

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NSW BOWLING GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



# THE BOWLING GREENKEEPER

NOVEMBER 2022

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**Mick Woods named  
Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year 2022**



*Pictured: Craig Campbell presents Michael Woods with the Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year Award 2022.*

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## The Bowling Greenkeeper

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## President's Report with Mick Woods



As 2022 nears an end, many of us are well and truly into renovating and refreshing our greens, and the rain and wet continues to burden our works.

### The year that was

The final two months of summer was a nightmare for most of the state with flooding seen in many areas with several club's severely impacted along with many displaced from their place of residence. This has highlighted several great attributes of not only our members but of all those in the turf industry with practices being modified and adapted to still allow bowlers access to greens in the most extreme and challenging conditions and secondly the willingness to offer assistance to others whether that was with physical work technical advise or in some cases the use of equipment, this has only further cemented the belief that our bowling sector is best of the turf industry.

While the autumn months did not see much decrease in precipitation, it did allow our members to catch-up and share war stories about the month's preceding at the NSWBGA State Championships hosted by my club in South Tamworth in May. While numbers were good, they were down on the 2021 event, but this was to be expected with the wet season impacting the availability of many of our members. As to be expected the rain did arrive during the event causing some scheduling issues but the event did get completed on time. It was great to see some different faces at the business end of both the Singles and Pairs formats. The Pairs was won by Wade Turner of Queanbeyan and Damien Miller of Young with Runners up Adam Troth of Cabra-Vale Diggers and Luke Wade of Helensvale. The Singles final saw Adam Troth come away victorious over Gavin Speers of Ballina.

In July, we had to unfortunately cancel the match between the Bowls NSW Legends and our Greenkeepers for the Peter Mobbs Shield Legends Day scheduled to be played at Halukelani Bowling Club as Bowls NSW were unable to formulate a team.

While disappointing, I am sure the event will be back-up and running in 2023.

August brought around the Association's major event in our annual NSWBGA State Conference once again held at Bankstown Sports Club. There were some fears that attendance may be low with all the poor weather and Covid-19 fears still lingering. That fear was short lived with existing and new members booking their tickets as soon as the program was released. Those who attended were not disappointed with presentations from our key partners right on point and relevant to today's issues in the industry. I would personally thank those who made presentations at this year's event firstly for affording us their time and secondly for imparting some of their knowledge to allow us to improve as industry professionals.

In no particular order Nadeem Zreikat, Ally Hamer (Cancer Council NSW), Ben Gibson (The Toolbox Team), Professor Anthony Young (University of Queensland), Jyri Kaapro, David Little (TAFE NSW), and thank you to all the speakers for our Gold Sponsor presentations.

Remember to send some Ground Pearl samples to [anthony.young@uq.edu.au](mailto:anthony.young@uq.edu.au) with the listing date, location including GPS co-ordinates and situation.

Reminder it's a FEDERATION year in 2023 to be hosted by Queensland on the Gold Coast, April 29th-May 4th. The Trade Presentation is shaping up with Syngenta, Bayer, Living Turf, Rainbird, Toro Irrigation and Tru-Turf. Daily venues will be Tugun Bowling Club, Club Musgrave, Club Tweed, Helensvale Bowling Club and Mudgeeraba Bowling Club, also confirmed is a tour of Metricon Stadium on May 2nd. Be sure to keep an eye on our social media pages for upcoming flyer and updated information.

Finally, wishing all our members and their families and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year all the best and see you sometime in 2023.

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## Rep's Report with Living Turf

Hi everybody and welcome back to our first Rep's Report since the retirement of Mike Darlington. Although we have some very big shoes to fill, rest assured we have enlisted three of our Living Turf Team to try and contribute over the coming years.

Darlo served the Bowls industry like no other person and after beginning his illustrious career at Bankstown GC in September 1970, he then went into an apprenticeship in March 1971 at Guildford BC. 50 years of service and many bad jokes later, Darlo will be missed around the industry, but he will be sure to make a few celebrity appearances in the near future.

