



ACTION

AGCSA MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Christmas has come and gone and already we are into the second month of the year. Drought conditions on most of the east coast of this great country have been replaced by record amounts of rainfall causing flooding and devastation of homes, farms, businesses and many sporting clubs and facilities.

I had the privilege of accompanying AGCSA editor Brett Robinson while he met and spoke with superintendents from six Brisbane golf courses that had suffered severe damage from the January floods. The amount of silt dumped in some areas was hard to believe and knowing where to start was a sickening thought. When I asked one superintendent that question, he commented "We just made a list of what had to be done and as we worked our way through the list we ticked them off; it was good to see the ticks growing each day."

Machinery sheds that I have visited in the past and then to see them after the floods made me feel sick and it was very difficult to say anything for some time. However, it was great to see members at some clubs, both men and women, getting together and rendering assistance where possible. We were also told that a number of interstate golf clubs – including those in South

From the Board

Board



Pat Pauli
Director, AGCSA
Superintendent,
Horton Park GC, QLD

Australia and Victoria – had offered some of their greenkeeping staff to help in the clean up. I am told all offers have been gratefully accepted.

The AGCSA is playing its part by offering free agronomic advice for those clubs which have been affected by the floods and that have problem areas as a result of the inundation of water and silt. There may be an opportunity when superintendents have got their heads above the mud for clubs in these flood affected areas of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria to get together and arrange a 'walk and talk' session with AGCSA general manager John Neylan if nothing else to discuss what worked and what didn't for future reference.

Speaking of 'walk and talk' sessions, I hosted the first at Horton Park Golf Club late last year with 19 superintendents and managers and one board member from a local club attending along with John Neylan. I contacted all the local clubs and invited the superintendent, club manager and any greens directors to attend. I wanted everyone who attended to have the opportunity to raise any issue that they

may have had on their own course. If a superintendent had a maintenance issue with his board, he had the opportunity to bring a member along and have them listen to and also have the chance to ask John a question or two.

I and everyone who attended thought it was a great day, even the board member of the local club. I hope there are a number of superintendents in regional areas who will take up the challenge and organise such a day. Please feel free to give me a call on 0407 626 909 or you can contact John direct at the AGCSA office. It is your association – you should use it.

The 27th Australian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Exhibition in Adelaide is fast approaching and kicks off on Monday 13 June. It may be a good idea to coincide it with a road trip around South Australia and enjoy some time off with your family.

It would be remiss of me as treasurer of the AGCSA that should you require any independent soil testing or disease analysis that you consider using the services of your association. The boys in AGCSATech are only too willing to help and funds derived from these services are put back into research projects which ultimately benefit you. Contact Andrew Peart or John Geary at the AGCSA office for more information.

Finally, in closing I would like to congratulate Mark Prosser (Commonwealth Golf Club) and his staff for the magnificent presentation of their course for the Australian Women's Open and wish Paul McLean and his team at RACV Royal Pines all the best for the Australian Ladies Masters. I look forward to catching up with you all in Adelaide.

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Welcome to...

The AGCSA Board and staff extend a warm welcome to the following who are new members of the association or have changed their membership class in recent times:

SUPERINTENDENT

Nathan Frew (Sarina GC)
Steve Marsden (Cape Kidnappers, NZ)
Alan Greatorex (Chirnside Park CC)
Damian Gair (Bowral GC)
Cory Budden (Turnpoint)

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Andrew Parkinson (Belmont GC)
Joel Akker (The Lakes Golf Links)

SPORTS TURF MANAGERS

David Egan (SANFL)

GROUNDSTAFF

Ben Evans (Woolaware GC)

APPRENTICES

Mitchell Ristuccia (Antill Park CGC)
Joel Haslett (Mount Lofty GC)
Adam Treen (Willunga GC)
Mitchell Carlyon (Antill Park CGC)
Luke Bubb (Active Turfcare)
Brendon Lane (Lismore City Council)
Jared Hicks (Mackay GC)
Bradley Atkinson (Murwillumbah GC)
Thomas Jones (Bermagui CC)
Allison George (The Australian GC)
Liam Briggs (Sarina GC)
Dean Warne (Cricket Tasmania)
Haydan Ridley (Headland GC)
Michael Pengue (Bonnie Doon GC)

If you have any queries about your membership, need to change your contact details, or want to be set up with a user name and password for the members' section of the AGCSA website, please contact membership coordinator Lyndel Conway on (03) 9548 8600 or info@agcsa.com.au



Nominate a peer for the 2011 AGCSA Awards

With the Adelaide conference just a couple of months away, it is now time to start thinking about nominating one of your fellow colleagues for the annual AGCSA Awards. As is tradition, the AGCSA will hand out a total of five awards recognising the best in the golf course turf management profession and we heartily encourage you to consider making a nomination.



additional benefits provided by the respective award sponsors.

