

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NSW BOWLING GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



THE BOWLING GREENKEEPER

AUGUST 2018

VOLUME 72 NO 71

Ben Morthorpe takes out bowls double at Ballina



Ben Morthorpe and Barry Wilkinson competed for the NSW Greenkeepers Singles Championships final in Ballina

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President's Report & EPA Update

State Conference Wrap Up

News from the ACT & Mid North Coast

Rep's Report & More

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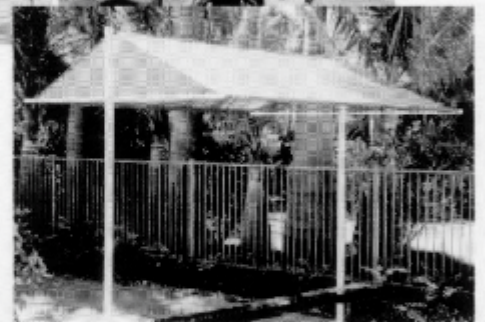
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The Bowling Greenkeeper

Published by:

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President's Report with Mick Woods



We had our AGM at the State Conference in June. We have nominated our Executive for 2018/19.

I would like to thank Andy Rodger for his contribution to the Association. Andy has stepped down from his role as Assistant Secretary and we thank him for his efforts

over many years. Thank you to Rod Crean who was nominated for the role going forward.

Looking back, 2017 was a Federation year. Federation Week was hosted by the Victorians in Melbourne. The week has already been reported on so I'll keep this wrap-up short.

Firstly, congratulations to Shane Harling and his Committee for putting together a marvellous week. Every aspect was first class, from venues, catering and entertainment to education content. To our (NSW) credit we again had the most members present from the four states involved.

With the introduction of the tour shirts, the group also looked the best (in my humble opinion). We fared well in the Championships, contesting all three finals and managing to win the Singles and Fours and coming up just short in the Pairs. South Australia, who is always strong, again took home the State Shield for the third consecutive time. Legends Day was washed out at Engadine in 2017 but was a great match at the same venue in July this year. Matt Keough presented an excellent venue and my congratulations to the winning Legends side.

Congratulations also to Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year Ben Morthorpe. It's been a great year for Ben so far as you will see in this magazine. A full report on Ben's award will be included in the next edition.

On the back of the Federation year our finances are generally lower, and this is reflected in the Financial Report. This, however, is not a true reflection of the position the Association is in. In fact, this financial year has seen an increase in memberships and many new attendees to events held to this point, with the 2018 State Conference being no exception.

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The only event to be held in the last financial year was the State Championship Week in May which moved to Ballina RSL Bowling Club, with Duncan and his team providing an excellent venue that left many envious.

The double win was taken out by Ben Morthorpe who defeated Barry Wilkinson in the Singles and with his team mate Brent Norman, also defeated Barry Wilkinson and John Flaherty in the Pairs final. This had not been done for 20 years, with the last time being John Cearns in 1998 who coincidentally was who Ben took over from at Cabramatta Bowling Club when John recently retired.

Finally, a massive thanks goes out to all the organisations and companies that continue to support the Association in all forms, from advertising in the magazine and providing delegates for presentations through to sponsoring events such as the State Conference. Without this kind of ongoing support it would be far more difficult for this Association to provide what we do for our members. It is therefore the members' responsibility to support said events to secure both the future of this Association and the bowls industry through greater awareness and product awareness.

Important update from EPA

I have recently been in touch with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) regarding the pesticide licensing (ground applicator) requirements for Bowling Greenkeepers.

From 1 July 2018, new licensing requirements came into effect for pesticide ground applicators. Under the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation), individual users of pesticides (other than fumigants) for the control of weeds or of pests affecting plants or soil for fee or reward, are required to hold a ground applicator licence issued by the NSW EPA.

It should be noted that under the Pesticides Act 1999, the definition of fee or reward includes remuneration paid to a person as an employee. Therefore, employees of Companies undertaking pesticide work described above (except for the exceptions listed below) are required to hold a pesticide licence.