Mike is a great guy, and he will be missed by all the greenkeepers who he has looked after for many years. A group of us caught up with him two weeks ago and he's looking fit and doing quite well into retirement.

As you may well have heard, we saw the retirement of two local greenkeeping "Legends" in the Newcastle area earlier this year, Steve Britt (Valentine), & Steve Hutchinson (Kahibah) a combined 78 years between them!!! Britty has built a house at South West Rocks and is moving shortly. Hutcho is studying the form guide.

Rain has been the main consideration up here, plenty of it, making renovations very disrupted, also it has been very cold influencing soil temperatures.

A Re – Grass under way at Breakers Country Club, Terrigal. South Tamworth is hosting the Disability Lawn Bowls tournament this week. It is a three-day event, with bowlers from all over NSW.

What a difficult start to the season. There has obviously been record rainfall, cool temperatures, and low light. Not a great recipe for growth in couch. I can't believe some of the high-quality results that I have already seen in my travels.

After such a difficult and wet start to the season, when rainfall does cease, we all need to be mindful that root systems will be very shallow and weak.

Already as we write this report irrigation is back on and running at most Clubs!

I have not had the chance to say what a great job the NSWBGA Committee did when organising this year's Conference. The quality of speakers was excellent.

The presentation by Anthony Young (University of Queensland) on Ground Pearl was extremely informative. Ground Pearl are a growing problem in bowling greens across the country.

It was also great to present NSWBGA President Michael Woods with the Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year award for 2022. Mick's contribution to the industry and quality of greenkeeping is outstanding (*Mick is pictured below.*)



From a local perspective, Matt Keough has been extremely busy and doing a great job rebuilding a new green at Engadine Bowling Club and Wisemans Park Bowling Club.

Some warmer soil temperatures and sunlight finally seem to be with us so let's look forward to getting some grass growing leading into Christmas. All the best from the Living Turf Team.

**Myles Payne, Craig Campbell and Jeff Bowtell**

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## Industry comes together for NSWBGA State Conference



AFTER a three year break it was a welcome sight to finally have the 2022 NSWBGA State Conference up and running. With Covid enforced cancellations and last-minute rescheduling over the years, to have such a great turnout at the Bankstown Sports Club this year showed why it is so important to our industry to continue with these events.

Severe flooding statewide unfortunately stopped a few familiar faces from attending but to have 45 members from across the state was a great achievement.

I think all those in attendance will agree that this was most definitely our best event yet. The quality of speakers and content delivered at this year's conference was a talking point and it was great to have positive feedback from sponsors as well.

This industry event is growing stronger each year and with support from sponsors and members will continue to improve.

We had a wide range of topics once again, and we were proud to introduce Anthony Young from the University of Queensland. Anthony gave us a great insight into Ground Pearl which was of great interest to all; I hope all those suffering with Ground Pearl have been in contact with Anthony since to help further his research.

Ben Gibson from The Toolbox Team returned this year and his presentation on Leadership Discipline, Culture and Tackling Conflict was very well received. The Toolbox Team continues to grow throughout the Sports Turf Industry and the knowledge and service they provide is of great benefit to us all.





Jyri Kaapro talked all things Root Decline and Patch disease which once again triggered plenty of questions and conversation throughout the room.

through the does and don'ts as well as some very useful Turf and industry podcasts available for members.



To all our Sponsors, Syngenta, Turfcare Australia, Elite Sand And Soil, PJC Sportsturf, Living Turf, Turf Culture, Sportsgrass Solutions, CMR Turfworks, Matt Keough Hydroject, Precision Laser Leveling, Draslovka, Lawford Engineering and SpraySmart - this great industry event wouldn't be possible without you so thank you once again for your support.

Members, please make sure you utilize the connections with the sponsors you have made and we look forward to once again hosting a great conference in 2024.

