

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NSW BOWLING GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



THE BOWLING GREENKEEPER

MARCH 2015

VOLUME 62 NO 61

**Meet your State Champs hosts from
the Mid North Coast**



**The Mid-North Coast boys at South West Rocks, home of
our State Championship Week from 4-8 May!**

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Nominations open for *Living Turf* Greenkeeper of the Year 2015

Turf Education Update

Andy Rodger retires

NSWBGA Membership Renewal

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Welcome to the first edition of the Bowling Greenkeeper for 2015.

It's great to see our hosts on the front cover, the Mid North Coast and other regional associations getting ready for State Championship Bowls Week in South West Rocks from May 4 - May 8. I hope you've booked and nominated for bowls. At this stage we're up over the 40 entries which is great so keep them coming.

In this issue you can also nominate a deserving colleague for the Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year Award, save the date (June 1-2) for our 2015 NSWBGA Conference and don't forget, membership fees are now due. It's pleasing to see an update on the National Turf Education Working Group.

It's fitting that we pay tribute to and read about the career of Andy Rodger, who has closed to the door to the shed after what has been a long and rewarding stint on the greens.

I hope you enjoy this pic from the Archives; Andy is pictured far left. Happy reading.

John Flaherty
Editor



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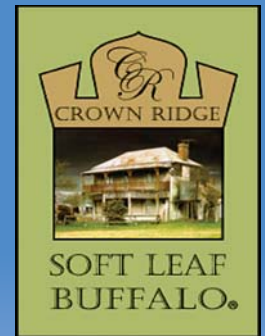
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT with Mick Woods

Firstly, I would like to welcome everyone into 2015.

I hope that the New Year brings all the best, and for those who were fortunate enough to get some time off over the New Year, I hope you enjoyed the break and came back to a sound workplace. Please send formula for this as I don't recall the last time I haven't worked through Christmas and New Year.

Now onto the serious matters, this year sees two firsts with South West Rocks hosting our State championships. From all reports, Mark and the board of South West Rocks are working tirelessly to ensure this event will be remembered for all the right reasons.

Secondly our NSW BGA Conference is moving away from Newcastle and will be held in Sydney on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd June 2015. The venue is the Bankstown Sports Club which has been secured with the assistance of Adam Troth and John Flaherty. This venue is an all in one, with accommodation linked to the club. For those that need to fly in, transport is easy from Sydney airport via train.

The subject matter for the conference will be of a high standard, with only a couple of spots left to be finalised. This year will not only see industry experts but several other interesting subjects being broached.

Be sure to free up time for either one or both of these events if possible.

Finally, for any one that is still returning greens to play, all the best and for those of us that are participating in Pennant Bowls good luck both on and off the greens. See you all at South West Rocks.



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BOWLS REPORT by Shannon White



It's almost time for one of the best weeks of the year - the NSW Bowling Greenkeepers' State Championship Week.

This event is being held at South West Rocks Country Club from Monday 4th May until Friday 8th May. With \$3,000 prize money on offer, why not come along and try to

win the prestigious Pairs or Singles title or even the sought after plate (first round losers).

The week's registration costs \$150 which includes entry to the championships, lunch every day and dinner on three nights.

So give me a call 0404 812 748 to enter your team or even a single name and I will help find a partner. Entries close on Friday 10th April with the draw being done the following week.



Also, don't forget about the annual NSW Legends versus NSWBGA playing for the Peter Mobbs Shield, which this year will be held in the Illawarra district on Monday 27th July.

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South West Rocks Country Club practices the responsible service of alcohol.

END OF AN ERA FOR ANDY RODGER

On 11 December 2014 I called it a day at North Ryde RSL after 45 and a half years.

Cooks River Bowling Club was where I started my apprenticeship in 1965. I had three different bosses in three years. My first boss, Tony Burns had his finger amputated while adjusting the spray pump. I was spraying the green at the time of the incident and found his finger laying on the grass (no micro surgery in those days!). He was rushed to the hospital and was off work for 7 weeks. While he was off work recovering he was terminated (so much for sympathy!).

After leaving Cooks River, I spent one year at Drummoyne Bowling Club. The three greens there were full seven days a week, how times have changed.

In 1969 I started at North Ryde RSL as assistant to Phil Flippence. After Phil left, I was promoted to Greenkeeper and I had some great assistants throughout that time. My son, Ben Rodger, Paul Webb and of course Don Storey who worked alongside me for 27 years.

The club was robbed two to three and on one of those occasions a father and daughter were found to be the culprits. They were apprehended the next day in Albury. It turned out that the father was a past employee of the club. Before entering the club they loaded a shot gun and a 22 beside the hedge near the green.

Don was mowing the grass close to the hedge a day or two later and ran over a shot gun shell and was

consequently wounded in the leg with pellets (the dangers of greenkeeping?!).



