

## Presidents/Acting Secretary's Report

Well it's been a long time between drinks so to speak in what has been another entertaining spring/summer thus far to say the least. If there is one thing the modern greenkeeper has to keep one eye intently on it is without doubt the weather, and after a mild winter with good rain and what seemed good growing conditions to start with it has been windy, dry, windy and bloody windy!!! The wind and cool evening temperatures has in fact wreaked havoc with hybrid couch grass recovery particularly with the heavier soil types as all moisture/life was being sucked out of the leaf tissue by the wind whilst ultimately the soil really didn't get a chance to dry out although watering was imperative to give the leaf some respite. In what has been a real eye opener and talking to many other greenkeepers there has been problems mentioned such as Nematode, Couch mite, and even Ground Pearl all of which concerned Bowlos have been spraying not to mention fertilising like crazy to get some recovery. It has thus been amazing to witness a 180 degree turn around in growth and health of the plant since some genuine summer conditions have reared in the last four weeks, thank God! Although as I am typing we are experiencing the next test.....a heat wave!

There is a lot of conjecture regarding climate change and personally I can't help but feel the need for green areas such as bowling green's is undeniably an asset to the community not only aesthetically but in assisting in the natural process of the planet we need to assist in slowing down possible global warming. As water prices increase and put pressure on clubs financially I believe irrigated open spaces which involve the community need concessions, all sporting clubs need to unite and lobby local government. If only pokies had of been for clubs only the cost of water would undoubtedly be a non issue! And don't get me started on water being a scarce resource after one of the wettest winters how much was wasted out to sea via a concrete drain which has been happening for how many years? Committees/volunteers at bowling clubs are priceless and do a fantastic job but I feel in the scheme of things are totally undervalued by bureaucrats whom need to support community clubs more for the sake of mental/physical health for all generations to come. That being said I don't mean to discredit much of the positive work that has already been done such as the availability of recycled water etc. but this also comes at a cost one which not all clubs can necessarily afford and without a doubt the grant monies these days is hard fought for as more and more clubs come under pressure not only water wise but also for the improvement of facilities which seems to be an integral part of a modern bowling clubs success via social bookings/functions etc.

Onto some less philosophical banter it must be said congratulations to Scotty T and Wayne Ruedigar on their success in the recent ABL held at Pine Rivers B.C. I'm sure all greenkeepers and the local bowling community were extremely proud of your performance. With recent success against Victoria you can't help but feel the SA boys are snapping their teeth at the heels of the power states of NSW and QLD.

Talking of the national spectrum don't forget to register your interest in Federation Week to be held in Canberra Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Four 3 bedroom apartments have been tentatively booked so numbers will need to be confirmed by Feb/ March to assist in travel arrangements also. As a special licence is necessary for anything above a twelve seater we may have to hire two buses which will cost approx \$100 per person regardless of numbers. Registration for the week which includes meals, seminar and bowls will cost \$350. Accommodation will approximately cost \$350pp for the week with first in best dressed attitude being taken this includes being an up to date financial member and possibly paying a deposit as your commitment to going to be confirmed at the next committee meeting. Please contact Roger, Buster or myself to register your interest that being said we currently have a list to which people will be informed after the next committee meeting to be held in January as to confirmation. Buster has done a fantastic job in attaining sponsors for the uniforms. Thank you to all sponsors. Stay tuned.

Don't forget Buster's own Natural Turf Day this year known as the "Greg Daulby" Natural Turf Men's Fours Medley to be held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February at Salisbury bowling Club, 9:30 for 10 am start. See you there!!

Nigel Ryan.