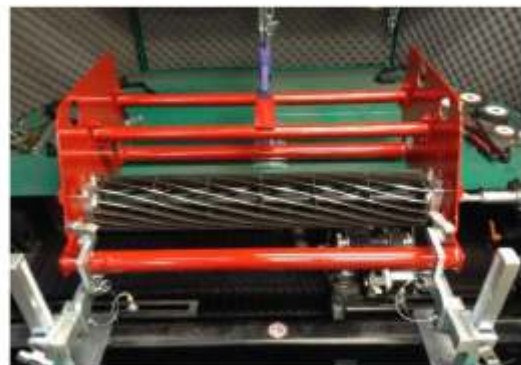
There are exceptions to the requirement to hold a pesticide licence, under the Regulation, if an individual falls in to one of the categories below; including:

- the use of pesticides by an individual for amenity horticulture purposes (such as ground or garden maintenance, landscaping, floriculture, arboriculture or the operations of a nursery)

The EPA considers that the maintenance of bowling greens falls under the definition of amenity horticulture (i.e. ground or garden maintenance).

Therefore, bowling greenkeepers undertaking these activities are exempt from the requirement to hold a Ground Applicator licence.

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Secretary's Report with John Flaherty

The NSWBGA Committee has once again been very active, striving to give our members a great Association.

The 2018 State Championship Week was held at Ballina RSL for the first time in May. The Club was presented in immaculate condition by host greenkeeper Duncan Elphick. We had 45 greenkeepers in attendance, with some new faces joining us for the first time and some returning from lengthy breaks.

After the success of our 2015/16 conferences at Bankstown Sports, we were pleased to be back at this great venue in 2018. We managed to build on the 2016 attendance with over 40 delegates. It was great to see registrations from the Central Coast and Illawarra regions and hopefully we can build on those for next year.

I would like to thank all of the sponsors who continue to support our Association, whether it be advertising in our magazine, supporting the conference or industry awards, it is very much appreciated.

You will see in the financial statements that we did operate at a loss this year as a result of the 2017 Federation and us not hosting a conference in the last financial year. The conference is the Association's main source of revenue other than the Magazine, hence why it is so important to keep the attendance and standard of this event as high as possible.



Pictured: Networking in the trade display and below, conference presentation with Gary Beehag

We are continuing to participate in the National Turf Education Working Group, with more information available on the website.

I would like to thank all of the Executive and Committee for their support over the last 12 months. It isn't an easy job keeping up to date with everything going on within our industry, so to have people willing to put in their time and effort and have a go makes life a lot easier.

Our magazine is in great shape and we will see some new sponsor advertisements in coming editions. We're always after your ideas and contributions for stories and photos, so keep them coming. We are continuing to improve the NSWBGA website for registrations and memberships and it is becoming a valuable asset for our Association.



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Bowls Report with Brent Norman



Congratulations to Wade Turner and Peter Watts who represented the ACT at the Australian Sides Championships held in Darwin. It was a great honour for these boys to be selected in the 12 man team.

Barry Wilkinson has continued his great form from the Greenkeepers State Championship Week taking out the Senior Singles title in Zone 4. Wilko now heads to the State Championships later in the year.

Brent Norman has been selected in the state over 40's team.

The Bowls NSW Legends managed to take the Peter Mobbs Shield at Legends Day on Monday 30 July at Engadine Bowling Club. The final score: Legends 137 def Greenkeepers 126. A full wrap up will be in the next edition.

Any other greenies winning titles or any achievements please flick us an email so we can share the success to nswbga@gmail.com.



Pictured: Barry Wilkinson wins the Senior Singles in Zone 4

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Great support for NSWBGA State Conference 2018

With John Flaherty, Conference Organiser

The NSWBGA State Conference was held on 18 and 19 June in Sydney at the Bankstown Sports Club. It is the third time we have hosted this great event at Bankstown Sports Club and it once again proved to be a great venue.

With a record number of 16 Sponsors supporting this year's event it was fantastic to see an impressive turnout of Bowling Greenkeepers from across the state.

We had a wide range of topics once again this year. We were proud to introduce **Ben Gibson** from High Performance Cultures to the members. Ben gave two great talks on topics that we feel will greatly assist members: "Communication and Engagement" and "Preparing and presenting reports for your board". From feedback from Ben, quite a number of attendees have followed up and received a personalised template.

