



# HISTORY OF THE GCSAWA

A COMPILATION OF PAST COMMITTEE AND EVENTS FROM  
THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

OF

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

COMPILED BY THE  
2010 GCSAWA

COMMITTEE



## COMPILING THE DATA FOR THE HISTORY OF THE GCSAWA

The history of the GCSAWA has been compiled by sorting through past minutes and magazines to identify committee members and superintendents that have been appointed, decided to leave the industry and retired. Although best efforts have been made to include everyone and most events we do apologize if someone has been excluded or wrongly identified. This is a working document and if new revelations come the committees possession they will be included where possible.

Digital records were not kept within the GCSAWA until 2003 when they were combined on the GCSAWA computer in 2007. All previous digital data was compiled from personal computers from committee within the GCSAWA.

Due to Annual general meetings being held mid year and sometimes changing to accommodate conferences the terms of committee persons was hard to judge so a best fit attitude was given when determining the titles each year. A meeting of past presidents was held to help find the best fit approach and discuss the positions outlined.

Many thanks to past presidents and committee persons for their contributions and efforts and also to those who contributed to compiling the data.

## RE-SOWING THE SEED: RECOLLECTIONS OF THE GCSAWA

### INTRODUCTION

In preparing this brief history of the Western Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association, we have encountered clues about its origins but no documentary sources the meeting minutes of the GCSAWA prior to the mid 1980's have been lost. What we do have however are the personal recollections of past and present members of the association. The memories presented here largely belong to four superintendents or greenkeepers, who have served an average length of 32 years, spanning the period from 1939 to 1990. Patrick (Pat) Meagher was a practitioner of traditional greenkeeping. His job was taken over by Neil Adams, a past president of the association whose first exposure to turf care was in bowling greenkeeping. Geoff Osborne never worked for golf clubs in Western Australia, always choosing to be employed by a corporate boss in preference to a committee of volunteers. Trevor Strachan, a former secretary of the association, still works as a superintendent.

### BEGINNINGS

It is widely believed that a greenkeeper who moved from Victoria to Royal Perth Golf Club in the 1930's, Alan Barlow, started a golf course greenkeepers' Association in the 1930's but not to any similar body for golf course greenkeepers.

Pat Meagher recalls that the formation of a greenkeepers' association after World War 2 was opposed by the greenkeepers' employers the golf clubs. Apparently the clubs saw the formation of a body of greenkeepers as a thinly disguised attempt to form a labour union and a forum to push for improved wages and conditions. Neil Adams remembers attending meetings of a greenkeepers' association held at the WACA in the 1970's. We have confirmation the Alan Barlow was at Royal Perth Golf Club in 1970 (apparently in the process of establishing an automated watering system for fairways and greens) because Dermott Reilly, agronomist for Amalgamated Chemicals (Australia) Pty Ltd of Sydney, visited him there. Alan Barlow was made a life member of the GCSAWA, an honour bestowed in recognition of service to the association. Neil Adams knows of only three other life members: himself Geoff Osborne and Pat Meagher could we be justified in thinking that the oldest known life member might have started the association? Next in our collection of clues, is a report of the 1976 national conference, which lists Alan Barlow and R Lloyd at the two Western Australian representatives on the Australian Golf Course Turf Management Association. We know from reports of the formation of the national association in 1972 that its executive was to be made up of the president and secretary of each state association. Therefore one could assume that Alan Barlow was president and that R Lloyd was secretary of a Western Australian Association in 1976. We also know however, that there were times throughout the 1970's when there was no representatives from Western Australia on the National body executive, so this evidence cannot be considered conclusive.

### GREENKEEPING THE TRADITIONAL WAY.

Pat Meagher was a greenkeeper in the traditional sense that he came to the craft as an inexperienced youth and learnt largely through practical experience. Pat started at Lake Karrinyup Golf Club (LKCC) in 1939. Much of what Pat learnt in his formative years was probably passed on to him by his boss, Bob Bransbury head greenkeeper at LKCC. Bob had

probably obtained his knowledge in a similar manner. Pat worked 12 hour shifts and had to water the course at night, using a hurricane lamp to illuminate his path so he could change the sprinkler positions.

Pat worked with a friend who like himself lived within cycling distance of LKCC at Osborne Park. The two would ride their bicycles to the course often against a strong north wind. One day they got to work 5 minutes late, their boss said, "you're late! You're docked a day's pay, go straight home, and don't bother working if you can't arrive on time. Come back tomorrow and don't be late, if you are you're fired". This was a stern reminder of the attitudes to work that had prevailed since the great depression and an indication of the place of young greenkeeping staff in the pecking order at a golf club such as LKCC.

Pat remembers joining the Western Australian Association at about the same time he was promoted to head greenkeeper at LKCC in 1970. When he retired in 1984, he was presented with a new set of Wilson golf clubs by LKCC as well as a life membership of the GCSAWA.

In 1974 Geoff Osborne moved from Tamworth NSW where he had been the golf clubs superintendent for three years, to take up the post of superintendent at a course that was to be Sun City Country Club at Yanchep, WA. Having been a protégé of Vince Church at Pennants Hills Golf Club for seven years prior to his move to Tamworth, Geoff was deemed well qualified for the task of constructing on behalf of Bond Corporation Holdings a new golf course. (The course was supposed to be the base for Alan Bonds America Cup Defence). The construction project occupied much of his time. Working for a corporate developer Geoff found much greater demands on his time than the golf club greens committee or the secretary manager at Tamworth ever had. Consequently Geoff was not much involved in the affairs of the GCSAWA.

In 1984 Geoff moved from Yanchep to take up a new challenge, another golf course construction. This time it was at the Joondalup Country club some 13 Kilometers north of the Perth CBD. Once again Geoff worked without answering to a golf club greens committee or a secretary manager, his employer here was the Joondalup Development Corporation, a state government business enterprise. Strathayr founder, Bill Casimaty sought out Geoff during the construction of Joondalup Country Club Course in 1984. Casimaty had heard of Geoff's experience in turf management and needed a local representative for his new turfgrass nursery operations in Western Australia. So began a 16 year association that saw Geoff no longer exclusively a golf course superintendent, but a part time trouble shooter for Casimaty's global turfgrass business visiting racetracks in Hong Kong and sports arenas in the USA. Upon completion of Joondalup Geoff moved onto his next construction challenge contracted by the Asian owned Top Gear Corporation to construct the Araluen Golf Course south east of Perth near the regional township of Armadale in the early 1990's.

In 1990 Geoff took a course in public speaking and over a period of six months prepared a paper he would present at the 11<sup>th</sup> National Turfgrass Conference in Sydney organised by the AGCSA. The segment called "Thinking Superintendents" was a featured presentation at national conferences from then on. Geoff's paper for this segment in 1990 was entitled "You reap what you sow" and in it he presented the case history of the construction of Joondalup Country Club using a video to illustrate his talk. In this way Geoff was able to import his experience to his peers, as many as superintendents have done through the activities of professional associations.

