

**FOCUS ON GREENKEEPING**

# **NORTH ISLAND GREENKEEPERS SEMINAR TAURANGA, 21-22 JUNE 2010**

*By Norman Cowie*

*The Bay of Plenty Greenkeepers hosted a very successful North Island Seminar at the Tauranga South Bowling Club. The seminar included a comprehensive array of workshops, open forum discussions, information about greenkeeping training, and discussions around green evaluation forms, Bowls New Zealand's contract with NZSTI and Bowls New Zealand's strategic plan.*

Among the highlights at the gathering was the enthusiastic manner

in which prominent expert agronomist, David Ormsby, dispensed his wide knowledge to the eager audience. Other workshops included mower setting by Evan Ford, verti drain in action by Parklands Turf, and reading product labels by Prebble Seeds. In addition to the main workshops there were several speakers giving lectures about a variety of issues that face greenkeepers today.

Martin Christensen received a Greenkeepers Long Service Award from

Bowls New Zealand Greenkeeping Association President Norman Cowie, a fitting reward for 26 years of service in the greenkeeping industry. Congratulations must also go to Harry Hopping and Ann Dougal who were presented with the Merit Award Plaque for 12 and 10 years of service respectively. David Ormsby, who is widely regarded as one of New Zealand's most expert greenkeepers received a Merit Award for his outstanding 21 years of service.



# **THE SOUTH ISLAND SEMINAR ASHBURTON, 6-7 JULY 2010**

*By Norman Cowie*

The excellent programme started with a welcome from Ashburton Mayor Mr Bede O'Malley, and Norman Cowie. The topics covered were similar to the North Island Seminar, and included discussion about organic matter management, legislation and risk management, drainage, and planning machines. The speaker line up for the event was exceptional, and the comment and involvement from the floor during every talk and paper was outstanding. Bob Moore received a Long Service Award for his amazing achievement of 36 years in service. A Life Membership was also presented to Warwick Graham for his services to the association since 1988.

The New Zealand Greenkeeping Association held its Bi Annual General Meeting on the evening of the 6th and the following officers were elected:

- President – Ron Sabin (Canterbury)
- Vice President – Norman Cowie (South Canterbury)
- Secretary – Maurice Symes (Canterbury)
- Treasurer – Warwick Graham (Canterbury)

**Committee**

- Marty Webb (Northland)
- Evan Forde (Auckland)
- Murray Adamson (Hamilton)
- Stu Dally (Canterbury)
- Roger Gibson (Otago)