At last year's Gold Coast conference, the AGCSA, in conjunction with PGG Wrightson Seeds, handed out a new award – the AGCSA Award for Academic Achievement. Recognising individuals for their commitment to pursue further turf management studies, in this case by undertaking the Diploma of Sports Turf Management course, former Chisholm TAFE student Steve Johannessen was bestowed the inaugural award.

On the AGCSA website are nomination forms for both the AGCSA Excellence in Golf Course Management Award, presented in partnership with John Deere, and the AGCSA Claude Crockford Environmental Award, presented in partnership with Syngenta. If you feel one of your peers has excelled in the overall management of his or her golf course, or has made significant inroads into improving the environmental management of their facility, then the AGCSA wants to recognise their achievements.

This award will again be handed out in Adelaide and nominations are taken from the various TAFE institutions around the country. Likewise, finalists for the AGCSA Graduate of the Year Award, presented in partnership with Toro Australia, are taken from the state superintendent graduate programmes, while the AGCSA Distinguished Service Award, presented in partnership with Scotts Australia, is bestowed by the AGCSA Board.

Not only does an AGCSA Award provide deserved acknowledgement for those who have excelled, they also come with some excellent benefits including complementary registration and accommodation for two Australian Turfgrass Conferences, as well as

For more information on the respective AGCSA Awards or to nominate someone for either the Excellence or Claude Crockford, visit www.agcsa.com.au/agcsa_awards or contact AGCSA events and education manager Simone Staples on (03) 9548 8600.

What's on - Upcoming events

27th Australian Turfgrass Conference
Adelaide Convention Centre,
13-17 June 2011

27th Australian Turfgrass Conference Trade Exhibition
Adelaide Convention Centre,
15-16 June 2011

2011 Toro AGCSA Golf C'ships
Kooyonga Golf Club, 13 June 2011

2011 Toro AGCSA Scramble
Adelaide Shores, 13 June 2011

Upcoming State Association Events

GCSAWA: Super Series Golf –
Mosman Park GC, 15 Feb

VGCSA: Education Meeting –
MCG, 21 Feb

SAGCSA: Education Meeting –
Royal Adelaide GC, 24 Feb

TGCSA: Education Meeting –
Davenport Cricket Club, 2 Mar

GCSAWA: Super Series Golf –
Mandurah GC, 15 Mar

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Excellent response to 2010 AGCSA Membership Survey

In December 2010 the AGCSA invited all members to participate in their first comprehensive member survey. This survey consisted of 31 questions, to which 368 members responded. Of these 368 members, just over 60 per cent of respondents were superintendents, 16 per cent trade and less than six per cent for the other membership sectors.

Member satisfaction

Over 78 per cent of respondents are satisfied with their membership with over 90 per cent likely to continue their membership with the AGCSA. More than 78 per cent of respondents value the AGCSA's media resources, networking opportunities and attending the conference and educational workshops offered by the AGCSA.

Over 50 per cent of respondents value the opportunity to have a voice within the industry, access to the AGCSA's water and environment initiatives and accompanying resources and access to the HR and Best Practice service.