Geoff considers that he was not in a position to give the GCSAWA the attention it required to prosper and grow when he became president in the 1980's fulfilling the responsibilities of a corporate golf course superintendent with a young family occupied too much of his time. Nevertheless serving for about two years Geoff had a brief but interesting term as president of the GCSAWA. As he puts it he had dubious distinction to preside over a committee whose treasurer allegedly absconded with the associations funds and whose secretary allegedly shredded the association's minute book!

## PROCESS OF REVITALIZATION

The attention required to nurture the GCSAWA was to be given later, initially by Neil Adams and Trevor Strachan. Indeed, past president Neil Adams, sees the history of the Western Australian association from the mid 1980s as a process of revitalisation.

Neil's story begins on a wheat and sheep farm but, because Neil's property was too small to be successful, he moved to Perth in 1970. In 1972-73 his preference for outdoors employment motivated him to take a part-time job as a assistant greenkeeper at Scarborough Sports Club where he tended bowling green's two to three days per week. To qualify as a greenkeeper he studied part-time for two years at night school, attending Claremont Technical College, where Alan Barlow was in charge of the training course.

In April 1974 Neil started as an assistant to head greenkeeper Pat Meagher, at Lake Karrinyup Country Club, where Neil could see a career path before him. In 1984 he landed the superintendents job at LKCC. When he became superintendent his only qualification was his greenkeeping ticket and the benefit of 10 years previous under Pat Meagher. In 1984 things started off well as Neil was in charge of the construction of an extra nine-hole course as LKCC already had plenty of land. Earlier the club had developed and sold off 100 acres and even now they could fit another 18 holes into space between holes, every hole is isolated from all the others. Mike Wolveridge the architect appointed to LKCC, came up with the design for the nine-hole short course. It was especially designed for golfers who found the walk between holes more of a challenge than they wanted: The Lake Karrinyup course is pretty hilly they call the 18<sup>th</sup> hole on the main course 'Cardiac Hill'. Another reason for building the nine-hole course was the demand on the main course had become so great members had to book three or four weeks in advance because the course was so busy. This increase in demand on facilities is partly why golf course greenkeepers all over Australia have had to engage in continual professional development in terms of education, technology and management skills.

Neil left LKCC in 1994 changes were in the wind. There was a new club committee at LKCC in 1994 and they wanted to bring in new blood so they offered him an early retirement. "It was a pretty good offer so I took it" Neil said. Neil became involved in the Western Australian association after the 1982 Warrina Conference in South Australia. Pat never put his hand up to go anywhere but I wanted to go to the conference. It wasn't right for the 2IC to go without the superintendent so after 48 years Pat went to his first conference. Neil was inspired by the people he had met at the 1982 conference and wanted to push the Western Australian Greenkeepers Association. Not much was happening in WA at that point in time. Of the 15 to 20 members there were only about 12 superintendents in total.

Neil first attended meetings of the greenkeepers association in the mid 1970's with John Vernon, (also an assistant) and Roy Abbott. Meetings were held at the WACA. When he first joined, Neil's understanding was that greenkeepers had to be represented by a union because they were workers. The secretary managers were the bosses, "there was a definite boss-worker relationship".

When Neil became president in 1985 the secretary was Tim Chape. The previous secretary had trashed everything. There were no records. So the association's early history from 1964, as it can be revealed by records of correspondence and minutes (not to mention champions of golf days), has been lost. The previous president's wife was secretary/treasurer and they had let finances drip into the red. Cheques bounced so Tim Chape and I kicked in out of our own pockets to pay creditors.

Regular monthly meetings were usually combined with golf days. Five people made up the State Association Committee: president, secretary, treasurer and two committee members (one of whom was a vice president).

The plan to revitalise the State Association had two main thrusts. They were to develop the educational and fraternal aspects of the association. The intention was to encourage greenkeepers to believe in themselves by raising the professional standards. The contemporary golf course superintendent takes a jacket and tie as accepted dress. In Geoff Osborne's presidential days in Western Australia things were a little different. Geoff recalls when he was first invited to enjoy the hospitality of the inner sanctum of the Royal Perth Golf Clubhouse. In order to comply with its dress code, he had to borrow one of Alan Barlow's jackets and a tie. Alan was considerably bigger than me. I must have looked like Quasimodo! To illustrate how relaxed some of the members were in their dress standards, Neil Adams recounts one educational meeting, which was open to bowling greenkeepers, school grounds managers and council parks and grounds managers, at LKCC. The managing secretary was standing with me as some of the guys were coming up the driveway dressed in jeans and ugg-boots and he said, "Get them round the back before the members see them!" LKCC is very strict on dress rules, so we had to hide the guys near the pool and cancel the golf. Some of these men were golf greenkeepers! This was the start of me being very strict on dress standards for all our members as a part of being proud of our job. To set an example of sartorial taste the members who went to the 1984 national conference decided to get themselves black blazers with WAGCSA emblem on the pocket which they wore with grey trousers. They were a smash hit at the 1984 conference!

The association's attempts to attract members were not limited to the relatively small number of golf course superintendents. According to Neil Adams, if you count all the superintendents there are less than 20 in Western Australia. So it was always going to be a small association. They had to find a way of broadening their membership base so they allowed the 2ICs to become association members. And we encouraged trade members because there were commercial benefits to both parties. Sponsors included Alroh, Toro, Deveson Jahn, and Rainbird representatives as well as fertiliser salesmen. Each sponsor would donate \$50 each for a golf day. These aspects make WA different to the Eastern States associations. In 1984 there were only around 20 members but by 1986 there were around 100 members including trade members 9



sponsors and anyone involved in turf maintenance sales and a lot of them are still members today. As well as assistant superintendents and greenkeepers membership was open to all others who were willing to learn about greenkeeping, golf course maintenance or becoming a superintendent. The association had to make some changes to their constitution to accommodate their particular requirements regarding membership make-up. "We borrowed largely from Victoria's State constitution and adapted it to our needs" says Neil. It had to allow a provision for trade members because they gave tremendous financial support. "It's easier to get ten people to give you a hundred dollars than it is to get one to sponsor you for a thousand."

### EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For many years education qualifications were not a prerequisite to being hired as a golf course superintendent. They were all practical not theoretical it was the practical experience that counted back then remembers Neil. That did not mean, however that education was not valued. The first meetings Neil organised were around the pool where there was a suitable outdoor area at Lake Karrinyup Club. In around 1983 meetings would be held at least once a month at a different golf course to hear educational speakers on topical information.

As part of the push to lift professional standards, one of Neil's initiatives as president was to introduce formal meetings. The format included two hours of education followed by a light lunch and a game of golf. Because of the former financial situation of the state association they did not want to incur expenses that they could not meet so members had to pay their money up front to attend these meetings.

