

Ben Hook (MC)

I would like to introduce Alicia Smith from Golf Australia who is looking after our trophies this evening.

****All award winners, please enter and exit the stage via the left hand side stairs (to my right) and once exiting please head to the Media Wall for a photo.**

I would now like to invite Award Sponsor **Richard Walne (from Toro Australia)** to come forward to present:

(SA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION) - GRADUATE AWARD

Ben Hook (MC)

The Graduate Award acknowledges the most outstanding Apprentice or Trainee within the last 12 months. The Award winner has demonstrated a high level of academic achievement and shows good motivation and communication skills. He has developed a good knowledge in Turf Management and has a desire to be a future leader within the turf industry.

The Graduate Award was judged earlier in the year to coincide with the AGCSA Graduate of the Year Award. Our 2018 Recipient represented the SAGCSA at the Australian Turfgrass Conference held in Wellington New Zealand following judging for the national award.

For the past 4 years the recipient has been an outstanding apprentice and a great role model for all apprentices that have commenced at his club. A very positive attitude and a willingness to learn saw him excel in his early years and towards the end of his apprenticeship his ability also saw him play a big role in preparation for the Women's Australian open.

Since completing his apprenticeship in January, he has again shown a willingness to excel in his role as a senior member of the ground staff and continues to impress with his role, now developing into more technical duties. His passion for golf allows him to visualise things from a different perspective and he freely offers his observations on daily course conditions.

If the recipient continues to advance his skill set and theory-based knowledge he will become an outstanding employee either at his current club or within the industry.

The South Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association Graduate Award goes to:

Thomas Schott **from The Grange Golf Club**