

Ricky Aitken

Resume

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Profile

My personal resume will outline the development of my working career from spending valuable years at Lords Cricket Ground in London to positioning myself in South East Asia where I was able to form a base in Hong Kong, which provided me with an opportunity to travel the professional sport facility world enhancing my facility & project management skills to a point where I am an accomplished project & facility turf manager.

Own Websites: www.cricketgroundsinternational.com

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Career Summary

Tracks & Facility Manager April 2018 – August 2023

Tasracing

- Responsible for overseeing the day-to-day maintenance & operations of Tasracing facilities throughout Tasmania while managing both training and racing infrastructure
- Define, delegate, and monitor the work output and services provided by the Project & Facilities team and Track Management teams
- Building and maintaining key associations with internal and external stakeholders
- Advise on opportunities, risks, maintenance requirements and likely capital expenses relevant to our projects and facilities across the north of the state
- Proactively identify risk pertaining to Tasracing assets, facilities and infrastructure, and take appropriate actions to mitigate and prevent risk
- Budgeting for scheduled maintenance and repair activities across all Tasracing venues throughout the state
- Provide proactive people leadership to the Project & Facilities team and Track Management teams of 60 across Tasmania, inspiring innovation, diligence and collaboration with the broader Tasracing team to achieve strategic objectives
- Participate in all Workplace Health and Safety initiatives, programs, policies and guidelines to ensure legislative compliance

Grounds Manager 2002 – 2009, Turf Consultant, 2009 - 2018

Hong Kong Cricket Club

- Preparation & maintenance of cricket wickets for International, domestic and club level cricket
- Preparation and maintenance of the outfield and all playing surfaces within the facility. Including Lawn Bowling Greens
- Design and Project Managed the reconstruction of the main playing surface to a sand based construction, along with the center cricket square and lawn bowling green
- Management, supervision and training of eight indigenous staff and contractors along with assisting in the recruitment of all staff. Including training programs for all team members
- Development & implementation of Integrated Pest Management Programs (IPM) and Implementation of OH & S Policies
- Development and management of facilities maintenance & capital budgets
- Engage and monitor contractors including the development of contracts and tenders
- Form part of event sub-committees to advise on best practices to protect turf leading up to & during events

Turf Manager/Consultant (Home of Hong Kong International Cricket Sixes) 2005 - 2016

Kowloon Cricket Club

- Advising on preparation & maintenance of cricket pitches for international, domestic and club level cricket
- Advising on preparation and maintenance of the outfield and all playing surfaces within the facility. Including the Hong Kong International Cricket Sixes
- Advised & management of the re-construction of the center cricket square & three lawn bowling greens

Turf Management Consultant Business Operator, 2005 - 2018
Hong Kong Cricket Association

- Advising on the development & construction of new cricket grounds
- Advising on the construction of cricket turf wickets & turf practice wickets at various locations

Turf Consultant, Project, July - October 2011
Hong Kong Football Club, Hong Kong

- Advising on the development & construction of the Club's Lawn Bowling Green, including preparing of all specifications for the project, including turf, growing medium, drainage, irrigation and general concept
- Project Management of the project including all facets of the project
- Responsible for the grow in of the turf up to playable standard

Turf Consultant, Project, July 2011 & July 2013
Chennai, India

- Advising on the development & construction of new sports grounds, including preparing all specifications for the project. Including turf, growing medium, drainage, irrigation and general concept
- Advising on the construction of cricket turf practice wickets for a new facility, including preparing all the specifications for the projects

Turf Consultant, Project, April 2011
China Cricket Association, Guangdong Cricket Stadium, Guangzhou China

- Advising on preparation & maintenance of turf cricket wickets
- Advising on preparation and maintenance of the outfield
- Managing, supervision and training of 10 indigenous staff
- Advising on & assisting on the selection of suitable turf machinery

Turf Consultant Project, March 2011
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

- Attending to site, preparing written reports advising on the development & upgrading of existing cricket grounds and facilities, including identifying current problems and providing solutions to rectify the issues
- Advising on & assisting on the purchase of suitable new turf machinery

Specialist Event Curator, March 2008 – June 2008
Deccan Chargers, Indian Premier League, Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, India

