

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NSW BOWLING GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



THE BOWLING GREENKEEPER

MARCH 2016

VOLUME 65 NO 64

**Be part of the action at
State Championships Week 2016**



See inside for details on how to nominate for the State Championships Week at
South West Rocks Country Club this May

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

President's Report

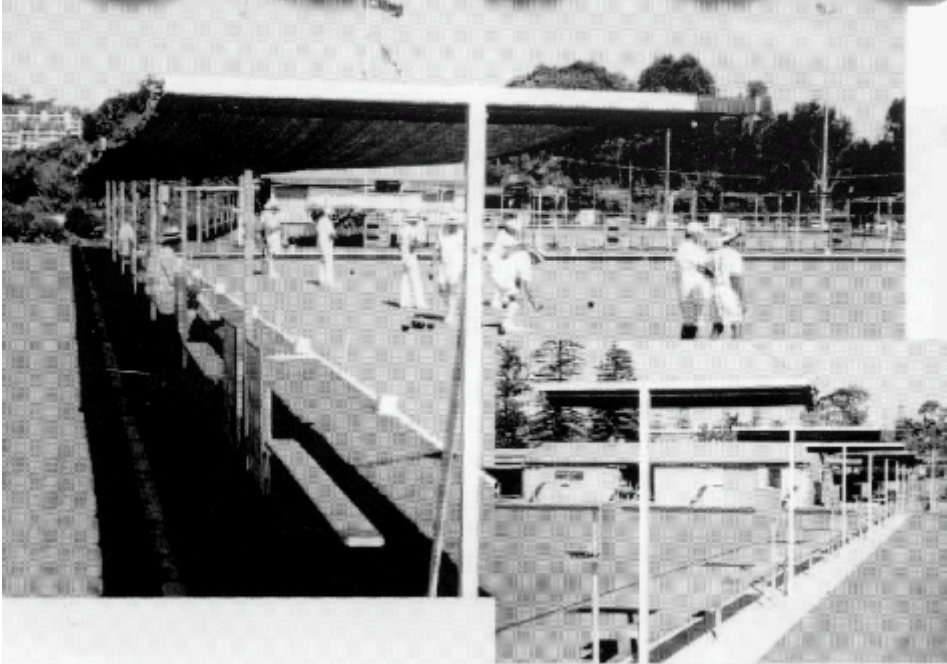
Vale Lyle Houlahan

News from the ACT, Mid North Coast and Northern Rivers

Rep's Report and More

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The Bowling Greenkeeper

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President's Message with Mick Woods



Welcome to 2016.

Well another year has passed by, once again the state of NSW has managed to throw some curly ones for us Greenkeepers.

Regardless of what region, there have been many variable and extreme conditions across all seasons to ensure we are kept on our toes. I hope everyone has managed the renovation season well and that your greens have returned to play in the condition expected.

It would be remiss of me not to put in a timely reminder that in the coming months both the NSW BGA State Championships from 1st to 6th May (again @ South West Rocks) and the State Conference in June (Bankstown Sports).

These two events will both be first class, with improvements and quality speakers and presentations from the industry's best. Be sure to allocate time in your calendar for these events.

On a more sombre note, the Executive and I would like to pass on our condolences to the family and friends of Lyle Houlahan, a respected and Life Member of the Association who passed on the 18th January.

Well that's all for the first report of 2016, I look forward to catching up in the near future.

Pictured: Trial Bay Gaol in South West Rocks, the destination for our upcoming State Championships.

Image: Jeffrey Dewitz; DestinationNSW



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South West Rocks Country Club

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- Plate tournament to be played for first round losers with \$500+ on offer
- Must be a financial member of the NSWBGA (if not \$45 to be paid)
- State uniform must be worn (uniforms available to be purchased from Simon Cooper 0425 280 306)
- Nominations are to be made to Shannon White – Bowls Secretary on 0404 812 748 Nominations close **Friday 8th April 2016**
- Draw for both Singles and Pairs will be done at 3pm on Thursday 14th April at Northmead Bowling Club
- For more information and updates visit www.nswbga.com.au

**Support your Association and be a part of this great
week at South West Rocks!**



Images courtesy Macleay Valley Website



Greenkeeper of the Year Award 2016

The NSWBGA is pleased to announcement nominations are now open for the Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year Award 2016.

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 29th April 2016**.

Please send your nomination to Secretary John Flaherty, PO Box 791 Ashfield NSW 1800 or email nswbga@gmail.com.

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Bowls Report by Shannon White



With everyone busy renovating their greens over the past few months and the hard work almost done and dusted, it's time to start thinking about getting away for a well-earned break.

So why not come to our State Championship week. We are going back to South West Rocks Country Club this year from Sunday 1st until Friday 6th May. Last year was a great event with 40+ greenies turning up, but we are hoping to crack at least 50 this year.