Gary Beehag once again shared his knowledge of the industry with a talk on Symptoms and Diagnosis of Soil Borne diseases – Known and Unknown. Gary continues to carry out research across a wide range of turf and soil related issues and is always willing to give the NSWBGA his time which is very much appreciated. If you are having problems with your greens don't hesitate to give Gary a call.

Jyri Kaapro had plenty of interest in his talk on Growing Degree Days. The template that Jyri uses to calculate Growing Degree Days is very simple to work through and is definitely something that will assist you in getting the best result out of your applications. If anyone would like some more info on this template please just let me know.

Albie Leggett as always fielded questions not only on his presentations but on all things industry related. I'm sure everyone is now aware but Albie will be starting with Turfcare Australia in August and no doubt we will be seeing plenty more of Albie at coming events along with some helpful articles in coming editions of our magazine.

Tom Parker gave a great recollection of his career at the SCG, including some of his highlights and achievements, and how he is now looking forward to his new role with Elite Sand and Soil.



It was great to have **Frank Dempsey** back again this year. His talk on chemical applications and new legislation definitely had people talking. Frank is carrying out a training course on chemical applications through Chemcert and we intend to have a day locked in shortly for our members.

Thank you to all our Conference Sponsors: Gold Sponsors Turfcare Australia, Tru-Turf and Syngenta, Silver Sponsors Matt Keough Hydroject, Elite Sand And Soil, Club Plus Super, Maxwell & Kemp, PJC Sportsturf, Sportsgrass Solutions, and Bronze Sponsors Supaturf, Globe Growing Solutions, Cutting Edge Solutions, Mowsharp, CMR Turfworks, Bayer and Living Turf.

This great industry event wouldn't be possible without you so thank you once again for your support.

Members - please make sure you utilise the connections with the sponsors you have made.

We look forward to once again hosting a great conference in 2019.



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Around the Associations

Mid North Coast with Danny Knight

Hello everyone from a chilly Mid North Coast.

After a challenging summer that saw growth continue well into May, the mercury has dropped with rare frosts reported on the coastal fringes. For the first time in recent years the couch has gone into winter dormancy and the green speed is testing the skills of the bowlers.

Five of us made our way to Ballina for the State week and were unanimous in our praise for Duncan's organisation and exceptional surfaces. It was heartening to see so many new faces there and also catch up with old friends. I have no doubt that the success of the week will see even more colleagues there next year.

Craig Hayfield has penned an entertaining report from the eyes of a first timer which should give you all a bit of a laugh - see page 18.

Most Greenkeepers here are staying on top of the pearl with good nutrition and irrigation practices getting them through the warmer months.

The biggest problem this year with the extended summer tended to be the prevalence of ERI/Take All Patch. The timing of applications saw some guys get it right and others miss the boat. Normally the two applications early and late summer would control the problem but this year a third in March/April was required due to the extended favourable conditions.

I had an interesting conversation with the Superintendent from Bonville Chris Neale. He mentioned that he and two other local Supers put an autumn application on and washed it into the root zone only to see symptoms persist. They sent samples in for analysis and all three came back with a positive for Anthracnose. Basically they had washed the chemical past the problem area which is in the thatch zone. Interesting and something to consider.

I hope all of you get to enjoy a bit of a holiday over the quieter season as spring is just around the corner.

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ACT with Peter Watts



Pretty quiet in the Bush Capital and surrounding areas which now include our new members from Goulburn. An exciting new adventure for all of us as we can now make new friends and create a fierce rivalry for all of our Pennants and state competitions.

On a sad note our great friend and fellow Green Keeper Danial Wilson (42) of Yass, was unexpectedly admitted to hospital on the 7th June 2018 and diagnosed with an aggressive Glioblastoma Multiforme (Brain Cancer). He had surgery on the 14th June to demass the tumour, and commenced radiation and chemotherapy treatment earlier this month. After treatment started two weeks ago, he has since been readmitted to hospital with swelling and bruising on the brain.