- Advising on preparation and maintenance of the outfield, wickets & all playing surfaces within the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad for the Indian Premier League
- Managing, and supervision and training of 15 indigenous staff
- Development & implementation of Integrated Pest Management Programs (IPM) and the use of chemical applicators
- Advising on & assisting on the selection of suitable turf machinery
- Advising & educating of the local indigenous staff on all facets of turf management
- Submitting reports and lectures to guide staff towards the improvements of the facility

Sports Turf Consultant, July 2008
Andhra Cricket Association, Visakhapatnam, India

- Advising on the construction of center turf wicket area
- Advising on the construction of cricket turf practice wickets
- Advising & educating of the local indigenous staff

Head Groundsman's Assistant, 1998 & 2000
Marylebone Cricket Club – Lord's Cricket Ground, London U.K

- Assisting in preparation and maintenance of cricket wickets for Test & first class matches
- Assisting in preparation and maintenance of the outfield for Test & first class matches
- Assisting in preparation of practice wickets

Head Curator, 1995 - 2002
Burnie City Council – Tasmania, Australia

- Maintenance & preparation of center cricket wickets and practice wickets for club cricket
- Maintenance & preparation of multiple high usage sporting grounds
- Responsible for fast and effective transition of sports from season to season (Australian Rules Football, Cricket, Rugby, and Soccer)

Apprentice Greenkeeper, 1992 - 1995
South Burnie Bowls Club,
Burnie, Tasmania, Australia

Education

Diploma in Turf Management (2002 - 2005)
North Melbourne Institute of Technology, Victoria, Australia

Project Management (Civil, 2001)
Burnie TAFE, Tasmania, Australia

Certificate in Horticulture 3 (Turf Management, 1993 – 1996)
Burnie TAFE, Tasmania, Australia

School Certificate (Year 10 level, 1992)
Parklands High School, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia

Published Articles

Golf & Sportsturf Magazine Australia
"Our man In Hong Kong" Volume14 – Number 4

New Zealand Turf Conference Proceeding Papers
"Managing Cricket Grounds for the Indian Premier League"

New Zealand Turf Conference Proceeding Papers

"Construction of Cricket Squares in Asia"

New Zealand Turf Conference Proceeding Papers

"Management of Lawn Bowling Greens in Adverse Weather Conditions"

Pitchcare.com.au - Online Magazine

"Hong Kong Groundsmanship"

Turfmate.com.au

"Overseeding of Warm Season Grasses"

Turfmate.com.au

"Developing & Maintaining a Turf Root System"

Public Speaking

South China Turf Managers Association Seminar – November 2005

"Rebuilding The Hong Kong Cricket Club"

South China Turf Managers Association Seminar – MAY 2009

"Managing Cricket Grounds for the Indian Premier League"

New Zealand Turf Conference – July 2009

"Managing Cricket Grounds for the Indian Premier League"

New Zealand Turf Conference – July 2009

"Construction of Cricket Squares in Asia"

New Zealand Turf Conference – July 2009

"Management of Lawn Bowling Greens in Adverse Weather Conditions"

Sports Turf Australia (NSW) – September 2010

"Preparing Wickets for the Indian Premier League"

Sports Turf Australia (NSW) – September 2010

"Life as a Curator in Hong Kong"

The Institute of Horticulture Science of Hong Kong Ltd – December 2010

"Managing Turf at a Multiuse Venue"

Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology – November 2013 (Singapore)

"Venue Challenges facing maintenance of tropical amenity turf"

Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology – November 2013 (Singapore)

"Construction and renovation of tropical amenity turf"

Internet References

<http://www.cricketgroundsinternational.com/testimonial.php>

<http://www.pitchcare.com.au/magazine/ricky-aitken-curator-to-the-stars.html>

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<http://www.pitchcare.com.au/magazine/hong-kong-groundsmanship.html>

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<https://turfmate.com.au/developing-and-maintaining-a-turf-root-system>

<http://www.turfmate.com.au/article/1063/overseeding-warm-season-grasses>

<http://www.turfmate.com.au/article/1000/around-the-world-with-cricket>

<https://turfmate.com.au/top-10-turfmate-stories/>

Voluntary Positions

South China Turf Managers Association – Hong Kong President, 2007 – 2011

- Operation of regular conferences and seminars
- Ambassador for the turf industry
- Coordinated mutual knowledge sharing days

Burnie Athletic Club President, 2015 – 2020

- 137-year-old Club responsible for conducting an annual sports carnival for world class athletes