If you are interested in coming, or you would like to put your entry in please give me a call (0404 812 748). Single entries will be found a pairs partner if you don't have one.

Pictured right: 2015 State Championships Week Pairs Winners, Nick Hancott and Mick Woods and runners up Shannon White and Brent Norman.

Two more events for you to think about are the 4 way Challenge at Soldiers Point Bowling Club (dates to be confirmed - usually July) and also the Legends game this year being held in the Newcastle district on Monday 25th July. So if anyone would be interested in these events please also let me know.



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NSWBGA Membership/ Renewal Form

ABN: 36 390 545 887

Membership fees are now due for 2016/2017. We encourage you to continue membership of your Association and enjoy benefits including:

- Four editions of 'The Bowling Greenkeeper', your quarterly magazine with industry; news, events, updates from regional associations and award information;
- Access to a program of annual professional development activities and social events;
- Eligibility for the annual *Greenkeeper of the Year* Award.

Please complete your details below and return to the NSWBGA.

Save time and complete your details online at <http://www.nswbga.com.au/membership-application/> before 31st May 2016.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please circle: New member Renewal

Name:

Address: Suburb/Town: Postcode:

Phone number: Email:

Club employed by:

Membership type:

- Full member: \$45
- Apprentice 1st and 2nd year: \$15
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- Associate member: \$20
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Once fees are paid, we will send you a membership card.

Rep's Report

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What a summer, hot, humid and a lot of rain. Considering these conditions, greenkeepers have presented very good greens over this period. Dollar Spot in the Tiffs and Pythium seem to be the two prevalent diseases at this time.

The newly planted Tiffdwarf greens are going very well, but the old Greenlees has come back in a few new greens to create some headaches for the greenkeepers concerned. Ground pearl has been a very big problem in many areas this season. The article from Danny Knight, in the last "Bowling Greenkeeper" was very informative.

St Johns Park Bowling Club has taken over the running of Wallacia Bowling Club in what should be a very good fit for both clubs.

John Cearns is retiring at the end of February from greenkeeping. He has spent the past 25 years at Cabramatta Bowling Club and before that at Beverly Hills, Rockdale and Oatley Bowling Clubs. John has been a stalwart of the NSW Bowling Greenkeepers' Association for many years and with some help from his roomies over the years, has won quite a few Bowling Greenkeeper Championships at many carnivals.

I personally, and on behalf of his greenkeeping mates, wish John and Sue all the best in the new phase of their lives, and hope they enjoy what is ahead of them.

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Vale Lyle Houlahan



Danny Knight, President of the Mid North Coast Greenkeepers Association, shares memories of Life Member, Lyle Houlahan.

On the 18th of January we lost Life Member and longtime Sawtell greenkeeper Lyle Houlahan. Those who knew Lyle knew that greenkeeping was his life.

Growing up on a farm in Upper Orara, he was very much a country boy. Lyle's greenkeeping life began at Coffs Harbour Bowling Club as an apprentice to Ray Ellrig. Not long after starting there Lyle lost his father. His Uncle Tom, who was already close, took on the father figure role. Whenever Lyle wasn't working on the greens, he would be out helping Uncle Tom on the farm. If not there, you would find Lyle volunteering on the restoration of the old Dorrigo to Glenreagh railway line which would become a lifelong passion.

On the completion of his training at Coffs, Lyle's work ethic and enthusiasm earned him the greenkeeping role at Sawtell Bowling Club. His skills quickly won over the bowlers there. This began a tenure that would last 37 years and see him through to retirement.

Probably Lyle's greatest legacy was his ability to instill his love for the trade and work ethic into his apprentices. Lyle's apprentices generally went on to create their own status in the trade. These include Brett Long, Chris Hadgood, Craig Griffiths, Gordon Kilby and Brad Sim.

Lyle would never marry, nor have children. While his first love was greenkeeping, his other enjoyments were travelling and music. In vehicles and sound systems he had the best of the best. He loved nothing more than turning the key in his fully decked out Land Cruiser and going.

His interest in Australian exploration would see him venture to roads such as the Oodnadatta Track, Strezleckie Track or Gunbarrell Highway. On the way there and back he would take time to visit as many greenkeepers as possible. He had mates everywhere. God help them if they asked about his car or music system, that often cost hours.

Toward the end of his career, Lyle was awarded Life Membership by the NSW Bowling Greenkeepers, thoroughly deserved and humbly received.

Lyle's funeral was a gathering of past and present greenkeepers from the area. Brett Long, now at Bribie Island Queensland, and wife Kim made the overnight trek. Brett's wish was to have a stubby of Old in the carpark with the colleague's in memory of his old boss, an effort driven from the respect he had for Lyle.

