

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NSW BOWLING GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



THE BOWLING GREENKEEPER

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Bushfire recovery at Malua Bay



Pictured: Greenkeeper Adam Moffitt shared this drone image of Club Malua, gradually recovering after being decimated in the New Year's Eve bushfires that swept through Malua Bay and the South Coast.

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The Bowling Greenkeeper

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President's Report with Mick Woods



As we continue to be challenged by this Global Pandemic COVID-19, the harsh realities of having to modify not only the way we work but also think about approaching daily tasks has been challenging, it has brought about or maybe just

HIGHLIGHTED the great comradery within our industry. It has been great to see the genuine care for one another with stories of turf mangers offering assistance to others nearby, making welfare calls just to lend an ear if needed or to offer some friendly banter. The genuine care for one another and while often brought up at different events, has raised to another level throughout these challenging times. Positively there seems to be an increase in participation to the sport of Lawn Bowls, many of the turf managers I have been in contact with have cited higher numbers at all stages (roll-ups, social & competition).

We continue to lobby Water NSW and the State Member for water for industry specific and uniform water restrictions and each different level. It has been great that much of the state's dams have received significant inflows with existing restrictions being eased for much of the state. We will continue to drive for what we deem fair and responsible water allocations for our industry.

Vale Tony Apthorpe

It is with sadness that I advise of the passing of NSW BGA Life Member Tony Apthorpe. Tony was one of our most active Committee members, playing a key role in our State Conferences for many years. On behalf of the NSW BGA Executive and members I offer my condolences to Tony's family. We will include more about Tony's career and contribution in our next edition.

Federation News

There is not a lot that can be passed on at this time. The QLD committee have advised that venues have again been secured for 2021 if it is to go ahead, while one host venue has withdrawn, the event will still be based on the Gold Coast, May 2021. The overwhelming concern is that the event may again have to be cancelled/deferred with travel restrictions still in place and many turf managers having used large chunks or all of their annual leave during lock down periods. We will also be taking into consideration individual State Bowls Organisation's amended calendars.

Memberships

Memberships are now past due, it is important we remain supportive during these times so we can continue to bring events and content to our members into the future. Rod is encouraging as many members as possible do this through the Team App. I downloaded the app myself and renewed on this platform, it's incredibly simple.

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All Types Of Renovations Up To Major Reconstructions

Bowls Report with Brent Norman



Well... whoever would of thought we could go a year without seeing each other, what a strange time for all of us that hang for our annual catch up period. Let's make sure we take the opportunity to call a fellow Greenie and have a chat even if it's just about grass. I was pleased to hear personally no one was affected

health wise.

The Federation event planned for the Gold Coast last May obviously couldn't go ahead with the COVID pandemic, this leaves us the predicament of whether we try to go ahead with the Federation events next year or we wait until the usually 3 year turn around which will be in 2023. One thing for sure the NSWBGA committee will be doing the upmost to make sure we have the State events at least in 2021.

We will also be hopeful to hold the Greenies vs Legends day again in 2021 giving Mitch at Halekulani the honour of hosting the event and us winning back the trophy of course.

Most of the questions surrounding how we move forward will be discussed on the 1st November when the NSWBGA executive team will meet with fellow states officials via a Zoom hook up to make the

decisions that best suits every state.

As with most guys I have spoken to and as directed by our governing body we when into the COVID period putting a stop to all competition bowls which came right in the middle of the pennant season for a lot of us. Members had the opportunity to roll up/practice initially before all bowls was stopped for a couple of months. As we came out of that 2 months break again with roll ups/practice kicked off again and got us all off job keeper and back on the tools and into the job we love.

Competition bowls re-started late June and it was a blessing that we had the break during winter and the greens didn't get away from us.

Since the return to bowls I have heard some great results from our Greenies in their club championships such as Jason Stewart, Rodney Crean, Adam Troth, Martin Groper, Jason Aurich, Shannon White and evergreen Wade Turner winning club events and it looked like some of these boys never stopped rolling during the break, hey Rod?