The education of new greenkeepers was also given some attention. Neil organised to upgrade the certificate presentation and award night for graduate greenkeepers to encourage new recruits to take pride in their education. Lin Hambleton, who is now retired but was a TAFE horticulture lecturer, was the main instigator of the award nights, they took the step to upgrade the event to a most prestigious night. "We had a MC, the Channel 7 weather presenter ( he still does it today) to present certificates of qualification at a big awards night for graduates". The first award night was held at the basement room at the WACA, the wives each brought a plate of food. Kim Bailey was a sponsor for the awards night then and still is.'

Another means of lifting their game with regard to both professional standards and development was to host a conference. In 1986 Neil sensed that it was now or never if we didn't get it then, I felt we wouldn't get another chance. So they put in their bid for a first national turf conference to be held in Western Australia. They had to prepare a written submission to present to the national conference committee so they solicited assistance from the WA Tourist Bureau, who offered professionally presented packages. The Bureau provided them with a presentation. It included VIP testimonies the reasons why Western Australia was good place to have a conference. It was a glossy brochure and, when contrasted with Sydney's more modest two-page, typed submission, it took about 30 seconds flat to win WA the right to host the 1988 conference. NSW conceded defeat.

To practise for the big event the GCSAWA in 1987 held, a mini State conference. This was a trial to see if they could get 100 out of blokes for a two-day conference. They invited Dr Peter Rankin, a turf expert from New Zealand, who was attached to the NZ University who then went into private practice so it was going to cost \$1,000 to get him to WA.

The States had finally agreed in 1986 on a means of forming a national association called the AGCSA. As the 1988 conference host, Neil Adams was the national president so it was his objective between 1986 and 1988 to encourage everybody to be of one mind and remove State prejudices. In order to achieve and consolidate that fellow feeling he wanted to make the 1988 conference a friendly conference. He chose a venue that was isolated so the delegates could not avoid socialising. In the Observation City Hotel Scarborough Beach, the delegates were together from 7 am to 12 midnight. There was a happy hour every night and the hotel put them on at \$8.50 per head for drinks and snacks. On the first night, Neil said to the hotel bar manager, "No professional slowdowns here pour it on! We want the best of the best and everyone responds to a freebie".

Shortly after 1988 Neil withdrew from the presidency at a time when newer superintendents, some from the eastern states, were becoming involved in the activities of the Western Australian Association. "There was a good quota of young blokes, though the numbers are still small today by comparison with other states" Neil remembers.

Trevor Strachan began his green keeping career in the mid 1970's at the Melville Glades Golf Course. He became an active member of the GCSAWA as its secretary during the mid 1980's. As secretary of the national body prior to the Perth conference in 1988, Trevor remembers the moves towards reinventing the national association as the AGCSA.

Trevor was in the vanguard of the new breed of greenkeeper golf course superintendent. At his second conference, the 9<sup>th</sup> National Turf Grass Conference in Surfer's Paradise in 1986, Trevor presented a paper titled "Problems that a contaminated chemical can cause" in the Thinking Superintendents segment.

## REFLECTIONS

It is interesting to contrast the modern superintendent and the traditional greenkeeper using Trevor Strachan and Pat Meagher, respectively as examples. Trevor had attended two national turf grass conferences within the first decade of his career where Pat did not attend his first conference until he had almost reached retirement, after more than 40 years in his career. It took Pat some 37 years to gain the status of the 'top job' or superintendent. This is in stark contrast to Trevor, who was in the top job within a decade of the start of his career. In the year 2010 we see apprentices become superintendents even before they finish their apprenticeship term. Perhaps these differences indicate the extent of development in the craft of tending golf course playing surfaces in the period from the 1930's and now the present.

## THE EARLY 1990s

After the 1988 National Conference, the term "professional" was well and truly entrenched in the GCSAWA charter. Neil Adams had worked tirelessly to achieve this and many superintendents from here on would ultimately be the beneficiaries of this work. After Mark Claes's departure to Asia and a number of new golf course constructions, including Joondalup Country Club, Meadow Springs Country Club, The Vines, and Secret Harbour, a young generation of Superintendents started to steadily flow into the industry which assisted this newer "professional" image and golf clubs started to pick up on this style. Among some of new superintendents to take up positions into the early 1990s were Glenn Cross, Mack Logan, Jeff Lane, Jon Carter, Niall Laird, Rod Hindwood, Craig New, Michael Williams and more.

After the great success of the National Conference, conference organizer Elizabeth Bindon-Bonney was asked to act as executive secretary for the association and along with her small team of assistants greatly assisted the running of the association. Monthly association meetings were held in her West Perth office and the association started to have a "home" and a presence. A Post office Box for correspondence was set up at Karrinyup Post Office and still remains the associations' official mailing address.

Jeff Lane, President from 1992-95, recalls, "having Liz guiding us certainly helped keep us focused and was a terrific assistance while there were so many young guys on the committee." Whilst Jeff was President in 1992, the idea to have a regular State Conference was floated and the committee thought it could potentially be a great success. Again, Liz helped with the idea and subsequent organizing, and in July 1995, the inaugural GCSAWA State Conference was held. It was the first of what has become the feature occasion on the GCSAWA calendar, held every two years. The idea was to have a conference that alternated with the National Conference which was being held every second year. It was also a great way to get members together and following on from the theme of keeping guys together, has always been held in a regional area in the state's south west. The state conference has also given our South West members a chance to be involved more with the members. The conference usually runs for three days and has been hosted in towns such as Bussellton, Albany, and Margaret River. It also attracts many visitors from the eastern states. Guest speakers to have attended are: Doug Robinson, Gary Dempsey, Peter Williams, Martin Black and many more.

The early 90s was also a changing time for the National association and this also had implications with the states, and in particular, the GCSAWA. Up until this point, the AGCSA was merely a collection of the state presidents, with the president to host the upcoming conference, deemed the National president. Doug Robinson was the prime mover behind the notion to get the AGCSA standing on its own. It also meant it could stand alone financially and take full control over its affairs. This included the running of the National conference and any potential financial gains this brought.

In 1991, the AGCSA decided to "go it alone". Jeff Lane decided to stand for the inaugural National Board and was elected as Junior Vice President. Once he became President of the GCSAWA in 1992, he was now juggling two roles simultaneously. Some saw this as giving the GCSAWA a good voice at national level, however, it was this particular view that the AGCSA was trying eliminate by standing alone and all board members were encouraged to not think of their role as representing any particular state.

