

AUSTRALIA'S



GREATEST GOLFERS

THE BEST PLAYERS THIS COUNTRY HAS EVER PRODUCED – INCLUDING WHO'S REALLY No.1. BY ROHAN CLARKE

AS WE celebrate 50 years as a golf publication, it presents an ideal opportunity to reflect upon the many wonderful golfers this country has produced. To mark the occasion we rank Australia's 50 Greatest Golfers of all time.

Of course, it's problematical to compare a current-day player on the lucrative PGA Tour (who has an entourage of service providers) with post-WWII golfers who traipsed the fairways of Britain. So we have defined Australia's 50 Greatest Golfers by what they have achieved in open competition against professional and amateurs alike.

Hence, we make no apologies for the absence of many fine amateurs. Some may question the omission of Harry Williams, a four-time Victorian Amateur champion, two-time Australian Amateur winner and runner-up to the great Gene Sarazen at the 1936 Australian Open. Other omissions include lifetime amateurs such as Doug Bachli, Peter Toogood, Tony Gresham and Leonora Wray, the mother of Australian golf.

We looked more favourably at players who achieved success abroad. A prime example is Jim Ferrier, a contemporary of Williams, who

sought playing opportunities in America and became Australia's first winner of a professional Major.

We also factored in playing opportunities. Historically, the Australian circuit provided plenty of opportunities for men, especially Opens and PGAs at state level. But not for women who must now aim towards the super-competitive LPGA Tour given the dearth of four-round tournaments in Australia (and now Europe). That's why it's tricky to compare the careers of Ossie Pickworth and Billy Dunk with Rachel Hetherington and Katherine Kirk.

The circumstances upon which a player achieved their relative success have been taken into consideration. For instance, when comparing Adam Scott, whose father was a PGA professional, with that of Kel Nagle, who was largely self-taught. The career of Craig Parry deserves more credence for the manner in which he competed against taller power hitters with greater leverage.

Quality of opposition and depth of field are also factors in this ranking, which we hope generates discussion about Australia's 50 Greatest Golfers of all time.

50 NICK O'HERN

Tournament victories: 5

Best Major result: T-6th, US Open (2006)

Highest ranking on OWGR: 16th

An unfashionable short-hitter, Nick O'Hern transformed himself into the consummate professional who was a two-time Presidents Cup representative (2005, 2007). In nine seasons on the PGA Tour, O'Hern registered 23 top-10 results and accrued \$US7.49 million in prizemoney. While he also captured the 2006 Australian PGA Championship, O'Hern is remembered as the only man to defeat Tiger Woods twice at the WGC-Match Play. Not a bad career for someone who spent his post-school days stacking supermarket shelves in Perth.

49 MARGIE MASTERS

Tournament victories: 10

Best Major result: 2nd, Women's Western Open (1966)

Highest ranking on RWWGR: N/A

Australia's first winner of an LPGA tournament was a pioneer as an amateur and professional. Margie Masters won five Victorian juniors and five straight women's Victorian Opens (1959-1963). Her national titles were the 1956 New Zealand Women's Open, 1957 South African Women's Open,



NICK O'HERN

1958 Australian Ladies Open and 1964 Canadian Women's Amateur. Pursuing a pro career in America, she claimed LPGA Rookie of the Year in 1965. Masters won the 1967 Quality Chek'd Classic and 1968 Yankee Ladies' Team Championship (with Clifford Ann Creed). At the 1966 Women's Western Open she shared second behind Mickey Wright, who captured her 13th Major.

Evian carried the second richest purse in women's golf. Throughout her LPGA career, Doolan posted 34 top-10 results and earned \$US2.96 million. Doolan led the LPGA for average driving distance in 2001 (243.1 metres, 265.9 yards).

46 MIKE HARWOOD

Tournament victories: 34

Best Major result: 2nd, British Open (1991)

Highest ranking on OWGR: 20th

Came to prominence when he beat world No.1 Greg Norman to win the 1986 Australian PGA Championship by two strokes at Castle Hill. Mike Harwood won five European Tour events in four seasons (1988-1991), the best of which was the 1990 British PGA at Wentworth where he held off Nick Faldo, who had won that year's Masters and British Open. Harwood capped a superb year by adding the season-ending Volvo Masters and South Australian Open. His defining moment came at the 1991 Open at Royal Birkdale where he fell two strokes shy of compatriot Ian Baker-Finch in his only Major top-10. Harwood had 12 regular tour wins and 22 senior victories.

