

RAIN BIRD AUSTRALIA -
a proud distributor of



turf, golf and ag irrigation
products across Australia.

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RBA Rewards
Rain Bird Australia Rewards Program

A Very Happy New Year to you!

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2005. We hope this year will be a happy and prosperous one for you.

As Australia struggles to come to terms with an ever diminishing water supply and the management of this most precious resource, it is worth reflecting on Rain Bird's world wide commitment to water conservation through its Intelligent Use of Water™ campaign. Every new product or service developed at Rain Bird is assessed for its contribution to The Intelligent Use of Water before it is justified for development or acquisition. A product that fits well and truly is the newly released **Low Flow Valve**, the industry's only valve designed specifically for landscape drip installations.

This new valve is based on the proven, reliable DV Valve, but also contains a

patent-pending diaphragm that makes it ideal for low flow applications (under 20 lph). This unique, double-knife diaphragm lifts higher to let more debris through at lower flows, handles flow rates down to 45.4 l/hr and always seals. **Rain Bird Variable Speed Controlled Pump Stations** are another new product typically used in golf course applications and also suitable for commercial and agricultural use. We are also able to **integrate our leading control systems** with the Rain Bird pump stations, providing a simple to operate and highly efficient means of water delivery and energy management, to ensure optimized water usage and power management with just a few clicks.

*Tim Bonifant, General Manager -
Rain Bird Australia.*

City of Greater Geelong - Maxicom Project

In January 2004, the City of Greater Geelong (South West of Melbourne) with assistance from Greg Sinclair from Rural and Turf, began the installation of the Rain Bird "Maxicom Central Control System" to an initial eight sites within the municipality with an additional 130 sites to be brought online over the upcoming years. The system chosen was a "Hybrid" system utilising existing landline phone communications as well as GSM modem communications to the harder to get to sites.

Along with the initial eight sites, the City of Greater Geelong also installed a Rain Bird weather station at the Anakie Road Depot located in North Geelong where the main Central Control Computer is located. The weather station chosen was a direct

connect version, connected directly to the Central PC. This has enabled Richard Dilenna, Parks Supervisor from the City of Greater Geelong, to commence with ET (Evapotranspiration) based irrigation scheduling. This type of scheduling enables the user to supply the "correct" amount of water to the plant type, based on crop factors, soil type and the prevailing weather conditions rather than time based scheduling.

During the second half of 2004 another eight sites were brought online as well as a second weather station being installed at the Belmont Rd Depot (South Geelong). This weather station is connected to the Central via a landline modem that phones in its information twice daily. The City of Greater Geelong covers a very large

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area (approx 600-700 km²) with many different soil types from sand to clay based and with careful ET based programming the council is now starting to see the massive savings in not only water but also labour costs that Maxicom can provide.

The Central Control Computer and software were set up with the



The Rain Bird weather station at the Anakie Road Depot, North Geelong

assistance of Bob Payne, RBA Technical Support Specialist. The database and other relevant information entered into the system was a team effort by Greg Sinclair, Bob Payne, and Richard Dilenna. The on-site training was also provided to Richard and other key council staff.

Installed at the majority of the sites are ESP-MC Site Sats using either a landline or GSM modem communication, with two of the larger sites utilising CCU's. Several of the existing sites have had the existing controllers upgraded for Maxicom communication. All the sites have also had installed electronic Rain Buckets for immediate localised rain suspension or shut down if needed. Also, electronic Flow Meters will be installed to most sites over the period

of the roll out.

Some of the key sites to be brought online have included the Kardinia Park (Shell Stadium) surrounds incorporating the Victorian District Cricket Oval and the Western Beach foreshore that incorporates some of Geelong's beautifully presented foreshore in the heart of the city.

To assist with "Peace of Mind", the council opted to take up Rain Bird Australia's "Global Service Plan" for a period of three years. This is like an insurance policy giving the City of Greater Geelong 24 hour, seven days a week back up and assistance from RBA Tech Services. This program covers everything from the PC hardware to the database ensuring that the council is covered for any unforeseen events in that period.

