

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NSW BOWLING GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



# THE BOWLING GREENKEEPER

OCTOBER 2023

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**Sean Bellotti named Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year 2023**



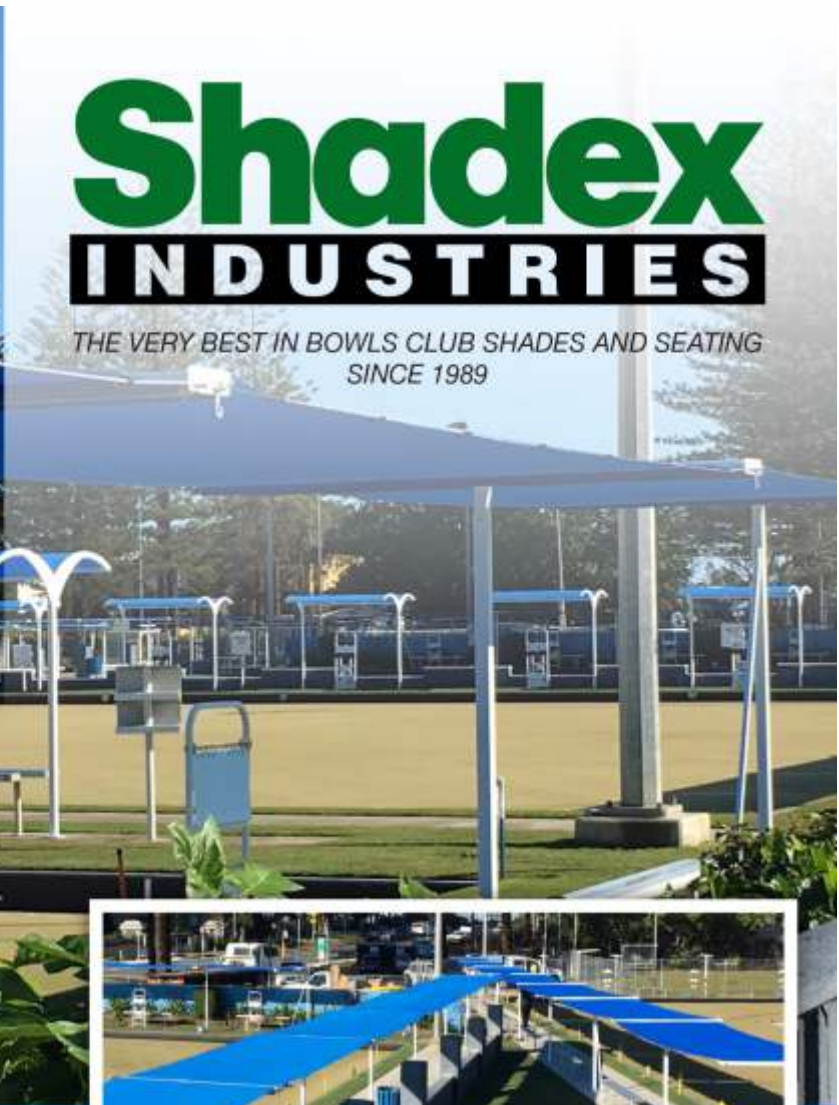
*Pictured: Sean Bellotti of Figree Bowling Club received the prestigious award for 2023.*

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## The Bowling Greenkeeper

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## President's Report with Mick Woods



The industry has recently farewelled three long serving and much respected servants to the turf industry and in particular the bowling sector, Phil Harfield of Grandviews Bowling Club, Terry (Damage) Doyle of R.U.C and Chris

Mumby, who we all know from CMR Turf Renovations.

To all three gentlemen who have retired, thank you for your years of service, apprentices trained and knowledge and skills passed on to others to better improve our sector of the turf industry. I sincerely hope you enjoy your years in retirement.

The Peter Mobbs' Shield (Legends Day) was back in action after several years in hiatus due to Covid 19 and other factors. The day was hosted by Cabramatta Bowling Club, as history shows us greenkeepers put up a gallant effort but failed to come over the top of the Legends of NSW with the final result 122-111 across 6 rinks, 2 rink wins a draw and 3 rink losses. A massive thanks to Ben Morthorpe and the Management of Cabramatta Bowling Club for ensuring the resumption of this event was a great success. The naming/honoring of the Living Turf Bowling Greenkeeper of the year also returned to this day after having been moved to our conference in past years.

