

BOWLS NEW ZEALAND GREEN KEEPERS

March 2026

NEWSLETTER #5

To: All Greenkeepers Associations, Bowls New Zealand, NZ Sports Turf Institute

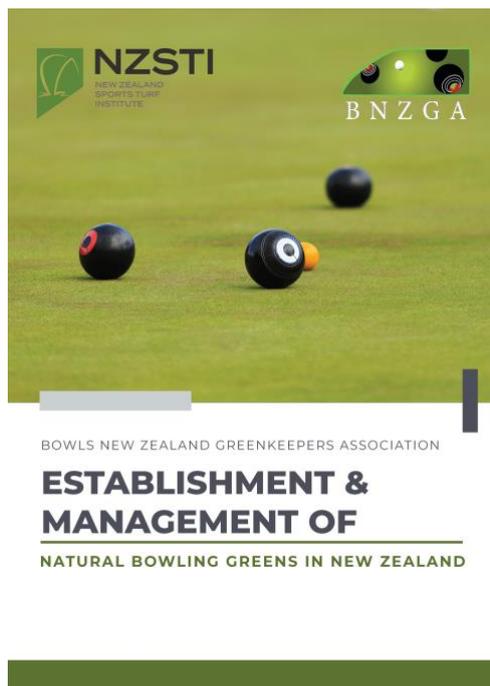
Message from President

Hi folks. What a fabulous year we are having so far. The work your executive is doing is instrumental in seeing that the Greenkeeping fraternity is well informed and making great relationships within our community, Bowls NZ. Mark Cameron, CEO, thank you for your support and striving very hard to build the relationships that will assist not only BNZGA but bowls in general. The relationship we have with Prebble Seeds is thanks to Mark Cameron and Bruce Lowe (Now Retired) for working together for the benefit of bowls in general.

BNZGA Executive with the support of NZSTI have updated the Bowlers Bible which was last updated back in 2008. The new edition is now on sale at the NZSTI office but those who have current full license with NZSTI received a cost-free copy. This was paid for with the money our association received from the BNZ /Prebbles contract. BNZGA have added three extra field days with NZSTI for 2025-26 (See below the field day schedule).

I want to congratulate Waikato & Central Otago Greenkeeping Associations for holding the North and South Island conferences respectively during 2025. It was so good to see the number of people that attended both conferences. I hope Kapiti/Wellington in the North along with Nelson in the South will get the same support this year.

The updated Greenkeepers Bible.



BOWLS NEW ZEALAND GREENKEEPING ASSOCIATION **INCORPORATED AWARDS 2025**

GREENKEEPER OF THE YEAR 2025

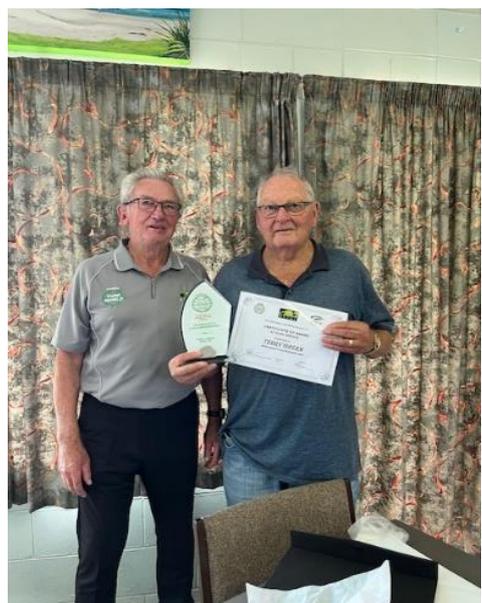
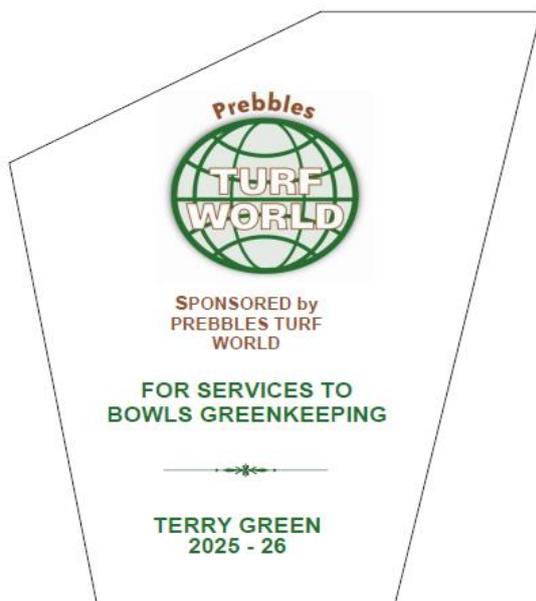


