

MEDIA RELEASE

Bravo Southport Golf Club!

Tuesday 29 November 2022

On behalf of the WPGA Tour of Australasia, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the team at Southport Golf Club for their vision in bringing back women's professional golf to the Gold Coast.

We are delighted to be hosting the WPGA Tour Southport Pro-Am at one of the Gold Coast's most historic and picturesque courses.

I have been particularly buoyed by the energetic and passionate approach with which the team at Southport has approached this exciting new event. It is most encouraging to see a golf club, celebrating its Centenary year in 2024, so readily embracing a culture of inclusiveness, diversity and equity. I applaud the entire membership, staff and stakeholders for their commitment to the future.

I would like to offer a special thanks to the women members at Southport Golf Club who are a massively important and enthusiastic part of the club and its history.

As a women's sporting organisation, the WPGA Tour is passionate about growing the game of golf, particularly for women and girls right throughout Australia.

The work done behind the scenes on the formulation of the recently launched Australian Golf Strategy ([click here](#)) has shown us that golf as a sport in this country has lagged in recognising and supporting women in the game.

Some of the data we uncovered, such as that women in golf clubs in Australia make up less than 18% of total club membership, and that the average age of a female club member in Australia is 64 years of age, is particularly alarming and highlights the fact that if golf clubs in Australia continue to ignore "the other" 50% of the population it is only a matter of time before our clubs and our sport will land in big trouble. The new National Golf Strategy has a strong focus on women and girls and is built around what we call our "Three Ps."

Our Purpose is to get more Australians playing more golf.

Our Philosophy is that all golf is golf, and all Australians can be golfers.

Our Positioning is that golf is a sport for all Australians, a sport for life and fun for all.

Our responsibility as custodians of golf is to promote these messages far and wide.

As a part of the WPGA's commitment to the Southport Pro-Am, the WPGA Tour will be hosting a clinic and mentoring session for local junior girls, providing them with advice and learnings from successful tour professionals. This is a unique and valuable experience for those fortunate enough to participate.

I look forward to working with the team at Southport Golf Club to deliver the WPGA Tour Pro-Am on 13 March 2023. It will be an outstanding event that will set new benchmarks in this country and will help drive women's and girls' participation in the great game of golf.

Interview Opportunity

Karen Lunn – CEO WPGA Australasian Tour

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