

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NSW BOWLING GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



# THE BOWLING GREENKEEPER

MARCH 2017

VOLUME 68 NO 67

**It's time to head South for Federation Week 2017**



*Image credit: Visions of Victoria*

***Register now and join greenkeepers from across Australia for education, bowls and networking in Melbourne from Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017***

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

President's Report

2017 Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year Nominations

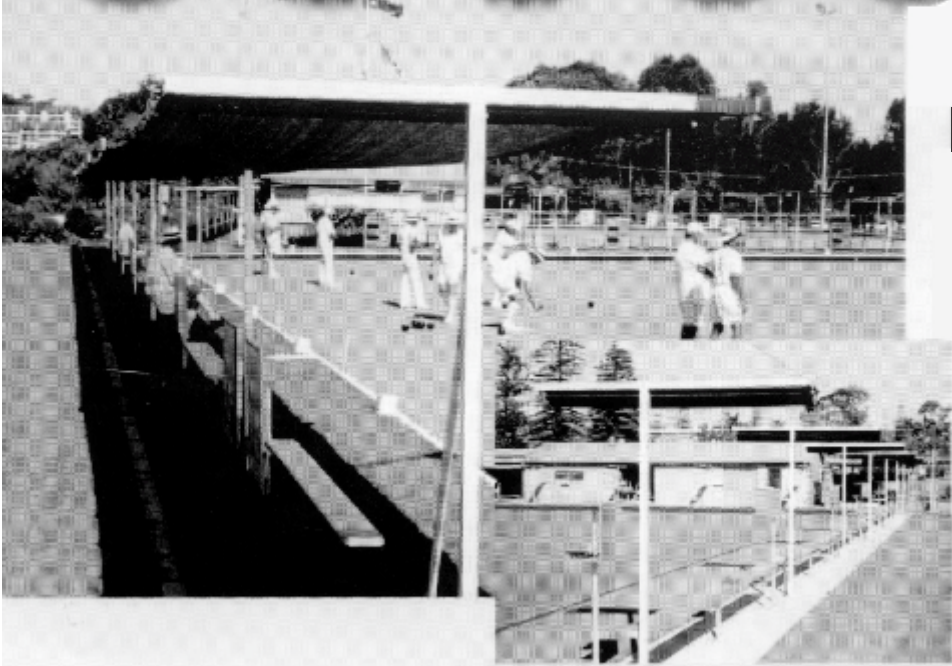
News from the ACT, Mid North Coast, Newcastle and Northern Rivers

Membership Renewal

Rep's Report and More

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### The Bowling Greenkeeper

#### Published by:

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## President's Report with Mick Woods



Well another year has passed and in an ever increasingly rapid fashion, the year of 2016 seemed to be just getting going and next thing greens are being renovated then Christmas is upon us and here we are already a month or so into 2017. The year in passing saw the second consecutive NSWBGA Conference held at Bankstown

Sports. While numbers may not have been overwhelming, the content, quality of speakers and support from sponsors was what I firmly believe as the best to date.

The final year of State Championships hosted by South West Rocks was concluded in stellar fashion. Mark Wilcher and Nathan Moore presented beautiful greens and the Club management and bar staff made all of those who attended over the two years feel at home.

To close the year out, I was able to attend a National Turf Education Working Group meeting at The Oaks Pacific Resort in Salamander Bay. In brief, TAFE NSW has now fallen in-line with all other states with the trade course now no longer being graded but students will now be assessed as competent or not yet competent.

The other strong discussion point was how to improve both the quality of people entering the industry and image and perception of the turf industry. Many ideas were put forward with much discussion, but at the end of it, it has to start at an industry level (be more selective, re-advertise if needed, contact local school careers advisers and if needed give them information so they can better inform and promote the industry).

As we move into 2017 on the hop, a Federation sponsor and host venue for 2018/19 is nearing finalisation with several interested parties coming to the table. We will be announcing in the near future exactly who the successful Club is.

On the subject of Federation, this year's event and National Championships will be hosted by the Victorians in Melbourne between April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>. There is an abundance of information available from their Facebook page or website with links from our website at [nswbga.com.au](http://nswbga.com.au). I also believe they have just released an App that will have regular updates and live scores for championship games.