Alan Allison (Belfast Bowling Club)

Congratulations to Alan Allison from Belfast Bowling Club who was named Green Keeper of the year 2024/25 at the Bowls New Zealand Awards.

Alan has been a longstanding greenkeeper of Bowls Canterbury, and the Award is well merited. His greens are known to be well-presented around the Canterbury region.

FOR SERVICES TO BOWLS GREENKEEPING



Terry Green (Waikato)

LONG SERVICE AWARDS FOR 20 YEARS PLUS SERVICE

Brian McCarten	Southbridge	Canterbury
Tony Gray	Hillcrest	Waikato
Dave Hutton	Forby Park	Dunedin
Dave Jones	Bowls Taupo	Bay of Plenty
Gerard Slattery	Tui Park	Thames Valley
Terry Rossiter	Ric Racecourse	Canterbury
Roger Gutberlet	Ashburton	Mid Canterbury
John Capill	Blenheim	Marlborough
Maurice Cattermole	Ngawhatu	Nelson
Andrew Bowden	Parklands	Canterbury

Greenkeeper Position

Rangiora Bowling Club - Canterbury

Do you wish for a more relaxed lifestyle?

Have you contemplated moving to Rangiora or do you live here currently?

The Rangiora Bowling Club has a vacancy for the role of Greenkeeper.

The Club has 2 natural greens that have been expertly managed and maintained.

We are seeking expressions of interest from Greenkeepers who are both qualified and experienced. The expectations are that you will provide the same high standard of Bowling Greens that have been prepared over prior years.

You will be an independent contractor who will report to our Board. The contract, remuneration and terms & conditions will be negotiated between the successful applicant and the Club.

The successful candidate will assume full control effective from 1May 2026 with a handover commencing at an agreed date.

If you are interested, please forward your CV to The Secretary, Rangiora Bowling Club at rangiorabowling@gmail.com

If you have any questions in relation to this role, please contact :-

Ross Mehrtens

President

021 2689595

Health and Safety

How well is your club in this space??

Recently I attended a Centre Green Keeping meeting and asked how many greenkeepers and the greenkeeping shed (especially Chemical storage) been audited monthly by the clubs Health and Safety officer ????? sadly the answer was.....Not one of them!!!!.

Bowls Clubs and or Green Keepers that don't take Health and Safety seriously are an accident waiting to happen. Do not be the first to have an accident and then fail H & S or Grow Safe requirements. I am picking that whoever is first will be made an example of and as we know the penalties will be harsh.

Talk to your Clubs and if you need a hand in things Health and Safety contact your local Bowls NZ CDO. There are easy to follow templates, plans and actions already to easily adapt to fit your club.

Greenkeeping Database

Greenkeepers Database

I have asked for information about each clubs Greenkeeper i.e. Name, email address and phone number. We are doing this, so we can contact each greenkeeper direct as information we produce does not always get to greenkeepers. To date the information supply has been slow with only 20% of the just under 450 have replied. Please send to me – address details of all greenkeepers

Recently there was significant interest in topics covered at the South Island Greenkeeping conference by some our North Island greenkeepers. I was able to get hold of a copy of the conference material, get it scanned and then sent to the interested greenkeepers. An example of the use a national database can be used for.

BNZGA: is proud and thrilled that Bowls New Zealand and Prebble Turf World are to expand the longstanding relationship they have with bowling clubs and their greenkeepers throughout New Zealand with this exciting partnership.

With world class products, advice and their freight free policy, all clubs stand to benefit from the partnership with Bowls New Zealand.