Keep sending through to me (0437 175 133) any bowls results as it's great to share with each other and celebrate the victories together. Look forward to seeing everyone soon.

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Health, Safety & Environment Safety Culture through Consultation

with Ben Gibson

Consultation is a regulatory reference for discussing issues at work with your team to gain their input, perspective, ideas and opinions.

It is a focus for effective compliance management across Australia and a big expectation from SafeWork NSW. The WHS Act (2011) in New South Wales, clearly states that a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU - e.g. your Club) must consult with their workers.



Section 47 Duty to consult workers

(1) The person conducting a business or undertaking must, so far as is reasonably practicable, consult, in accordance with this Division and the regulations, with workers who carry out work for the business or undertaking who are, or are likely to be, directly affected by a matter relating to work health or safety.

Those most qualified to offer input and suggest risk controls for the work being undertaken at your Club are...you guessed it, the staff actually undertaking the work!

The bonus in approaching your compliance management with a consultative approach (involving your team) is that you get buy-in! Staff are far more interested in getting involved in procedures and systems they have had direct involvement in the creation of.

'The best systems are ones developed by a business in conjunction with workers. It's not rocket science, just a method of delivering simple safety messages, information and support to workers.'

Anthony Nicholson

SafeWork NSW Safety Inspector

Ask for their input. You have hundreds of years of experience (some better than others!) in your team across countless different sites in their career history. This is a powerful resource you have available at your fingertips. A really valuable opportunity to learn from good and bad industry examples, experiences and case studies.

If you are able to back up your consultation with resources and actions, you develop the powerful opportunity for staff to take individual ownership and personal responsibility for safety outcomes. We see a significant shift from 'it's all the boss's responsibility' to our teams recognising that every worker has a requirement to contribute to and maintain a safe and healthy working environment.

The more you are able to communicate and show practical relevance to your safety and environmental compliance efforts, the less confusion, uncertainty and residual risk exists. It is important to document your efforts and be able to show evidence of regular consultation with your team.

Question: I 'consult' (have conversations with) my team everyday about safety, is that enough?

The great news is that our experience in the industry shows that effective consultation is happening at many turf facilities, just informally. The challenge for turf managers is to document this consultation. Teams must have a formal way of demonstrating that their staff regularly provide input on safety issues and their feedback is contributing positively to the way work is undertaken at their Club.

The first step in developing an engaged safety culture onsite is to start a conversation.

References: WHS Act (2011) - <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/> SafeWork NSW, 2020 - <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au>

Ben Gibson is the owner and Managing Director of The Toolbox Team, providing unique and interactive safety and environmental compliance resources to golf clubs and other turf facilities across Australia.



Around the Associations

ACT region with Peter Watts (Go Raiders)



So, as I'm writing this report you will find that QBNRSL, QBN, Tuggies, Norths RUC and Belconnen are getting some very important aerating done, yes it's that time of year again.

You might think I know these ACT greenkeepers are good, but how on earth can they write reports and aerate greens at the same time. It's a very good question... and an easy answer! We get our good mate down from Sydney, Matt Keough, and his Hydro jet to come and do it for us.



The best thing is that he does a wonderful job and you can play on it straight after he has finished and you wouldn't even know he had been there. Just look at how professional he looks working at Belconnen.



What's new around town, first of all we would like to welcome back Tommy Griffin. Tommy did his apprenticeship under Wade Turner and once qualified he travelled the world working at some of the world's greatest turf sites including Lords and some of the most famous golf courses, he is now looking after

QBN bowling club. QBN will be putting in two synthetic greens to go along with their new Tiffy that is looking fantastic and a half green half beer garden outside their new and improved club house. Tommy will be a fine pick up to our association.

Hemi Palmer will finish his Tech this year and we would like to congratulate him on doing a great job and wish him all the best for what I'm sure will be an outstanding career.

Over at the North's RUC Terry has had his shed taken off him and converted to office space so he is currently working out of shipping containers with work to commence on a brand new shed with hopefully all the mod cons to make life that little bit easier in the future.