Danial is a very proud father and partner to Bec, Kattie (10), Tyler (6) and Sam (2). Danial is also an extremely hard working green keeper of the Yass Bowling Club working tirelessly on the greens to ensure they are always at their best, as well as managing the Club. His dedication and commitment extend over 17 years.

We hope by creating this fund we can help with the financial costs around his treatment, and ongoing medical and personal expenses into the foreseeable future. There are also links on Facebook through the Yass Bowling Club page. Danial is a real super star just one of those real genuine good fellows so please donate to this great cause: https://www.gofundme.com/bx4pcn-danial-wilson-family-appeal&rcid=r01-153222849646-8c35bb88a9d64287&pc=ot_co_campmgmt_w

Canberra has just recorded our coldest July morning in over 50 years with the temp getting as low as -7 with a reel feel of -10, We are talking frozen taps so some couldn't take showers or make coffee in the morning why did we get out of our beds in the first place.

A big shout out to Mark Bateman from Western Creek Labour Bowling Club who is a well-deserved nominee for Greenkeeper of the Year and has also been selected to represent Australia for his age group (35 – 39) in the Triathlon World Championships held in the Gold Coast in September this year. We all hope you do well and wish you all the best in these two wonderful achievements. Good luck.

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Rep's Report

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I start this report with the sad news of the passing of Bill Maxwell at the age of 85. Bill was a long-time supporter of the greenkeeping industry.

He was first a greenkeeper and then a long time rep for Bowling and Golf Equipment, Jack Griffith's

Supplies and lastly with Bruce Kemp, forming Maxwell & Kemp.

Bill's passing was sudden and our thoughts are with Barb, his wife. Bill will be remembered for his often sung 'Greenkeeper's Lament' to the tune of the "Green Green Grass of Home" by Tom Jones.

Bill had a very good voice and it didn't take much effort to get him to sing a song or two.

Congratulations to the Executive for organising the State Conference at Bankstown Sports Club. It was a very good two days, with displays and good speakers.

Mick Stead, from Halekulani Bowling Club has taken the head greenkeeper's position at Dapto Citizens Bowling Club, after John Ferguson's retirement from the trade. I wish Mick all the best in the new job and John and his wife, all the best in this next stage.

The warm weather continued long past its normal cut off time this year - but the cold has certainly hit with a vengeance. It was very dry early but the rain came and hung on till mid-June.

Pennants are almost over, so I hope most greenkeepers enjoy some holidays and some down time, before it all starts again shortly.

Finally, it was my pleasure to present Ben Morthorpe with his award for Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year 2018 in July. Ben is a deserving winner of this Award and there will be more on his achievements in the next edition.

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Financial Reports 2017/18

New South Wales Bowling Greenkeepers' Association Statement of Income and Expenditure For 12 months to the 30th April 2018

	2017	Income	2018
	3,540.00	Membership Subscriptions	2,632.50
	-	Greenkeeper of the Year	1,000.00
	5,000.00	Donations/Sponsorship	3,000.00
	389.36	Interest Earned	347.35
	1,010.00	Uniform Sales	465.00
	640.00	Championship Week	200.00
	-	Federation Week	1,000.00
	4,750.00	Conference	
	-	Unidentified Income	
	2,460.94	Profit (Loss) Magazine	369.74
	16,510.30		9,014.59

	2017	Expenditure	2018
	578.30	Printing Stationery & Advertising	542.60
	823.89	Telephone/Internet	985.00
	1,269.00	Travel Expense	148.58
	246.00	Postage	366.76
	222.40	Bank Charges	204.00
	-	Room Hire	-
	120.00	Floral Tribute	150.00
	7,917.59	Administration Costs	7,268.00
	-	Membership Cards	343.75
	1,045.00	Greenkeeper of the Year	1,000.00
	1,415.00	Championship, Trophies/Prize Money	90.00
	565.00	Conference Expenses	1,000.00
	-	Federation Uniforms	-
	2,613.80	Uniforms	2,940.00
	-	Apprentice Award	-
	-	Depreciation	-
	16,815.98	Total Expenditure	15,038.69
	16,510.30	Total Income	9,014.59
	-	Profit (Loss) for the year	-6,024.10