The Greenkeepers Bowling Club was a great institution in the Sydney metro. We played pennants reaching the No.2 grade. I was fortunate to play in the club championship 4's with legends Col Ridge, Frank Dempsey and the late Jim Birmingham, they were great times!

I have enjoyed my life in greenkeeping and have met so many wonderful people along the way, too many to name.

The Greenkeepers Association is a great community. The yearly State Championships has been something that myself and my wife, Cheryl look forward to each year and have been attending for 20+ years. The present committee with Mick Woods, Simon Cooper and John Flaherty steering the young and enthusiastic committee I see the association only becoming bigger and better with a great future ahead with everybody's support.

See you at South West Rocks in May 2015 for the next State Championships.

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Greenkeeper of the Year Award

The NSWBGA is pleased to announcement nominations are now open for the Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year Award 2015.

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 Monday 20 April 2015.

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

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National Turf Education Working Group Update

9th December 2014, Ryde School of Horticulture

I was recently invited and able to attend this meeting as a representative of NSWBGA, this being only my second opportunity to collaborate with this national group.

Attendees: Bruce Davies (ACT), Simone Staples (AGCSA), Ian Clarke (Ryde TAFE), Jay Wood (Richmond TAFE), Albert Sherry (Kurri TAFE), Peter Frewin (AGCSA), Mark (Concord GC), Jenny Zadro (STA NSW), Sean (QLD superintendents), John Forrest (WA TAFE), Jim Porter (Vic), Hugh Gardner (STA WA), Greg H (NSW North coast), Peter Fitzgerald (SA) and Michael Woods (NSWBGA).

State Situations

*ACT only running cert. 2 & 3, 8-10 in each year with 484hrs face to face training.
*Ryde NSW running cert. 2, 3, 4 and diploma, most studying cert. 3, certificate 4 had 39 enrolled and diploma 21. Face to face hours being reduced with introduction of Smart & Skilled Delivery. Courses are introducing more online interaction.

*Kurri, running both block and day release course. Introducing electronic diaries for both apprentices and supers, hope is to gain greater insight into delivery needs.

*Wollongbar NSW, 2014 course cancelled due to low enrolment numbers, 14 for 2015 so course will go ahead.

*TAFE QLD, concerns over long term sustainability in current format. Course is being carried out over four 2 week blocks with only 290 face hours. Diploma over 3yrs, and also 290hrs.

*TAFE WA, 40 enrolled for certificate 3 and 8 enrolled for certificate 4 courses running over 18 months.

*Richmond TAFE NSW, Jay wants efforts to be made in ensuring standards are not compromised with introduction of Smart & Skilled Delivery and introduction on non state RTO's (registered training organisations). Courses are being removed from Richmond TAFE.

*TAFE VIC, Numbers are steady with certificate 3 being delivered in 8 blocks per year over 3 years. Diploma course is being offered over 2 years with 3 day block meetings.

* RTO QLD, Delivering certificate 3 with only 70 face to face hours, more focus on workplace delivery. Stated funding is limited in QLD.

*TAFE SA, only running certificate 3, no certificate 4 or diploma. Enrolments are down for all years of certificate 3 course.

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AGCSA as an Education Provider

*The AGCSA have issued a statement confirming their commitment to excellent and consistent standards of education in partnership with industry and training providers.

Industry Perspectives on Turf Education

*NSWBGA, I made mention of the steady decline in bowlers and clubs closing down is having a profound effect on the number of apprentices being taken on across the state. That the NSWBGA is continuing to improve and increase interaction with Bowls NSW to increase industry awareness.

*QLD Super's, Sean also noted that there has been a decline in apprentices being taken on. Noting that recent major floods have been detrimental to golf club incomes.

*NSWGCSA, Malcolm states that they are aware of TAFE issues and has concerns over funding allocation. Reasonably happy with training model that is in place.

*STA WA, Hugh mentioned the possibility of running pre-apprenticeship courses that incorporate horticulture, arboriculture and turf management in conjunction with TAFE WA may

see possible candidates make a more informed decision.

*STA NSW, Jenny raised concerns over fluctuating hours across different states and that there has been a steady decline with the graduate programme.

*Concord Golf, Mark fielded concern over the need for more uniformity in the training models implemented across all states.

*STA Canberra, Gary decline in numbers.

*STA SA, Peter has concerns over the quality of applicants being taken on. Peter made mention of statistics on LLN (learning, literacy and numeracy) and hours being put into this area are being lost/reduced to the training model.

*AGCSA, Simone concurred with Peter in relation to LLN. There is online access to an LLN exam that could be utilised.

