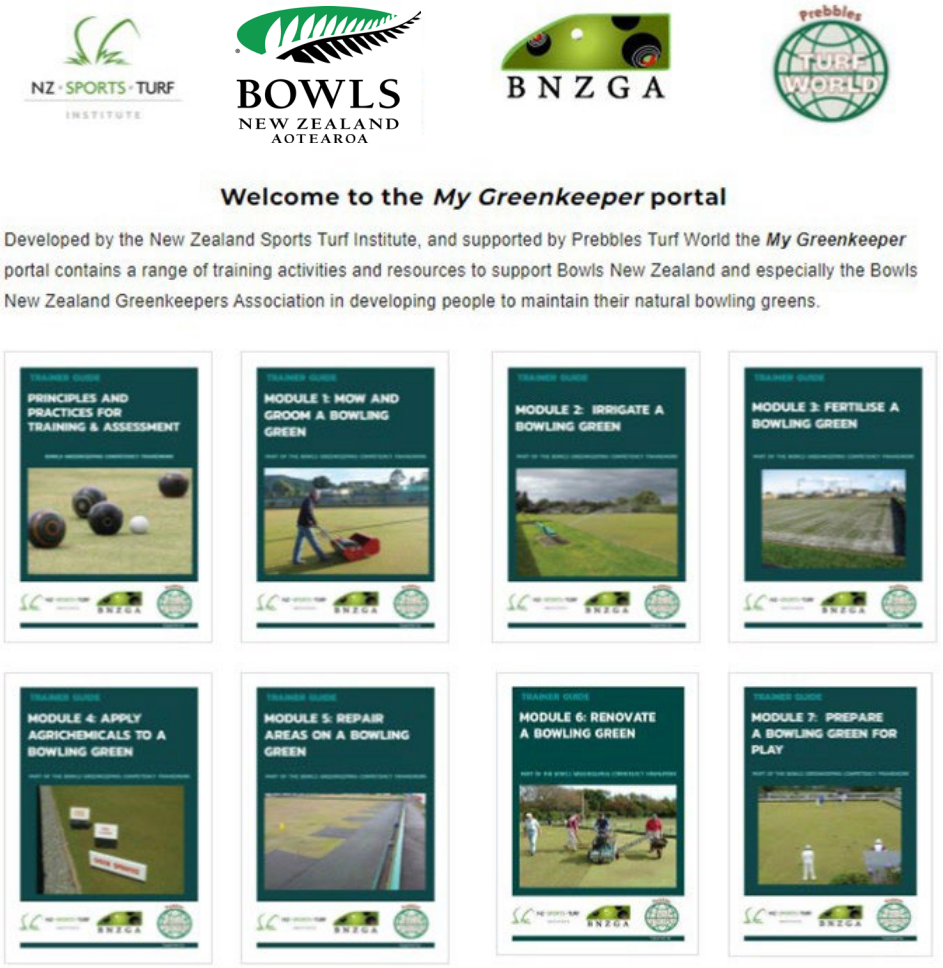




A new programme *MyGreenkeeper* developed specifically for Bowls Greenkeepers aims to train and assess volunteers at regional bowling clubs in the technical skills required to maintain greens ready for play.

MyGreenkeeper has been developed by the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute (NZSTI) specifically for the needs of the Bowls New Zealand Greenkeepers Association (BNZGA).

For the BNZGA this is a significant and strategic investment, intended to address the diminishing pool of professional bowls greenkeepers available to clubs, whilst also providing an exciting opportunity for club volunteers.

MyGreenkeeper is part of the NZSTI's wider efforts to have comprehensive training solutions in place for each sector of our industry, and that probably hasn't been the case for the Bowling community for quite some time.

A feature of *MyGreenkeeper* is the modular design coupled with specialist content, unlike other sports turf programmes which must cater for a wide range of sports surfaces each module of *MyGreenkeeper* is dedicated to a very specific set of skills on a bowling green, the outcome for any module is obvious, they include:

- Mow and groom a bowling green
- Irrigate a bowling green
- Fertilise a bowling green
- Repairs on a bowling green
- Renovate a bowling green
- Prepare a bowling green for play

The training involves a variety of practical tasks performed under supervision and mentoring by the BNZGA regional trainers.



Figure 1: James Williams (Waikato/Bay of Plenty), Robert Gibson (Southern), Marty Webb (Northland), Howard Ivory (Wellington), Jamey Ferris (Canterbury), Maurice Symes (Taranaki), Ron Sabin (Nelson / Marlborough) and Lindsay Robertson (NZSTI Trainer).

The inaugural regional trainers have all been through NZSTI's 'Train the Trainers' programme and have all the tools necessary to bring this opportunity to life.
MyGreenkeeper will equip volunteer greenkeepers with important skills to ensure the ongoing viability of many regional clubs, and especially their greens.

As well as introducing volunteers to the technical skills of Greenkeeping, *MyGreenkeeper* will also contribute to clubs' overall health and safety systems, wherein the past selected volunteers may have 'helped out' – there are now dedicated training steps to follow, and importantly for club administrators a formal record of each module achieved.

For the volunteers they are also recognised in their contributions to their club or regional facilities with certification for each module successfully completed.



All the training, assessment and certifications resources are housed in a the dedicated *MyGreenkeeper* portal which provides a centralised hub for recording all training and assessment. Access is limited to the certified regional trainers and controlled by the Bowls New Zealand Greenkeepers Association executive.

Who manages the Greenkeeping training?

The Bowls New Zealand Greenkeepers Association manages the *MyGreenkeeper* training through their regional network of trainers.

How to do I enrol someone from my club in the training?

If your club wants to nominate a volunteer for training or want further information on the training, contact your nearest regional trainer.

Who is my regional trainer?



What is the cost?

The cost for a club to have a volunteer trained is $200.00 per module.