Finally, I would like to thank all the other Executive members for their ongoing work and for giving up so much of their own time to continually grow and promote the NSWBGA.

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## Bowls Report with Shannon White



It's been a long hot summer for most of us with little bowls being played over the last few months. Time has come for everyone to start thinking about attending Federation Week, which could be a well-earned break. This year's Federation will be held in Melbourne from Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April until Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

The week involves six test games against Victoria, South Australia and Queensland with everyone who attends getting a game in these tests. There is also the Singles, Pairs and Fours Championships from which the selectors pick teams from winners of our last two years of State Championship weeks.

Not only is this a bowls week, it is also an information week with talks and presentations on turf topics. The cost of this week is \$350 which includes all the week's activities and most lunches and dinners. Accommodation prices will be determined by the numbers attending so it will be important for those wanting to attend to let either me or one of our Executive Committee know so we can find suitable accommodation. (We are in the process of finding accom prices and options).

So if you are thinking of attending this year's Federation Week or just after more information could you please give me or one of our Executive Committee a call as soon as possible so we can book in numbers and select teams. Contact numbers are on page 3.

The program and registration form is included in this magazine and on our website at [www.nswbga.com.au](http://www.nswbga.com.au).

### Congratulations to bowls winners

Congratulations to Adam Troth and Brent Norman on winning the 2016 State Fours. They teamed up with Mark Berghofer and Chris Herden in defeating Wayne Turley's team from Taren Point 17-15. Congratulations to former greenkeeper Mick Cronin in winning the NSW Champion of Champion Pairs.

Congratulations also goes to Nick Hancott and Adam Troth on being nominated for 2016 Bowls NSW Player Awards in the category 'Most Improved Male Bowler of the Year'.

### Federation Week and teams for Championships

**Singles:** D Croad, S White

**Pairs:** D Ryan, J Aurisch, N Hancott, M Woods

**Fours:** M Bateman, P Chorley, K Bowcock, M Gosper, L Wade, B Morthorpe, A Troth, B Norman

### Test Squad so far

P Nichols, D Elphick, D Ryan, M Woods, B Norman, S Cooper, S White, B Morthorpe, A Troth, A Rodger, B Wilkinson, P Chorley, R Crean, N Hancott, M Gosper, L Wade, M Bateman, W Turner, D Hukins, D Croad, C Touhy, B Gainsford, L Johnson, J Aurisch, P Watts, M Dagwell, M Wilcher, J Flaherty, N Perry, B Armbuster.



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The NSWBGA congratulates Shane Summerhayes and the team at Turfcare Australia on celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Turfcare have been an ongoing supporter of the NSWBGA and on behalf of the Association and The Bowling Greenkeeper magazine we thank Turfcare for their contribution.

# Rep's Report

MIKE DARLINGTON

LIVING TURF

TEL: 0407 100 606 [mdarlington@livingturf.com](mailto:mdarlington@livingturf.com)



I'd like to wish all greenkeepers and their families a Happy New Year.

I hope Christmas was an enjoyable one and 2017 is a good year for all concerned.

This season has certainly been an interesting one so far, with very hot days and in some instances, extreme heat. With not much rain, the incidence of ground pearl damage is on the increase. There is quite a lot of couch mite, fly and brown patch appearing also. The consistent hot days have taken a toll on many greenkeepers, as many I have called upon were just about exhausted. I feel the hot weather, with strong winds and no rain has put the grass under stress, and in some cases struggling to survive, let alone thrive. The re-grassed greens have established well, as long as the irrigation has been plentiful.

On this note South Coogee, Windsor and Camden RSL, and Royal Sydney Golf Club have converted to Tiff dwarf.

Picnic Point Bowling Club is thinking ahead, and utilising some of their land for a family day care centre. This should certainly help with their financial future. Hillsdale Bowling Club has sold a green and some land to have a huge apartment complex built on their old land and the adjoining factory land. Hopefully they will also get some long term financial benefits from this.

Pennants are fast approaching, so I wish greenkeepers the best for the upcoming challenge.

Living Turf are once again proud to sponsor the annual Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year award, so make sure you nominate a deserving greenkeeper to be eligible for the 2017 award!

