



Sustainable
TURF FARMING

NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
DARWIN, NT
21-24 MAY, 2024



**Hort
Innovation**

Our logo represents the ongoing circle of life in turf production.

Turf Australia's 2024 National Conference, Darwin NT

"Sustainably Growing Green"

Conference Website: <https://aapevents.eventsair.com/tanc2024>

Register Here: <https://aapevents.eventsair.com/tanc2024/reg/Site/Register>

FULL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Welcome Fun Day – A Mini NT Experience

Day 1

Barramundi Adventures and Berry Springs Nature Reserve

Date: Monday 20th May 2024

Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Bus departs from Adina Vibe Hotel at 8am

Venue: Barramundi Adventures – Two hours of Barra Fishing and other fun activities, followed by lunch at the Berry Springs Tavern, and then enjoy the afternoon relaxing and swimming at the glorious, iconic waterfalls at Berry Springs Reserve. This is your time to really experience the Northern Territory before we get down to business.

A taster of what you can experience and enjoy if you choose to extend your stay.

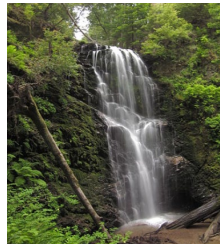
Cost: Adult \$90 Child \$50, includes lunch.

Check out these great locations here:

<https://www.barramundiadventuresdarwin.com.au/>

<https://nt.gov.au/parks/find-a-park/berry-springs-nature-park>

<https://berryspringstavern.com/>



Dinner: 6.00pm – 9pm **At the beautifully located Precinct Tavern, on the Darwin Waterfront.**

(Walking distance from hotels) <https://www.theprecincttavern.com.au/>

Meet the Turf Australia Board. This is your opportunity to get to know the board and to ask questions, propose ideas and generally network with the board members and fellow growers. We have very deliberately arranged for this to be a casual evening, where you will enjoy the good company of fellow turf producers from all over the country, as well as great food, and drink or two together before the formal conference kicks off the next day.





**Sustainable
TURF FARMING**

NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
DARWIN, NT
21-24 MAY, 2024



**Hort
Innovation**

Our logo represents the ongoing circle of life in turf production.

FORMAL CONFERENCE DAY

Day 2

What does Sustainability Mean?

1987 United Nations Brundland Commission: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

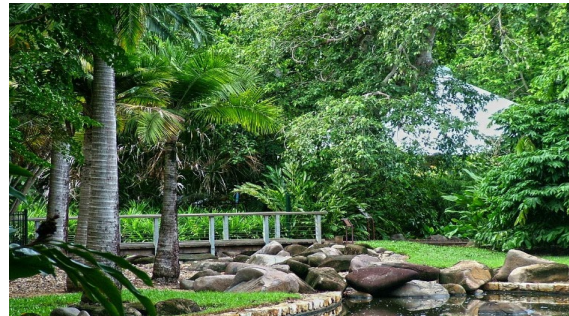
Date: Tuesday 21st May 2024

Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Bus departs from Adina Vibe Hotel at 8am

Venue: The lush, green, beautifully unique George Brown Botanical Gardens in Darwin NT.

<https://northernterritory.com/darwin-and-surrounds/see-and-do/george-brown-darwin-botanic-gardens>



REGISTRATION TABLES OPEN 8:15 – 8:45 AM

8:45am: Welcome and House Keeping

Master of Ceremonies: Matt Brann (ABC Country Hour)

With a terrific personality Matt will be a great MC on the day. Matt began his career with ABC Rural in 2007 and has spent more than 15 years reporting across northern Australia. Matt is the host of the [NT Country Hour](#) and also presents the Market Report on ABC Landline. His motto is "keep it rural". He is genuinely interested in the Turf Industry and the production sector.

Lookout at lunchtime, we will be live on air during the lunch break, Matt and his team will be looking to interview delegates on the day.

8:50am Welcome to Country

8:55am: Welcome Address

Bec Sellick Turf Australia Chairperson

Our logo represents the ongoing circle of life in turf production.

9.00am: Formal Opening

The Hon. David Littleproud MP, Leader of the Federal National Party, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Member for Maranoa, Queensland
(15 mins)

Member for Maranoa for the past 20 years. David is small business owner in Warwick and has forged a career in agribusiness while living and working in towns such as Miles, Nanango, Charleville, St George, Stanthorpe and Warwick. David's background provides him with an acute understanding of the important role small business and agriculture plays in creating jobs and promoting economic growth in Maranoa. He understands the importance of economic development as a means of building a prosperous future for younger generations and developing the capacity of health, education, agriculture, telecommunications, and small business sectors.