Ally Hamer (Cancer Council NSW, pictured above) It was very important to have Cancer Council back involved in our conference this year. Ally was very informative and you will find a small article in this edition with some more information from Cancer Council NSW.

Dave Little (TAFE NSW) – Dave gave us a great insight into the Course structure currently being rolled out at Tafe, he also spoke about the importance of managers involvement in there training to assist them through their apprenticeship both practically and educationally.

Nadeem Zreikat – with the everchanging social media platforms Nadeem once again walked us





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## Bowls Report with Ben Morthorpe



*Image courtesy Destination Gold Coast.*

### Countdown to Federation Week on the Gold Coast 2023

With the silly season about to start, that can only mean one thing.... The countdown to Federation Week.

The 2023 Federation Week will be held on the Gold Coast from 29th April – 4th May. So far, the hosting clubs have been decided and just the final touches are being done to finalise the program.

Sat 29th April – Registration /meet  
Sun 30th April – Tugun Bowling Club  
Mon 1st May – Club Musgrave, TopGolf night  
Tue 2nd May – Tour Metricon, Club Tweed  
Wed 3rd May – Club Helensvale  
Thurs 4th May – Mudgeeraba BC, Farewell dinner.

There will be interesting talks from the sponsors Syngenta, Bayer, Living Turf, Rainbird, Toro Irrigation, TruTurf throughout the week.

We will be in touch with more info soon on how to register.

In the month of October, we had a few of our fellow Greenies competing across the states for Australian titles and State titles.

Peter 'Wattsy' Watts took on a tough field in the singles championship. Wattsy unfortunately didn't win the championship, but he did the club of Belconnen and the Greenies proud in his efforts.

We also had Shannon White in the mixed pairs. Shannon and his partner topped his section and was in the gold final match. In the cold, wet and under lights Shannon was in his element playing some superb bowls to lead the match all the way up to the last end. Unfortunately for Shannon and his partner they lost the last end and lost the match 11-12. Congratulations to Shannon and his partner on winning silver in the mixed pairs.

Paul 'Pearl' Earl got his birth certificate checked and qualified for the NSW over 40s state pairs. With a venue change because of bad weather, Pearl and his partner won through their section and into the semi-finals. Unfortunately, they ran into some stiff competition going down 19-11.

Good luck to all those who are hosting and playing in the single gender pennant playoffs.



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## Cancer Council NSW supporting greenkeepers to better protect themselves from UV radiation



THERE'S no denying the fact that skin cancer is our national cancer, with 2 in 3 Aussies being diagnosed with some form of skin cancer in their lifetime. Outdoor workers such as greenkeepers are at particular risk given they receive between 5 to 10 times more exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun compared to indoor workers. Men are also at increased risk. In NSW, from the age of 40 men are more than 1.5 times more likely to be diagnosed and 2.5 times more likely to die from melanoma compared to women of a similar age.

The good news is that skin cancer is highly preventable. When we protect our skin, we reduce our risk. Outdoor workers need sun protection everyday but unfortunately, no more than 10% are fully protected from the sun when they're working outdoors. Workplaces have a duty of care to protect their workers from harm, yet they can be doing more to protect their workers.

With a high proportion of outdoor workers who are male, the greenkeeping industry can play a really important role in helping to reduce their workers' risk of developing skin cancer. Cancer Council NSW is here to support outdoor

workplaces and has developed a new program to help them best protect their workers.

The free Outdoor Worker Sun Safety Program aims to increase outdoor workplace engagement in the importance of sun protection by supporting workplaces to develop and implement practical and sustainable sun safety strategies to meet their individual needs. Strategies could include improving access to shade, window tinting on work vehicles, modifying exposure to reflective surfaces, scheduling of outdoor tasks, providing information and training and sun-safe PPE to name a few. The team has recently been working alongside selection of NSW golf clubs, and expressions of interest to participate are currently open to NSW Bowling clubs and their greenkeeping teams.