## SUPERGRASSE

### DITCH WALLS: Protects coloured bowls

With the ever increasing popularity of coloured bowls together with their cost, clubs need to be aware of their responsibility to protect their members bowls. Using a soft long pile (19 mm) the product gives a cushion effect and will not show ding marks as a result of hard drives. The Supergrasse ditch walls gives a natural turf appearance without the maintenance and ensures bowl protection. We can supply only or do the whole job for you. There is a 5 year manufacturer's warranty.

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## Impact of TriCure AD® soil surfactant on moisture wicking

**Research Objective:** Assess the ability of commercially available soil surfactants in solution to overcome combined forces of soil hydrophobicity and gravity. Wicking capability reflects a surfactant's ability to move water upward and into hard-to-reach areas within the soil.

**Research Site:** Rutgers University

**Principle Investigator:**

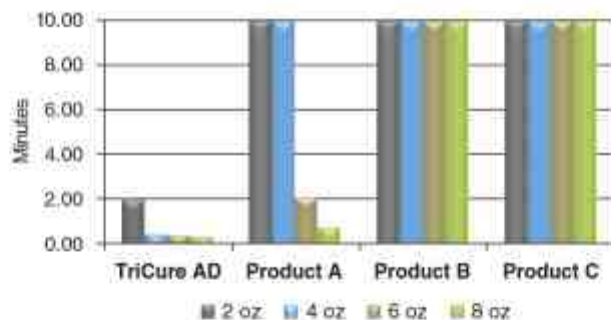
Dr. James Murphy

**Study Parameters:** Open-bottomed columns of hydrophobic soil were placed in solutions of water and surfactant and observed for ability to wick moisture upward to a 3-cm height.

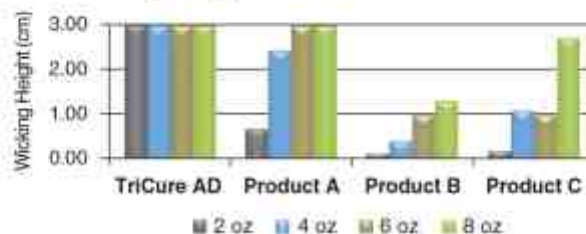
**Data Collection:** Time required for the wetting front to reach the 3-cm line on the tube was recorded, along with the distance the wetting front travelled when a surfactant solution did not reach the 3-cm line.

**Results:** TriCure AD was the only product tested able to fully wet the soil to a 3-cm height at all concentrations tested. Faster and higher wicking indicates greater potential for better wetting into those hard-to-wet areas of the soil such as slopes and compacted soils.

Time Required for Surfactant Solutions to Reach a 3-cm Height



Capillary Rise of Surfactant Solutions in Hydrophobic Soil Columns



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# Nominate now for Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year 2017



The NSWBGA is pleased to announce nominations are now open for the Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year Award 2017.

Nominees must be financial members of the NSW Bowling Greenkeepers' Association. Selection criteria include:

1. Greens: Good grass cover and quality of surface.
2. Surrounds: Weed free, ashtrays, seats, painted clean and tidy.
3. Machinery: Serviced and stored ready for use.
4. Tool shed: All tools maintained in good condition.
5. Chemicals: Storage and awareness of environmental programs.
6. Diary: Daily updates of all job details and weather conditions.
7. Professional approach: Contribution to the community.

The award will be judged by two retired members and the NSWBGA President.

The presentation of this award will be made at the annual Legends versus Turfcraftsmen match played in July.

## NOMINATION FORM

*Proposer:*

*Nominee:*

*Nominee's Club:*

*Years in trade:*

Please outline why you believe this person should receive this award in relation to the above criteria (up to one page).

Nominations close **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017**.

Please send your nomination to Secretary John Flaherty, PO Box 791 Ashfield NSW 1800 or email [nswbga@gmail.com](mailto:nswbga@gmail.com).

# Federation Week 2017

It's time to register for Federation Week in Melbourne.

Federation Week is held every three years and is a great opportunity for the States and Territories to come together for a great week of bowls, education and comradery.

The first day of play will be **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April** with the Presentation Dinner to be held on Thursday night, **4<sup>th</sup> May 2017**.

The Vic Greenies have put together a great program, based in the Docklands area of Melbourne.

Registration fees are \$350.

You can register online at [nswbga.com.au](http://nswbga.com.au) or fill out the form in this edition and send it back to us.