Focus of Working Group for 2015:

- * Work on LLN both at intake and collaboratively as employers and trainers.
- * Association development of school package. Core skills required, value and costs of equipment used.
- * Course curriculum

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AROUND THE ASSOCIATIONS

Mid North Coast Report by Danny Knight

It is with sadness that I begin this report with news of the passing of our colleague Peter Symons. Pete recently died of lung cancer at the young age of 47, leaving behind his beloved wife Jo and mates, sons Zac & Luke. Pete never smoked and kept himself very fit.

His background was in golf but Pete & Jo decided to open a Turf & Irrigation supply shop in Coffs Harbour. Pete travelled the coast installing and repairing irrigation and nothing was ever a problem for him. He and Jo created a successful business through hard work, giving the right advice and a smile.

Pete was very involved in sport with a huge interest in cricket. He coached his boys both locally and in the rep sides. He earned the respect of the whole junior cricket fraternity, as I saw in their tears at the funeral. Pete was also a rep cricketer, a fast bowler, and had the honour of knocking Mark Taylor's stumps out of the ground in a Tooheys Country Challenge match in Coffs Harbour.

Pete will be dearly missed by all of us who knew him and our hearts go out to Jo and the boys.

Our latest MNC meeting was held at South West Rocks Country Club, home of our upcoming State Championships. We thought we'd better run our eyes over Mark and Nathan's greens, especially the showcase #1 green that was only regrassed in December. The boys have done an outstanding job. Nathan has the banks looking tremendous, utilizing the 'Star' cylinder mower they purchased for \$50 off one of the members. The new green looks amazing especially considering it was only grassed 11 weeks ago. It has complete coverage, very fine texture and is very firm. The green is ready to play on but Mark is happy to make them wait until he gives the OK. With only 8 weeks to go until our Championships, all 3 greens are in great condition and I'm sure will be a pleasure to play on.

Topics raised at our meeting included:

- * Designing a Mid North Coast shirt to be worn at get togethers and meetings.
- * Suggesting the Royal look at the possibility of reducing the minimum rink width for championships and higher from 4.3m back to 4m to allow greater rink movement. Now days with tighter bowls 4m is wide enough.
- * Pairs partners were arranged for the championships and accommodation.



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Mid North Coast - Around the Grounds

South West Rocks – Mark and Nathan

Like most other greenies, the boys have been 'flat out' with the rain, heat and humidity. 35mm was taken off their #1 green in December. The re-grass was a success with the only problem being some water percolation and drainage issues which should improve with maturity.

The #2 green received no renovation this year. It has some slight wear but has held up well. Green #3 received a quick 4 week reno and has a good cover also.

Marks greatest headache this year has been the "summer bowls program"...barefoot party bowls. It has proved popular for toddlers through to Mums and Dads, just not the greenkeeper. 3 year olds dropping Dad's bowl from head height in the middle of the green are commonplace.

Urunga – Danny & Mark

The #1 green that has shouldered the load since the 2009 flood received a full renovation this year for the first time since the flood. It is looking the best it has for years apart from the Pearl patches which are not as tight. The new #2 green is due back in play shortly after a vertidrain and rub in. Plenty of amendments were put on to improve the soil and the green has responded well.

Hat Head – (Dave) Both greens have been renovated this year with the process of scarifying and drilling. #2 green was also laser levelled and is now performing well. The ERI is emerging again in the same spots as previous years, with these areas drying out quicker than the rest of the green. Pearls are still persisting with an application of Pennside in October slowing them down.

Scotts Head – Witt

Green #1 was drilled, scarified and top dressed. Green #2 was only lightly scarified. Both greens are looking and playing well. White helmo has

shown up in both with the wet weather. Green #1 has been struggling to drain in heavy rainfall. Gary has also been busy straightening plinths and has just one side to go.

Kempsey RSL – Dave & Grant

Dave was unfortunately not able to renovate this year due to budget restrictions. He did however hydro core both greens and top dressed his edges. Both black and white helmo have been appearing with high rainfall and humidity.

Stuarts Point – Dave & Mick

Both 'Choppy' and Mick have reported the 'Major Trouble' in Stuarts Point this season. They've been working too hard! Apart from being busy filming for a grant application, they have also been busy renovating and constantly cutting grass. #1 green that was suffering, received a full reno. It was drilled, heavy scarified (removing the mandatory 150 barrows), limed, fed, levelled and had a final rub in. It now has a good even cover. #2 green received a lighter go being drilled, scarified and top dressed.

For a great belly laugh get on the net and have a look at the short clip Dave Waters and his daughter Grace filmed. The club has applied for a grant from Holden Home ground Advantage to purchase a new mower.

Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZLFOXx4EZI

Finally for anyone that can get along, Bonville International Golf Resort is once again hosting their annual trade display and information seminar on the 27th- 28th May. There are some high profile speakers and the latest machinery and products on display. Ask your local reps for more details.

On behalf of the Mid North Coast Greenkeepers, we look forward to welcoming you to South West Rocks in May. We are confident you will be impressed by the venue and we can't wait to share a beer and a chat.