There were three nominees for the 2023 Living Turf Bowling Greenkeeper of the Year - Duncan Elphick of Cherry Street Sports, Wade Turner from Queanbeyan RSL and Sean Bellotti from Figtree Sports, all very deserving.

This year's award, from discussions with our assessors, was one of the closest in the award's history with discussions even being held about dual recipients but after further review it was agreed that Sean Bellotti of Figtree Sports be declared the 2023 Bowling Greenkeeper of the year.

In recent times the Association has been trying to build on our good relationship with Bowls NSW. Firstly, in getting the Peter Mobbs' Shield back up and running but also in having our events recognised and to be consulted and have our industry's views taken into consideration when Bowls NSW is formulating their bowls calendar. While this is still in its infancy, we believe moving forward that our considerations will begin to hold more weight with the understanding that both parties need each other for the game of lawn bowls to grow and prosper.

Congratulations to Damien Miller and Young Bowling Club on being announced as the venue for the 2024 NSW Bowling Greenkeepers' Championships.

At the time of printing we have been advised of the sad news that Sandy Bellotti, beloved wife of Sean Bellotti, has passed away, after a brave and long battle with cancer. On behalf of the Association and all greenkeepers, we wish our sincerest condolences to Sean and the family at this difficult time.

We also wish our deepest sympathy to the family of Kim Smith of the Wyong Leagues Group who passed away recently.

Finally, I wish everyone all the best this coming growing season and hope the batteries have been recharged over winter months.

Regards

Mick Woods

P.S There will be a catch up day at Canterbury races November 17th, Friday. This is a free entry meeting and will be a great time to get together away from the work environment.

*Pictured left: Closing dinner for Federation Week 2023.*



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# Rep's Report with Myles Payne, Living Turf

## Ground Pearl

Gday all, with predicted hotter and dryer than average weather forecast this season Ground Pearl could become a major area of concern

There are limited products on the market for chemical control however, after discussion with Anthony Young (UQLD) we might be able to prepare the plant better for expected damage. Ground Pearl feed on sugars (possibly root exudates) from the plant.

Basically, the patches are a consequence of a compromised root system that is unable to take up moisture & nutrients from the soil to the plant. The plant is being starved to death which is a similar concept to the symptoms of an ERI patch disease.

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## Sean Bellotti named Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year



***Pictured: Sean was presented with the Award at Cabramatta Bowling Club 2023.***

It was with great pleasure that I personally had the opportunity to present the Living Turf NSW Greenkeeper of the Year Award to Sean Bellotti, Greenkeeper at Figtree Sports.

There were three judges who decided on the award. Matt Keough, Andy Rogers and Phill Harfield. There were also two other excellent candidates who were nominated:

- Wade Turner – Queanbeyan RSL
- Duncan Elphick – Cherry Street Sports, Ballina

I have personally known Sean since we were 16 years old when we first started our apprenticeships in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs almost 42 years ago. Sean is a hardworking, dedicated turf manager who absolutely goes above and beyond his job description. He is a dedicated member of the NSWBGA and has been for many years.

Sean started his apprenticeship over 40 years ago at Coogee Bowling Club in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs. He is pedantic when it comes to dates and times etc., so I will not put a timeline, nor will these clubs be in order of employment but here goes:

- Bronte Bowling Club
- Randwick Army Barracks wicket tables
- Frances Drake Bowling Club
- St George Bowling Club
- Elizabethan Women's Bowling Club
- Everglades Country Club
- Austinmer Bowling Club



- Scarborough Wombarra Bowling Club
- Thirroul Bowling Club
- Green Options (Ramsgate RSL, Bondi Bowling Club and North Sydney Bowling Club)
- Figtree Bowling Club

Sean is a dedicated turf manager who maintains Figtree Sports greens and surrounds in an excellent condition. He has trained many apprentices in that time. Sean was extremely proud to present greens for the Bowls NSW State Championships with glowing compliments.

