

## **NZGCSA Presidents Report for the 2017 Annual General Meeting-August 2017**

I'm pleased to report that the NZGCSA has continued to strive ahead over the past twelve months. We have produced another small profit despite the loss of income previously achieved by our moderation contract. Helping to counteract the moderation loss we have seen an increasing number of and income derived from our website advertisements for jobs and machinery. They are wide reaching and many members are now checking out the website on a regular basis. Our membership base is steady and heading north and we hope to continually grow this as members see real benefits of being members of the NZGCSA.

The NZGCSA biggest asset is the staff that serves it as without their tireless efforts there would be nothing achieved. It's been another stellar year from Fiona Izzard our Administration Officer as she continues to grow in her role. Fiona is the lady that makes sure everything happens behind the scenes whether it is your turf journal arriving at your workplace or simply fielding one of the many enquiries from our members. And Fiona does all this while also bringing up a young family of four boys so our sincere thanks go out to Fiona.

Last October we saw the early departure of NZGCSA President Marty Burger leaving the industry to pursue business and life opportunities that had been presented earlier than he had expected. The NZGCSA board then appointed me to the President's role and it has been a lot of time and hard work since then sitting in the big chair. Fortunately we have a great bunch of fellow Directors in Greg Swafford, Jason Perkins, Brendon O'Hara and Sam Keats and all have been very supportive and hardworking which makes my job much more tenable and achievable. We are also very fortunate that all current directors have committed to another term on the NZGCSA which is extremely positive for cohesion and the way forward.

Helping the NZGCSA to move forward in a positive manner is our key trade partners who show support both financially and in presence. Relative to many industries we are a small industry and as such relationships between ourselves both as individual members and the NZGCSA as a collective and our trade partners is extremely important. We give thanks to all those trade members that support us.

Also helping to make the wheels turn behind the scenes are Peter Boyd and Kellie Rose. Peter's work for the NZGCSA on the industry training groups he represents us on is paramount and he is well respected within our industry and the wider associated industries for his knowledge and experience related to it. Kellie Rose from the Primary ITO also continues to wave our flag strongly ensuring we are heard and harnessing the best training for our industry that she can.

2018 promises to be a big year for the NZGCSA as it supports the AGCSA in bringing their conference to New Zealand for the very first time. This has been in the making for a number of years and finally comes to fruition. Called the Australasian Turf conference and to be held in Wellington in June of next year it provides a great opportunity for turfies on both sides of the ditch to mix and mingle throughout the conference and collectively share knowledge both in and out of the seminars. Networking is an integral part of everyone's lives as the turfing world becomes global for employment opportunities. The NZGCSA is committed to having as many members as we can there and are looking at the best possible ways to achieve this. It will also require buy in from your own Clubs and the NZGCSA will be sending information out to all Golf Clubs advising of the many benefits

of having their staff attend the conference albeit without the extra cost of flights to Australia. I recently attended the Australian conference and was impressed with the positivity of the Australian turfies towards the conference being in New Zealand. Most I spoke to were also taking the opportunity to bring their families over and spend holiday time here before or after the conference.

The NZGCSA and AGCSA have worked together very closely over recent years and future joint synergies are very feasible. The recent combining of the Future Turf Managers Initiative training in Australia is a prime example of this and was thoroughly enjoyed by the 5 kiwi turfies that attended. Again it provided key network opportunities and a chance to swap knowledge. We look forward to our continued association with the AGCSA.

Finally thanks to everyone who are members of the NZGCSA. Through your support we are able to function and provide opportunities for education and development of our members which are the prime functions of our existence. With your continued support and involvement we can continue to grow this wonderful organisation of ours.

Steve Hodson

NZGCSA President