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AROUND THE ASSOCIATIONS



ACT Region with Mark Bateman

Our growing season down here in Canberra is starting to come to an end, with most clubs either completed or onto their last green for renovation.

Our Pennant season is now underway, it started on the first weekend of February and will be all

completed by April 19th. This season Grade number 1 got two extra clubs, with Queanbeyan R.S.L and Canberra Bowling Club joining the top grade. Our Canberra competition now has 10 teams in the "ones".

We are currently in the process of organising our next greenkeepers bowls day and also who is keen to make the trip to South West Rocks for the Greenkeepers Week. Hopefully we get good numbers for what is sure to be a great trip!

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REP'S REPORTS

MIKE DARLINGTON

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Unfortunately, we have lost a good man in our industry to Melanoma in mid-February - Wade Davis, from Albion Park Bowling Club. He was a stalwart in the greenkeeping fraternity in the Illawarra region.

The last 26 years Wade has been at Albion Park Bowling Club and it was only last year the club put on a day for him, celebrating 25 years' service. Those who knew Wade will miss his smiling face and dry sense of humour. All the greenkeeping industry sends their condolences to Wade's wife and two children.

Renovations are nearly complete, with pennants starting once again. I think the old saying 'the older you get, the quicker it goes' sums up how quickly the seasons pass by.

JEFF BOWTELL

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The biggest issue from the Hunter – North Coast are definitely Ground Pearl and ERI. As well as the usual Nematode issue. Pretty much from Tuncurry north, the Ground Pearl is everywhere. As there is no registered product, treatment is difficult.

The ERI and Nematodes seem to go hand in hand as the Nematode will weaken areas and ERI gets in. Dedicate seems to be the best option for the ERI. Used in conjunction with Heritage Maxx and Bayfidan, some of the guys are having some success. Nematode management is a combination of nematocides such as Agador & Electricur and the regular application of root promoting products.

The biggest issue up North is the rain. Coffs Harbour registered over 11" in late January early February.

All green keepers will be glad this summer is over. It has been a varying summer, cool early going into high humidity and storms, then solid rain for three days starting on Australia Day, followed by cooler temperatures. This sudden lack of growth led quite a few green keepers to thinner, greying hair and more worries. The greens basically stopped growing and did not close up, even with soil.

Wentworthville RSL Bowling Club has closed its doors. Wenty was an old club in the area and for the past few years was manned by volunteer labour. It's sad to see another bowling club go. A sign of the times I'm afraid.

Enjoy the autumn and all the best.

This didn't seem to stop South West Rocks who got a regrass back in 10 weeks.

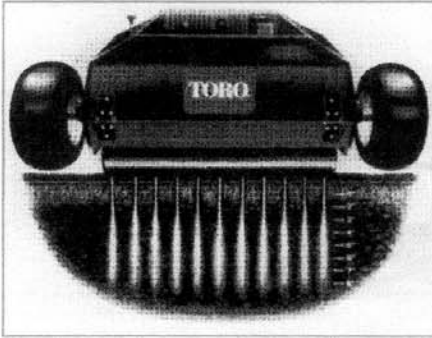
Now is the time of year to be making applications and focusing on the management of Spring Dead Spot disease for the next growing season. Multiple applications of Banner Maxx applied with a good wetting agent is still the best base for most successful SDS programs. Spring Dead Spot management is a whole lot more than chemical applications though and my suggestion is to sit down with your local Globe Rep and go over products and techniques that we have found to aid in management of this disease.

And of course the "Plastic Curse" has hit again with news that Maitland City will go with 2 Synthetic greens come August.

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NOTICES

Awards & Wages

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

The following wages apply as stated on www.fwc.gov.au.

Turfcraftsman	Wage	Hourly rate
Level 1	\$664.80	\$17.49
Level 2	\$687.60	\$18.09
Level 3	\$724.50	\$19.07
Level 4	\$769.90	\$20.26

Management/Level 1	\$844.70	\$22.23
Management/Level 2	\$919.70	\$24.20

Apprentice

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

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

More information, including a list of Modern Awards, is available on the Fair Work Australia website www.fwa.gov.au or the Fair Work Australia Ombudsman at www.fairwork.gov.au.

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at the
Association's
website at
nswbga.com.au**

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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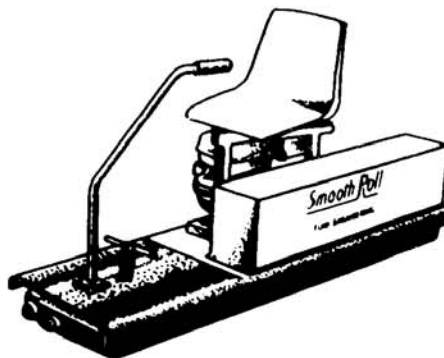


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