Lyle's legacy for the trade has now been carried by many fine tradesman. On behalf of the Mid North Coast boys Lyle will forever be remembered and respected. He was 71 years old.



Pictured: Greenkeepers and mates remember good times at Lyle's funeral.

2016 State Conference returns to Sydney this June

Following the success of last year's event, the NSWBGA is heading back to Bankstown Sports for our State Conference on **Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th June**.

Save the date in your calendar now!

We're working on another great program of speakers and a trade exhibition.

A full program will be released soon, and registrations will once again be available online at the NSWBGA website, www.nswbga.com.au.

Special conference accommodation rates will also be available at Bankstown Sports and Social Club.

If your Club or company is interested in sponsoring the 2016 Conference, contact John Flaherty on 0402 572 021 or email nswbga@gmail.com

Pictured: 2015 Conference speaker Kenton Boyd and a Turf Tour of Bankstown Oval.



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Around the Associations

Mid North Coast Report by Danny Knight

Wow! It only felt like yesterday we were winding up a successful State Carnival at South West Rocks and it will soon be on again. Plans are well underway for the 2016 event in May and we can't wait! All of those I have spoken to loved it and will be backing up and if we can get a few more new faces there all the better.

By the time of print most of our colleagues will have completed their renovation programs and have their greens back in play in readiness for the pennant season. We have had a really good summer growth period with only a few weeks of extreme weather. Unusually we missed most of the heavy rain events that caused havoc in many other parts of the state. Our thoughts go out to those who copped the harsh conditions as most of us have been through similar circumstances in recent years.

I recently caught up with Dave Wills who was the greenkeeper at the Coffs Catholic Club (Club Coffs) when it was forced to shut its doors in an unfortunate fashion last year. As I have mentioned previously, Dave had worked at the club for well over 30 years and gave his heart and soul to the club. After a long anxious

wait the staff finally received a payout through a government fund set up for such events.

Unfortunately this lump sum came with a hefty tax bill and also cut any entitlements that Dave's family was receiving. Dave has been doing some part time cleaning work to get by but it is not the way he deserved to finish his career. Our thoughts go out again.

On a brighter note, we had good numbers turn up for our Christmas party to end the year with a festive occasion. Held at the South West Rocks Surf Club, the view, food and atmosphere were amazing. This also doubled as our send off to retiree Ken Martin and as a thank you to his contribution to our association over many years. Thanks to President Mark Wilcher for organising a wonderful night.

Speaking of Mark, he discovered a novel way of getting some time off over the peak period. In a bit of a rush, as happens this time of year, Mark was taking the roller off the green. In doing so he managed to crush his thumb between the roller handle and an adjacent steel post. Splitting the skin and breaking the bone, Mark was ordered by the doctor to swap the Scott Bonnar for the Samsung remote.



Image credit: Don Fuchs; Destination NSW

Hat Head, one of the many attractions near South West Rocks, home of the 2016 State Championships

Ground Pearl Update

The follow up on my report on Ground Pearl has been positive and promising. Since writing the report we learned of the significance of the adult male in the breeding cycle. Mark Wilcher (South West Rocks) found an article in an old chemturf book which referred to the male as a small gnat like creature. His purpose is to hover on the surface and impregnate the pink adult female as she reaches the surface. She then goes straight back down in the profile to find a safe place to lay her eggs. The male is not thought to be damaging to the turf.

Although Mark and I have been using different products we have implemented a similar approach of having a range of insecticides in the profile at all times. Not long after we started our programs we began noticing adult females on the surface in the mornings. Some were dead, some looked sick and others looked perfectly healthy. They were obviously coming to the surface in the heat of the previous day but not wanting to go back down. As the summer has progressed we have witnessed decreasing numbers coming to the surface to the point

where it is almost impossible to find them. Although my patches are still visible, the plant in them is healthy and showing no signs of wilting on the hot days. After the first month (September) of treating the affected areas independently, I have gone back to treating the whole green as you would in a normal program.

We are lucky to have some really good, safe, new insecticides on the market as your local reps would have discussed. The use of wetting agents are important and we believe the use of an oil is crucial. I use Melaleuca oil, others believe white oil. Whichever you choose, the oil seems to create an uncomfortable environment for them. The other benefit of these new insecticides is keeping the surface free of other predators such as mites and coccids which further detract from plant health. They may be helping to remove the surface dwelling adult male, also detracting from the breeding cycle. It's hard to determine exactly what stage of their cycle is being affected in a normal work environment. The positive thing is their numbers are decreasing and the plant is healthy. I hope we have given you a ray of hope to develop your own program to limit the impact of these menacing critters.

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Northern Rivers Greenkeepers Advisory Council with Duncan Elphick

Congratulations must be passed onto Josh Greenhalgh who has recently been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Brunswick Heads Bowling Club.