Balance Sheet as at 1st May 2018

	2018	2017
Current Assets		
ANZ Bank	3,037.93	7,239.49
Welfare Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00
Stock	2,190.00	3,040.00
Magazine Debtor	1,182.50	2,285.00
Investments	21,602.91	24,582.91
Cash on Hand	265.65	294.10
Total Assets	29,278.99	38,441.50

Non-Current Assets		
Computer	1,100.00	1,100.00
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-1,100.00	-1,100.00
	0.00	0.00
Total Assets	29,278.99	38,441.50

Less Liabilities		
Welfare Fund	3,123.24	6,123.24
Reimburse Petty Cash		138.41
Total Liabilities	3,123.24	6,261.65
Total Assets over Liability	26,155.75	32,179.85

Accumulated Funds		
Balance 1st May 2017	32,179.85	32,485.53
Less/Plus 2018 Gain/Loss	-6,024.10	-305.68
Total Equity	26,155.75	32,179.85
	0.00	0.00

State Championships Week 2018 by Greg Danvers

Sunday 6th – Friday 11th May 2018
Ballina RSL Bowling Club, Ballina NSW

CABRAMATTA'S Ben Morthorpe walked away from the 2018 NSW Bowling Greenkeepers Association State Championships, at Ballina RSL Bowling Club, with two championship victories.

The Finals of the Pairs and Singles were contested on Thursday (10 May) with the 28-year-old Morthorpe eligible to represent NSW at the 2020 Australian Federation Week on the Gold Coast in Pairs and Singles.

Wilkinson was in his fifth Singles "Big Dance" having twice won, in 1982 and 1988, along with being runner up in 1983 and 2004. Wilkinson, 70 is a retired greenkeeper from Coonabarabran.

Wilkinson ensured Morthorpe wasn't going to be granted an easy passage to being crowned the NSW Champion. The duo were locked at 18-all, chasing 31 shots for victory, after 24 ends before Morthorpe started to forge ahead.

"I was pretty excited to make the two finals," Morthorpe said. "To win one I would have been happy but to win two is awesome. "The whole week has been quality, it's hard, playing long days and the blokes you play are good mates."

Morthorpe teamed up with Cabravale Diggers Brent Norman for a thrilling 22-21 Pairs victory over Royal Sydney's John Flaherty and Wilkinson.

Pictured: Below, Ben Morthorpe and right: Semi Finalists



"Very happy, especially playing with my old apprentice, we get on great and to win it with him was excellent," Norman said after the Pairs final.

In the Plate Non Championship Pairs Final Port City's Nigel Perry and Josh Greenhalgh from Lismore Heights were beaten 10-9 by Gloucester's Ray Cooper and Wade Turner (Queanbeyan).

"We are delighted to announce that Ballina RSL Club Limited are major sponsors of the event," said Northern Rivers Bowling Greenkeepers Association President and host Greenkeeper Duncan Elphick.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

Singles championship: Quarter-finals: Ben Morthorpe (Cabramatta) 25 d Steve Berger (Wee Waa) 20, Barry Wilkinson (retired, Coonabarabran) 25 d Brian Anderson (retired, Tuncurry) 19, Josh Greenhalgh (Lismore Heights) 25 d Luke Wade (Helensvale) 7,

Peter Watts (Belconnen) 25 d Damien Miller (Young) 24.
Semi-finals: Morthorpe 31 d Greenhalgh 25, Wilkinson 31 d Watts 25.

Final: Morthorpe 31 d Wilkinson 24.

Pairs championship: Semi-finals: Ben Morthorpe (Cabramatta), Brent Norman (Cabravale Diggers) 24 d Pat Nichols (South Lismore), Jason Stewart (Greta) 20; John Flaherty (Royal Sydney), Barry Wilkinson (retired, Coonabarabran) 27 d Damien Miller (Young), Rod Crean (Lawson) 18.

Final: Morthorpe, Norman 22 d Flaherty, Wilkinson 21.

NSW BGA State Bowls Champs: Confessions of a first-timer

Craig Hayfield, Kempsey RSL Bowling Club

“Why on earth are you eating fruit and yogurt?” asked Dave at dinner, “Because I’m trying to correct a serious imbalance in my body” I replied, as I shovelled more yogurt and fruit into me. While others around me played drinking games, I was desperate for anything healthier than beer on what was only our second night in Ballina.

