



(Sat 29 Oct 2011)
 Induction speech by **Nick Thornton** (PGA Southern Division Executive Officer)

Nick Thornton:

Ladies and Gentlemen it gives me great pleasure to announce the next inductee into the South Australian Golf Industry Hall of Fame is:

Murray Crafter

A member of the legendary CRAFTER family - a brother to Brian and uncle to Neil and Jane - both Murray and Brian had their initial introductions to the game of golf caddying for members at Kooyonga Golf Club

As soon as he was old enough, Murray undertook a traineeship under the tutelage of Fred Thompson at Glenelg Golf Club - turning professional in 1953 and subsequently taking the position of resident professional at Brisbane's Wynnum Golf Club.

18-months later he returned to Adelaide to take up the position of professional at Glenelg Golf Club - a post he was to hold for the next 33 years.

Murray's playing career is legendary - recording 123 professional victories between 1953 and 1970.

Amongst his first victories was at his old stomping ground of Kooyonga - where the award ceremony took place on the putting green as in those days - professionals were not welcome in the clubhouse!

Most notably he is the winner of 20 SA state titles - including 6 SA Open victories in 57, 58, 59, 62, 63, and 65 and 11 SA PGA titles between 1953 and 1966 in both match play and stroke play formats.

His other notable Australian victories included two Advertiser Open victories in 57 & 59 - both tournaments being played for 1000 pounds prize money, which were amongst the highest domestic golf purses at the time.

He also tied the legendary Kel Nagle at the 1960 West End Open held at Victor Harbor.

Murray also enjoyed success overseas - most notably the 1960 European Tour season where he finished 4th at the Dutch Open, 9th in the German Open and 6th at the French Open which was won by the legendary Argentinian player Roberto De Vicenzo.

His French Open performance was particularly notable for a final round course record 63 at the St Cloud Golf Club - a record which still stands to this day.

He recorded a total of 103 Pro Am victories during his career - his last being recorded at Marino Golf Club - now know of course as the Vines of Reynella Golf Club.

Through his son Peter - also a noted South Australian professional - Murray has expressed his thanks for this recognition - stating that he is 'absolutely rapt' to be recognised by the industry.

Turning 81 in December - Murray sends his apologies for not being in attendance tonight as he is currently traveling in Tasmania which has been a long held desire.

On Murray's behalf it is our pleasure to welcome his niece Julie Crafter to accept his induction into the SA Golf Industry Hall of Fame.