One of the first moves by the national association was to raise the membership fee and appoint a full-time executive officer. Euan Laird became the first in this position. He and National President, Doug Robinson, were the first invitees

to the inaugural GCSAWA conference. (Photo insert). The next idea was to utilize the executive officer and help build both national and other state associations by having the national association act as a secretariat for the states. The aim of this was for the AGCSA to collect membership fees for the states as well as the AGCSA. It was believed this would help streamline membership around the country and build greater member numbers for all associations. The move was received with much concern and nowhere more so than "the west." Jeff put the case forward at GCSAWA level, however, given that the GCSAWA was now in a better position than it had ever been, was thwarted by the committee. The GSAWA now had its own secretariat with Liz Bindon-Bonney, a brand new Conference on its own calendar, and was in better shape than ever. The committee was extremely reluctant to hand its administration over to the AGCSA and potentially lose this control. Some years on however, this is what has finally happened and is now a very successful policy. Jeff could see the long term sustainability of such a move but at the time the committee was hesitant. As it turned out, Liz not long after moved to a new role in Far North Queensland and the GCSAWA had to stand on its own. Committees changed from year to year and so began a new chapter.

#### 1995-1997 CRAIG NEW

Craig New arrived in Western Australia from Queensland in ..... and started as Course Superintendent at Lakelands Country Club where he still is today. In 1997, Craig took on the role of President for GCSAWA. The "professional" image was still being strongly encouraged amongst members and apparel was becoming more popular with GCSAWA blazers, ties and caps becoming quite the fashion at seminars, golf days and other events.

The 2nd GCSAWA conference was held and was moved to a new venue but still in WA's South West- Albany. Guest speaker for this event was John O'dell, a long standing and respected course superintendent of Royal Sydney Golf Club. The 2nd conference also became a great success with a couple of Golf Club managers attending also and the regular conference was off and running.

With the departure of Liz Bindon-Bonney, it was now the right time to hand over much of the administration to the AGCSA. In these early years, there were many teething problems but nothing that eventually didn't get ironed out and has remained in place ever since. Annual fees also took a big jump from \$20 to \$70 to cover some extra administration costs but mainly to assist the association provide a better service and support to its members.

1998-2001 Rob Macca

2002-2003 Devo

2004-2006 Brad Sofield

2007-2011 Darren Wilson

#### 40 YEAR AS A SUPERINTENDENT 1970 TO 2010

In 1970 Norm Ashlin began his turf career as course superintendent at Capel Golf Club. For several years the green staff comprised of just one person Norm, for which he was paid \$1.65 an hour. From Capel he would drive to Perth and as far as Sun City to attend association events and socialize and learn from the metropolitan superintendents. He is the only person today we know who has never worked under any other Superintendent.

Norm studied his Turf Management Certificate 1 & 2 commuting from Capel to Bentley TAFE for night class several times a week, staying overnight and leaving for Capel at 4 am from Perth to start work at Capel. He has since completed all stages of Turf Management up to and including his Diploma of Turf Management.

In 1980 the WA Golf Club approached Norm to fill the role as Superintendent. In this role he was paid an additional \$100 above what he was getting at Capel. Some 3 years later in 1983, he was again approached for the position as Course Superintendent at the soon to be constructed Collier Park Golf Course, at this stage it was still only a pine plantation. The course would open to the public in late 1984, with a staff of 3 where Norm would finalized the construction and

growing in of the final nine golf holes.

Norm's commitment to assisting the development of the turf industry came to the forefront in 1986 when in partnership with John Parish they conducted a series of trial work at Collier Park, most notably in the use of Oust to selectively remove kikuyu in couch. These trials lasted some 6 years. In 1992 and 1993 Norm assisted in the Couch and Bentgrass research trial work, then referred to as the National Couch and Bentgrass Trials.

Norm has written several papers for the national turf institutes including a paper on Argentine Stem Weevil which he was first to discover in WA at his own course. Additionally Norm has presented papers for the AGCSA during the 1998 and 2002 Turfgrass Conferences and on several occasions for us at state conferences and seminars.

On a personal level Norm worked voluntarily for 17 years from 1973-1990 doing community youth work with the Pathfinder Club for youths from 10-15 years of age. In 1998 Norm was awarded the 'Pride of Workmanship Award' by Rotary International and today commits to helping young people in and outside of the turf industry.

Norm Ashlin has certainly been a great ambassador for our association over many years and we were sad to see him retire but he will be remembered by all of us. So after 40 years as a golf course superintendent, one would think possibly the longest serving super in Australia he will always be remembered.

## 1983-1984

President

**Geoff Osborne**

## 1985

President

**Max Bilston**

## 1986

President

**Neil Adams**

## 1987

President

Neil Adams

Lake Karrinyup Country Club

Vice president

Geoff Osborne

Joondalup Country Club

Treasurer

Len Dowling

Royal Perth Golf Club

Secretary

Trevor Strachan

The Vines Resort

Committee

Nick Bell and Mark Claes

What Happened in 1987

- Greg Simmonds appointed the superintendent at Mandurah Park Golf Course,(Meadow Springs)
- Bill Watchman appointed superintendent at Binningyup Lakewood Shores

## 1988

President

Neil Adams

Lake Karrinyup Country Club

Vice president

Greg Simmonds

Mandurah Park Golf Club

Treasurer

Len Dowling

Royal Perth Golf Club

Secretary

Trevor Strachan

The Vines Resort

Committee

Mark Claes

What Happened in 1988



- Alan Devlin appointed superintendent at Burswood Casino Golf Course.
- Tim Chape leaves Lakelands Golf Club replaced by Max Bilson.
- Geoff Kirk Co-opted onto GCSAWA committee.
- Greg Conroy appointed as superintendent at Pinjarra Golf Club.
- Perth conference held at Observation City by the GCSAWA. This was the last national conference run by the state associations where all conferences in the future were to be run by the AGCSA.

## 1989

President	Neil Adams	Lake Karrinyup Country Club
Vice president	Greg Simmonds	Mandurah Park Golf Club
Treasurer	Gary Chatfield	Mandurah Country Club
Secretary	Glen Germon	Chidley Point Golf Club
Committee	Trevor Strachan and Mark Claes	

### What Happened in 1989

- Graham Banks appointed as superintendent at Capel Golf Course.
- Liz Bindon-Bonney appointed GCSAWA honorary secretary.
- Computer course held for members of the GCSAWA.
- GCSAWA constitution adopted at AGM.
- Neil Adams elected onto the national association as President.
- Greg Norman was asked to be our national patron but was withdrawn by the AGCSA because of his negative attitude to golf course superintendents .
- A two day seminar was held at Albany Golf Club, including the Rover Scott Bonnar Day.
- The Vines Holds a \$700,000 tournament, the richest in Australia.
- Joondalup Country Club opens up the last constructed 9 holes.
- John Hackett takes over as Superintendent at Seaview Golf Club from the retiring Jack Ross.
- Jeff Allen is appointed at Royal Fremantle with Jeff Lane his replacement at Sun City Golf Club.