Impact on Dairy Market

Fact: There are about 13,000 dairy farms in Australia, each with an average 161 cows. Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) President Mr Burgess has quoted that,

'60% of milk production in 2003/04 came from farms with some irrigation. Furthermore, 43% of milk was produced from farms that irrigated more than 20% of their land in 2003/04.'

Recently, Lucas & Mandy Kennedy from Conondale (behind Queensland's Sunshine Coast), commissioned Superior Irrigation from Gatton to design and construct

62 acres of solid set on their farm. The project was particularly challenging with the undulation over the site from a hydraulic point of view & the designing of an automated system with the capability of expansion in the future.

Allan Mc Lucas (Certified Irrigation Designer) and co-owner of a newly created business in Gatton designed a block sprinkler system using the Rain Bird 14070H impact sprinkler.

'They have the performance of a 1" impact sprinkler, but are in fact a 3/4" impact with a 1/2" impact price'

Alan was quoted as saying. The spacing of the Rain Bird 14070H impact sprinklers is 24m x 18m producing CU's and DU's well over 80%.

The control system used was the Rain Bird MDC controller which uses field decoders and a single two wire path to connect the 23 valves in the system. The controller has the capability of controlling a total of up to 200 valves in the future. This type of system is becoming very popular in



The Rain Bird 14070H impact sprinkler system in action on the Kennedy farm.

Ag projects to accommodate system expansion using the existing cable. Also in the past, these types of systems have been susceptible to lightning strikes; however with the advent of the Rain Bird lightning protection equipment, this risk is drastically reduced.

Allan and co-owner Terry McLucas opened their business at Gatton in August 2003 specialising in the large agricultural market around the Lockyer Valley. Allan said:

'Superior Irrigation Services strive to provide our customers with value for money products and services through a professional design process with consideration given to ongoing costs as well as initial purchase price.'

RBA is pleased to be supporting them in their new venture.



Troy Barbour, RBA (centre) and Lucas & Mandy Kennedy with the MDC control system

Byron Bay Golf Club Pump Station Upgrade



Byron Bay is one of the most environmentally sensitive areas on the east coast of Australia. As part of a major course improvement and a treated effluent water initiative, Byron Bay Golf Club have upgraded their irrigation and pump system using a totally integrated Rain Bird solution. The course layout also underwent some civil & architectural changes. Treated effluent water is provided by the Byron Bay Shire Council Effluent Treatment Works.



Old irrigation system

The old irrigation system consisted of a single fixed speed end suction pump, undersized disc filter and stand alone control operated in a semi-automatic mode. Not unlike many older systems, which are plagued by inefficiency and reliability issues, and maintained by budget restraints under a false economy. Beyond environmental considerations, the old pump shed was at best an OHS liability risk, again not uncommon in older pump sheds. BBGC recognized the need to progress forward responsibly and apportioned some of their allotted budget towards an overhaul of the irrigation system. The priority for the first stage allowed for the 'heart' of the system to be completed: central control, pump station, decoder network, aerator fountain, and some extensions to the existing sprinkler system.

The control system has been replaced with a Stratus II decoder network, complete with Freedom

pad for efficient and flexible system control from both central or on-course remote locations.



New Rain Bird pump station

The pump station has been replaced with a Rain Bird V-3300 series packaged pump station with 50% increased capacity to 30 l/s and has variable speed control to deliver the required constant pressure seamlessly across the full range of flows. The pump unit intelligently manages both flow and pressure at stand alone and central control levels. For example, if pressure looks OK but the flow is excessive for number of pumps running, a high flow alarm can be configured to minimize potential washouts. The pump control panel with user-friendly 'touch' screen is connected to the windows based central irrigation control PC via modems and interfaces with Stratus II using 'Smart Pump™' software. The control system can react to underflow & overflow conditions with user definable actions, along with automatic recalibration of the Stratus II *FloManager* based on actual system flows. The *Pump Manager* software allows for complete remote monitoring of pump unit status, data values and allows for reset of system faults. The Rain Bird package has undoubtedly set a higher standard in central control & pumping technology, a trend welcomed by golf course superintendents worldwide.

The filter has been replaced with a Rain Bird BSF8-3 screen filter with automatic backwash and ample capacity to filter the required flow rate without significant friction losses and reduced pressure during overly frequent backwash cycles associated with the old filter unit. In addition,

the suction pipe was replaced and everything from the main connections was upgraded from 80 to 150mm.

