



# GCSAQ SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER



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## SUSTAINABLE GOLF ?

Well Members that is the topic that we will be covering at our annual Supers / Managers day at Nudgee GC on Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>. It is a very important topic and will be presented to us by Steve Isaac, Director – Golf Course Management of The Royal & Ancient Golf Club.

In 2003 The R&A appointed Steve Isaac to the role of Director of Golf Course Management to develop and enact The R&A Golf Course Committee's sustainability programme. Steve, who spent the previous 18 years with the UK's Sports Turf Research Institute, which included acting as the consultant agronomist at three Open Championships, has toured the globe spreading the word on sustainable golf course management and to date he has travelled throughout Europe, Africa, Asia, New Zealand, South America and the USA. He now has his sights set on Australia and from all reports is one of the best speakers you will hear.

With the pressures of diminishing resources, tightening budgets, declining membership and more extreme weather conditions, golf clubs have to assess the challenge of maintaining a golf club that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. Steve will share with us the experiences of those in other parts of the world and how they cope in this ever-changing environment. He will also discuss the role of The R & A, the programmes they have in place and the assistance they can offer.

To compliment Steve's talk an open forum will be conducted to discuss issues raised from the day and how they apply to the local situation. Steve will be joined by a panel made up of Queensland GMA and GCSAQ representatives who will help generate discussion from participants on all aspects of realistic sustainability including balancing increasing demands on budgets, course presentation and playing surfaces.

This day has been tailored to be suitable for all golf club Managers, Superintendents and Board Members to ensure the future viability of their Club. Unfortunately a day with a speaker such as Steve comes at a price and includes all your meals and golf and with the information on offer is not really that expensive.

The fact sheet is as follows;

**8.30: Registration**

**9.00: Welcome**

**9.10: Steve Isaac - The role of The R&A**

**10.00: Morning Tea**

**10.30: Steve Isaac - Rising to the challenge of "Sustainable Golf"**

**11.30: Sustainable Golf Interactive Session**

**12.30: Lunch**

**1.15: Golf**

**Where:** Nudgee Golf Club

**COST:** \$ 88 per person, \$200 for 3 from one club  
\$ 66 for 4 or more from one club

**Please see the enclosed flyer for registration and payment details.**

**WEATHER**

Well what a difference a couple of months make on the weather front as things have certainly dried out at long last. 2mm on the last day of August is all that fell in many QLD gauges after only 20mm or so in July. It has been an interesting exercise learning how to operate the irrigation system again and hoping for some rain! Most courses throughout the South east corner of Queensland are very busy with golfers enjoying the perfect weather and some of the Gold and Sunshine Coast resort courses are actually a bit difficult to get a game on.

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**AGM**

Our Annual General Meeting was held at The Glades GC on the Gold Coast and the lure of playing on Ben Baumann's bent greens obviously proved to be a great attraction as 60 players teed it up and nearly 70 attended lunch. Paul McLean from Royal Pines Resort played some inspiring golf to win the GCSAQ Toro Championship with Bonville's Chris Neal making the trip up worthwhile by picking up B Grade. Col Caulfield snared C Grade and Silver GCSAQ Sponsor Dave Hanby picked up the Trade trophy. Perhaps the golfing highlight of the day was Gympie Pines Super Kevin Pringle having an albatross on the 11<sup>th</sup> hole! Sponsors Toro Australia once again came up trumps with a great day and fantastic trophies and an informative talk on finance options from National Golf Sales Manager Robert Rein. The ever friendly staff at The Glades made the organisation of the day a breeze, which makes life for the organisers a lot simpler. The Committee remains unchanged with Peter Lonergan as President, Brian Cox as Vice President, Dave Morrison Treasurer, Mark Hauff Secretary and the committee comprising Charlie Giffard, Brent Robinson, Peter Smith, Ben Tilley and Ben Cavanagh.

