

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NSW BOWLING GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



# THE BOWLING GREENKEEPER

NOVEMBER 2015

VOLUME 64 NO 63

## **Adam Troth named Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year 2015**



**Adam Troth accepted the Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year Award for 2015 in July**

## **ALSO IN THIS ISSUE**

The wrap from Legend's Day 2015

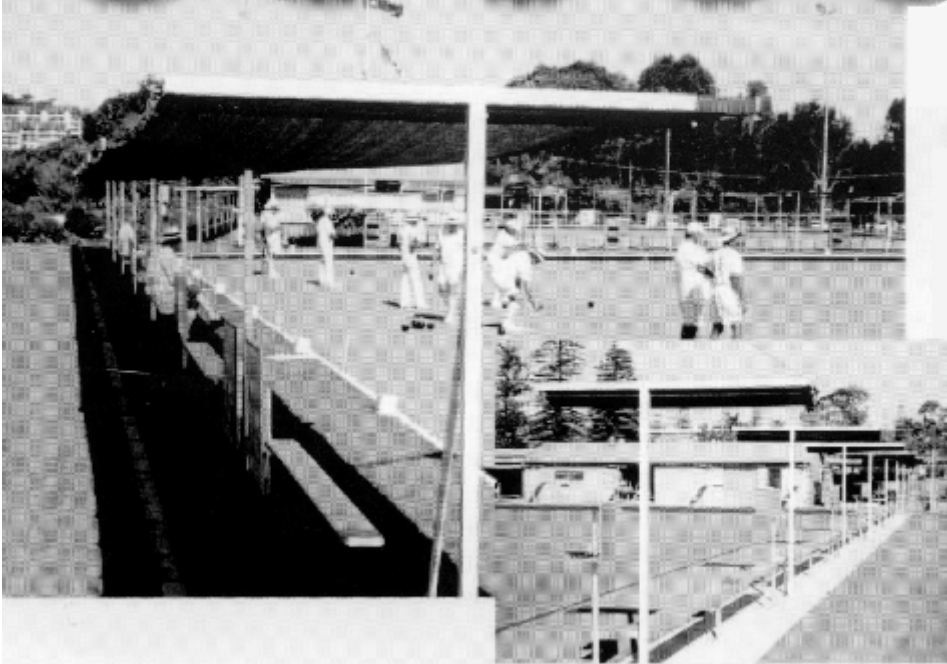
President's Message

Let's talk Ground Pearl

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### The Bowling Greenkeeper

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## Bankstown Sports greenie takes out top gong for 2015!

**Adam Troth from Bankstown Sports was named Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year 2015 at the annual Legend's Day, held at Corrimal Bowling Club on Monday 27 July.**

Mike Darlington from Living Turf presented Adam with his award.

If you want to know what it takes to be recognised at the top of the game in the NSW Bowling Greenkeeping industry, then keep reading.

Adam started his apprenticeship in 1990 at Chester Hill Bowling club under Keith Wilson. After Keith left for Queensland he worked for three more bosses including Keith Martin, Chris Derks for 12-14 months and Luke Wade for two and a half years. It was great have both Chris and Luke present to see Adam receive his award.

After Luke left Adam took over, he employed Shaun Thompson as his apprentice and continued maintaining some great greens along the way.

In 2010, after 10 years at Chester Hill, the opportunity came up for a change of scenery and a new challenge - he didn't have to drive much further as it was just down the road at Birrong.

During the 15 years that Adam has been at Birrong he has hosted many big events, Pennant finals, playoffs, state games, Peter Mobbs' Shield and of course a Premier League final.

Adam takes great pride in the appearance of Birrong Sports; the surfaces on the greens he produces are first class year after year, his surrounds and gardens are always spotless.

Adam has successfully re-grassed two of his greens across to Tif-dwarf over the years and the greens at Birrong are some of the cleanest, tightest and fastest around.

Adam has plenty of bowling achievements to his name over the years, but some of his toughest competition has come at the Greenkeepers State Championships Week! Adam took out the Singles title in 2010; he was runner up in the Pairs in 2006 with John Flaherty and went one step better winning the Pairs with Luke Wade in 2013.



*Pictured: Living Turf's Mike Darlington with Adam Troth*

Adam joined the Committee of the NSWBGA in 2012. He attends all meetings and was a great help this year in organising our conference.

As a testament to Adam, he has been nominated for this award on three previous occasions, narrowly missing each time. The continuous high standards that Adam and Andrew maintain is a credit to them both.