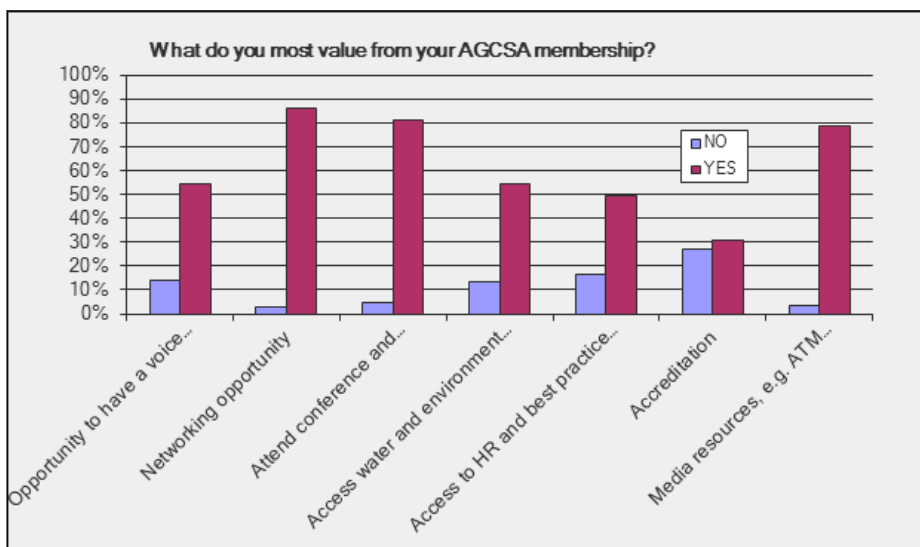
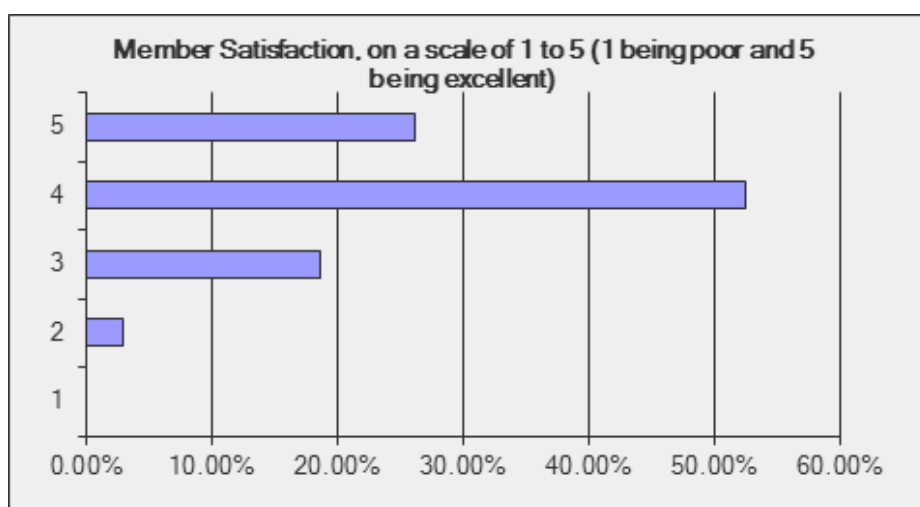
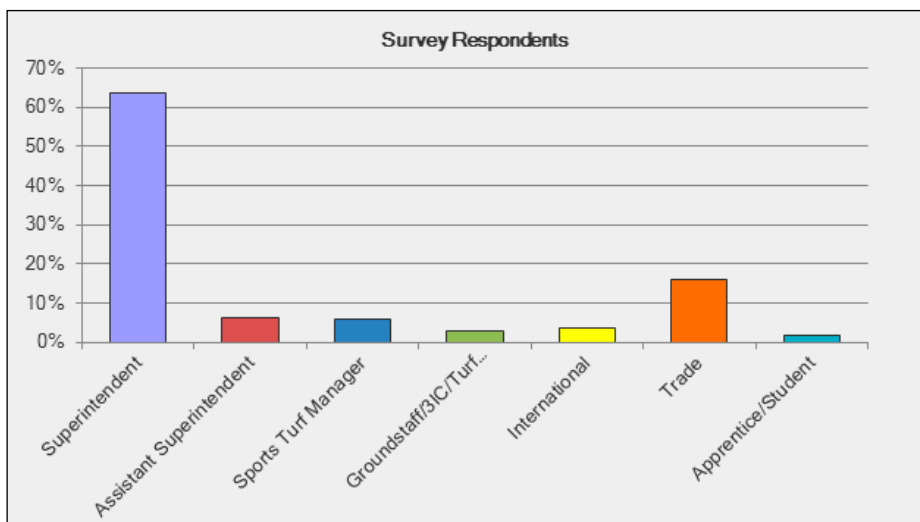
Feedback on AGCSA activities

AGCSA members have suggested a wide range of improvements for our website including a photo gallery, OH&S templates, a members' forum and links to industry relevant sites. Already a number of these resources are available on our website, which we will highlight in forthcoming editions of the AGCSA's email newsletter The Cut and the Action newsletter. Other suggestions we are in the process of making available, for example, include an online version of the Sportsturf Protection Manual.

The remaining suggestions will be considered by the AGCSA board and staff as to their broad relevance and the logistics in making it available to members (e.g.: OH&S templates, industrial relations information updates)

In response to suggesting additional services or benefits to be provided by the AGCSA, respondents indicated their interest in basic golf course design workshops, more workshops and sessions relative to the smaller and country clubs, the mentoring of new superintendents, assistance with financial management, staff training DVDs and assistance with volunteer coordination at major tournaments.

There was a great response from our regional members (over 40 per cent of all respondents), of which over 60 per cent of our country members are prepared to assist in organising an informal meeting in their region.



AGCSA Accreditation

Almost 72 per cent of respondents indicated that they would be happy for automatic enrolment into the AGCSA Accreditation Programme. However, there were mixed responses about the accreditation programme, its perceived benefits, how to attain points and achieve accreditation and who is currently eligible for enrolment. In response to this the AGCSA will provide regular updates and

reminders of what is available and how to get involved.

AGCSA Awards

In response to the request for suggestions to improve the profile of the programme and award winners, the overwhelming response was to increase exposure in the AGCSA media as well as external media, as well as ensuring the prize is sizable.