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**NORTHERN RIVERS GOLF DAY**

Our annual Northern Rivers groundstaff golf day is a great event run by our Vice President Brian Cox in conjunction with our sponsors. The event was held at Yamba GC this year on July 31<sup>st</sup>, after being washed out earlier in the year. The day is a 9 hole 2 man ambrose event and is open to all groundstaff and was once again well attended with over 50 players representing 12 Clubs in the region. John Nelson and his staff from Grafton GC were the winners of the Cup with Pat Day's team from Maclean GC a close second. Andrew "CLAUDE" Smith showed us why he was a worthy winner of the AGCSA Environmental Award with a well presented golf course and even while he is playing golf he spends most of the time in the trees and dams monitoring the environment! It is a great day for the various staff's to meet one another in a relaxed atmosphere and is a small reward for their hard work throughout the year.

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**25<sup>th</sup> AUSTRALIAN TURFGRASS CONFERENCE**

The Hobart Conference saw quite a healthy sized group of Queenslanders made the trip south and quite a few on the pre tour to Barnbougle. It was interesting to go to a turf conference and think "gee that sounds like one of my staff" rather than "that sounds like the disease I have in the 4<sup>th</sup> green" as the speakers covered a range of health topics. As I have said before, the AGCSA should be congratulated for covering the topic of men's health and I hope it will form part of the program in the future. Congratulations to our own GCSAQ Member Andrew Smith on his success in winning the Claude Crockford AGCSA Environmental Award, which was presented at the Conference. Andrew represented his Club and the AGCSA in fine fashion with an excellent acceptance speech.

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**NATIONAL PLANT A TREE DAY**

Phil Soegaard from Lakelands GC once again participated in the National Plant a Tree Day in August with the local community invited to take part. This has been a regular event for the crew at Lakelands and is such a simple and positive way to involve the community in your golf club. A great day was had by all who attended and Phil would like to publicly thank the sponsors who made it a viable day. Over 300 plants were planted in the two areas on course creating potential future bird and wildlife sanctuaries. The suppliers who assisted include; Simplot, Nuturf, Globe, Chesterfields - John Deere, Rural Buying Service, Jimboomba Turf, E-Par Hinterland Toyota, Earthborn- Mulch, Impact Grasses, Plantmark, and Qld Tubestocks.

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**Contact the AGCSA or Peter Lonergan now for more information on our Supers / Managers day at Nudgee GC on Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**MECHANICS DAY**

The next meeting of the Queensland Turf Techs Association will be held at John Deere HQ at Crestmead. Thursday October 1<sup>st</sup> is the day and more information is available from Peter Loneragan on 0408 611 785. A flyer will be circulated shortly so please let your Mechanic know and encourage them to attend. The day is not just restricted to Mechanics so if any other staff members are interested in attending please let them know as well.



**2009 BUS TOUR**

Unfortunately our annual bus tour coincided with the last week of rain and we were all but washed out which was a great shame but somehow we seemed to still enjoy ourselves. As we arrived in the car park at Lismore GC it was quickly evident that it was going to be a wet day but the skies cleared and we ventured out only to be drowned by another downpour after a couple of holes. Perhaps we should have known we were in for a wet one when Lismore Super Chris Haselden pulled out at the last minute! The lure of the clubhouse was too great for some after 9 holes and only a handful of us brave souls completed 18 holes with Glenn Beauclerc from Robina Woods winning the coveted Jacobsen Orange Jacket for the best score. Unfortunately at the other end of the scale, recently appointed Jacobsen dealer Brian Taylor won the Bradman award with an unmentionable score. Richard Chamberlain then introduced us to "the next Olympic sport" which was tossing \$1 coins as close to a wall as possible which kept us and the raucous locals entertained for an hour or so. Virtually every social club in Lismore then appeared on the scene to sell us some raffle tickets for their various fund raisers, but we weren't successful in any of them. Saturday night saw the traditional Seafood Buffet Dinner take place and this year was sponsored by Ray and Dorothy from Tru Turf. An unusually quiet evening followed and we were all in bed early in anticipation of the Syngenta Skirmish on Sunday. Perhaps given the weather it was fortunate that the bus broke down which was caused by the bus driver turning the ignition off not once but three times when the battery was flat. So we headed to Wayne Tickles Ballina Golf Club for lunch which became Syngenta Chinese. It was quite entertaining trying to watch through the torrential rain as the last few groups of Pennants competitors finished their rounds absolutely soaked as we had done the day before. After our host Wayne jump started the bus again (for the fourth time in 6 hours) we were off to Byron Bay where an enjoyable night was had by all. Country Club International hosted us for dinner and fortunately once again most of us were in bed by 11 o'clock because it started raining again and in excess of 100mm poured down over about four hours, so it was obvious that there was not going to be any golf the next day at Shaun Cross's Byron Bay GC. Fortunately the clubhouse is on high ground and we were able to overlook the virtual lake the course had become in the flood conditions and enjoyed a great breakfast thanks to Simplot and an informative talk from Shaun and impromptu tour of his shed. Concerns were also being raised about being able to get home through the flooded roads but we made it without further incident and with new reliable batteries installed on the bus.