**Congratulations Adam on being the 2015 Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year.**

Thank you to Living Turf for their ongoing support of our industry award and congratulation to all the nominees in 2015. We are looking forward to some more high quality competition next year.



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## Bowls Report by Shannon White



This year's NSW BGA Greenkeepers v NSW Legends for the Peter Mobbs' Shield was held at Corrimal Bowling Club in the Wollongong region on Monday 27 July.

With the Legends (pictured far page) picking a star-studded-side, it was going to be tough for the Greenkeepers (pictured below), but they were up for the challenge. The Greenies kept up with the Legends for most of the way, but the strength of the Legends side and some

local knowledge helped them skip away over the last few ends for a Legends win 130 to 107 with four rinks to two. Steve Glasson's rink was a deciding factor in the win with a 42-9 win over Paul Webb.

I would like to thank Corrimal Bowling Club for hosting the event this year and all the players for their continued support.

Don't forget to pencil in the Greenkeeper's State Championship week in early May next year. For any enquiries don't hesitate to give me or one of the Committee a call.



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# The Legend's Day Scorecard

NSW Legends	130	def	NSW Greenkeepers	107
J Hollier, T Clarke, G McGillivray & J Stokes	20	def	R Marmont, M Woods, R Cooper & B Morthorpe	18
K Smith, I Barrett, S Caundle & S Glasson	42	def	C Ridge, A Rodgers, D Ryan & P Webb	9
D Buttery, E Ronald, C Macauley & S Garvey	21	def	N Hancott, S Cooper, R Crean & S White	20
J Fitzgerald, P Hughes, B Morton & R Warren	17	def	D Hulkins, C Derks, L Wade & A Troth	12
M Pearson, R Malley, C Linton & M. Beesley	13	lost to	D Miller, M Keogh, M Dagwell & P Watts	19
K Forbes, M Duprez, S Clough & B Duprez	17	lost to	S Belloti, P Harfield, B Wilkinson & B Norman	29

*Pictured: The winning Legend's side*



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## President's Message with Mick Woods

First and foremost I would like to apologise for the September edition not making it to print. There have been some major distractions with John Flaherty (magazine editor and secretary) starting in a new role that severely hampered his ability to put all the necessary parts in place. I also have resigned from my position at Guildford and accepted a position with South Tamworth Bowling Club; this has also reduced my involvement in recent times with relocating and settling into a new area half a state away.

Now onto more pressing matters:

The long range forecast for this spring/summer is extreme, with above average temperatures expected for most parts of the state and lower than normal rainfall although there may be some severe storms thrown in, just when you thought we didn't already have enough challenges. By the time this goes to print we will all be well and truly into our renovations. All the best.

I would also like to highlight one particular risk that I'm sure many of us take for granted when cleaning or working in gardens - NEEDLE STICK INJURY! Recently in the Sydney region a greenkeeper was pricked with a used needle while working through a garden bed.

While initial tests have been good, the incident has created great mental stress for the individual involved, and led to time off work.

My point is never be complacent while in the workplace as the most innocuous task can often be the most risky if not treated with respect.



I would like to personally wish all our members a safe and prosperous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Before you know it, it will be May and we will all be meeting up again at the beautiful South West Rocks Country Club for the 2016 State Championships. For those that didn't attend in 2015, the City Vs Country was brought back to life, I'm not sure where I'll qualify - might have to wait and see who's strongest.

Anyway stay safe. Farewell until next issue.

P.S. For the two blokes who shall remain nameless (Dave & Simon) giving me a hard time for moving to the country. Yes I now own an Akubra but am yet to purchase a big belt buckle, but give it time.

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## Rep's Report

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To start this report, I will say it was my great pleasure to present the Living Turf Greenkeeper of the Year Award to Adam Troth. This was presented at Corrimal Bowling Club, at the end of July, in conjunction with the Legends Day.

I first met Adam as an apprentice at Chester Hill Bowling Club in 1993 when I started my sales representative career. He had some good greenkeepers to learn from, including Chris Derks and Luke Wade who were present at Corrimal, to see Adam win his award. I'm sure they were both very proud to know that some of their knowledge and love of the trade has rubbed off on to Adam. At Chester Hill and now at Birrong Sports, which also maintains Bankstown Sports Bowling Club, Adam has produced very good greens on a continuing basis. The surrounds and gardens are first class and it is always a pleasure to walk into the club grounds. Andrew, Adam's Assistant, is an integral part of the setup at Birrong and Bankstown Sports

Club, and I know Adam thinks very highly of him.