MORNING SESSION – The People in Your Business

9.15am: Keynote Speaker Cynthia Mahoney (Master of Agricultural Science specialising in farm business management economics and rural sociology, a degree in Agricultural Science and a Graduate Diploma of Business focused on project and people management.)

**“Attaining, retaining, creating and sustaining a productive and valuable team on farm”
“Happier people are higher performing”, they stay where they feel valued”.**

Cynthia had an impressive and extensive career in the Victorian Department of Agriculture where she worked as a facilitator in the Dairy Business Focus and Farm\$mart Programs, as a Business Improvement Facilitator, a farm management economist, an agribusiness project manager, a biosecurity program manager, statewide Rural Women's Network coordinator and as a leadership facilitator in the wine industry.

(45 mins)

What would the impact of cultivating healthier, happier and more human

Industries

be for you and your people?

"With her trademark warmth and wisdom, Cynthia invites us on a journey of re-imagining what it is to be an effective workplace leader. This is a practical guide to achieving results whilst retaining the heart of rural values."

- Dr Skye Charry, Associate Professor of Law, University of New England

Our logo represents the ongoing circle of life in turf production.

MID-MORNING SESSION – The Planet and Your Business

10:00am: Richard Shannon, Chief Executive Officer, National Farmers Federation Horticultural Council

“Helping Turf Growers to understand the seriousness of and how to adopt the Federal Government’s 2030 Roadmap.”

Topical now, for all sectors of the industry, is climate change and sustainable development which encompasses and will affect how the different agriculture sectors, including turf, manage production. Put simply, Australian agriculture is trending towards carbon neutrality by 2030 – learn and understand the importance of the Federal Government’s new 2030 Roadmap and how 17 Pillars (goals) need to be adopted into all growers Business Plans for the future! (20 mins, 5 mins Q&A)



10:30am – 11:00am: Morning Tea and Networking

The Planet and Your Business continues.

11:00am: Stephanie Jacobs, Bureau of Meteorology Expert Senior Climate Risk Specialist Climate and Hydrology Analysis and Specialist Services

“What weather patterns will look like in the future, and how this will affect business.”

How future rainfall events will start changing – for instance, the same amount of rainfall will occur but in a shorter period. How do growers adapt to this significant change and remain environmentally sustainable? (20 mins) (5 mins Q & A)



LATE-MORNING SESSION – Paddock to Profitting Sustainably

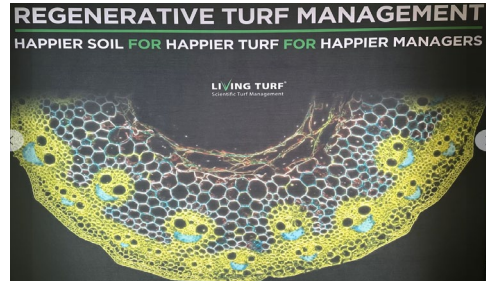
11:25 am: Rob Cooper, Living Turf, Executive Chairman

“Innovative Practices in Regenerative Farming”

Rob has over 30 years of experience within the Turf industry. He is a qualified agronomist and runs the largest Australian-owned distributor of professional turf products. Rob is a renowned expert in regenerative turf

Our logo represents the ongoing circle of life in turf production.

management and will provide great advice on how growers can adopt better farm practices, such as using fewer synthetic fertilisers, in order to become more environmentally sustainable. (20 mins, 5 mins Q & A)



11.50am: Dr Anne-Maree Boland Ph. B.Ag.Sci, Principal RMCG

“The Importance of Soil and Water Health and Nutrient Management now and in the Future.”

What practical approach must growers implement to be able to conform to the Federal Government’s target (2030 Roadmap) of being an environmental and sustainable agriculture sector. (20 mins, 5 mins) Q & A

Anne-Maree has 25 years’ experience in dealing with natural resource and water management in agricultural industries. This has included research and development and consulting in the areas of sustainable management practices, water use efficiency, recycled water, and environmental management systems. Anne-Maree has been a Non-Executive Director for GWRDC and IAL, is a Churchill Fellow and recipient of the University of Melbourne Chancellors Prize. She has extensive experience as a knowledge broker and establishing partnerships with diverse stakeholder groups including government, water, and agricultural industries.



12:15pm: Simone Cameron, Cotton Australia General Manager

“What can the Turf Industry learn from Cotton Australia?”