## 1990

President	Mark Claes	Gosnells Golf Club
Vice president	Neil Adams	Lake Karrinyup Country Club
Treasurer	Gary Chatfield	Mandurah Country Club
Secretary	Daniel Varrey	Wanneroo Golf Club
Committee	Graham Banks, Jeff Lane, and Geoff Kirk.	

### What Happened in 1990

- Neville Barns from Esperance Golf Club appointed to Superintendent to Bunbury Golf Club.
- Len Corn 2IC at Cottesloe Golf Club appointed to Superintendent at Rockingham Golf Club.
- Len Downing retires from Royal Perth Golf Club.
- John Parish was given honorary membership to the GCSAWA,
- Geoff Kirk co-opted onto GCSAWA by president Trevor Strachan.
- Apprentice award to be given to the best apprentice annually at an awards night

## 1991

President	Mark Claes	Gosnells Golf Club
Vice president	Trevor Strachan	The Vines Resort
Treasurer	Gary Chatfield	Mandurah Country Club
Secretary	Jeff Lane	Sun City Country Club
Committee	Trevor Strachan, Neil Adams, Geoff Kirk and Graham Banks	
Management Challenge	Royal Fremantle Golf Club	
Apprentice of the Year	Rod Hindwood	Hillview Golf Club

### What Happened in 1991

- Apprentice of the Year award to be judged by Lin Hambleton.
- A newsletter was established as the association official publication, edited by Gary Chatfield.
- Graham banks developed the South West chapter and increased the involvement and increase of GCSAWA membership during this period.
- Couch grass trials were undertaken at Collier Park Golf Club with funding from the Australian Golf Union.
- Rottenest Golf Day held, all delegates flew to Rottenest on the old two prop planes in heavy rain; many remember the plane leaked water on the flight. Golf was played at the Rottenest Golf Club.
- First GCSAWA constitution printed and sent to members.
- DOSHA wrote to all clubs stating that by September 1st 1991 all clubs had to cage fairway tractors and provide staff with safety equipment and ensure they wear it including hard hats and address all other issues that they outlined in a seminar to all clubs. In response the GCSAWA in conjunction with the Managers Association enlisted Malcolm Nelson to research safety on golf courses and provide a guideline document for clubs which become the clubs duty of care in which they were encouraged to adhere to.
- Management Challenge is born, trophy donated by Trevor Strachan, Mark Claes and Neil Adams.
- Jeff Lane moves from Sun City to Gosnells Golf Club. Jeff's assistant Tony Etccl appointed superintendent at Sun City.
- Mark Claes accepts a superintendent's job in Hong Kong and Tim Chape takes over as state President.
- Jon Carter appointed super at Wanneroo Golf Club replacing Daniel Varrey.

## 1992

President	Tim Chape	
Vice president	Jeff Lane	Gosnells Golf Club
Treasurer	Gary Chatfield	Mandurah Country Club
Secretary	Jeff Lane	Gosnells Golf Club

Committee	Neil Adams, Alan Devlin, Glenn Cross and Geoff Kirk	
Management Challenge	Melville Glades Golf Club	
Superintendent of the Year	Rod Hindwood	Hillview Golf Course

### What Happened in 1992

- Rod Hindwood, Ross Gray, Glen Cross and Alan Devlin come onto committee.
- Gary Chatfield accepts a superintendent's job in Thailand.
- Membership costs rise from \$15 to \$60.
- Rod Hindwood leaves Hillview Golf Club and becomes the super at Royal Perth, Phil Moylan is his replacement.

## 1993

President	Jeff Lane	Gosnells Golf Club
Vice preside	Niall Laird	Melville Glades Golf Club
Treasurer	Ross Gray	WA Golf Club
Secretary	Rod Hindwood	Royal Perth Golf Club
Committee	Jon Carter and Geoff Kirk	
Management Challenge	Gosnells Golf Club	
AGCSA Superintendent of the Year	Trevor Strachan	The Vines Resort

### What Happened in 1993

- Trevor Strachan wins AGCSA Fellowship Award.
- Niall Laird and Jon Carter come onto committee.
- Ken Johnston sets up turf research funds in WA, project being greens construction to USGA recommendations. Golf clubs were asked to donate \$250 each into the project.
- Gosnells Golf Club wins Management Challenge.



## 1994

President	Jeff lane	Gosnells Golf Club
Vice president	Glenn Cross	Cottesloe Golf Club
Treasurer	Ross Gray	WA Golf Club
Secretary	Rod Hindwood	Royal Perth Golf Club

Committee	Jon Carter, Niall Laird and Geoff Kirk
Management Challenge	Royal Perth Golf Club.
Apprentice of the Year	Steve Cruikshank
What Happened in 1994	

- Neil Adams retires and leaves LKCC, Wayne Miller appointed superintendent at LKCC.
- Glenn Cross stands down from committee and Ross Grieve comes onto committee.
- Phil Moylan starts at Sun City Golf Club but leaves to take up a position in Asia within months and Gavin Castiglioni is appointed his replacement as superintendent.
- Neil Adams receives life membership to GCSAWA
- Tim Chape appointed superintendent to The Lakes Golf Club.
- Alan Devlin leaves Burswood and appointed super at Secret Harbour, replacing Glen Cross.
- Glen Cross leaves WA and moves overseas.
- Craig New is appointed superintendent to Lakelands Country Club.



Trevor Strachan and Neil Adams receiving life membership to GCSAWA from Trevor Strachan

## 1995

President	Jeff Lane	Gosnells Golf Club
Vice president	Niall Laird	Melville Glades Golf Club
Treasurer	Ross Gray	WA Golf Club
Secretary	Rod Hindwood	Royal Perth
Committee	Jon Carter, Craig New and Geoff Kirk	
Management Challenge	Secret harbour Golf Links	
Apprentice of the Year	Mike Healy	Hillview Golf Course



- Ross Gray stands down from the committee and Craig New comes onto committee.
- Biannual conference in Busselton held.
- Gavin Castiglioni leaves Sun City for Asia with James Henderson his replacement.
- Mark Claes returns to Perth and is appointed construction superintendent at El-Cabello Resort.
- GCSAWA withdraws their support for research into construction of golf greens by Ken Johnston due to the committee's opinion that the results were not of a high enough standard to submit to members.

## 1996

President	Craig New	Lakelands Country Club
Vice president	Jeff Lane	Gosnells Golf Club
Treasurer	Niall Laird	Melville Glades Golf Club
Secretary	Rob McDonald	Joondalup Resort
Committee	Tim Chape, Jon Carter and Geoff Kirk	

Management Challenge                      Melville Glades Golf Club

AGCSA Superintendent of the Year              Jeff Lane              Gosnells Golf Club

### What Happened in 1996

- Rob McDonald appointed superintendent to Joondalup Country Club.
- Dion Warr appointed superintendent to The Vines Resort after Trevor Strachan leaves to construct Port Kennedy Golf Links.
- Tony Johnston appointed as superintendent to Royal Perth Golf Club.
- Jeff Lanes wins the AGCSA Superintendent of The Year Award.
- Gavin Castiglioni returned from Asia and appointed super at Chequers replacing Terry Bilson.
- Jeff Austin Appointed superintendent at El-Cabello resort replacing Mark Claes who is appointed super at King Island Golf Resort in Vietnam.