Unfortunately the rain spoiled our outdoor activities which was a great shame as our three host Supers, Chris, Wayne and Shaun had obviously gone to a lot of trouble to showcase their courses to us. However the great camaraderie was still there and we plan to retrace the tour in a couple of years time. Obviously a tour such as this can't be done without the generous help from our Sponsors; Jacobsen, Tru Turf, Country Club International, Simplot, RainBird and Syngenta and our thanks are certainly with those companies and their representatives.



**JOHN DEERE TRANS TASMAN TEAM FINAL**

The final was hotly contested by twelve teams from both Australia and New Zealand in late August at the Paradise Palms Golf Course in Cairns, Queensland. On the immaculately prepared yet challenging layout the teams battled on the couch greens to see who was going to be this years overall winner. The elimination scramble format ensured that competition was close with very little separating the two winning teams at the eighteenth hole. The winners were deemed to be Safety Beach Golf Club and Riversdale Golf Club second, both from Victoria. Unfortunately our two Queensland representatives Royal Pines Resort and Headland GC just missed out this year.

Plans are already underway for next years event, should you wish to participate please speak to your local John Deere Golf & Turf dealer now.



***Don' forget the Mechanics Day on Thursday October 1<sup>st</sup> at John Deere HQ in Crestmead.***



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***Our September Sponsors, Hydro Pumping & Controls and Complete Turf Management are very excited to announce the following details for our next Education Day at Sanctuary Cove Golf Club....***

# "A DAY AT THE COVE"

This represents a unique opportunity to visit a golf course that is undergoing a complete makeover with construction and grassing of 2 holes already complete, some others ready for grassing and others with earthworks in progress. Dave Hanby from Hydro Pumping will be on hand to talk about the irrigation installation and pump station and Murray Swindles from Complete Turf Management will have several machines on demonstration.

Host Superintendent Robin Doodson will then give us the background to construction works so far and course designer Ross Watson will explain the theories behind the design during a course tour.

- ***Monday October 12<sup>th</sup> with an 8.30 am start***
- ***Free lunch to follow and then a game of bowls if you wish!***



**PLEASE RSVP TO PETER LONERGAN ON 0408 611 785 BEFORE OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**

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**QTETA MEETING** The next meeting of the Queensland Turf Techs Association will be held at John Deere HQ at Crestmead. Thursday October 1<sup>st</sup> is the day and more information is available from Peter Lonergan on 0408 611 785. The day will start at 9.00 am sharp so please let your Mechanic know and encourage them to attend. The day is not just restricted to Mechanics so if any other staff members are interested in attending please let them know as well. And by the way JD HQ is at 170 Magnesium Drive, Crestmead.

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**TURF RESEARCH GOLF DAY** This years event will be held at the Glades on Monday November 16<sup>th</sup> with a 7.30 Shotgun Start. More information will be forwarded shortly but start organising your team now for this very important day on our calendar.

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**GRADUATE OF THE YEAR** The form for this Award is enclosed. This year the Award will be decided before Christmas so that we are not rushing to be ready for the Queensland Golf Awards night early next year. So if you have an Apprentice who finishes their trade in 2009 and you think they would be worthy of this Award then don't hesitate to nominate them.  
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