Sun safety is a serious issue in the workplace, but it doesn't have to be complicated. If you are interested in learning more about the program, or simply about what you can do to better protect your workers contact Ally Hamer on 02 9334 1422 or [ally.hamer@nswcc.org.au](mailto:ally.hamer@nswcc.org.au). Further information and resources can be accessed via [cancercouncil.com.au/workplace](https://cancercouncil.com.au/workplace).

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# Around the Associations

## Mid North Coast with Anthony Minihan

A good day was had by all attending our Greenkeepers Bowls day at Stuart's Point Bowling Club on the 26th September. Most local clubs were represented and plenty of beers consumed. Dave Waters presented the greens beautifully.

Ray Pymble has taken the reins at Kempsey RSL and by all accounts is enjoying the coast lifestyle at South West Rocks. All Mid North Coast greenkeepers are either busy renovating or planning to shortly.

Dave Croad of Hathead Bowling Club has been working on a re-grass project on one of his greens since mid-September. With assistance from Darren and Glenn of Precision Laser Levelling has taken the top off, scarified, fumigated, levelled and then chaffed with grass from Woonona Bowling Club. Dave took the covers off after three weeks and is happy with result thus far. Further levelling in December.

Nigel Perry of Port City Bowling Club continues to have a busy bowls programme and this will culminate with them hosting the number one Pennant playoffs mid-November. Ongoing moss issues continue to be problematic for Nigel. They have a green out at the moment with a standard renovation and will shave the middle green after the pennant finals.

Anthony of Taree Leagues has one green out and is looking for a bit of warmer weather to hurry it on a bit. Late November he will commence re-grass project on his number one green. He was lucky enough to get a bit of feedback from Chucky on how true the green was in a recent pennant playoff!!



***Pictured: Richard Stephenson verti-draining Taree leagues.***

Mid North Coast members have a planned Christmas get together at Royal Bowraville for the holding of the Macksville Cup on the 19th November. All the best to all greenkeepers for the summer ahead.



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## ACT with Wade Turner

### Belconnen Bowling Club

Peter Watts at Belconnen Bowling Club has shaved a green in the past week. Typical Canberra weather has followed, 50 mm of rain and close to zero minimums overnight. Apprentice Ashleigh Garratt has just completed 12 months of her apprenticeship and is another plus for women in her trade. Peter's club has also taken on croquet which is being played on their greens.



### Canberra Norths Bowling Club (The RUC)

Terry Doyle has a green out of play. He will not be putting any soil on the green due to poor growing conditions. He has the pressure of having all greens in play for the peak Nov/Dec Christmas parties. His club is now going through their third stage of major club renovations.

## Meanwhile in Sydney...



### Weston Creek Bowling Club

Mark Bateman has a green under renovation. Laser levelling of the green has been delayed three weeks due to poor growth and wet conditions. They are also in the process of replacing the ditch backing on their synthetic green.

### Queanbeyan RSL Bowling Club

Wade Turner is converting an old C29 couch green to a Tiffdwarf. 100 mm is to be taken off the green, turf cut and bobcat off. The green will then be verti drained and laser levelled prior to planting on the 15th November. Hopefully there will be some warm weather to help in the establishment.

### Summary

With the bowling calendar getting more congested than ever, all greenkeepers are feeling the pressure of renovating greens and trying to get them back in for play. Also the peak December Christmas parties, corporates, barefoot bowls etc to deal with.

With above average rainfall, below average temperatures, constant wet greens, moss and algae running rampant, who would want to be a greenkeeper. But we love our job! Good luck everyone.



*Pictured above: From major flooding in October, to the ProCore and Air2G2 in action on the greens at Royal Sydney Golf Club as part of Summer renovations.*

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If you do not wish to use this option, please **fill out the form online at [nswbga.com.au](http://nswbga.com.au)** or email contact Rod Creen 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:  
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