Join our NSWBGA Facebook group for lots of fun promos from the Vic Greenies.

Accommodation is to be booked separately.

## Accommodation option - Quest Docklands

The organisers have organised special rates for next year's Federation Week with Quest Docklands.

Choose the apartment that best suits you and your team mates.

The 2 bedroom apartments sleep up to 4 people, with the Executive Apartment sleeping 5 people (1 person on a foldout couch)

- Studio Apartment - \$235
- One Bedroom Apartment - \$265
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- Two Bedroom Executive Apartment - \$405

The rates are available from 29 April to 5 May 2017. They and can be booked online at [www.questdocklands.com.au](http://www.questdocklands.com.au).

Please go to the client login button on the upper left hand side of the website and entering your user name and password, details below.

Client User Name: VGA2017

Password: Quest2016

Or Call 03 9630 1000

You may also choose to book alternative accommodation in the Docklands area.

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# Federation Week 2017: Program

## Day One: Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April

### Melbourne Bowling Club

Welcome  
First test  
Lunch  
Education  
Second test  
Dinner

## Day Two: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May

### Moonee Ponds Bowling Club

Education  
Third Test  
Lunch  
Championships Round 1  
Dinner at own arrangements

## Day Three: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

### Altona Bowling Club

Turf Tour of Melbourne Sports Precinct including  
MCG and AAMI Park  
Lunch  
Education  
Championship Semi Finals  
Dinner  
Fourth Test

## Day Four: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

### Richmond Union Bowling Club

Education  
Fifth Test  
Lunch  
Championship Finals  
Evening Yarra River Cruise

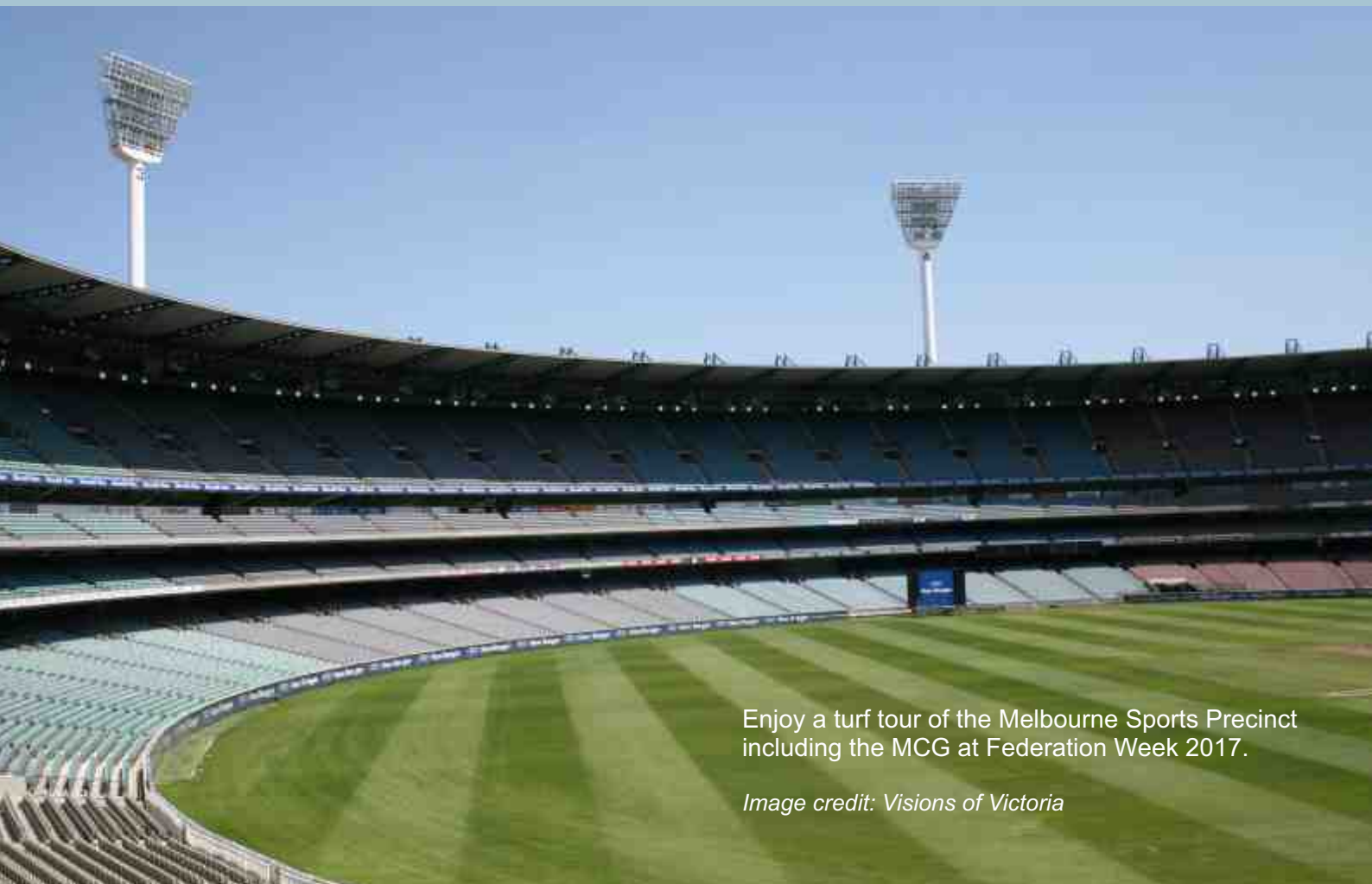
## Day Five: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May