As an industry, cotton has had to be at the forefront of sustainability in order to conform with both government and consumer requirements. Simone will take growers down the path that saw cotton become the most sustainable agricultural industry in Australia.

Simone is very active in sustainability, a really contentious commodity. She recently went to Paris to present to French Farmers about sustainability as part of the Europe FTA. She is based in the Territory and great personality with much to share. (20 mins, 5 mins Q&A)





**Sustainable
TURF FARMING**

NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
DARWIN, NT
21-24 MAY, 2024



**Hort
Innovation**

Our logo represents the ongoing circle of life in turf production.

12:45pm – 1:30pm: Lunch Break & Networking

Paddock to Profiting Sustainably Continues

1:30pm: “Financial resilience in changing times; Eco Stewardship and what it means for future borrowing capabilities.” RABO Bank Representative

(20 mins) (5 mins Q & A)

2:00pm: “The Turf Industry updated Cost of Production Calculator (a Hort Innovation Levy Deliverable)”

How this excellent resource works to your best advantage, for future planning, resilience, and profitability.

Video session

(15 mins)



Cost of Production Calculator

A tool for efficient and accurate calculation of production costs. Whether you're a small business owner, a manufacturer, or an entrepreneur, this intuitive calculator simplifies the complex process of determining your production expenses.

LATE AFTERNOON SESSION – Pride in Being Good Eco-Stewards

2:20pm: “Genuinely developing your eco- stewardship principals and improving the image of your product by working together. How the grape and wine industry changed their culture to achieve excellence with regard to eco-stewardship.” Luke Mancini, Nuffield Australia 2016

Scholar

Luke Mancini, from Whitton in New South Wales, received a Nuffield Scholarship supported by the Australian Grape and Wine Authority. He has studied industry participants, marketing techniques and challenges for wine grapes in warm climates and irrigated areas.

Luke is involved in his family’s mixed enterprises that include vineyards, olive groves, winter cereals and summer row cropping.

(25 mins, 5 mins Q&A)

Understanding the Australian Wine Industry:

A grower's guide to the background and participants of the wine grape industry

A report for



Our logo represents the ongoing circle of life in turf production.

2:50pm: GROUP SESSIONS to be led by our MC and the Turf Australia Board Members and Staff.

1. “Creating a sustainable image/brand that highlights how growers can be seen as ‘good Eco Stewards’.”

Workshopping together we will create a unique sustainability statement per group, that could be used in turf marketing/branding. These statements will then be utilised by Turf Australia, (as endorsed by our industry). It is vitally important for Australian Turf Producers to now be genuinely affiliating themselves with the land, for the future and for your children’s, children’s children.

We will split into groups of 10 to work together to discuss and notate how turf farmers might see and describe their commitment to eco-stewardship in a personal business statement, and how these statements can be utilised to affect a change in community perception of turf/lawns. Working together each group will come up with a genuine creative statement.

Note: Rather than being seen as depleting the land, turf growers need to be seen to be giving back to the land. Each turf farm has the capacity to create and commit to their own Eco- Steward brand / statement that will be favorably recognized by all sectors of the supply chain and especially the wider community. These statements can be utilised in marketing, on invoicing and literally at farm gates.

(15 mins)



2. “Engaging with Community: Grassroots Movements for Sustainable Turf”.

Come up with 3 strategies per group, on how Turf Australia can genuinely improve and increase positive community engagement by utilising communications, marketing, and social media campaigns to positively change the image of turf.

(15 mins)

3. Group Leaders to share each group’s built sustainability statements and strategies as workshopped and how each group felt about this exercise.

Turf Australia will collect and process all feedback for circuaton post conference.

(10 mins)



Sustainable
TURF FARMING

NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
DARWIN, NT
21-24 MAY, 2024



**Hort
Innovation**

Our logo represents the ongoing circle of life in turf production.

3.45pm: Hort Innovation Projects Updates. Turf Australia Chairperson Bec Sellick

Deliverables and outcomes to date:

- a) Turf Industry Development and Extension Project deliverables and outcomes to date.
- b) Communications Project
- c) Statistics Project
- d) Nx Gen

(A brief on each project will be distributed at the conference)

(10 mins, 5 mins Q&A)

4:00pm: Thank you and Close. MC Matt Brann

6:00pm: Gala Dinner at the renowned **Crustaceans Restaurant on the Wharf**, just a short walk out on the jetty and in the most amazing setting. The sunset is sure to be spectacular, the food delicious and the camaraderie excellent.