There has been some movement in the club and greenkeeping side of things. Our President Mick Woods, has resigned from Guildford Bowling Club to take up the position at South Tamworth Bowling Club. A big move for Mick and his family and I know everyone wishes them all the best for the future. Just before Mick left Merrylands Bowling Club officially took over the running of Guildford Bowling Club and Cameron McClure, formerly the Assistant at Merrylands, has now taken the Head Position at Guildford Bowling Club. All the best Cameron.

Renovation time has arrived again and most Clubs have taken their first green out. As usual early good weather has been followed by cold, wet and windy conditions. As of mid-October, while writing this report, things look good for the renovations. Again a lot of greens are being converted to Tiffdwarf.

As this will be the last report before Christmas, everyone at Living Turf wishes all Greenkeepers and their families the best for the festive season and a great 2016.

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# Talking Ground Pearl with Danny Knight

*Danny Knight is the President of the Mid North Coast Greenkeepers and Greenkeeper at Urunga Bowling Club.*

As I have mentioned previously, Ground Pearl has long been a major problem in our area. We believe it may have been introduced to our greens through a particular sand source that a lot of us used at renovation time. Some greenkeepers seem to be coping with it better than others however no one yet has eradicated them completely. This year on my older top green I experienced the most damage in my 12 years at Urunga. This has pushed me into doing a lot more research on the critters to hope to gain a better understanding on how they operate and how they inflict damage.

Please be assured that I am no Percy Wong, simply a frustrated greenkeeper that is sick of having reasonable surfaces tarnished by these little mongrels. I am open to feedback and feel that open discussion may bring us closer to a solution.

## BACKGROUND

The studies that I found most useful indicate that several varieties of ground pearl have been discovered in southern parts of the USA and along the East Coast of Australia.

They are a problem in sugar cane and a few varieties of turf. Unfortunately for us the couch grass is one of the most affected varieties, along with zoysia and centipede grass. The researchers mention that they are most likely more wide spread than these areas, including Africa and Southwest Asia.

From what I can understand, the sugarcane industry studied the pests in the late 70's and early 80's. They discovered the products that did have an effect were already off the market and complete sterilisers such as Methyl Bromide were too cost prohibitive for the economics of the industry. I am still waiting on a reply from the Department of Agriculture but it seems that they have moved to Genetically Modified crops. There were thoughts back then that if an infected paddock was left fallow with no host plant roots to feed on, and the soil regularly turned, that the pearls would not survive. They managed to survive even after two years.

## LIFE CYCLE

Ground pearls are a form of scale insect, having fossorial legs. They have 3 stages of life; the egg, the nymph; and then the adult. Reports vary between one insect having a life of between 1 and 2 years. They excrete a wax like covering surrounding all but their piercing, sucking mouthpart.

It is the first instar (known as the crawler) that attaches itself to the root of the plant and does the damage to our turf. What we see on the surface in the middle of a hot summer's day is the pink adult female.



*Image courtesy Western Australian Agriculture Authority, 2013–2015*

She will be mobile in the profile until she finds a place to lay her eggs. Reports vary on the female laying between 100 to 600 eggs. The eggs hatch several days after being laid. They become "crawlers" and find a healthy root to attach. When they have eaten enough they become pearls and the cycle continues.

From what I can understand from the studies that I have read, the pearl population in our soils has a staggered cycle. What I mean by that is some eggs will start hatching in spring and some not until late summer. A plug removed in their active period generally reveals pink and yellow pearls and probably nymphs and eggs if a microscope is used.

It is believed an adult pearl will not move more than 2 inches laterally in a year. Greater movement is most likely from mechanical means such as plugging, coring etc or possibly on the soles of shoes when the pearl is on the surface. One of the most difficult matters in controlling them is the fact that they can live up to 12 inches down in the profile.



## APPROACH

As we know, there is no registered cure for Pearl. In discussions I have had with colleagues we tend to believe that the broad spectrum nature of the old off market insecticides were controlling Pearl when targeting other pests. Now insecticides, in order to gain registration, need to be target specific so as not to damage favorable organisms.

