



South Australian Bowling Greenkeepers Association Inc.

Well after a season of weather extremes with records set and our pennant season in disarray which no greenkeeper wants (after all we are paid to prepare and maintain greens so that they may be utilized) the 2014 Federation Week in Canberra was ready to kick off. On Friday the 2nd of May twenty greenkeepers including a handful of social members headed off in two twelve seater busses our first stay being in Hay which was the half way point and the cold weather was already there to greet us mind you apparently it was the coldest day in May ever recorded in Adelaide on the day we left. Needless to say the South Hay Hotel did a roaring trade that Friday night and their hospitality was commendable. After a night in the Big 4 Caravan Park we were off early to our destination, Canberra.

After arriving in Canberra at about 5pm and checking into the Pinnacle Apartments situated near the Manuka Oval where Port Power were doing another demolition job on GWS it didn't take long before all greenkeepers from across the Nation were meeting up at the local Eastlakes Football Club (we may have also squeezed a quick couple of schooners in at the local Kingston Hotel before the whole Port Power contingent arrived and booked the whole dining room out!) for a meal and a gee up talk before the weeks events.

Sunday 4th of May was the official start of the week at the Queanbeyan RSL Bowling Club with registration occurring followed by lunch and the first test (fours pennant format) to be played after lunch. The boys played the Big V and we were victorious 65 – 43. Dinner was served after with Chinese food being the theme and boy did they feed us! So much so Bob Allen was eating his ice cream on the way out the door as the busses were leaving to take us back to the apartments, they will still serving !!!

Monday 5th of May was at the Tuggeranong Vikings Bowling Club with education being held by Nuturf in the morning followed by the championships format of singles, pairs and fours with each state making two entries to each and played before lunch. All SA teams made it through this knockout series which was an encouraging factor before having lunch and heading back out after to play our 2nd test against Qld which we had hard-fought win 77-67 after being well down early on! Dinner was then served in what was one of the most amazing facilities I have ever experienced.

Tuesday 6th of May we were at the Western Creek Labor Club in the morning was education presented by Gold Sponsor Syngenta talking on their insecticide Acelypryn followed by a machinery display discussion session before having lunch and then heading out for the 3rd test against home state NSW where we were victorious 81-63. This was to be a big day for everybody as after being served dinner we were to play our 4th test under lights against the Big V which we won 68-59, needless to say we took a bit of thawing out after that!

Wednesday 7th May started off with a small walk to Manuka Oval for a tour of the facilities which were fantastic but we were a bit gob smacked to learn all toilets for the outer public areas were all portaloos! The busses then picked us up and we all headed off for a tour of Parliament House which was an experience to remember, the building just went on and on and on a bit like the politicians really. In all seriousness Parliament house is something for every Australian to be proud of and it was great to see and hear how it all happens the stainless steel flag pole is a sight to be seen the flag being bigger than a double Decker bus! From there we travelled to the RUC Canberra North Bowling Club for a quick education session on the fungicide Instrata followed by lunch. After lunch were the semi finals of the championships which Nathan Pederson comes from well down to beat the previous singles winner from NSW to make it to the final. Both SA pairs won their respective finals to make it an all SA Grand Final but unfortunately both SA Fours combinations lost to make it an all NSW grand final.

Thursday 8th May saw us travelling to Queanbeyan Bowling Club where Federation President Wade Turner and his troops are based. Wade has a fantastic reputation and he wasn't about to disappoint anyone the greens/surrounds were immaculate. After an education session in the morning the 5th Test was played against QLD where we were again victorious 101-48. After lunch the Grand Finals of the Championships were played where SA finished runner up in the singles losing to QLD, SA champions in the pairs and NSW champions of the fours. A fantastic dinner was put on once again before heading off back to the apartments, I must give special mention to the half a dozen fish tanks along the length above the bar they looked awesome!

Friday 9th May saw some weary faces arriving to the Balconnen Bowling Club for a morning open discussion on Greenkeeping into the future where some very diverse and passionate opinions were heard and expressed by all particularly after a week of networking and sharing each other's experiences within the industry where we get to recognize differences and similarities between the four competing states. The 6th test was then played against NSW where we lost a closely fought game to eventually take out the series on a count back! This was the first time since 1987 the test series has been won back to back since 1987 and the first time since 1999 that an away state has won it! After lunch was served it was back to the apartments for a rest before the Wind up Dinner at Manuka Oval.

The dinner at Manuka Oval was a fantastic finish to what was a most enjoyable week the catering and hospitality at all clubs was very impressive. A special highlight of the night saw us all to share in Wade Turner receiving life membership. The professional presentation of the greens and facilities at all clubs also was inspiring and for the few younger apprentices on the trip I'm sure it was a real eye opener with regard to the extent of how far our industry has progressed and will continue to do so into the future. We were particularly lucky the weather Gods were smiling as each day brought sunshine for us all to enjoy the events of the week and I was personally impressed by Canberra it was a clean and pretty city. These events take a lot of hard work in organizing and the combined forces of the NSW and ACT Bowling greenkeepers Associations did a splendid job which made it one of the highlights of our careers. To all SA Greenkeepers well done and encourage your fellow comrades to be involved so that we may all enjoy the next Federation Week to be held in Victoria in 2017. Thank you also to all our sponsors the uniforms were again well sought after by the other states.