Josh moves from Ballina's Cherry Street Sports into his new role after being out of the trade for a few months. No doubt he will be working hard to meet the challenges that he is faced with and we wish him all the best at this exciting time in his career.

Couch mite have been causing some havoc around the Northern Rivers. A hard target pest to reach and very particular methods used when trying to treat the microscopic pest have led to intensive use of miteacides and much frustration with control mostly ineffective long term. Symptoms of infestation are often long lasting and the sight of the swollen stolon and bunchytop are very common around these parts. Perennial pests such as Ground Pearl and mealy bug are also in large numbers and have been enjoying the living conditions we supply them with.

Not a lot of Disease activity around compared to other years. Hot and dry conditions at the end of Summer no doubt helping to limit a lot of the symptoms usually associated with Tiff in Autumn...Long may it last!

Keeping to the theme of previous reports of clubs trying to gain added revenue from their outside assets, Evans Head Bowlo have been very happy with the revenue generated by the fun park they created on the number one green.

That's right folks ...a fun/water park complete with inflatable water slides, jumping castles, outdoor furniture, big screens, portable decking and two shipping containers that have sat on the previously flawless bowling surface since 16th of December.



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Dave Turner has been producing surfaces that rival any for quality since he has been at Evans head but now finds himself having to manage the demands of all this and is still expected to keep the green in a playable condition for the Winter carnivals his club put on every year.

The shipping containers (one is a cocktail bar, the other a pizza/ catering outlet) will be in place until the 27th of April. Dave has been able to rotate the areas the other structures have been placed on a semi regular basis. Time will tell if



there is any living turf under the two sites where the shipping containers have sat since mid-December, but to his credit Dave remains totally upbeat about the entire process even though he and his staff are doing many different types of duties. The huge success of the project means the club is likely to do it all again next summer holiday season. A rough calendar of events has been formulated for NRGAC with bowls days heading to Casino RSM, East Lismore, Iluka and South Lismore. Let's hope we can keep the excellent attendances that 2015 achieved! Looking forward to catching up with everyone at South West Rocks for 'Champo Week'.



Pictured: Evans Head's bowling green was transformed into a Summer Fun Park. Decking, handrails and ramps were constructed by former NSWBGA Greenkeeper of the Year Tony Morgan who remains an integral part of the Evans Head Club in his roll of maintenance.

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ACT Region with Mark Bateman



There has been plenty of action down here in Canberra with a few greenkeepers swapping jobs. First, we had Jimmy Maher from Queanbeyan RSL move over to Queanbeyan Golf Club as a 2IC. Our fearless leader Wade Turner was then successful in gaining the

position as Greenkeeper at QRSL.

It is great to have Wade back doing what he does best! He's also slipped straight into the "One's" for RSL (Good to see old Poppy back on the Greens). Mark Kelly left Weston Creek to work at Queanbeyan Bowling Club which has been re-opened and run by the Vikings club with Mark Dagwell to oversee the greens. Mark Kelly has since moved on to try his hand at concreting and Dags is in the process of filling that position. I have a new apprentice on board at Weston Creek with Michael McQueen fresh out of school and starting his working career. Good luck to all in their new positions!

Our local Pennant season has now commenced in the last weekend of January and runs through until April. All clubs have greens out for renovation with Mark Dagwell needing to do a major reno which included a deep shave and laser level on one of his greens which had hardly been touched for one and a half years while Queanbeyan BC ceased trading. So far it is coming along well heading towards the Australian Sides in March which is to be hosted by both Queanbeyan clubs. Pete Watts will be flying our ACT greenkeepers flag for us at this event after being selected to play third. Well done Watty!

Weston Creek will be the venue for our next greenkeepers bowls day which will be happening early March.

In other news, my wife Jenna is pregnant with our second baby due in April and Jimmy's wife Lauren pregnant with their second due in June. Our timing was a little out this go with our first kids born one day apart in the same hospital, but Jimmy was a bit slow second time around!

Come & Play



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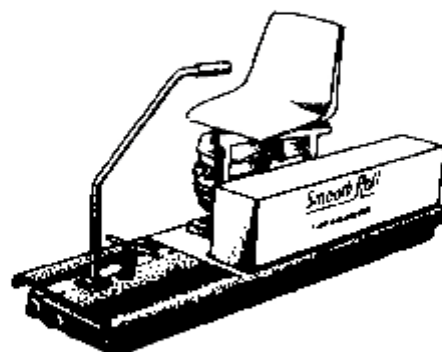


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Notices

Awards & Wages

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

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Level 1	\$664.80	\$17.49
Level 2	\$687.60	\$18.09
Level 3	\$724.50	\$19.07
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Management/Level 1	\$844.70	\$22.23
Management/Level 2	\$919.70	\$24.20

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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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