

# 2004 AGCSA Awards - And the Winners are...

MELBOURNE

04

20th Australian Turfgrass Conference Awards

## ATM previews the four major awards to be handed down at the 2004 AGCSA Awards ceremony during the 20th Australian Turfgrass Conference.

The AGCSA Awards kicks off proceedings at the 20th Australian Turfgrass Conference in Melbourne, and will be hosted prior to the Welcoming Cocktail Reception at the Telstra Dome on Monday, 21 June.

The awards represent the ultimate in recognition for members of the golf turf industry and as in previous years four individual awards will be handed out – Distinguished Service Award, Excellence in Golf Course Management, Claude Crockford Environmental Award, and Graduate of the Year.

Toro has come on board in 2004 as the naming sponsor for the Graduate of the Year and joins other industry heavyweights Scotts Australia, John Deere and Bayer Environmental Science as the awards' major sponsors.

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD 2004

Presented in partnership with Scotts Australia

In a fitting move at the 2003 Adelaide conference, South Australian icon and industry veteran Dene Goldsack was bestowed the AGCSA's Distinguished Service Award.

Goldsack, the former greenkeeper at Blackwood Golf Club, joined a long list of respected individuals including 2002 joint winners Peter Sawyer and Doug Robinson, Neil Adams, Vince Church, Bill Powell, Peter Martin and Peter McMaugh. During the Melbourne conference another well-respected and iconic figure within the turf industry will be added to that fine list.

Without a doubt the premier award to be handed down at this year's awards, the AGCSA

Distinguished Service Award is bestowed by the AGCSA Board to recognise an individual that has made a lasting impression through their contributions to the Australian golf turf industry.

The award takes into consideration all aspects; the direction and inspiration handed down to generations of golf course superintendents, involvement at state and national levels, education, communication and research.

AGCSA Board members have remained tight-lipped about potential candidates for this year's award, but if the past three years are anything to go by, then the award recipient could come from within the state that hosts the conference.

### Distinguished Service Award - Previous Winners

- 2000 - Peter McMaugh
- 2001 - Professor Peter Martin
- 2002 - Peter Sawyer and Doug Robinson
- 2003 - Dene Goldsack
- 2004 - ?

### AGCSA CLAUDE CROCKFORD ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD 2004

Presented in partnership with Bayer Environmental Science

Environmental stewardship has taken on huge significance for the golf course industry in recent times and this year's Claude Crockford Environmental Award will be presented amid the backdrop of what has been a landmark year.

For the 2004 Claude Crockford winner, this award perhaps takes on greater significance given the dramatic ruling against the Warringah Golf Club handed down by the NSW Land and Environment Court last September.

The club was fined a record \$600,000 while the former superintendent was sentenced to 250 hours community service and fined \$50,000 for their parts in a pesticide spill which killed 4.16 tonnes of bird and marine life in Manly Lagoon, Sydney.

Such was the public backlash over this unfortunate, yet highly preventable incident, golf courses have been placed under increasing scrutiny when it comes to environmental responsibility. Winning the Claude Crockford Environmental Award will provide a huge fillip



2003 Distinguished Service Award winner Dene Goldsack (centre) with Scotts Australia's Martin Morgan (left) and AGCSA president Mark Couchman



for the superintendent and be something that staff and the golf club as a whole can be proud of.

Since its inception six years ago, the Claude Crockford Environmental Award has become one of the most highly sought. Selection criteria include the demonstration of a commitment to sustainable land management, long term planning, community involvement and overall environmental stewardship of the golf course and its surrounding environment. Protection of indigenous plant and animal populations, restoration of habitat and a desire to protect sensitive areas are also highly regarded aspects of this award.

**AGCSA Claude Crockford Environmental Award – Previous Winners**

- 2000 - Ben Tilley (Beewah Golf Club)
- 2001 - Andrew Baker (Sanctuary Cove Golf Club)
- 2002 - Jeff Austen (El Caballo Golf Resort)
- 2003 - Darren Watson (Horizons Golf Club) and Spiros Skaftouros (Growling Frog Golf Course)
- 2004 - ?

**AGCSA EXCELLENCE IN GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT – 2004**

Presented in partnership with John Deere

If the number of golf course projects in progress at the moment throughout Australia is anything to go by, the AGCSA Excellence in Golf Course Management award will be hotly contested this year.

Launched in 2001, this award has taken over the proud tradition of the previous AGCSA Fellowship Award. The name has been refined and selection criteria adjusted to make it more suited

to the modern golf course management industry.

As the name suggests, this award aims to recognise a golf course superintendent for achieving excellence in golf course management. This award will be bestowed upon a superintendent who has achieved a high standard of golf course presentation and/or construction within the previous two years.

Idris Evans (Western Australian Golf Club) was the 2003 recipient of the award, having been nominated twice, and beat home the equally impressive Michael Riordan who has transformed the Patterson River Country Club in Melbourne. Who knows, maybe Riordan will be among the finalists again this year.

**AGCSA Excellence in Golf Course Management – Previous Winners**

- 2000 - Allan Devlin (Secret Harbour Golf Club)\*
- 2001 - Mark Gahan (The Dunes Golf Links and Thirteenth Beach Golf Links)
- 2002 - Gary Bass (Croydon Golf Club)
- 2003 - Idris Evans (Western Australian Golf Club)
- 2004 - ?

\* then known as the AGCSA Fellowship Award

**AGCSA GRADUATE OF THE YEAR AWARD – 2004**

Presented in partnership with Toro Australia

As 2003 Distinguished Service Award winner Dene Goldsack commented during his award presentation in Adelaide, "I can't get over how professional the industry has become".

Goldsack's comments were made shortly after 2003 Graduate of the Year winner James

Dalton from the Thirteenth Beach Golf Club gave an impressive and detailed presentation which not only outlined his achievements but also his future aspirations within golf course management. "I was just blown away by his knowledge," Goldsack said.

With the rise or dedicated turf education courses in recent times, the calibre of graduates increases from year to year which makes this award one of the most difficult to judge. This award is special in that it gives an indication of where the future of the industry lies. Today's recipients will be tomorrow's superintendents and will ultimately go on to play a major role in the development and direction of the golf course industry. For the lucky graduate, the award provides a huge boost, helping to launch their career in the best possible way.

The structure of the Graduate of the Year Award has altered for 2004. Nominees now come directly from the individual state association awards programs with finalists and winners from each state facing off for national recognition.

An outstanding field has again been nominated for what is arguably the most anticipated award during conference week and the judging panel will consider the graduate's academic achievements, career aspirations, ambassadorial skills and how winning the award will assist the graduate in meeting their career aspirations. A bit like Miss World, without the swimsuit parade!

2003 winner Dalton staved off the challenges of a healthy field of nominees, edging ahead of fellow finalists Craig Birrell (Royal Adelaide Golf Club) and Nick Kinley (Wembley Golf Club).

**Graduate of the Year - Recent Winners**

- 2000 - Brett Barsby (Royal Queensland Golf Club)
- 2001 - Scott Carruthers (Pennant Hills Golf Club)
- 2002 - Glenn Dawson (Federal Golf Club)
- 2003 - James Dalton (Thirteenth Beach Golf Club)
- 2004 - ?

*At the time of going to print the list of nominees for each award had yet to be finalised. Finalists and winners will appear in Volume 6.4 of Australian Turfgrass Management magazine. 🏌️*



Winners, finalists and award sponsors from the 2003 AGCSA Awards



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