Sean's experience in turf management is evident at all times when visiting Figtree Sports. He is well respected by the Committee and all the bowling members of the club.

Once again, Living Turf would like to congratulate Sean on winning Greenkeeper of the Year and wish him all of the best in any future endeavours.

Regards  
Craig Campbell  
Living Turf  
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## Federation Week 2023 with Ben Morthorpe



*Pictured: NSW Greenkeepers at Gold Coast 2023.*

**Gold Coast 2023** was in full swing with over 100 greenkeepers from NSW, QLD, SA and VIC all coming together for educational seminars, machinery displays, sports tours and competitive but fun bowls.

Day 1 was held at Tugun BC. With planes flying just above our heads, we were into our first test series against the locals Qld. NSW 74 Qld 56 rinks 3-1. Test Two was against the red-hot SA side. NSW 60 SA 73 rinks 2-2.

*Image: Plane flies over first test at Tugun BC .*



Day 2 saw us head to the windy hill Club Musgrave. The day kicked off with our first presentations of the week from Syngenta, Living Turf and Campbell.

While getting the boot to make room for Sheryl's favourite bingo seat, we hit the green for our third test game against Vic. NSW 78 VIC 45 rinks 3-1 (special mention to Simon Cooper for winning a rink for Victoria). The Afternoon also saw the 1st Championship rounds.

We found success in round 1 for both singles players (Ben Morthorpe, Adam Troth), both pairs wins (Damian Miller Wade Turner and Brent Norman Shannon White) and 1 out of 2 in the 4s (Pat Chorley, Lee Johnson, Adam Webb and Martin Gosper).

The evening saw us head to Top Golf, with some blokes thinking they can out drive Rory McIlroy. With a few drinks had and some interesting swings, we headed back to the apartments.





win to keep the chance of winning the test series alive, the boys came out firing taking a big lead and held strong. NSW 75 SA 56 rinks 3-1.

*Pictured: Simon showing off his bartending skills.*



After lunch was the championship finals. With NSW having 5 of the 6 sides playing, it was a sea of blue.

With the sun shining and Luke Wade getting his greens running a nice 15sec, the scene was set from some great finals matches.

Singles match saw Ben Morthorpe v Adam Troth. Ben found his range early and kept the pressure on to hold a commanding lead and run away with the singles championship.

The pairs match saw Brent Norman & Shannon White v Damian Miller & Wade Turner. With a tight battle and multiple changes of the lead, Brent & Shannon played some big bowls to win in the last couple ends.

The 4s match saw Pat Chorley, Lee Johnson, Adam Webb and Martin Gosper v SA. With NSW needing a win for a clean sweep, the boys came out firing and got off to a great start. SA rallied back but NSW was too strong winning 25-16.

*Pictured: Action shot in 5th test*



*Pictured: Tour of Heritage Bank Stadium*

With the smell of dencorub in the air from last night's shenanigans, we headed for our turf tour of Heritage Bank Stadium. We toured the impressive grounds and training fields.

From there we headed to the impressive Club Tweed bowling club where we had our next presentation talks from Greenway Solutions and Indigo Specialty Products.

After lunch saw the remaining Championship contenders hit the green. With all 5 coming away with wins and now into the finals.

The evening saw us take on Qld in the test series. Whilst it was a tight tussle the whole game Qld got the best in the end. Qld 68 NSW 61 rinks 2-2.

Day 4 saw us head to Club Helensvale. We started the day off with a presentation from Turfcare and K&B Adams. With the presentations finished, we hit the greens for the 5th test match against SA with NSW needing a



*Above: Sea of blue in the white wash in the Australian Championships.*

Day 5 and with some sore heads after celebrating the NSW clean sweep, we headed to Mudgeeraba BC for our trade show day and last of our presentations. There was some impressive new machinery and products on display from BA Group, Tru-Turf, MTD, ATM, Toro, Air2turf, Rain Bird, Lawford Engineering and Turf Engineering/Golf & Bowls.



After our presentations from Syngenta, Toro Irrigation and Tru-Turf we hit the greens for our last test match. With needing a win against VIC to keep the dream alive, our boys come out firing and won 3 rinks to 1. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough as SA beat QLD to secure the trophy. NSW 71 VIC 55.

