>8,119</b>	<b>3,621</b>	<b>2,727</b>	<b>1,831</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>1,237</b>
Hobart Ap (2018/19)	9,167	4,544	3,472	2,502	319	1,276
Hobart Ap (2019/20)	8,233	4,120	3,172	2,143	483	1,263
<b>Sydney Ap (10 Yr Avge)</b>	<b>8,114</b>	<b>2,907</b>	<b>1,772</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>1,610</b>
Sydney Ap (2018/19)	8,790	4,101	2,997	1,896	874	1,585
Sydney Ap (2019/20)	9,276	4,505	3,449	2,428	975	1,625
<b>Canberra Ap (10 Yr Avge)</b>	<b>7,653</b>	<b>3,125</b>	<b>2,029</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>1,315</b>
Canberra Ap (2018/19)	9,152	4,096	2,924	1,701	532	1,426
Canberra Ap (2019/20)	10,300	5,177	4,103	3,034	447	1,496
<b>Brisbane Ap (10 Yr Avge)</b>	<b>7,291</b>	<b>2,086</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>1,579</b>
Brisbane Ap (2018/19)	10,435	5,020	3,760	2,560	601	1,622
Brisbane Ap (2019/20)	9,708	4,328	3,148	2,141	1,031	1,655

Whilst the above summary shows a snapshot of how much water we need, further in depth analysis identifies the spread of months where irrigation is required and the monthly climatic variance that drives the turf water requirement. For further information and the complete data sets for your Capital City contact Gerry Charlton, Mb. 0431 836 400, E. [gcharlton@ipos.net.au](mailto:gcharlton@ipos.net.au)

# ACROSS THE TURF GLOBE



## COVID 19 IS NOT JUST AUSTRALIA

*Our Australian representative on the STMA International Board, Chris Chapman reflects on the local and international impact of Covid19. He shares it with you and as hard as it may seem, we have done remarkably well on the international stage.*

As we pass through this Covid19 pandemic it is amazing to see the similarities that are being faced by Turf Managers across the world. Any turf manager who oversees a facility that hosts an elite sport has been waiting to see if the season was going to proceed and then have to deal with the ramifications of a shortened season or a season unlike any other, some having very little play while others carried the season through to the end with amazing efforts.

Special mention to Dave Sandurski (Gabba) (pictured R) and Kerry Betihavas (Metricon) (pictured below) who carried the bulk of the AFL season this year. Plus we need to recognise across Australia we have our army of curators and support staff executing remarkable results for many other sports codes.



Our local councils have been asked to fulfil a myriad of roles to keep going.

Internationally I was speaking with our Chairperson of the International committee Abby McNeal CSFM Field Superintendent in a District of Denver, Colorado, This is



how she summed up the situation she has been faced with since the pandemic began. (pic: ANZ Stadium Sydney)

*.I know here in Denver, our recreation staff was furloughed for 2 months (some extended beyond that) and supervisors were redeployed for 2 plus months to support park maintenance - operation's needs. We have some become park ambassadors to help educate and support the various*

*mask mandates that were established by the local government then endorsed by the State.*

*Our Parks and Trails are heavily used since early March and the trend is not slowing down. Our entire city staff (all employees) have mandatory furlough days (8- 64 working hours) to take by the end of*



*2020 along with supporting 7.5% budget cuts for the last 7 months of the year. (pi: Mile High Stadium Colorado)*

*It's tough to fully know the impact these things will have in our system. Our industry will be impacted for the next several years, no matter where you are. We are being asked to do more with less and support various types of services for our organizations. I'm sure this is a situation all our staff across the country can relate too.*

*The International committee is currently discussing with the STMA board the prospect of being able to offer an International membership in the future, there are some minor details to be worked out, we hope they can be resolved in the coming months.*

*The 2021 STMA conference this year will follow a virtual conference format, it will be available free to STMA 2021members, the virtual event will be live for two day,; then available for future viewing again in 30 days.*

*The committee supports offering it at no charge to international groups at this 30-day mark, as this will solve timing (for some groups it will be live in the middle of the night); it will also allow for these groups to provide their own translation service if required.*

*I look forward to keeping you all updated on the International scene over the coming months.*



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END