### MCC Bowling Club

Education/Machinery Display  
Sixth Test  
Lunch  
Open Discussion  
Presentation Dinner

## Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Depart Melbourne



Enjoy a turf tour of the Melbourne Sports Precinct including the MCG at Federation Week 2017.

*Image credit: Visions of Victoria*

# Federation Week 2017: Registration Form

Save time and complete this form online at <http://www.nswbga.com.au>!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

NSWBGA Member: Yes or No

Partner attending? Yes or No

Partner's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Information required about Partners Program: Yes or No

## Registration

\$350.00 which includes bowls, daily transfers from Quest Docklands to venue, lunch daily and dinner nightly (excluding Monday), Yarra Cruise (all inclusive beer, wine and finger food), Presentation Dinner.

## Payment Options

Direct Debit

You can transfer your registration amount via direct debit to the NSWBGA Conference account.

BSB: 012 295 Account no. 180517233

Please include your surname as payment reference.

## Cheque

Please make cheques payable to the NSW Bowling Greenkeepers' Association Conference.

A Tax invoice and receipt will be issued for all payments.

Please send completed Registration Form and payment to:

NSWBGA Conference

PO Box 791

ASHFIELD NSW 1800

Email: [nswbga@gmail.com](mailto:nswbga@gmail.com)

Please send your registration form by **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017**.

## More information

For more information please contact John Flaherty on 0402 572 021 or Simon Cooper on 0425 280 306. You can also email [nswbga@gmail.com](mailto:nswbga@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you at Federation Week 2017.

## Around the Associations

### Mid North Coast Report by Danny Knight

Things are in full swing here on the Mid North Coast with the grass in summer mode growing like all buggery. What has been a very dry lead into December, has changed with fairly regular rainfall and storms. The falls have been a little isolated. The Coffs Harbour area have regularly topped the falls for our region.

Areas such as Stuarts Point have missed out on a lot of it, according to Dave Waters. Dave has also had frustrating pump troubles not performing to its full capacity. He has had to use knocker sprinklers to cover the loss of pressure. Unfortunately, he has to put up with it for a few months yet. With the heatwave temperatures it is not feasible to have a main pump out of action for any of us, as a good watering is only lasting two or three days before the turf starts showing signs of stress.

Like a lot of the state, temperatures above 30 degrees have been the norm since the start of December. It has given a lot of outdoor workers a timely reminder that our bodies are only capable of so much in such oppressive conditions. My offside, Mark Francis, was doing some gardening work on one of the hot days just before Christmas. He awoke to one of the owners and two ambulance officers.

As it turned out, after a night in hospital and many tests, he'd had a dehydration seizure, similar to an epileptic fit. Basically his body fluids and salts had fallen to a dangerous level. Most of us can't start the day without a coffee which is fine, but that should be followed up with at least three times the coffee's volume of water and then continue to re-hydrate with water throughout the day.