## 1997

President	Craig New	Lakelands Country Club
Vice president	Rob McDonald	Joondalup Resort
Treasurer	Niall Laird	Melville Glades Country Club
Secretary	Rob McDonald	Joondalup Resort
Committee	Geoff Kirk, Tim Chape and Jon Carter.	
Management Challenge	Melville Glades Golf Club	
Superintendent of the Year	Niall Laird	Melville Glades Golf Club
Apprentice of the Year	Brad Sofield	Gosnells Golf Club

### What Happened in 1997

- Albany biannual Conference is held. John O'Dell is invited as the guest speaker.

- Craig New represents WA on the AGCSA National Association board.
- Helmet survey by members taken, 90% of clubs don't wear helmets but all superintendents are supportive of helmets except Norm Ashlin at Collier Park Golf Course.

## 1998

President	Craig New	Lakelands Golf Club
Vice president	Alan Devlin	Secret Harbor Golf Links
Treasurer	Rob McDonald	Joondalup Country Club
Secretary	Brad Sofield	Gosnells Golf Club
Committee	Peter Fleming and Geoff Kirk	
Management Challenge	The Vines Resort	
Superintendent of the Year	Alan Devlin	Secret Harbor Golf Links
Apprentice of the Year	Daniel Stavely	LKCC

### What Happened in 1998

- Code of practice developed in WA for the development and maintenance of turfgrass.
- Association involved in, steering committee water usage trials, Water and Rivers Commission Water Wise Committee, waste water usage, Industry Training Advisory Board and Environmental Impact Study.
- Craig New steps down as state president and AGCSA board.
- Burswood is host to the AGCSA national seminar.

## 1999

President	Rob McDonald	Joondalup Country Club
Vice president	Alan Devlin	Secret Harbour Golf Links
Treasurer	Jeff Iane	Gosnells Golf Club
Secretary	Brad Sofield	Gosnells Golf Club
Committee	Glen Cross and Geoff Kirk	
Management Challenge	Hillview Golf Club	
Apprentice of the Year	Grant Chettleburgh	Sun City Country Club
AGCSA Distinguished Service Award	Neil Adams	

### What Happened in 1999

- Niall Laird resigns from Melville Glades Golf Course after 14 years service, Brad Sofield 2IC at Gosnells is his replacement.
- Marc Logan resigns from Mount Lawley Golf Club as superintendent to go to America, Glen Cross is his replacement.

- David Wyatt resigns from Chidley Point Golf Club.
- Geoff Kirk is awarded a commemorative plaque in appreciation of his services to the GCSAWA after 12 years on committee.
- Neil Adams wins the AGCSA Distinguished Service Award at the 4<sup>th</sup> National Turfgrass Seminar held at Burswood after 25 years in the industry.
- Idris Evans is appointed superintendent at WA Golf Club replacing Ross Gray.
- Margaret Biannual Conference held with Doug Robinson invited as the guest speaker.

## 2000

President	Rob McDonald	Joondalup Country Club
Vice president	Alan Devlin	Secret Harbour Golf Links
Treasurer	Jeff Iane	Gosnells Golf Club
Secretary	Brad Sofield	Melville Glades Golf Club
Committee	Glen Cross and Geoff Kirk	
Management Challenge	Secret Harbour Golf links	
AGCSA Superintendent of the Year	Alan Devlin	Secret Harbor Golf links
Apprentice of the Year	Trent Rowden	Gosnells Golf Club

### What Happened in 2000

- Constitution booklet developed, printed and sent to all members.
- Hard hats on golf courses were becoming an issue throughout the industry with the AGCSA legal service consulted for advice.
- GCSAWA requires an ABN number.
- TGAA, (Turf Grass Association of WA) is formed and launched in WA.
- Mike Healy appointed Superintendent at Mandurah Country Club.
- Alan Greatareaux Dunsborough Lakes nominated for AGCSA Claude Crockford Award.
- Neil Adams wins Australian Sports medal for his outstanding dedication and commitment to the industry.

## 2001

President	Alan Devlin	Secret Harbour Golf Links
Vice president	Brad Sofield	Melville Glades Golf Club
Treasurer	Jeff Iane	Gosnells Golf Club
Secretary	Brad Sofield	Melville Glades Golf Club
Committee	Glen Cross and Geoff Kirk	
Management Challenge	Lake Karrinyup Country Club	
Superintendent of the Year	Craig New	Lakelands Country club
Apprentice of the Year	Scott Chambers	Mandurah Country Club

### What Happened in 2001

- Application to the EPA for a grant for a waste audit of all golf clubs.
- The GCSAWA committed \$6,000 over the next 3 years for turf research at UWA along with other industry partners.
- Turfest started at Murdoch TAFE.
- Rob McDonald resigns as state president to go on the AGCSA board. Alan Devlin becomes state president.
- Neil Thorpe takes up the superintendent position at Dunsborough Lakes replacing Alan Greatoreaux.
- Port Bouvard Golf Course at Dawesville commences construction under the eye of Trevor Strachan.
- Meadow Springs and Joondalup become owned by the same company Kingsfield Corporation.
- LKCC wins management challenge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cottesloe Golf Club and Kwinana 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## 2002

President	Alan Devlin	Secret Harbour Golf Links
Vice president	Brad Sofield	Melville Glades Golf Club
Treasurer	Jeff Lane	Gosnells Golf Club
Secretary	Brad Sofield	Melville Glades Golf Club
Committee	Andrew Fortune, Glenn Cross, Darren Wilson and Geoff Kirk	
Management Challenge	Royal Fremantle Golf Club	
Superintendent of the Year	Idris Evans	Westralian Golf Club
Apprentice of the Year	Nick Kinley	The Vines Resort
AGCSA Environmental Award	Craig Webbley receives his Apprentice of the Year Award from Jeff Lane and John Forrest	Social Function Family Bowls
	Jeff Austin	El Caballo Golf Resort

### What Happened in 2002

- Margaret River Conference was held, talks conducted by Wayne Miller LKCC, Brad Sofield Melville Glades, Eric Dennis Busselton Golf Course. Gary Dempsey from NSW Golf Club was the guest speaker.
- Waste management and recycling audit sent to all golf courses.
- Darren Wilson appointed superintendent at Wembley Golf Complex.
- Trevor Strachan appointed as superintendent at LKCC after Wayne Miller resigns.
- Jeff Austen wins the AGCSA Environmental Award.
- El Caballo Golf Resort closed for business with the superintendent Jeff Austin.
- Gavin Castiglioni leaves Chequers Golf Club with Jeff Austin his replacement.

