

# 2017 South Australian Golf Industry Awards Night

## Saturday 21 October 2017

Ben Hook (MC)

The next Award - is for **Service to the South Australian Golf Industry**

### SERVICE TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOLF INDUSTRY

Ben Hook (MC)

This award has been presented for the past four years, in 2013 to decorated Sports Journalist **Geoff Roach**, then to Women's Golf SA Administrator **Raelene Collings**, in 2015 to the legendary **Allen Hurst** and then last year to Dr. Ian McInnes.

It is awarded to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the South Australian Golf Industry.

But this year we have dual winners who have made an outstanding contribution to golf specifically in regards to junior development.

Ladies and Gentleman the winners of this award are **Nick McCormack and Jan Douglass**.

**Nick** learned to play golf at 13 with his dad in Goulburn NSW and turned Professional when he was 16 serving a 3 year apprenticeship at Goulburn Golf Club. He won a few Pro Ams in NSW, Queensland and SA and then made the move to South Australia in 1980 to work as the Professional at The Vines of Reynella (Marino at the time).

It all began for Jan in Cambridge England hitting balls around a cricket oval at 7 years' old and at 12 Jan joined the Gog Magog golf club where her father was a scratch golfer.

**Jan** trained to become a teacher in Norwich and was also a member at Eaton Golf Club and in 1963 won the Cambridgeshire Country Championship. Her lowest handicap was 5.

Jan then came to Australia to work as a teacher in Melbourne, then met her husband and came to Adelaide joining The Vines of Reynella, winning the club championship in 1971.

After her children went to school, Jan joined Flagstaff Hill Golf Club and was asked by the Junior Advancement Committee to set up a Junior Golf Club at Flagstaff Hill. The juniors met on Saturday afternoons and then later combined with northern clubs to run the club from Adelaide Shores. Jan's involvement with juniors was growing.

In 1985, after a few years at The Vines, Nick joined Golf SA (then known as SAGA) as the Development Officer. In his first 13 years Nick travelled all around the state coaching in clubs and schools. He taught 'Go-Go Golf' to some 8,000 primary school students each year and also conducted PE Teacher Training.

Nick was responsible for starting the SAPSASA Golf Championship giving juniors the opportunity to compete at a higher level and also started the Independent Schools championship. He also ran annual boys and girls live in camps at Immanuel College.

**A real highlight for Nick during this period** was coaching the Junior State Team for 18 years winning the Interstate series in 2005 at 13th Beach.

Jan retired from teaching in 1995 and then in 1998 after a stint as Captain of Flagstaff Hill, Helen McMurtrie phoned and asked Jan if she would like to meet and discuss the job of DEVELOPMENT OFFICER at Women's Golf SA.

Jan was offered the job, but had no idea what was ahead of her so Helen asked Jan to phone Nick (who was in the same role at SAGA), to get together to collaborate on junior golf. **It was the beginning of a long working relationship and friendship.**

Together they started Try Golf for Women at Adelaide Shores and conducted Go-Go golf clinics in the city and later in the country.

Women's golf had the use of a Hyundai vehicle and with SAGA paying for the accommodation, they spent many year venturing to all country areas teaching Try Golf and Junior clinics.

They then both realized there was a real need to establish a club to give junior golfers a chance to try before they joined a traditional club. So in 2001 Nick began a Boys Club at Adelaide Shores which later became McCormack's Golf Club for boys and girls.

The duo also brought to fruition the idea of a specialist golf school. They put together a curriculum and then went to the SACE board to begin a Focus School for golf at Henley High School and Adelaide Shores, as a follow up from SAPSASA. They began with 17 boys and the program continues today at Henley High and The Grange and attracts golfers from city and country areas.

The pair continued annual golf camps taking the best 30 golfers for a camps at Fort Largs and later at The Adelaide Caravan Park. They started the Jack Newton Invitational, have been involved in many programs from Go Go Golf, The Schweppes Program, First Tee and Pump and now MyGolf.

Now are still both active with McCormacks Golf Club twice a month on Sundays at Adelaide Shores, and are now joined by Jan's daughter, Sarah.

They run Season Cups in school holidays for juniors and recently held the Spring Cup for 53 juniors from 4 years old to 18.

They still travel and hold an Easter Camp at Port Lincoln and conduct some junior coaching in Maitland.

Nick still does some private and junior coaching at The Grange twice a month.

They have both dedicated most of their lives to the golf industry developing the game and have individually and collectively made an outstanding contribution to the golf industry in South Australia.

**I would like to call forward His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le, Governor of South Australia to make the presentation to the awards winners.**

Ladies & Gentlemen, the Award for **Service to the South Australian Golf Industry** goes to:

**Nick McCormack and Jan Douglass**