The 2018 State Bowls week in Ballina was something I had been looking forward to for many weeks since I put my hand up to come along at one of our mid north coast BGA meetings. Nigel Perry from Port City asked if I’d play Pairs with him and I was happy to accept, not promising much in the way of ability.

Dave Croad, now aka The Crow, Mark Wilcher, Nigel and I piled into Dave’s Ranger and left Smithtown on what was a crisp autumn morning on the mid north coast. We arrived in Ballina and headed to Coles for supplies where a nice old lady held me in close and, with raised eyebrows, remarked how great it was to see four gay men out shopping together. We checked into our modest accommodation and headed straight to the RSL for dinner and a beer and to meet up with all the other greenies.

On arrival we chose to sign up as members and whilst having our pictures taken, another nice old lady pulled me in slightly too close, this time to express how she knew me from a shop up town. So far I was doing well with the ladies. A pace was set and I must admit after a couple of months off the beers I was enjoying it. I met a bunch of good blokes and once back at our accommodation we powered on with for the week ahead. The morning after I had a few squirrels loose in the top paddock and when we



arrived for bowls just the sight of the bar made me feel ill. But power on we must.

I was super impressed, as were all that I spoke to, with Duncan’s greens and surrounds. The couch immediately surrounding the greens was nothing short of incredible. Nigel and I jagged a bye first round which was great, I piled on the water and bananas and by the time our afternoon game started I was firing on at least two and a half cylinders. “No roll up?” they asked, and Nigel and I said “Sure, straight into it”. Four down. We stopped using the score board at 14 – 0 and by the end of the game we had finally hit some form and walked away with two ends. 43 – 3 I think it was. We entered the Plate rounds played under lights. I’d never played sets format before and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I have since recommended the Friday night sets under



Pictured: (clockwise from top) Lee Johnson and Mick Woods, games under lights and Dave Croad

Day three saw singles games played and I was given a lesson by a great bloke from Lismore named Patrick. I later sat at a table where everyone's name was Patrick and they were keeping track of whose shout it was by marking a tick next to each of their names, confusing to say the least. I got a bunch of great advice in regards to machinery, molasses and ground pearl from very forthcoming blokes and I'm sure that the bowling side of the event was the ice breaker that made for easy conversation with new friends. Some of the stories were absolute side splitters and one young bloke shared how he was called before his Board after being cited for lewd behaviour towards his lady bowlers, replying to a ladies question "What are you spraying for?" with ... "Cockchafers". It was only after bringing up a picture and some information on his phone that he could prove to the committee members he was simply being accurate in his answering of the ladies question.

Wednesday I was out of contention for any bowls so chose to spend the morning wallowing in the shore dump on Shelley beach like a demented walrus. Mark, Dave and Nigel returned later that afternoon and then hit the pub for dinner again. I did not make it, cream puff.

Thursday we were back at the bowlo to see Nigel in the Plate final, television crews were in and it was all looking pretty serious. Nigel played well and finished runners up. We jumped in the ute and headed up to Byron for a swim and a \$27 organic carrot burger. Mark nearly got cleaned up by a bloke on a mal at Wategos and when Dave hit the sand in his Hat Head Surf club Speedos women were seen throwing themselves into the rip in an enthusiastic attempt to be rescued.

That night saw our Presentation Dinner and it was fine dining and fine shirts, except for the bloke that had worn the tie and short sleeves and resembled more of a taxi driver than a well dressed Greenkeeper. It was great to hear some of the history of the Association and to recognise the efforts of all those involved with the running of the event and the Association as a whole.

As a fairly new comer to the Association and the mid north coast area I got a lot out of the week, I made a bunch of new friends, gained some insight into others methods when dealing with work related issues, saw some fantastic greenkeeping skills on display and probably took 10 years off the life of my liver. I'll be back next year for sure. Thank you to all and see you again in Ballina in 2019.



Pictured: Duncan Elphick interviewed for TV; Loyal supporters Maureen, Kath and Kel; Brian Anderson and Barry Wilkinson, All the NSW Greenies for 2018



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