## 2003

President	Brad Sofield	Melville Glades Golf Club
Vice president	Craig New	Lakelands Country Club
Treasurer	Jeff Lane	Gosnells Golf Club
Secretary	Darren Wilson	Wembley Golf Complex
Committee	Glen Cross Geoff Kirk and Craig New	
Management Challenge	Bunbury Golf Club	



AGCSA Superintendent of the Year

Idris Evans

WA Golf Club

Apprentice of the Year

Craig Webbley

Lakelands Golf Club

### What Happened in 2003

- Divots evolved into a multi page magazine with Jeff Lane the driving force.
- OH&S cd developed and sent to all A class members.
- Rob McDonald leaves Joondalup to return to the East Coast. Jeff Lane appointed as superintendent to Joondalup Country Club, Brad Sofield appointed as superintendent to Gosnells Golf Club.

## 2004

President

Brad Sofield

Gosnells Golf Club

Vice president

Craig New

Lakelands Golf Club

Treasurer

Jeff Lane

Joondalup Country Club

Secretary

Darren Wilson

Wembley Golf Complex

Committee

Alan Devlin and Geoff Kirk

Management Challenge

Secret Harbour Golf Links

Apprentice of the Year

Craig Webbley

Lakelands Golf Club

Life member

Norm Ashlin

Collier Park Golf Course

### What Happened in 2004

- Waste audit conduct David Dale and Associates.
- GCSAWA commissions the creation of Chemical Handling Induction Manual by John Forrest.
- Brendon large appointed as Superintendent to Melville Glades Golf Club.
- Margaret River Conference held in August, Martin Black from Castle Hill Golf Club invited over as a guest speaker. Paint ball was a great success with many attending and welts the order of the day.
- Secret Harbor won the Management Challenge, The Sanctuary 2<sup>nd</sup> and Cottesloe GC third which was held at Bunbury Golf Club.



## 2005

President	Brad Sofield	Gosnells Golf Club
Vice president	Craig New	Lakelands Country Club
Treasurer	Jeff lane	Joondalup Resort
Secretary	Darren Wilson	Wembley Golf Complex
Committee	Andrew Fortune, Michael Dennis and Geoff Kirk	
Management Challenge	Secret Harbour Golf Links	
Apprentice of the Year	David Higgins	Meadow Springs Country Club
Distinguished Service Award	Lin Hambleton	

## What Happened in 2005

- 9 Superintendents in Perth enroll in Challenger TAFE Environmental Management Systems Course developed by Steve Dargie.
- Norm Ashlin inducted as life member of GCSAWA.
- John Wanless appointed Superintendent at The Cut in Dawesville.
- E-mail was decided as the main contact medium between The GCSAWA and the membership.
- GCSAWA and Secretary Managers provided support to John Forrest to undertake research "Monitoring the Irrigation on Sandy Soils with Treated Effluent Water in Western Australia."
- Meeting with the Sectary Managers Association to find strategies in a joint effort to improve greenkeeping wages and stem the flow of staff leaving courses. Good discussion but no industry wide objective reached it was simply left to individual clubs to manage. We originally requested an open forum with the mangers and club officials to highlight the concerns to everyone which was declined by the managers.
- GCSAWA and Sec Managers commissioned CCI to create Golf Clubs Safety Induction Manual.
- GCSAWA and industry worked as body to secure a 4 year term for Turf Apprentices at a time when Government was pushing for 3 year fast tracked training programs.
- Last Heinekien Classic in Perth held then moved to Melbourne.
- Brad Anderson replaces Peter Heasley as superintendent at Sun City Country Club.
- Eric Dennis appointed to melville Glades as Superintendent.
- Callum Hitchings replaces Eric Dennis as superintendent at Busselton Golf Club
- Alan Devlin appointed onto AGCSA board.
- Mark Miller replaces Marc Costa at The Peninsula Golf Course.



David Higgins Apprentice of The Year  
Award with President Brad Sofield

South West Supers Day



Lin Hambleton with his Distinguished  
Service Award



Staff proud of their last Heinekien Classic



Josh Walker, Dixie Joy, Andrew fortune and Craig New

## 2006

President

Brad Sofield

Gosnells Golf Club

Vice president

Craig New

Lakelands Country Club

Treasurer

Jeff lane

Joondalup Resort

Secretary

Darren Wilson

Wembley Golf Complex

Committee

Andrew Fortune, Glen Cross and Geoff Kirk

Management Challenge

Mount Lawley Golf Club

Superintendent of the Year

Glenn Cross

Mt Lawley Golf Club

Apprentice of the Year

Blake Humble

Sun City Country Club

AGCSA Distinguished Service Award

Norm Ashlin

Collier Park Golf Course

What Happened in 2006



- First ever noise pollution survey undertaken by superintendents.
- Environmental awareness session held for superintendents and managers.
- Turf research levy introduced into the turf industry to help raise funds for turf research. Funded by the sales of turf.
- Turf Industry Education Committee formed in Australia to introduce a national standard.
- Alan Redmayne resigns from Cottesloe Golf Club to work for McMahon's construction. His 2IC Simon Bourne is appointed superintendent.
- Kevin Morris leaves Rockingham Golf Club, Tim Chape from Hartfield Country Club is appointed superintendent to replace him. Ashley Howse 2IC is appointed superintendent at Hartfield GC.
- Mount Lawley wins the management challenge from Joondalup Country Club with Royal Perth 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Biannual Conference held at Margaret River Peter Williams guest speaker.
- 4<sup>th</sup> October the Association hosted a day titled "Environmental Awareness & Responsibilities for Club Directors and Employees" with Club officials, DEC and Terry Muir from Epar which was the pivotal point in moving state involvement with E-par forward.
- The Vines Resort Host to The 2006 Johnnie Walker Classic.
- Phil Moylan returns from Asia and is appointed superintendent at Melville Glades replacing Eric Dennis.
- Jeff Austin Leaves Chequers Golf Club to teach at TAFE with Gavin Castiglioni his replacement.



Blake Humble GCSAWA Apprentice of The Year Award



GCSAWA members at The 2006 Margaret River Conference





Association Members at the 2006 Johnnie Walker Classic



2006 Toro Cup Margaret River



Jon Carter Winner Toro Cup



2006 Team Building Paint Ball





Mt Lawley wins Management Challenge



Geraldton Golf Club plays in Management Challenge

## 2007

President	Darren Wilson	Wembley Golf Complex
Vice president	Craig New	Lakelands Country Club
Treasurer	Jeff Lane	Joondalup Resort
Secretary	Glenn Cross	Mount Lawley Golf Club
Committee	Brad Anderson and Geoff Kirk	
Management Challenge	Mount Lawley Golf Club	
AGCSA Superintendent of the Year	Darren Wilson	Wembley Golf Complex
AGCSA Apprentice of the Year	Peter Beach	Gosnells Golf Club

### What Happened in 2007

- Lake Karrinyup undergoes a major reconstruction program.
- Jeff Lane resigns from Joondalup Country Club to work at paradise Palms in Cairns, Ashley Watson 2IC is appointed superintendent.
- Mount Lawley wins management challenge form Maylands Golf Club with Rockingham 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Peter Black leaves Toro after 20 years service.
- Ewan Nettleton resigned from Capel Golf Club to undertake his Masters Degree at Sydney University.
- Mark Lewis appointed superintendent at Margaret River Golf Club replacing Jim Jeffries.



