

---

## J.B. VISITATIONS:

### California - March.

Presented four talks before the Southern California Turfgrass Institute at the California Polytechnic University in Pomona. Attended a session on employee rights, workmans compensation, and hiring-termination laws of California. These laws combined with very liberal interpretations by the California agencies and subsequent judgements in the courts are extraordinarily complex and strongly in favor of the employee. It makes the extent of record keeping, written documentation, and continual monitoring of each employee very complex and costly, especially for a small business. Will this situation spread to other states in the United States and to other countries around the world? This may be of great concern to the many turfgrass businesses around the world that fall within the small business category.

### Australia - May

Presented two invited lectures on xeriscaping and on turfgrass water conservation before the Australian Irrigation Association Exposition in Sydney. Unfortunately the xeriscaping promotion has reached Australia, specifically the Melbourne area.

Visited the Royal Sydney Golf Club in the company of John Odell, the golf course superintendent. He has devoted the last five years to a major upgrading-rebuilding program. John reports that Wintergreen bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*) is performing quite on the fairways. Wintergreen was developed by Peter McMaugh. The key characteristics are good low temperature color retention and an elaborate lateral stem system of rhizomes and stolons that give superior sod strength. John also is actively involved in tests to introduce some native Australian grasses into the rough areas. These species are unique to Australia, but might have potential in other parts of the world under similar climatic conditions.

Visited the Parramatta Stadium where

Graeme Lougan, is the Curator. The stadium was rebuilt the previous year to a high-sand + mesh element root zone construction. During the current playing season they have had a total of 48 games, including rugby union, rugby league, and soccer; in addition to baseball in the early part of the year. The turf was in excellent condition and according to Graeme was far superior to anything they have had in previous years. It is interesting to note that he also is providing leadership in the formation of a sports grounds manager organization.

In Melbourne visited the Melbourne Cricket Ground in the company of Tony Ware, Curator, and John Mitchell, the President. The grounds is one of the most intensely used in the world. In the summer they have a full cricket season on the field, while in the winter Australian rules football is played, plus some guest rugby games and major concerts. The field was reconstructed to a high-sand + mesh element root zone which was completed in December of 1992. The turf is a composed of bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*) winter overseeded with perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*). During the Australian rules football season they typically had 55 games, with little grass surviving by the end of the season. However, after reconstruction to the high-sand + mesh element root zone they increased the number of games to 104, almost double, and yet have been able to sustain a turf cover far superior to any in past years. This intense use typically represents 4 to 6 games per weekend. During the past year the longest time that Tony had between events to conduct maintenance and repair work was 5 days.

Visited Moonee Valley Race Course in the Melbourne area, where Mr. Ian Trevethan was my host. Had an opportunity to view an extensive set of large research plots involving various root zone constructions and turfgrass installations. For over a year they have been running horse racing tests over this track area. It is a very unique situation that will be yielding very important information.