Greenkeeping New Zealand wide, whether natural or artificial will receive the shot in the arm it needs to be able to provide support, training, research, field days, conference support including help from the Prebbles team

All we ask is that clubs and greenkeepers alike give full support to Prebble Turf World with their purchases now and in the future

Gaming Funding:

We all know that accessing gaming and being successful in obtaining funds is getting harder. Your regional Bowls New Zealand CDO's can assist in ensuring your club understands what a great application looks like, developing a great template for future application

- Contact Chris Lander for further support
- Chris Lander 021 109 5965 or email: chris@bowlsnewzealand.co.nz

Field Days 2025-26

Good turnout of 15 greenkeepers at the Waikato Field Day



Matamata RSA Greens Report; Graeme Motion

Greens look good. Starweed and Maniototo mix. David advised the surface is good and does not bounce, playing accurately.

He had a bit of Rolf's disease recently and he treated this with Pro P and Amistar and this seems to have done the trick.

Rewa Greens Report: Bruce Maxwell

Again, the green looks good, moisture good with no browning off, and holding up well with the heavy usage. The green is a mixture of everything, grass, Starweed, hydrocotyle and moss. Moss will be treated in March when there is more rain.

At the end of the last season the ends of the green were destroyed. Parklands drilled the green and made an even bigger mess, and the rain kept washing away the Starweed seed. Recovery took six months, but it is looking good now.

Morrinsville Bowling Club: Trevor Lingard

Just a quick look here, greens are good with a little bit of toad rush showing in the outer edges. There was mention that the green slopes a little toward the ditches and this will be looked at with this year's renovation.

David Ormsby (NZSTI) presentation

Preparing Greens for Nationals

David advised the role of the greenkeeper is to provide a bowling surface.

Test the green by bowling a bowl to check both sides to make sure they draw to the centre of the green. Speed needs to be 16-17 sec (coming to rest at 27m) as this speed will allow the bowlers to play all shots.

If the green is slow need to mow more, and you need to look at how the green plays and then fix any issues.

Canterbury Stalwart – Alan Jones – Leeston Bowling Club

You will find one of the most pristine greens in Canterbury. In something of a feather for his cap, Leeston greenkeeper Alan Jones has meticulously prepared the green over the past three years to the standard required for a national championship 2026. 3 Days of singles and one day of pairs.

This is the first time in 25 years the club has hosted a national championship event.

“I am over the moon “says Jones. Many of the club members don’t know what it’s like to have such an occasion here. I am thrilled to think our green was chosen.

Having been a member of the club for 56 years and having every position in the club I got roped into the position, so busy he bought the house next door 32 years ago had a gate put in between the house and club and have been inseparable since



Far North – Northland Field Day

The pre-season Field Day attended by some 24 greenkeepers started at Kamo which needs a lot of care and nurturing to get it back to its former standards. Phil Morgan is doing a fabulous job in working on the green.

Onto Kensington where they have done a complete renovation job on the green but awaiting to complete the total job.

Next was Onerahi where Bruce has done a great job of getting the green up to a good standard by going back to a full Starweed green.

Tara McLeod from NZSTI was in attendance and gave some valuable information to those present

Auckland /North Harbour Field Day

The greenkeepers from both associations met and voted Mike Galloway into the position of President of the association. Mike knowledge and expertise will be of great value to all the regions greenkeepers. Mike thanked for the support of all those who attended as I the past it has been hard to get support for greenkeeping association.

Tara McLoed attended on behalf of NZSTI and brought along the newly appointed new team member in Gerard.

The focus of the day was reflection on winter renovation, chemical control best practice and health & safety management, along with expert insights on disease control to help with expected changeable weather conditions in coming months.



Hawkes Bay Greenkeepers Field Day

Dave Stevenson supported by Brendon Hannon NZSTI greeted the Hawkes Bay greenkeepers to there annual field day where information and help was passed onto greenkeepers in attendance.



Taranaki Greenkeepers Field Day

The field day was supported by 26 greenkeepers with Andrew Mitchell from NZSTI who gave excellent information regarding moisture content in greens and where it was too wet v not wet enough.

The day commenced at Vogeltown where the green has not had the usual use for major events due to drop in membership and club making themselves unavailable for centre events.