Darren Wilson AGCSA Superintendent  
The Year



Peter Beach AGCSA Apprentice of The year



USA Trip Josh Walker, Alan Devlin, Idris Evans  
And Matthew Day



Golf Winners Peter Fleming and Brad Anderson



Management Challenge Winners



Secret Harbour Management Challenge



## Mount Lawley Golf Club

### 2008

President	Darren Wilson	Wembley Golf Complex
Vice president	Brad Anderson	Sun City Golf Club
Treasurer	Craig New	Lakelands Country Club
Secretary	Brad Sofield	Gosnells Golf Club
Committee	Simon Bourne, Glenn Cross and Geoff Kirk	
Management Challenge	Mount Lawley Golf Club	
Apprentice of the Year	Luke Hoglin	Wanneroo Golf Club
Australian Golf Digest Superintend of the Year	Darren Wilson	Wembley Golf Complex

### What Happened in 2008

- A fire goes through the Vines shed and causes severe damage to machinery and the irrigation system.
- Tim Chape resigns from Rockingham Golf Club and takes up the position as 2IC at Sun City under his step son Brad Anderson.
- Neil Graham replaces Greg Conroy as superintendent at Pinjarra Golf Club.
- Corey Bandy is appointed the superintendent at Rockingham replacing Tim Chape.
- Aaron Petrovski 2IC at Royal Perth appointed Superintendent at Nedlands Golf Club after long time serving super Bill Killmurray resigns.
- Movember hits the GCSAWA to raise funds for men's health.
- Darren Wilson from Wembley Golf Complex wins the Australian Golf Digest Superintendent of The Year
- Mount Lawley wins Management Challenge from LKCC and Bunbury Golf Club 3rd.
- Darren Morphett appointed superintendent at Collie Golf Club.
- Geoff Kirk formerly recognized at The AGM for his 20 year service on the GCSAWA committee.
- Alan Devlin becomes AGCSA president as Jeff Gambin stands down.
- Rottenest conference cancelled due to lack of support.

### Mount Lawley Wins Management Challenge







Darren Wilson Wins Golf Digest  
Superintendent of the Year



Gosnells Golf Club Movember



Luke Hoglin Apprentice of The Year



Geoff Stephens, Darren Wilson, Simon Bourne and  
Brad Anderson



2008 Christmas Party Kids and Santa



Paul Wright, Dion Warr, Brett Fiorini and Nick Kinnley



Corey Bandy, Danny Carbery, Scott Leckie and Brad Costello



Marc Rodoreda, Andrew Arrah, unknown and  
Callum Hitchings



John Forrest, Peter Fleming, Paul Needham and the Hobbit.



Bunbury Golf Club wins 2009 John Deere National Challenge in New Zealand

2009



President	Darren Wilson	Wembley Golf Complex
Vice president	Brad Anderson	Sun City Golf Club
Treasurer	Craig New	Lakelands Country Club
Secretary	Brad Sofield	Gosnells Golf Club
Committee	Simon Bourne, Glenn Cross and Geoff Kirk	
Management Challenge	Bunbury Golf Club	
Superintendent of the Year	Craig New	Lakelands Country Club
Apprentice of the Year	Daniel Zoccolli	Mount Lawley Golf Club
Distinguished Service Award	John Forrest	Murdoch TAFE

## What Happened in 2009

- Norm Ashlin retires after 40 years as a golf course Superintendent at Collier Golf Course, WA Golf Course and Capel Golf Course. Norm was also awarded Life membership to the GCSAWA.
- Winter sprinkler bans were legislated into WA legislation for the period from July 1<sup>st</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> August.
- Fertiliser restrictions were also put into legislation with phosphorous amounts restricted to no more than 1% in fertiliser bags.
- Margaret River Conference was a huge success with networking, practical jokes and camaraderie high on the agenda with all attending. Jeff Lane was invited back to WA from Cairns to give an insight into managing turf in the tropics.
- Bunbury Golf Club wins the Management Challenge from Secret Harbor Golf Links 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Callum Hitchings resigns as superintendent at Busselton Golf Club his apprentice and 2IC Ryan Trott is appointed as superintendent.
- Steve Isaacs from Royal and Ancient visits Perth via AGCSA workshop.



## Margaret River Conference Golf Day

From Left: Alan Devlin, Geoff Kirk, Jeff Lane, Richard Chamberlin, Callum Hitchings,  
Greg Smith, Rick Giblett and Matt



Steve Isaacs R & A



Daniel Zacolli Apprentice of The Year

## 2010

President	Darren Wilson
Vice president	Des Russell
Treasurer	Craig New
Secretary	Des Russell
Committee	Brad Anderson, Simon Bourne
Management Challenge	Marri Park Golf Club
Superintendent of the Year	Michael Healey
Environmental Award	Darren Wilson
Apprentice of the Year	Shaun Quinn

Wembley Golf Complex

Bunbury Golf Club



### What Happened in 2010

- The GCSAWA was shocked when Cottesloe Golf Club Superintendent Simon Bourne had an accident whilst holidaying in Bali and was confined to a wheel chair. It was pleasing to see how the whole industry rallied behind Simon and helped to support him both personally and financially. Simon returned to work as a superintendent after rehabilitation at Shenton Park hospital.
- Nick Bell was awarded with recognition of his services to the turf Industry after ATI, (Australian Turf Industries) folded after many years looking after golf courses such as Burswood Park Golf Course, Marrangaroo and Carramar Golf Courses.
- The first ever Golf Industry Award night was held in conjunction with the PGA WA, Men's Golf, Ladies Golf and the Managers Association combining to organise the awards night. Norm Ashlin is acknowledged for his retirement after 40 years as a superintendent possibly the longest serving superintendent in Australia.

- Brad Sofield stands down from the committee after many years as president, secretary and general committee.
- he top 10 desert courses in the world.
- IC replaces him.



Nick Bell with President Darren Wilson



Mike Healy winning Excellence in Turf presented by Nick Clayton Greenline



Darren Wilson winning Environmental Award  
presnted by Matthew Holmes Syngenta



Norm Ashlin recieving his  
retirement gift on the Awards Night



Shaun Quincee Toro Apprentice of the Year



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