*Pictured right: Trade show display and Nick Hancott a man of his word after placing a bet.*



## Legends Day 2023

The 2023 Legends Day was held at Cabramatta Bowling club. With the sun shining and the green running a nice 15sec, we took on the Legends team to try and win back the title that we haven't held since 2016.

With the knowledge of turf, the Greenies took an early lead. The Legends side wouldn't let go and fought back strong to come over the top in the dying stages to win 122-111.

Legends	Score	Score	Greenkeepers
J. Croft, L. Barnett, G. Short & K. Jaques	22	15	L. Johnson, D. Hukins, D. Essex & P. Watts
G. McGillivray, T. Flack, V. McIntyre & C. Curtis	28	12	T. Doyle, M. Dagwell, D. Miller & W. Turner
L. York, G. Adnum, B. Pitham & J. Stokes	24	19	J. Flaherty, P. Thornton, J. Lawton & A. Appleby
I. Barrett, N. Sneddon, D. Maitland & R. Maguire	12	28	N. Hancott, R. Crean, A. Moffitt & B. Morthorpe
G. Jamieson, M. Parcell, K. Wright & G. Beath	18	19	P. Harfield, S. Bellotti, J. Gebbie & A. Troth
C. Gillard, J. Layton, P. Hughes & T. Shoebridge	18	18	L. Reid, J. Thompson, M. Keough & H. Palmer
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>Total</b>

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# Phil Harfield retires from Club Grandviews

*The NSWBGA congratulates Phil Harfield on his retirement following a great greenkeeping career.*

## Memoirs by Mike Darlington

Phil started his greenkeeping career as apprentice to Matt Small at Penshurst BC in 1973. On completion of his time there Phil went to Grandviews BC as assistant to Bob Fraser for two years. From there he started his career as head greenkeeper at Bundeena BC where he stayed for 5 1/2 years. Phil left to take over from Bruce Kemp at St. George BC where he was for four years before moving to Cronulla BC for his first stint of 7 1/2 years before trying his hand on the golf side at St. Michaels GC under Ross Edwards where he was assistant for two years. I think Phil realised where his passion for greenkeeping was and he went back to Cronulla for the next 10 years.

After that the position came up at Grandviews and Phil went back where he stayed for 16 years until his retirement in August this year. Phil has excelled as a true craftsman in his trade, winning the Greenkeeper of the Year award twice. I have had the privilege of being a friend of Phil and his family for over 45 years and worked with him on the tools and as a rep. He is one of the best greenkeepers I have met and Phil's attention to detail is second to none; not only my opinion but that of his peers also. Phil was always willing to help and advise his fellow greenkeepers when asked and he will be sorely missed in the greenkeeping fraternity. We wish Phil and his family all the best for this next stage.

## Remembering Phil By Barry Benson

It was right back there round 72  
When first young Harfield came into view  
I thought to myself, what have we got here  
He's a bloody sight smarter than the rest of us here

He'd worked with Smally and Picko too  
Sifted out the nonsense and kept the right views  
So now he came to Bob to see what he knew  
Then it came time to try out what he new

Bundeena was first, not enough for his thirst  
Next to Cronulla, he was too smart for these buggers  
So off to Grandviews, where they shared his big views  
And he left em in awe of his ethics

He's made lots of mates along the way  
No of em left, it was a pleasure to stay  
There was never any need for any to fret  
Because what you see is what you get

There was Kearns and Kempy and Eveo too  
Darly and Burnsy just to name a few  
I have no idea how many he knew  
But I just felt privileged to be one of the crew

There's no doubt that Phil has left his mark  
But it was never just a walk in the park  
There was lots of sweat, blood and tears  
And that's just what happened in all those years

So now we've gathered here today  
To see our mate Phil, on his way  
You have certainly earned your years of rest  
But we want you to know, you were one of the best!



# Around the Associations

## ACT with Wade Turner

### RUC Canberra North Bowling Club

Terry Doyle retired from his greenkeeping duties at RUC Canberra North Bowling Club in early August 2023.