48 ROD PAMPLING

Tournament victories: 6

Best Major result: T-5th, Masters (2005)

Highest ranking on OWGR: 22nd

Pure ball-striker who achieved three PGA Tour victories, including Arnold Palmer's prestigious Bay Hill Invitational in 2006. Rod Pampling registered 38 top-10s from 407 appearances on the PGA Tour and collected \$US16.03 million. Won twice on home soil, including the 2008 Australian Masters. Infamously led the 1999 British Open at Carnoustie after an opening 71 but followed with an 86 to miss the cut.

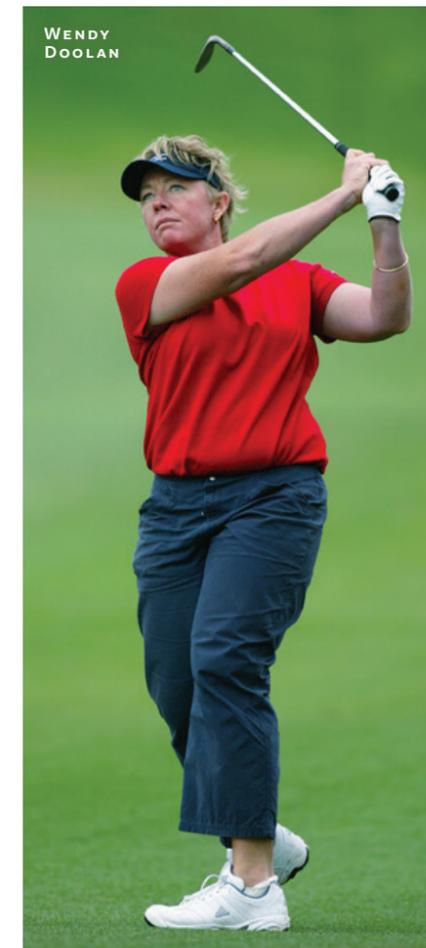
47 WENDY DOOLAN

Tournament victories: 5

Best Major result: 7th, US Women's Open (2001)

Highest ranking on RWWGR: N/A

Orchestrated one of the great comebacks with a final-round 65 to erase a five-stroke deficit and pip Annika Sorenstam at the 2004 Evian Masters in France. It was the best of Wendy Doolan's three LPGA Tour titles (equal fifth by an Australian). While it was not considered a Major at that time, the



WENDY DOOLAN

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2 KARRIE WEBB

Tournament victories: 57

Best Major result: 7 wins – Nabisco Championship [now ANA Inspiration] (2000, 2006), Women’s PGA Championship (2001), US Women’s Open (2000, 2001), du Maurier Classic (1999), Women’s British Open (2002),

Highest ranking on RWWGR: 3rd

That a little girl from Ayr in Tropical North Queensland could rise to become the best woman golfer in the world is a fairytale. At age 30, Karrie Webb became the youngest living person to enter the World Golf Hall of Fame. Her maiden victory came at the 1995 Women’s British Open where she won by six shots to become the event’s youngest winner (age 20). In 1996 she won four LPGA titles and Rookie of the Year honours as well as becoming the first player to pass \$US1 million in a season. Webb completed the Super Career Grand Slam when she won her second British Open in 2002. In 2013 she won her eighth Australian Ladies Masters. In an illustrious LPGA career, Webb was a two-time Player of the Year (1999, 2000), three-time leading money winner and three-time Vare Trophy winner for best scoring average. Webb achieved her 41 LPGA titles and seven women’s Majors while enduring a compelling rivalry with Sweden’s Annika Sorenstam, arguably the game’s greatest woman golfer.