Once you cross the red carpet, you will be greeted on arrival by some fair dinkum, amazing true blue territorians. They won't have much to say, but their presence is huge. Can you guess who they might be?

Hold your breath too for the guest speaker at this event, guaranteed to make you belly laugh, and maybe even shock you! A renowned yarn telling Northern Territory personality, through and through. He has lived his entire life in the Territory and has plenty to share. You may even have seen him on television or YouTube!

We will have a DJ for those who want to break a leg post dinner. Its going to be a terrific night.

We will also be holding the traditional auction for the Turf Australia Benevolence Fund. The fund that supports our industry members who meet tough times in some way, shape or form.





Sustainable
TURF FARMING

NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
DARWIN, NT
21-24 MAY, 2024



Hort
Innovation

Our logo represents the ongoing circle of life in turf production.

“Sustainably Growing Green” in the NT Scene

On Farm at Turf NT

Day 3

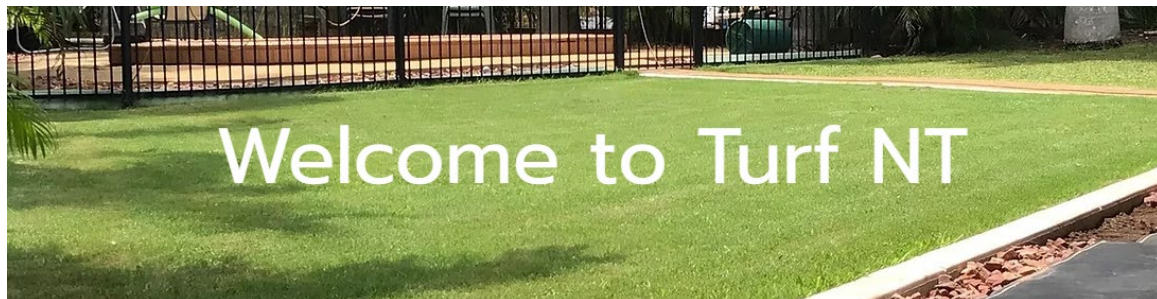
Date: Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Time: 8:30am - 4:00pm

Bus departs from Adina Vibe Hotel at 8.30am sharp

Venue: Turf NT, 785 Anzac Parade, Middle Point NT

(No plans for too much noise on the bus, just in case! Enjoy the NT scenery on the way. Look out for those places you have heard of with the quirky names, likeHumpty Doo!)



9:30am: Welcome to Turf NT

Gavin and Lauren Howie

10:00am: “The Pros and Cons of turf farming remotely”

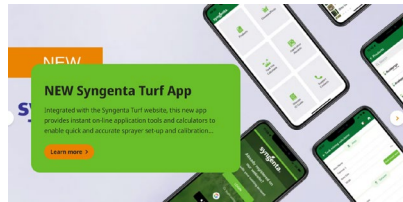
Farm Tour by Bus - Guided Tour with Gavin and Lauren Howie



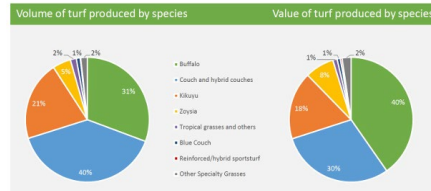
11:00am – 11:30am Morning Tea

Our logo represents the ongoing circle of life in turf production.

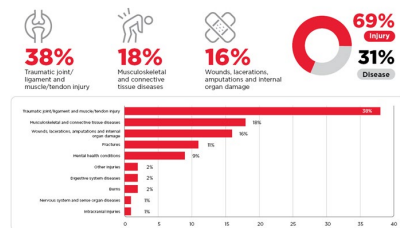
11:30am: “Remote sensing – how evolving technology can assist in sustainable decision making.” Dr. Brett Morris, Technical Services Manager, Syngenta Turf & Landscape ANZ
(25 mins + 5/10 mins Q & A)



12.15pm “The Turf Australia Statistics Project – Addressing the Elephant in the Room.”
James Parker, National Research Director, Taverner Research Group
(20 mins + 5 mins Q & A)



12:40pm “Taking Toolbox Meetings Seriously - How Turf Australia can help”.
Managing toolbox meetings with Turf Australia.
Alex White, Turf Australia Board member
(10 mins + 5 mins Q & A)



1:00pm – 2:pm LUNCH

2:00pm: Thank you and Conference closing remarks. Bec Sellick, Turf Australia Chair

2:30pm: Depart Turf NT for Darwin by bus.

6:00pm: Networking Farewell Dinner at Pink Chopstix, Darwin Wharf.