To improve and maintain water quality, a new Rain Bird Otterbine aerating fountain has been installed in the irrigation supply lake. The selection is based on key design criteria such as water quality, environmental conditions, lake volume and depth. This will significantly reduce algae & weed build up problems evident in the water supply, along with enhancing aesthetic features of the lake.

By comparison to the old system, key tangible benefits for the club and golfers will include:

- Major reduction in **labour** input
- Significant **water** savings
- Reduced **power** consumption
- Reduced potential for **breakages** & downtime
- Improved water **quality**
- Optimal turf **grass** condition
- Eliminate **daytime** irrigation cycles
- Compliance to reduce safety **risks**

The entire project was ably supplied and installed by Lang Irrigation without course closure and minimal interruptions to play, a credit to the team's project management skills and co-operative effort of BBGC greens staff. Stage 1 is now complete, which accounts for the major portion of works. Some minor sprinkler upgrades & extensions to some areas, where required, are planned to continue.

The BBGC project is not only an environmentally responsible initiative, it demonstrates sound management decisions based on balancing capital cost with 'cost of ownership'. An excellent example of 'Intelligent Use of Water™' and delivering customer value.

Contact Scott Johnstone or Greg Smith *RBA* for further information.

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Product of the Month Rain Bird Valve Boxes



Valve Box

Work faster and easier with a Rain Bird Valve Box – the first valve box specifically designed to meet the needs of the irrigation contractor. We've created unique knock-outs for easy pipe placement and reduced installation time – so no more tedious cutting. And the knock-outs slide back into place above the pipe to keep dirt out on backfill.

All Rain Bird Valve Boxes were engineered to maintain their horizontal and vertical integrity under load, even with the knock-outs removed.

Also, our top opening is 20% larger than the leading competitor, which gives you more room to work. Other unique features include a bolt hole knock-out to help keep critters out of the box when the locking bolt isn't used and a shovel access slot on the side of the box that makes it easy to remove the lid.

Features and Benefits

- 20% larger access area than the leading competitor
- Knock-outs built into all four sides
- Corrugated sides for greater strength before AND after knock-outs are removed
- Bolt-hole knock-out – keeps critters out when bolt is not used
- Shovel access slot for easy removal of lid
- Knock-out retainers hold removed knock-outs in place during backfill
- Interlocking feature locks two boxes together when fitted bottom-to-bottom for deep installations
- Bevelled lid edges prevent damage from lawn equipment

RBA Rewards Bonus Points Contractors' Offer

Receive **BONUS 50%** RBA Rewards Points on purchasing the following Rain Bird Rotors:

available from any authorised Rain Bird Australia reseller. Usual contractors' discount applies.

For RBA Rewards members only. If you are not yet a member, simply call 1300 362 656 to enrol.

Description	Model	RBA Code	Ctn Qty	RBA List (ex GST)
3500 Series, 100mm Part/Reverse Full Circle	3504PC	Y34000	20	\$36.50
3500 Series, 100mm Part/Reverse Full Circle w/-SAM	3504PCSAM	Y34500	20	\$42.00
5000 Series, 100mm Part Circle	5004PC	Y54007	20	\$46.00
5000 Series, 100mm Full Circle	5004FC	Y54017	20	\$46.00
5000 Plus Series, 100mm Part Circle	5004PLPC	Y45000	20	\$48.00
5000 Plus Series, 100mm Full Circle	5004PLFC	Y45010	20	\$48.00
5000 Plus Series, 100mm Part Circle w/-SAM	5004PLPCS	Y45650	20	\$52.00
5000 Plus Series, 100mm Full Circle w/- SAM	5004PLFCS	Y45655	20	\$52.00
5000 Plus Series, 100mm Part Circle w/-S.S. Riser and SAM	5004PLPCS SS	Y45750SS	20	\$58.00
5000 Plus Series, 100mm Full Circle w/-S.S. Riser & SAM	5004PLFCS SS	Y45755SS	20	\$58.00

50% Bonus Points Offer expires 28/02/05. RBA Rewards terms & conditions apply.

Bonus points will be calculated at the end of the promotion period and credited to members' account.