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Unfortunately, because everyone has been so busy we have not been able to schedule a meeting, so I haven't been in touch with a lot of our greenkeepers.

Craig at Kempsey RSL sent a quick update. His number one green is back in play after an interrupted renovation which didn't allow time for the final rub in. The turf cover is good and the members are happy which is the main thing. His second green has been scarified and solid tynd using Mick Woods' pro core machine. Cover is good and two more rub ins should see it back in play mid-March. Craig has been vigilant to keep on top of pests and diseases this year with regular rotations of various products and also the regular use of wetting agents.

At Urunga, I'm the happiest I've been with the greens in quite a few years. I hollow tynd both greens this year and backfilled with coarse sand. We have had optimum growing conditions, but the roots just love getting down those holes and the surface drainage

eliminates so many other problems.

I realise now that over the last few years through bowls programming of our club rebuild a proper renovation was needed. I insisted this year both greens get what they needed and thought back to what our local legends of the past (Ross Ward, Brett Long, John Hiscox) would have done. Each of these three put their instincts first and made sure that the quality of the greens was the priority over anything else.

I think sometimes we need to remind ourselves when things aren't going to plan that calling on methods or advice of our predecessors is a smart option.

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## Northern Rivers Greenkeepers Advisory Council with Duncan Elphick

As we all sweat it out in what has been a very hot Summer, the Tiffy surfaces are getting their annual touch up with various impliments. Cultural routines are being adjusted to cope with the very trying conditions and irrigation systems are going into overdrive.

There have been a few Greenkeepers on the move from club to club in our local area and a few members taken ill over the Christmas /New year period...to all those doing it a bit tough we send our best regards for a speedy recovery and hope to see you at one of our bowls days, the first of which will be held in Nimbin in early March.

Very sad news last week with the passing of George Wilson, formerly of Bribie Island. He had some very close friends around our parts and across the entire Greenkeeping brotherhood. We were lucky enough to have him stay with us at last year's Championship week in South West Rocks. A true Gentleman and a sad loss. R.I.P George.

Bob Everingham retired in early January after 30 plus years of loyal service to the Heights Bowlo in Lismore. Enjoy your retirement ol'mate...the club will forever be indebted to Bobby after the many voluntary hours he put into the club over those years. Josh Greenhalgh moves to the Heights after a year at Brunswick Heads.



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## Newcastle Greenkeepers Advisory Council with Brett Gainsford

G'day everyone,

It's been a while since the Newcastle greenkeepers have got together or submitted a report for the magazine so Lee Johnson (Bar Beach) and myself (Club Lemon Tree) decided to have an informal get together at Lambton Bowling Club last December.

Matt Healy has three grass greens to look after there. Eight greenkeepers attended along with the boys from Globe and Alistair from R.B.N. On that day we decided to have a Xmas get together on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December.

Jeff, Craig and Mick from Globe and Alistair put on the BBQ and beers which was much appreciated by the 10 greenies who came along. We've decided to have three or four get togethers this year and hope the same blokes turn up and maybe a few more can make it to a couple of them.

We'll be at **Club Lemon Tree** from 12.30pm on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March** for a couple of hours for anyone who's interested.

ABBQ will be provided and we'll discuss how our respective greens have recovered from renos.

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## ACT Region with Peter Watts



Officially the wettest year on record, we have now hit the hottest summer on record with crazy winds, and everything is trying to dry out. After a very slow spring, almost non-existent, we hit this heat wave that has made the greens explode into gear so lots and lots cutting which means lots and lots of walking. We are

watching the Christmas and New Year festive season kilos we put on falling off the waist line, and having to put the belts back on so we don't look like plumbers. We are all looking forward to heading to Melbourne this year for another fantastic Federation Week and to catch up with the rest of you champions.

Western Creek have just held ACT vs Newcastle on the weekend, and now this week have their big Summer 4's tournament running Thursday through to Saturday. Then they will host a 5 test series against Tasmania running from Sunday to Tuesday. A very big nine days for the greens that are running very well, but Mark Bateman is looking forward to it being over so he can get stuck into renos. His apprentice, Hugh, will be starting Tech this year and we wish him all the best.