Mark Bateman at the Creek has put a proposal to the Labour club to take over the work as a Contractor. If this happens and it sounds like it will, he will keep his new apprentice Billy on and also get Hugh back on the books to work at the club full time, whilst Mark and Billy will share their time at the club and doing other work outside the club.

Belconnen has made the most of a bad time with the club closing over the COVID 19 period so we have improved the look of the club with new carpet, sheeted the walls and a fresh coat of paint.

Spring has sprung in the Nation's Capital with a bit of rain and warm weather, that bit of a green tinge has slowly appeared mid September and with a promise of a warm, wet season in front of us, we hope everyone's mowers stay sharp and mother nature behaves herself for what we hope is a cracker of a growing season. Stay fit, stay safe, stay hydrated, slip, slop, slap, seek and slide. Cheers :-)

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Mid North Coast with Craig Hayfield

The Mid North Coast boys managed to get together, all be it socially distanced, in mid June for our 2020 AGM. Not much to report as Covid has put off our annual carnival day for this year. Elections were held and positions were held as is. That gives us Dave Croad as President, Mark Wilcher and Cody Griffen as Vice Presidents, Craig Hayfield as Secretary and Nigel Perry as Treasurer.

Most clubs have seen bowls restrictions lifted somewhat with championships and social bowls resuming. Some are still limiting numbers on each green to twenty odd. Most clubs have cancelled major tournaments for the year. Clubs in Port Macquarie and Kempsey hosted some Zone events only to have the Zone playoffs put back due to issues with travelling from outside local areas to a single venue.

There is a mixed bag of renovation jobs on this summer in our area, with some clubs opting for minimal cost and minimal downtime. Others are still forging ahead with big works planned and some major greens renovation jobs.

Nigel at Port City says the clubs management are looking to go ahead with replacing their bottom green with a synthetic, after being put back last March. This will leave them with two grass greens that will both be renovated this year, the middle green likely to be shaved and lasered. All of Nigel's greens have held up well over the year with large numbers of bowlers in for roll ups before bowls as normal was recommenced.

The large fairy ring hoops of last summer up and left as soon as the drought breaking rains of late December, early Jan arrived. Nigel has managed reduced hours and staff during the lockdown period like many others have and says all the guys are back to normal working hours now.

Dave at Hat Head will put back greens renovations till after the Christmas holiday period in an effort to capitalise on the holiday traffic in the adjoining caravan park. Dave has been plugging out ERI scarring and the return of the infamous Hat Head Soft Patch aka (Croads Patch). This strange phenomenon appears as a saucer to dinner plate size patch of seemingly healthy grass however when a finger is pushed into it there is a very noticeable softness to the area. Dave has tried many a product and practice to correct this issue but it remains an ongoing mystery. Firmness can be achieved after topdressing but soon enough the soft, spongy feel returns. Garth from GTS has suggested it could be Thatch Collapse, a symptom that most of us are unfamiliar with.

At Hibbards Sports, Andrew will be renovating both his greens with the possibility of a shave and a laser on his number two green. Andrew has some ERI in thatchy areas in this green that has been a battle so a shave could be the solution he is after. Reduced hours over lockdown was helped with the club giving Andrew the opportunity to utilise other Club staff to assist in outdoor maintenance tasks. Hedging, painting and gardens all on the agenda, freeing up Andrew to focus his attention on the greens.

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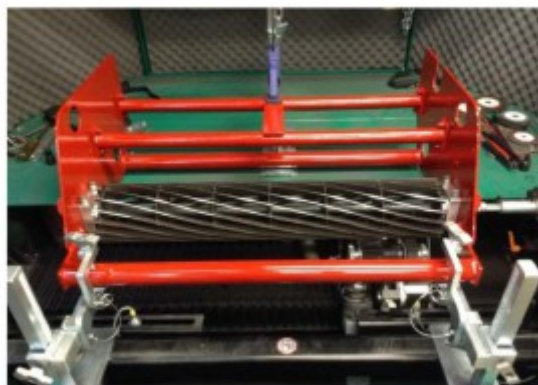
Gary Witte at Royal Scotts has already started his renovations, falling just short of a 150 barrow scarify of the front green. Gary also had work hours reduced and doesn't think the club will be fronting up the cash for any form of major renovations this year. That said, they did replace one side of the greens plinths just last week. Gary has had a bit of help from an old mate of mine from Harbord, Dave "Rusty" Rust, has been lending a hand where he can. Dave, now retired, spends many a night camping with his wife in the caravan park next door to the club at Scotts, and just like at Harbord, walks the dog thru the club every morning so it can have its constitutional on some nicely manicured surrounds. Good on ya Rusty for helping out, always a great Club man.