I have two rays of hope I am basing my approach on:

- One of the sugarcane studies I found stated that if the adult female was distressed at all she would not lay eggs.
- I began at Urunga after the previous greenkeeper left in un-amicable circumstances, and I had no diaries or spray records to look back on. There were however quite a few empty drums of fertilizer which contained Melaleuca Oil, a natural insecticide. I did not realise I had a pearl

problem until a couple of years into my tenure and believe that the Melaleuca Oil may have been having an effect on the pearl. The waxy coating on the pearl is obviously their natural defence against insecticides. Therefore the belief is that we need to apply some form of oil to possibly weaken this coating.

My strategy is to have some form of insecticide in the soil throughout the whole 12 months of the year. The aim with that is to hopefully break their life cycle, make the female uncomfortable to reduce egg laying or perhaps control the nymph before it can develop its waxy coating.

To do this I plan to use both systemic and contact insecticides. An application of Acelepryn (which has a 6 month systemic control) in early spring and early autumn. Rotation every 2 months of Merit and Meridian to give alternative systemic control.



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To compliment the systemics, an application of various contact insecticides on the infected areas on a weekly or fortnightly basis depending on the products used. I am doing this with a watering can making sure to include a buffer zone of around 50cm outside the patches also.

I feel it is essential to include the use of wetting agents to help to deliver the products deeply into the root zone.

### PLANT HEALTH

I'm sure that I copped the damage I did from falling into the trap of allowing the green to dry out in the early spring to maintain pace for the bowlers. The pearl thrive in dry conditions and the plant health suffers. That was silly in hindsight because with the use of wetting agents the green is running well anyway a couple of days after watering.

The application of Kelps, Phosphorus, calcium and manganese are essential in growing strong roots to combat damage. I would also

encourage the application of Trichoderma to protect the roots. This will also give protection from fungal problems such as ERI.

There is belief also that Pearl damage is increased when the pH drops, so aiming at a pH up closer to 7 will be beneficial to the plant.

As mentioned earlier I am not a scientist. I have written this article, based on my own research and ideas, to generate discussion. If anyone has any further ideas, I am sure we would all like to hear them.

Fingers crossed!  
Danny Knight

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## Around the Associations

### ACT Region with Mark Bateman



It has been a successful last few months of bowls for greenkeepers in our region with Wattsy, Dags and Jimmy all winning their Major Club Pairs. That meant they had qualified for the ACT Champion of Club Champion Pairs at Belconnen.

Jimmy and Wattsy happened to draw each other in the first round with Jimmy and his Pairs partner defeating Pete Watts, before being knocked out in round 2. It was a similar story for Mark Dagwell, He won his first round game before being knocked out in round 2. Great to see the boys having success on the greens and I had also been informed that the ACT region done well against the NSW Legends.

We recently held a greenkeepers bowls day at Tuggeranong Bowling Club. It was a successful day played on great greens and was proudly sponsored by Nuturf. We had over 70 bowlers in attendance!

Another greenkeepers bowls day was held at Queanbeyan RSL on September 25th, sponsored by Living Turf.

We have now purchased a new trailer for our John Deere Aercore 800 (*pictured*) and are now fully set up for the upcoming season. We



will be hiring it out to our Region's active members. ACT will be hosting the Australian Sides Championships in March 2016. The successful clubs named to host this prestigious event are Queanbeyan Bowling Club and Queanbeyan RSL.

# Come & Play



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## Mid North Coast Report by Danny Knight

In his 66<sup>th</sup> year and after 25 years in the trade, Macksville Country Club's **Ken Martin** has hung up his ear muffs for the final time and retired. A heart by-pass operation just over 12 months ago helped to confirm his decision to slow down, relax and enjoy the golden years with his wife and good mate, Pam. They don't have any immediate desires to travel, just to iron out their health niggles and tick off a few jobs on their list around the house. Marto did mention that "Happy Hour" may come around a little earlier each day.

Ken started at the Country Club in June 1990 as off-sider to our local legend **Gary "Brother Wit" Witte**. Ken was born in Macksville in 1949 and has remained a local ever since. As many locals did, Ken began his 'degree' at the town's major employer of the time, Midco Meatworks. He worked predominantly in the fridges and cool rooms until moving to the company's small goods plant and working as an engineer. He also had a stint in the workshop at Eastland Auto's, a car yard and mechanical repair business.

Marto has always been very handy on the tools, saving the Club plenty of money and time over his 25 years. His expertise has also helped out other locals and greenkeepers, always being willing to lend a hand.

When the job at Scotts Head Bowling Club became available at the end of 1992, Gary Witte left Macksville and Marto had a new boss. A dark, tall, handsome young sportsman from Newcastle took over, a lad named **Duncan Elphick**.

