

STA SA meeting Sacred Heart College report April 2017

The STASA committee co-hosted an event with Paul Morgan and Sacred Heart College in Somerton Park on the 19th April. The event was well attended by members and trade with 35 delegates and some quality guest speakers for the day. Recently constructed new gymnasium and conference centre adjacent to Sacred Heart College's main oval was a fantastic site for the formal parts of the day with Paul Morgan (Grounds Manager) speaking on the construction process and its effects on his role in maintaining the main oval and surrounds. Paul also gave a full tour of the new building post his talk including the other school facilities he looks after including his 3 hectares of quality sports fields and lawn tennis courts.

Paul has been at the school for an extended period of his career and gave a great insight to how he goes about Turf Management, influences on his learning of the trade and some remarkable stories of challenges and fun times experienced in the industry. The grounds had recently been oversown using Mediterranean genetic ryegrasses and Paul discussed some issues he has faced in the past and new techniques he has used for the process this time round. The school has similar challenges to all in the industry including the over use or lack of ability to rest the grounds including boarders daily using the fields amongst competition and training. Paul talked about some of his methods of managing this and how he does things to maintain a great standard of turf.

The day saw some great guest speakers after the school facilities tour returning to the conference room that overlooked the main oval including Darren Ray Senior Climatologist from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) and Jenny Awbery Senior Policy Officer, Water Allocation, Natural Resources Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges (DEWNR).

Darren spoke about prediction and long range forecasting of Australia's weather using the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) that provides information on whether we can expect an El Niño and La Niña event in the upcoming year. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is another factor Darren spoke about the BOM use to predict long rang forecast. Darren and the BOM uses these systems and historical data to provide information for agriculture to help with budgeting and predicting rainfall. Combining this information with Turf Management systems for monitoring could also benefit the Turf industry including water usage budgets and preparation for results in the upcoming season. Darren's final comment post fielding several good questions from the group was to be expecting a mild dry autumn into winter this year.



Jenny was the final speaker for the day and discussed the upcoming allocation and licencing for the Adelaide Ground Water region. This is a topic that affects most of the industry within the Adelaide region and was a very interactive talk with many questions asked from the group and well explained by Jenny and James. The allocations will be developed using FAO methodology combined with information from the recently updated Code of Practice – Irrigated Public Open Space and historical data. Ground water licences will include the allocation of water to a customer such as a council, school or golf club that may be taken from the ground water bores. This would seem normal but up until now most of these customers have had access to unlimited water from this underground storage. This concern or uncertainty provided the group with many questions for Jenny and some great interaction and outcomes from the talk. Jenny advised that the allocations are planned to be issued for discussion before the end of this year.

This was a very successful meeting at a great facility. All who attended were provided with excellent information to take back to their own workplace as well as some great networking amongst industry peers on the day.



The STA SA calendar of events for the rest of 2017 is;

- June 7th 2017 – Adelaide United FC Training Centre.
- August 23rd 2017 – STA Turf Seminar, Adelaide Oval
- October 17th 2017 – STA/Toro Sports Field and Grounds Forum
- Nov 26th 2017 – STA Christmas Get Together.