Beau at Macksville Country Club has been receiving positive feedback about both the bowls and golf greens. "Best they've been in years". Beau has had some serious challenges over the past few years with staff shortages, disease outbreaks and tricky management issues. A boost of confidence like this should carry well into this coming season. Beau is looking to minimise downtime to greens this season so a minor renovation to each. Macksville's major tournament has been cancelled for the year but they are seeing increased bowls numbers for regular games which is great.

Finally, at Kempsey things are back to some form of normality, bowls is back, ladies are complaining about the heat/cold/wind/flyes/Covid/men/fast greens/slow greens... and it's great to see the greens being used after a significant break in play. Both greens have held up well with reduced wear in regular trouble spots. Limited work hours over autumn proved a challenge with all the rain and heat and my offsider who decided to throw an entire bag of urea on the surrounds just before he was bumped onto job seeker, leaving me to manage the ensuing growth bonanza. Never again will fertiliser touch that mans hands. Renovations this year will consist of a hydrocore, groom and single topdress. With no major tournament this year there is flexibility with timing of topdressing however I'd like to see both greens out and in by end of Jan. I have had some great superficial fairy ring showing up in green two, greasy plate sized rings as dew dries out. Noticeably greener grass in these areas over winter dormancy and a faint smoke ring. I plan to put out some Valista in the coming weeks to knock it on the head before fertilising and promotion of growth resumes.

That's about all from the Mid North Coast, here's to a great season to all, good luck and stay safe.

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Update on Water Restrictions

On behalf of the NSWBGA Board, I wish to advise you on the position that we have taken in regards to Water Restrictions that Sydney Water, Local Governments and other governing Water Authorities have imposed on our Industry.

Predominantly, to date the Board's approach to Sydney Water has been to assist in advising on:

- Understanding our Industry's requirements that relate to irrigating turf surfaces
- Best practices used
- Possible water restriction changes

To further present our case, the Board, in conjunction with New South Wales Golf Course Superintendents Association and Mr Peter Brueck (Director, Water Wise Consultancy) have forwarded a request to meet Minister Melinda Pavey (Minister of Water, Property and Housing, NSW) to discuss and gain approval to prepare a plan for our industry which will demonstrate

- Correct Water Management Plan
- Effective and Efficient Water usage
- Best Practice approach



- Restriction consistency throughout all NSW from all Water Authorities for policies, Level 1 to Level??

If and when further advice is received, I will forward an update. If you wish to discuss this issue, please contact me.

Simon Cooper, Senior Vice President NSWBGA

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Rep's Report

MIKE DARLINGTON, LIVING TURF

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Form the outset, I hope all our members and their families are coping in these different times we are living in. The start of a vastly different renovation season is upon us, where quite a few greens will be carried through the year without anything being done to them. Others will have normal renovations and some just a short time out.

The Lantern Club (Roselands Bowling Club) have decided to stop using their two greens permanently, but the club will continue to trade.

Since my last report, there has been a lot of movement in the trade. Sean Bellotti started at Figgy Bowling Club (Wollongong RSL Bowling Club) early July.

Dave Deed, from Towradgi Park Bowling Club has given the tools away and taken up a representative job.

Peter Hvass from Taren Point Bowling Club has taken over at Towradgi.

Keenan Van De Straat, Sean's assistant at Figgy taking over at Taren Point, where he did his apprenticeship and a couple of years as assistant.

Lou Reid, Mat's assistant at Engadine Bowling Club is going to Figgy in October to be Sean's assistant. Areal merry go round.