Ken continued gaining trade knowledge under Dunc until the Club hit some hard times in 1999. Money became so tight that it looked like Ken had to go.

Duncan, being one of nature's gentlemen, didn't like this scenario. He found a job for himself at Ballina and started in December 1999, ensuring Ken kept his job in his beloved Macksville. Both men deserve credit for this, Duncan, for looking after a mate, and Ken, for having the guts to take the step up at a time when things were tough. After a lifetime of spanners and sockets, Marto suddenly had the stewardship of a nine hole golf course and two bowling greens with little more than volunteer help. Times have since got better for the Club and Ken has been able to provide both bowlers and golfers very nice surfaces on a consistent basis.

When asked what the most notable challenge was that he faced in his time at Macksville, he went back to the tools and said "the biggest challenge is trying to service the newer golf course machinery ...everything is so bloody hard to get at!" I'm sure he would take a Holden Kingswood over a Lexus hybrid any day.

The Club put on a farewell for Ken where many complimentary words were spoken, none more so than from colleague and close mate, Brother Wit. He was given five years free membership at the Club for both golf and bowls. Marto was very thankful but quietly wondered if they knew something he didn't as he plans to be around for a little longer than that!

**On behalf of all of the Mid North Coast boys we wish Ken and Pam the very best in retirement and thank him for the support and comradery he has given us over the years.**



With Marto moving on, his position has been handed to another Macksville product, **Beau Lavender**. Beau grew up in Macksville and has always been a keen golfer currently playing off a handicap of 6. Beau completed his apprenticeship at Coffs Harbour Golf Club under the well-respected eye of Superintendent **Justin “Pup” Sheehan**.

Justin began his career at Mudgee Bowling Club before moving to Coffs where he completed his time under ‘legend’ **David Scutts**. He then became Scuttsy’s 2IC. To further his career Justin left Coffs for Superintendent roles at Mudgee Golf Club, Beverley Park Golf Club and the highly ranked Cabramatta Golf Club. In his time he also sat on the board of the AGCSA before moving back to Coffs to take on the head role. Both Scuttsy and Pup are ‘hands on’ leaders, leading by example behind a shovel rather than a keyboard. This background will auger well for Beau as the workload will be shared by himself and apprentice **Josh Bartlett**.

After completing his apprenticeship at Coffs, Beau spent his final two years there in the role of irrigation tech. He was lucky enough to be a part of the team that installed a completely new irrigation system 3 years ago. Being a 27 hole course this was a major operation and no doubt Beau would have gained valuable experience and knowledge. In his time at Coffs, apart from the intense day to day maintenance, other major projects included the regular upgrading of the cart paths as well as transitioning many of the fairways from native varieties to couch.

Being a local boy and having a genuine love for his home town course, Beau wants to put that passion into the surfaces at the Country Club. He hopes to continue the fine work that Marto produced and over time implement his own refinements to enhance the pleasure for both golfers and bowlers.

Beau is honoured to be gifted this role in his own home town and plans to reward the club with strong work ethics and hard work. He hopes to use this opportunity to enhance his skills over all aspects of the trade. He also ensured that this will be no short term role. As with any young, driven tradesman Beau has not ruled out furthering his career in the future, just not any time soon.

We welcome Beau to our Association and we are certain he will be a valuable asset to both us and the Macksville Country Club.

Our Carnival Day was held on the 18th August this year at Scotts Head. As always host greenkeeper, Gary Witte, had the green looking beautiful and running exceptionally well. 68 players enjoyed blue skies, cold beer and the event ran seamlessly thanks to Brother Wits hard work. \$870 profit was made on the day to assist us in getting to meetings and maintaining a strong association. We also make an annual donation to the charity, Give me 5 for Kids.

These days are always a great get together and we thank all that attended and especially Scotts Head Bowling Club for their hospitality.

I spoke recently to another legend of the trade, **Smokey Dawson**. After 50 years of service to the industry, Smokey is enjoying a well-earned retirement in his old home town of Glenn Innes. Smokey did mention that another legend, George Wilson, is having some health issues at the moment so it may pay for his old mates to drop him a line to cheer him up.

## Tweed/Byron Bowling Greenkeepers Association with Michael Turner

President: Paul Earl (Pottsville)

On Saturday the 29th of August the Association put an event on at Cabarita Sports Club. It was a very successful day with three greens full and 42 teams. The teams travelled from as far as Bribie Island and out to Lismore. The day was won by Luke Wade (Helensvale) and Graham Cooper (Tugun).