Terry came to Canberra in January 1995, and has been the greenkeeper at the club for 28 years. In his time at the club he has always presented and maintained quality greens.

Terry is a very competent greenkeeper and is a person with whom you can discuss ideas or clarify you are thinking down the right track. Although retired I'm sure he would always be on the end of the phone.

He has been a driving force behind the ACT Greenkeepers Advisory Committee and a regular liaison between greenkeepers and Bowls ACT. Terry will be missed by his fellow greenkeepers in the ACT and surrounding region, but we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

On a final note, Terry has been honoured with Life Membership of the ACT Bowling Greenkeepers for his dedicated service to Greenkeeping.

### Weston Creek Bowling Club

Grass greens have all come out of dormancy. Focus has been on preparing greens for our annual triples tournament in late September.

Planning to do only light renovations on the greens this year as required to have 3 greens in for the busy corporate/December period and the Summer Fours come January 2024.

### Belconnen Bowling Club

Well its that time of year again and we are getting excited, word of mouth is we might finally be in for a good summer.

Preparation is underway with painting 2 of our greens. In comparing Green 1 with Green out paint and Green 2 with black line marking paint - two applications were made on both greens with two litres of paint in each spray using the BA sprayer holding 70 litres of water. I found the black worked a lot better, but both seemed to kick the growth along as I was on the mower the next week.

We have the Hydroject coming down in early October to do all three greens. Fingers crossed anyway as the last couple of years the weather has only allowed time to do two greens.



Good luck and good management to everyone in this growing season.

Signing off, Pete and Ashleigh.

### Tuggeranong Vikings Bowling Club

Tuggeranong Bowls has recently converted their number 3 green to synthetic now having three greens of three different surfaces.

Feedback from the synthetic green – same comments as when the green was Tift Dwarf, narrow on one hand, green has bumps etc. Same bowlers same comments doesn't matter what surface.

Grass greens are coming out of dormancy with some warm weather producing good pace. Major tournament is on October long weekend with three full greens, which is good for the club. Will then start green renovations in readiness for pennants in the new year.

Looking forward to a hot summer in Canberra.

### **Queanbeyan RSL Memorial Bowling Club**

With the transition in to spring, Mother Nature gave us a gentle reminder as to who is the 'boss'.

Preparing greens for our annual Spruso tournament on the second weekend in September- Sunday morning -4 feels like -7 and an 8:45am start. Such is a greenkeepers life.

On a more informative note all greens have come out of dormancy with full grass cover and no disease scarring. Going forward will begin regular grooming/fat boy to remove any excess thatch grass buildup.

Plans are to begin green renovation mid-November with potentially shaving our number one green leading up to Christmas.

Our apprentice Dylan Edwards will have finished his technical studies by October and will complete his apprenticeship in April 2024.

Here's hoping we finally get the summer we have been wishing for with warm temperatures and the occasional rain event.

Poppy.

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## Mid North Coast with Anthony Minihan

2023 winter was kind to most greenkeepers of the MNC. A typical winter that was dry with cool nights and mornings but lovely clear days. And its still dry.

The back third of winter into spring has seen very little rainfall and above average temperatures resulting in greens drying out a bit earlier than normal. The exception it seems has been right on the coast where there has been a few regular showers.

Recently we held the MNC AGM at Andrew Trelfos club. The committee was returned unopposed with David Croad remaining President. Lunch was enjoyed by all who attended. Be good to see more of the local greenkeepers get involved. The association is planning a Christmas get together potentially at the Kempsey Cup race day in November.

Garry Witte has officially retired his long greenkeeping career recently. Beau Lavender is taking over at Scotts Head BC. Garry recently had some surgery to remove some of the wire and plates from his leg and continues to improve. We wish him all the best in retirement.

Dave Croad at Hat Head BC will have a standard renovation on the green that he regrassed last year, planning to drill, scarify and topdress.

Nigel Perry at Port City BC will start his renovations mid October with a basic reno to green 1 followed by a winsuttle shave of green 2 in early December and if it works out green 3 gets a rest before pennants commence. He has a busy program of bowls leading up to Christmas. Shannon White at Forster BC starts his significant renovation program 18th September with removal of top of green 2 and Basamid treatment to follow. I believe he is sourcing his grass from Cabramatta BC to propogate. After that he juggles renovation of the other greens and also catering for busy bowls program.