We then went to New Plymouth Club where the No.1 green showed disease problems and bare areas where it lacked from sunlight and water. The No.2 green was in great order thanks to the volunteer help of extensive mowing and grooming.

West End Greens (3) were in great order considering the amount of use they have had since Xmas. Most Centre events are held at West End which tells you they are in good condition.

Waimea's new Maniototo green sown last July/August looked to growing well and has had play on it for the past month.

Paritutu Club greens also showed why they some of the best in the province and the New planted No.3 (see below) green looks great with play on it showing no signs of damage.

Final stop was at Oakura which was in good order and playing great as it usually does.



Paritutu No. 3 Green

Dunedin Greenkeepers Field Day

We had 24 people turn up to the field day which included visiting 7 Clubs from Outram to Portobello, which is down the Otago Peninsula.

Good discussions was had with our agronomist David Howard over lunch when we were down the Peninsula. David of course also explained different issues at the greens that we visited.

Discussion around the weather was high on the agenda and also advising members of the next South Island Conference in Nelson to try and prepare to attend.

Much discussion was also had on requirements for preparation on renovation time and when to close greens to complete on time.



NZSTI FIELD DAY SCHEDULE FOR 2025-26

North Island Centres	No of Days= 15	South Island Centres	No of Days= 8
Far North	2*	Nelson	1
Northland	1	Marlborough	1
Auckland, North Harbour & Counties	2*	West Coast & Buller	1
Bay of Plenty	1	Canterbury	1
Waikato	1	South Canterbury & North Otago	1
Thames Valley	1	Central Otago	1
Taranaki	1	Dunedin & South Otago	1
Wanganui	1	Southland	1
Manawatu	1		
Gisborne /East Coast	1*		
Hawkes Bay	1		
Wellington, Kapiti Coast	1		
Wairarapa	1		
BNZ contract			20
*3 additional field days (purchased by BNZGA) are allocated to : Far North Counties in the Auckland Assn, Gisborne/East Coast			3
TOTAL			23

Notice board for Taranaki Bowling Clubs

Greenkeepers Bowling Tournament 23rd March 2026 at Pihama Bowling Club 9.30am

Greenkeeper moving to district

After 35 years greenkeeping in the Wellington region I am relocating to Taranaki.

I am currently the greenkeeper at the Naenae Bowling club and have been there for the past 9 years

Geoff Adams
Mob. 0276 0788 833
Email: adamsgeoff@gmail.com

CONFERENCES 2026

North Island Conference at Paraparaumu Beach

Host Club: Paraparaumu Beach BC - 17 Toro Road Paraparaumu Beach / Kapiti Coast Centre

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd June 2026

Chairman: Scott Sinclair-Paton
Phone: 021 101 6056

Secretary: Brendon Gibson
Phone: 027 232 6875

Email: scott.s.paton@outlook.com

Email: brendon.j.gibson@gmail.com

South Island Conference is to be held in Nelson.

Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th July 2026

Host Centre: Bowls Nelson - Venue Tahuna Function Centre 70 Beach Road Tahunanui Nelson, 7011

Chairman: Wayne Marshall
- Phone: 027 232 0225
- Email: jenninemarshall@xtra.co.nz

Registration Form and Event Programme details will be forwarded once finalised.

ARTIFICIAL GREEN MAINTENANCE

Artificial Green Maintenance Programme

“Extend the life of your artificial green by up to 5 years”



Bowls NZ has partnered with Sort and Game on Turf to provide a best practice maintenance programme to help you take good care of your artificial green.

This programme removes the hassle of maintenance with an annual green health check and a maintenance schedule for your artificial green.

Regular maintenance ensures optimal performance and a long life for your most important asset.

Annual Cost

- ✓ 1x green - \$1995 + GST
- ✓ 2x green - \$3495 +GST



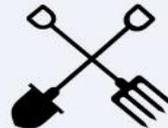
Annual Visit



State of your green health check and report



Bi-annual spray for moss, algae and mildew



Minor green and ditch repairs

Ask us about some optional extras such as: Line marking or Green stretching.



For more information contact :

Brett Young | Chief Sorter

021 021 7744