Our next day was our yearly grudge match the Tifdwarf shield NSW Vs Queensland which was held on Friday the 25th of September at Burringbar Sports Club.

This day consists of greenkeepers from the Tweed Byron Association & Northern Rivers Association, playing against the Gold Coast Association as well as some from Brisbane. The day was taken out by NSW by 13 shots, 4 rinks to 3. We would like to extend our appreciation to Paul Lierse from Turf Care solutions for being the major sponsor for the day as well as Burringbar Sports for hosting the day.

There are some photos from the day and for the members on Facebook there is a short video of the presentation on the NSW Bowling Greenkeepers Facebook page.

In October some of our members will be going to Yamba for their annual event - this will be our last event for the year.



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*Pictured: Serious stuff at the Tweed/Byron Tiffdwarf Shield. Looks like the Blues came out on top!*

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Crown Ridge Soft Leaf Buffalo

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- Deep rich green colour, soft fine leaf, deep root system
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- Excellent
- Great for kids
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## Maintenance

Regular fertilizing every 3 months ensures deep, rich green colour is maintained year round.

## Other Varieties Grown

Winter Green Couch  
Kikuyu

## Shade Tolerance

- Excellent, grows in full shade, filtered shade and full sun

## Mowing Heights

- 30-45mm in full sun
- 55-60mm in shade
- Minimal mowing required



## Contact Us

Geoff – 0415 493 771 (Qualified Greenkeeper)

Office: 71 Blacktown Road FREEMANS REACH NSW 2756

Farm: 331 Freemans Reach Road, FREEMANS REACH NSW 2756

[www.glenridgeturf.com.au](http://www.glenridgeturf.com.au)

# 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](http://www.fwc.gov.au).

Turfcrafterman	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](http://www.fwa.gov.au) or the Fair Work Australia Ombudsman at [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au).

## Available now – Relief Greenkeeper

**Ray Cooper is an experienced greenkeeper with more than 35 years experience, currently available for relief greenkeeping statewide.**

**If you need an extra pair of hands or holiday relief, please contact Ray on 0421 004 642.**

## 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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- ⊙ We have Coremasters for 5/8", 1/2" and Mini Tine coring.
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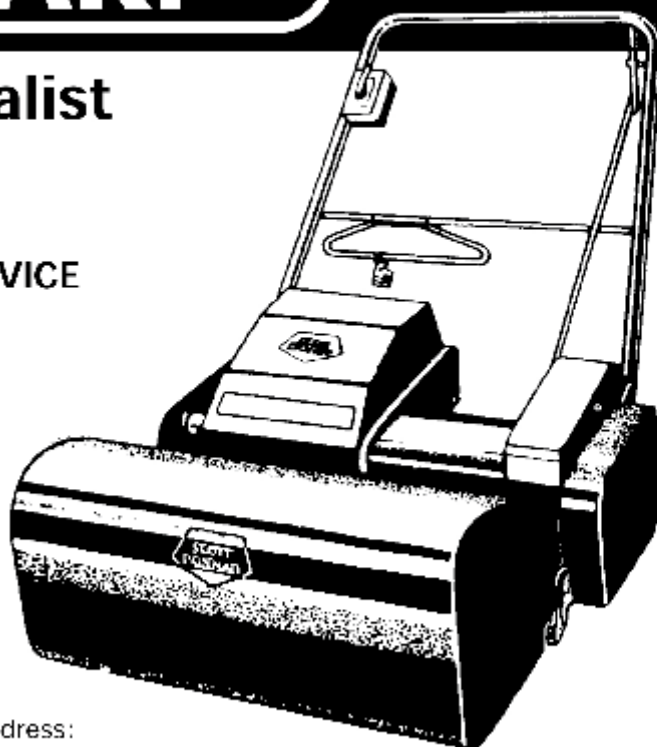
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**FACTORY: (02) 9476 4222**

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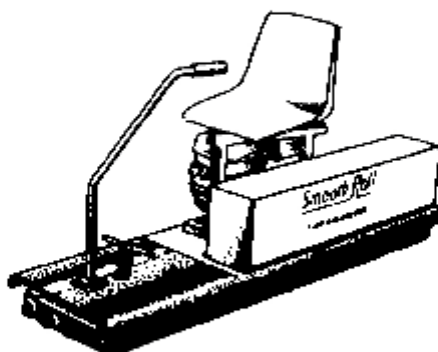


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