Scott Matheson has left Nowra Bowling Club and taken over at Huskisson Bowling Club with Nowra at time of writing, still to choose a greenkeeper. All the best for the renovations with hopefully warm weather and decent rainfall.

This will be the last report before Xmas, so on behalf of everyone at Living Turf, we wish you and your families all the best for the festive season and hopefully a better New Year to follow.

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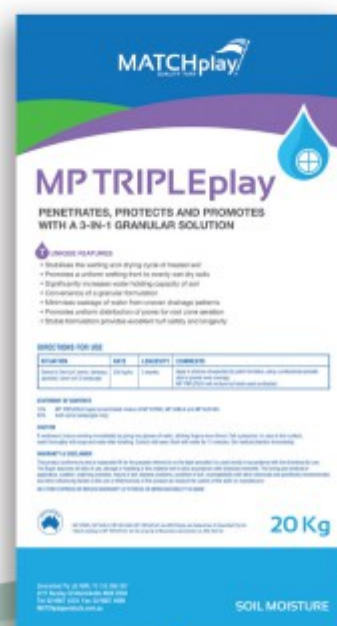
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Memberships

NSWBGA memberships are now due for the year 2020/21

You can now pay your membership by downloading the 'Team' app, searching for NSW Bowling Greenkeepers Association and creating an account.

If you do not wish to use this option, please **fill out the form online at nswbga.com.au** or email contact Rod Crean for assistance with the App on 0408 670 372.



**You can also email this form and post to:
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NSWBGA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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(if new):

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Membership Type

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Financial Report 2019/2020

New South Wales Bowling Greenkeepers' Association Statement of Income and Expenditure For 12 months to the 30th April 2020

2019	Income	2020
6,187.50	Membership Subscriptions	2,155.00
1,000.00	Greenkeeper of the Year	1,000.00
5,000.00	Donations/Sponsorship	-
312.99	Interest Earned	245.60
2,175.00	Uniform Sales	1,525.00
7.50	Championship Week	2,210.40
800.00	Federation Week	-
2,200.00	Conference	7,300.00
-	Unidentified Income	-
2,230.98	Profit (Loss) Magazine	112.87
18,313.97		10,128.07

Expenditure	
753.84	Printing Stationery & Advertising
826.59	Telephone/Internet
451.00	Travel Expense
250.50	Postage
207.20	Bank Charges
-	Room Hire
7,305.50	Floral Tribute
-	Administration Costs
1,000.00	Membership Cards
251.20	Greenkeeper of the Year
295.20	Championship, Trophies/Prize Money
-	Conference Expenses
3,697.00	Federation Uniforms
-	Uniforms
-	Apprentice Award
-	Depreciation
15,038.03	Total Expenditure
18,313.97	Total Income
3,275.94	Profit (Loss) for the year

Balance Sheet as at 1st May 2020		
<u>Current Assets</u>	2020	2019
ANZ Bank	2,704.42	3,778.25
Welfare Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00
Stock	1,708.00	2,376.00
Magazine Debtor	2,200.00	2,505.00
Investments	21,602.91	21,602.91
Cash on Hand	108.13	292.77
Total Assets	29,323.46	31,554.93
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>		
Computer		1,100.00
Less Accumulated Depreciation		-1,100.00
	0.00	0.00
Total Assets	29,323.46	31,554.93
<u>Less Liabilities</u>		
Welfare Fund	2,123.24	2,123.24
Reimburse Petty Cash		
Total Liabilities	2,123.24	2,123.24
Total Assets over Liabilities	27,200.22	29,431.69
<u>Accumulated Funds</u>		
Balance 1st May 2019	29,431.69	26,155.75
Less/Plus 2020 Gain/Loss	-2,231.47	3,275.94
Total Equity	27,200.22	29,431.69
	0.00	0.00



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| - Decorative Pebbles; | - Bricklaying Sands; |
| - Mulches; | - Bulka Bags; |
| - Garden Mixes; | - Hiab Crane; |
| - Turf Underlays; | - Cement & Mixers; |
| - Rendering Sands; | - Hardware; |



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



1300 935 483