Did you know...

There are now only three remaining booths available for the upcoming 27th Australian Turfgrass Conference Trade Exhibition in Adelaide (15-16 June 2011). The smaller format of this year's show means it's a lot more cost effective for companies, so if you haven't yet booked a booth then you had better act fast. Contact **Melissa Wallace** at the AGCSA on (03) 9548 8600 or email melissa@agcsa.com.au for all the details on pricing as well as other conference sponsorship opportunities.

The AGCSA now has its own photostream page set up on **Flickr**. Flickr is an online photo management and sharing application which enables the AGCSA to upload photos for members and the wider turf industry to view. No special software or downloads are required to view the photos and the special AGCSA page can be accessed through the following link <http://www.flickr.com/photos/agcsa>.

AGCSA editor Brett Robinson has set up the photostream and at present there are photo sets of the recent flood damage to Queensland golf courses including Indooroopilly, Brisbane, McLeod, Wolston Park, Jindalee and St Lucia as well as a photoset of the Australian Masters held last November at The Victoria Golf Club. Since uploading, the photosets have received more than 750 views to date. On his travels around the traps, Brett will continue to update the photostream and will alert members through The Cut.



Shortly before Christmas the Australian Golf Industry Council (AGIC) released The Australian Golf Industry Economic Report: 2010. The report, which is now available through the AGCSA website or by [clicking here](#), shows that the Australian golf industry continues to make a significant contribution to the Australian economy – some \$2.9 billion – and creates full-time employment for over 23,000 people.

Adelaide conference registration NOW OPEN

Registration for the upcoming 27th Australian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Exhibition is now OPEN. This year's conference heads back to South Australia with the Adelaide Convention Centre playing host to the Australian turf industry's largest gathering from 13-17 June 2011. A registration form can now be downloaded in PDF format from the AGCSA website or you can register online through the following link www.secureregistration.com/2011conference.

In order to encourage more delegates, registration costs have been kept the same as 2010. That means if you take advantage of the Early Bird conference registration rate you, as an AGCSA member, will only pay \$770 for full registration. Early Bird registration closes 27 March 2011 after which full registration for AGCSA members will increase to \$990.

Other points to note about this year's conference and registration:

- Monday 13 June is the Queen's Birthday holiday so the AGCSA advises delegates to book flights into Adelaide early due to the long weekend.
- Friday (17 June) will feature two optional workshops on Personal Wealth and Financial Management and Occupational Health and Safety, while the Turf Tour will visit Glenelg

Golf Club and Adelaide Shores. Both the workshops and Turf Tour are included in the price of the full conference registration. If you wish to attend either the workshops or turf tour you will need to indicate so on the registration form.

- The Bayer Welcome Reception is included in the cost of a full registration.
- Conference accommodation options have also been uploaded onto the AGCSA website and can be viewed by [clicking here](#).
- International guest speakers include Jim Moore (USGA) and Micah Woods (Asian Turfgrass Centre).
- The 2011 Toro AGCSA Golf Championships will be played at Kooyonga Golf Club, while the Toro AGCSA Scramble will be hosted by Adelaide Shores. Please don't forget to record your handicap on the registration form, and if you are playing in the AGCSA Golf Championships please ensure you provide your shirt size.
- Registration payment can be made by cheque, EFT and credit card, or a tax invoice can be forwarded to your club/organisation.

For more information about the conference visit the AGCSA website or contact the AGCSA office on (03) 9548 8600

2010 AGCSA Membership Survey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Finance

AGCSA members were asked whether they supported the suggestion of investing some of the association's cash reserves in a higher yielding investment. Seventy-five per cent of respondents endorsed the suggestion with 70 per cent of members preferring a strategy involving a combination of investments in direct shares and managed funds.

HR

There were several questions posed that related to HR and Best Practice and professional development. On average, 64 per cent of respondents spend 1-2 hours per week on OH&S management and 56 per cent spend 1-2 hours per week on environmental management.

In relation to HR and Best Practice surveys, more than 80 per cent of respondents would like surveys on maintenance budgets, capital

budgets, staff levels, wages and salaries and course data, with 56 per cent preferring this information to be surveyed every 12 months. There were several other suggestions including KPIs, benchmarking and green fee comparisons.

The member response to this survey has been broad and comprehensive. The board and staff of the AGCSA are considering and reviewing the wide and varied member perspectives and will clarify information and resources that are currently available for all members.

The AGCSA will keep our members up-to-date with current and impending initiatives and will advise members of how and where we are broadening our services in order to continue addressing the developing requirements of members. The AGCSA thanks all members for their ongoing interest and participation in the association.

Australian Golf Course Superintendents' Association
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