

## **2011 AGCSA Graduate of the Year Award Presented in partnership with Toro Australia Dan Oswin, Novotel Forest Resort, VIC**

Phil Ford, joint winner of the 2011 AGCSA Distinguished Service Award, rubbed it in just a little when he summed up the 2011 AGCSA Awards during his acceptance speech in Adelaide – “In the words of Bill Lawry, it’s hard to be humble when you’re a Victorian.”

Victorians dominated the 2011 AGCSA Awards which were announced during the 27th Australian Turfgrass Conference in Adelaide, and along with Ford, Colin Morrison (AGCSA Excellence in Golf Course Management Award) and Tim Fankhauser (AGCSA Award for Academic Achievement), the AGCSA Graduate of the Year Award went the way VGCSA Apprentice of the Year winner Dan Oswin. Oswin beat home a quality field of fellow golf apprentices that included Dane Robertson (Indooroopilly Golf Club), Tyson Dickinson (The Grange Golf Club), Roger Chaffey (Manly Golf Club), Ben Callaghan (Royal Canberra Golf Club) and Tom Purser (Meadow Springs Golf Club).



Oswin hails from Novotel Forest Resort in Creswick, just north of Ballarat. Completing his apprenticeship through Geelong-based Gordon TAFE, Oswin has already experienced more than most over the past five years having been involved in the redevelopment and construction of the Tony Cashmore-designed course between 2006 and 2008. He is now part of the course maintenance crew which is headed by his father Kel Oswin, and during an at times emotional acceptance speech in Adelaide, Oswin paid particular tribute to his father who was present to witness his son’s finest hour.

The AGCSA Graduate of the Year Award continues an impressive run for Oswin who in the weeks leading up to Adelaide, also received the President’s Medal for Outstanding Certificate Student at The Gordon TAFE’s Outstanding Achievement Awards. Oswin also collected 2010 Geelong Regional Training Awards Best Third Year Apprentice award and in May was named the VGCSA’s Apprentice of the Year.

According to his teachers at The Gordon, Oswin’s passion for the trade shone through in all his work, whether in the classroom or out in the field. Consistently submitting work of a very high standard, one teacher commented that Oswin’s first year assignment was the most comprehensive and detailed that he had seen in his 18 years of teaching.

Driven by a desire to become a sustainable turf manager who is committed to encouraging excellence in his trade, Oswin travelled from Creswick to Geelong once a week for three years to complete his Certificate III in Horticulture (Turf Management), and keen to extend his knowledge he started his Diploma of Sports Turf Management by correspondence while undertaking his apprenticeship.