Both Nigel and Shannon commented on the difficulty of having the bowls program in the back half of the year as well as 2024 Pennant season starting earlier.

Anthony of Taree Leagues was again planning on regrassing a green but the club board asked him to defer this year. With outlook for rain looking a bit dodgy it may well be a prudent decision. He will proceed with a winsuttle shave and a level. Sydney based Green Options have taken on both West Port BC and Blackhead BC appointing local greenkeepers to both clubs.



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# Financial Reports

## New South Wales Bowling Greenkeepers' Association Statement of Income and Expenditure For 12 months to the 30th April 2023

2022	Income	2023
2,243.27	Membership Subscriptions	2,833.27
	Greenkeeper of the Year	1,000.00
31.87	Donations/Sponsorship	24.38
2,650.00	Interest Earned	830.00
1,217.10	Uniform Sales	
	Championship Week	
	Federation Week	
	Conference	5,535.00
	Unidentified Income	
-	Profit (Loss) Magazine	2,912.56
<b>5,872.87</b>		<b>13,135.21</b>

2022	Expenditure	2023
470.21	Printing Stationery & Advertising	789.75
1,175.99	Telephone/Internet	748.00
277.00	Travel Expense	240.00
194.71	Postage	182.38
409.80	Bank Charges	
6,188.00	Room Hire	100.00
	Floral Tribute	6,986.00
	Administration Costs	
	Membership Cards	
55.00	Greenkeeper of the Year	1,000.00
	Championship, Trophies/Prize Money	932.42
	Conference Expenses	
	Federation Uniforms	
1,577.00	Uniforms	575.00
	Apprentice Award	
	Depreciation	
<b>10,347.71</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>11,553.55</b>
<b>5,872.87</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>13,135.21</b>
<b>-</b>	<b>Profit (Loss) for the year</b>	<b>1,581.66</b>

## Balance Sheet as at 1st May 2023

Current Assets	2022	2023
ANZ Bank	4,289.06	683.58
Welfare Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00
Stock	2,440.00	3,015.00
Magazine Debtor	692.50	1,622.50
Investments	16,602.91	16,602.91
Cash on Hand		341.29
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>25,024.47</b>	<b>23,265.28</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Computer		
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>25,024.47</b>	<b>23,265.28</b>
<b>Less Liabilities</b>		
Welfare Fund	2,123.24	2,123.24
Reimburse Petty Cash	177.53	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,300.77</b>	<b>2,123.24</b>
<b>Total Assets over Liabilities</b>	<b>22,723.70</b>	<b>21,142.04</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		
Balance 1st May 2021	21,142.04	25,616.88
Less/Plus 2022 Gain/Loss	1,581.66	-4,474.84
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>22,723.70</b>	<b>21,142.04</b>

# Memberships

## **NSWBGA memberships are now due for the year 2023/24**

You can now pay your membership by downloading the 'Team' app, searching for NSW Bowling Greenkeepers Association and creating an account. If you do not wish to use this option, please **fill out the form online at [nswbga.com.au](https://nswbga.com.au)** or email contact Rod Creaan for assistance with the App on 0408 670 372.



You can also email this form to [nswbga@gmail.com](mailto:nswbga@gmail.com) or post to:  
NSWBGA PO Box 791 ASHFIELD NSW 1800

## **NSWBGA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name:

Club:

Postal address (if new):

Email address:

Phone:

### **Membership Type**

- Full Member (\$50)
- Apprentice 1st-2nd year (\$15)
- Apprentice - 3rd-4th year (\$20)
- Associate Member (\$20)

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Please do not hesitate to contact one of our Professional Staff.

<b>Shane Summerhayes</b>	<b>0425 280 300</b>	<b>Chris Blagg</b>	<b>0438 543 629</b>
<b>Simon Cooper</b>	<b>0425 280 306</b>	<b>Cameron Arthur</b>	<b>0425 280 304</b>
<b>Albie Leggett</b>	<b>0499 211 302</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>02 4571 6444</b>

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