Norths are in the middle of renos with one to go. Joseph will also be starting Tech this year and again we wish him the best of luck. The club is still doing renos and currently building a large deck. (I'm looking forward to sitting back with Terry Doyle and enjoying a cold 1 or 5 to admire the bowlers enjoying the lovely greens.) Here's a first, a young lady proposed to her man during a bare foot bowls session on the weekend and he said yes. The footage can be seen on the RUC Instagram site.

## Editor's Note by John Flaherty

### Vale George Wilson

The Executive Committee and members of the NSWBGA were very sad to hear of the recent passing of our colleague and friend, George Wilson, of Bribie Island. Some members attended his funeral in Queensland. We will all miss George and a full tribute will be included in the next edition of 'The Bowling Greenkeeper' magazine.

### Vale Brian Constable

In other sad news, we also offer our condolences to the family and friends of greenkeeper Brian Constable of Wollongong, who passed away recently.

These two men will be missed by the greenkeeping community.

RSL with Wade Turner is all go with renos but have just heard that his apprentice Mick has got a job down at Bomaderry and will be leaving us shortly. It will be sad to see him go as he is a good worker, handy bowler and just an all-round good fella. Good luck in your endeavours Mick and I'm sure I will still get the chance to kick your arse in super coach.

Tuggies and QBN with Mark Dagwell and his team seem to be going well and busy this time of year. They are in the middle of bringing back Queanbeyan's number 1 green which has been out for a number of years. If it turns out like the green they did last year, hats off to the boys.

Canberra Forrest have just replaced their two grass greens with synthetic which are still freshly down, so time will tell how they go.

Belconnen is basically the same as the rest of clubs with my second green about to come back in and the third reno about to kick off with a light groom, maybe a light hit with the fat boy and a big feed. It has already been hydro jettted but with the crazy Canberra weather I won't hit it too hard because you just never know when the cool change will hit. The CIT are running two days a week for the 2nd and 3rd year apprentices this year over the cooler months instead of one day a week all year, which I think is a great move with my apprentice Ethan starting college, working with me and tech. He is in for a big year good luck to him.

# Notices

## Awards & Wages

The new award name is: Registered and Licensed Club Award 2010.

The following wages apply as stated on [www.fwc.gov.au](http://www.fwc.gov.au).

Turfcrafterman	Wage	Hourly rate
Level 1	\$664.80	\$17.49
Level 2	\$687.60	\$18.09
Level 3	\$724.50	\$19.07
Level 4	\$769.90	\$20.26
Management/Level 1	\$844.70	\$22.23
Management/Level 2	\$919.70	\$24.20

### Apprentice

A horticulture apprentice is paid at a percentage of the Standard Rate.

1st year	55%
2nd year	65%
3rd year	80%
4th year	90%

More information, including a list of Modern Awards, is available on the Fair Work Australia website [www.fwa.gov.au](http://www.fwa.gov.au) or the Fair Work Australia Ombudsman at [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au).

## Available now – Relief Greenkeeper

**Ray Cooper is an experienced greenkeeper with more than 35 years experience, currently available for relief greenkeeping statewide.**

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## Frequently Asked Questions: Awards & Pay Rates

### What can I do if my take-home pay is lower than the modern award?

You can't have your take-home pay reduced as a result of the commencement of the new Fair Work System. Modern awards commenced on 1 January 2010, along with the new National Employment Standards.

The commencement of these new entitlements is not intended to result in employees receiving a pay cut. If you believe your take-home pay has been cut, you can apply to Fair Work Australia to make a 'take home pay order'.

### What is a take-home pay order?

A take-home pay order can preserve your existing rates of pay while you remain in the same job. It can apply to wages and allowances, as well as incentive based payments and overtime. An order can apply to an individual or a class of employees or outworkers who are in a similar position.

### A take-home pay order can be made if:

- A modern award applies to the employee or employees, and
- The employee or employees are in the same job as they were before the modern award commenced, and
- The amount of the employees' take-home

pay for working the same sort of hours or the same sort of work has been reduced, and

- This reduction in take-home pay has occurred because of the commencement of the modern award.

### Who can apply for a take-home pay order?

You or your union can apply to Fair Work Australia for a take-home pay order. In addition, a person acting on your behalf or on behalf of a class of employees may apply.

An application for a take-home pay order can also be made by an organisation representing outworkers on behalf of those outworkers.

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