



(Sat 29 Oct 2011)

Induction speech by **Jan Sutherland** (CEO of Sport SA and past Chair of the interim Board of Golf SA)

Jan Sutherland:

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

Jane Crafter

Jane Crafter is regarded as one of South Australia's best ever golfers. Jane's first game was at the North Adelaide Par 3 course as a 6 year old with Brother Neil and father Brian. While she played the occasional round as a child, it wasn't until her teenage years that Jane became seriously keen on the game – subsequently joining Kooyonga as a Junior and announcing her credentials as a representative player of the future, by winning the South Australian Girls' Amateur Championship in 1974.

Crafter won the SA Stroke Play Championships know as the Rene Erichsen Salver four times in 1975, 77, 78 & 79.

At age 21 she won her first SA Amateur title in 1977 and backed up again in 1980, in addition to winning the Victorian Amateur in 1979.

Jane also played the Ladies British Amateur in 1978 and 1980.

Upon completion of her tertiary pharmacy degree her golf really blossomed.

National representative honours followed – playing for Australia in the 1978 Trans Tasman Cup in New Zealand in addition to winning the NZ Amateur title during the same trip. Similarly she was to win the 1980 Belgian Amateur title while touring in Europe as an Australian representative.

Jane represented Australia a total of 10 times as an Amateur from 1977 to 1980.

Professional golf soon beckoned – with Jane moving to the United States late in 1980 to pursue a career on the lucrative LPGA Tour. She has one official LPGA tour victory: the 1990 Phar-Mor Classic at Inverrary in Florida, where she triumphed over the legendary Nancy Lopez. Her other unofficial victory was in the 1987 JC Penney Classic, a mixed team event that she won with US Open Winner Steve Jones.

Jane has always returned to play in Australia and support the local tournaments. She was victorious in the 1992 and '96 Australian Ladies Masters at Royal Pines, against top-class fields, when the event was co-sanctioned with the US LPGA Tour - while in '97 she collected the most coveted prize in Australian Women's golf - winning the Women's Australian Open at Yarra Yarra. Jane has also played in Europe, Japan and Korea and represented Australia a number of times in the Australia-Japan Foundation Trophy. She has career earnings on the LPGA Tour of close to \$2 Million over a 25 year career.

Since 1998 Jane has been a commentator and analyst for NBC, ESPN and the Golf Channel in the USA and for the ABC and Network 10 in Australia.

Jane's significant sporting Awards include:

- A Sports Emmy Award in the US for her work as a commentator for the NBC Golf Tour in 1998
- Winning the Advertiser South Australian Sports Star of the Year a number of times.
- In 2004 Honored as one of "South Australia's greatest every sports stars" by the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Research Foundation.
- And in 2009 was awarded the Mercedes Benz Legends of Women's Golf Award.

Jane remains a great golfing ambassador at both state and national level – having recently agreed to become the inaugural ambassador for the Junior Golf SA program, which is being launched by Golf SA this November.

Jane is unable to join us this evening due to her work commitments in the US – but she has sent us a video message from her home in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ladies and Gentlemen, accepting the award for Jane is her niece Lucy Crafter.