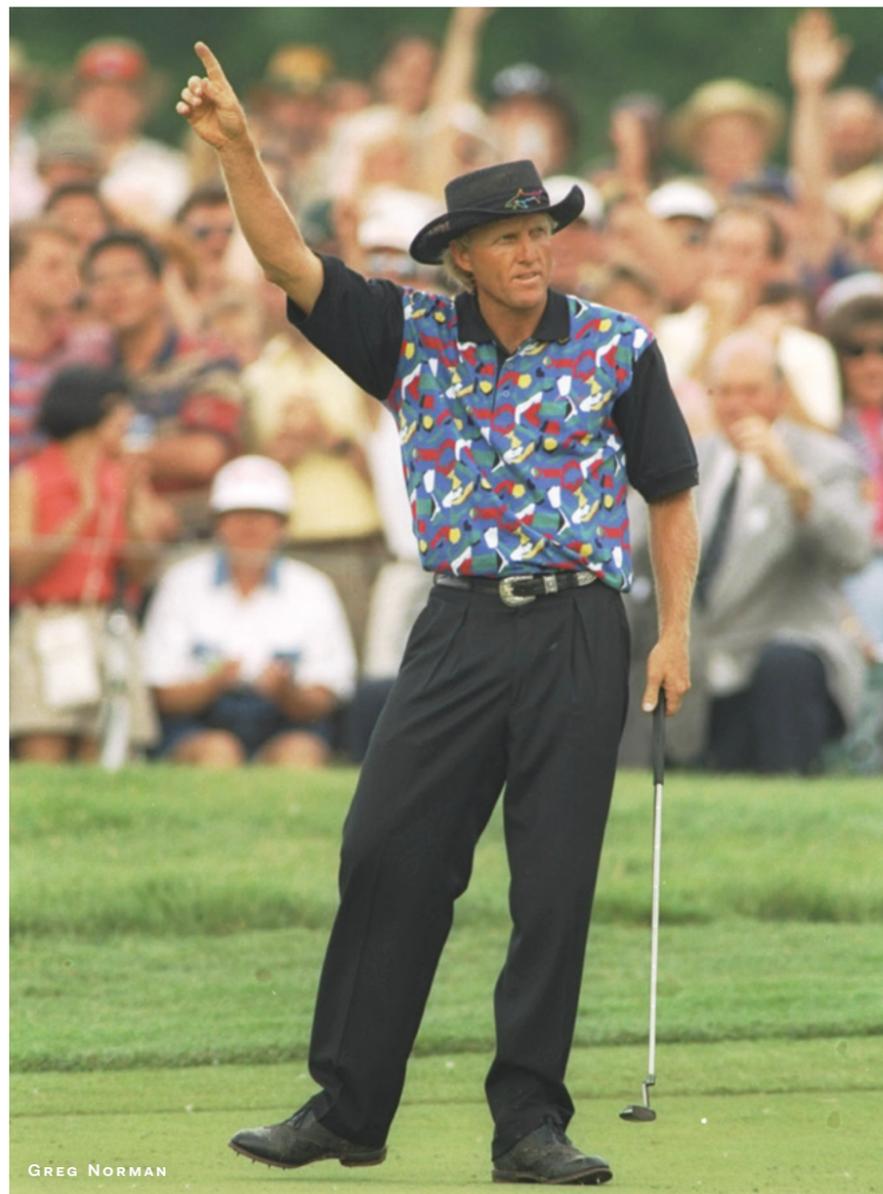
1 GREG NORMAN

Tournament victories: 76

Best Major result: 2 wins – British Open (1986, 1993)

Highest ranking on OWGR: 1st

A powerful straight driver, a daring



GREG NORMAN

shotmaker with exquisite touch and a charismatic presence on the fairways. At his peak, Greg Norman was much more than a two-time British Open winner. The Great White Shark burst onto the scene as a 21-year-old when he won the 1976 West Lakes Classic in Adelaide for the first of 33 Australian victories. Norman’s exploits abroad are legendary. It’s challenging to pinpoint his most remarkable accomplishment, singularly or over a period of time:

- First Australian to be officially recognised as world No.1, spending 331 weeks on top
- Winning 20 titles on the PGA Tour, the most by an Australian
- Sharing the record for most Australian Opens titles by an Australian (five)
- Holding the record for most Australian Masters (six)
- Shooting 24-under par to win the 1994 Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass
- Winning the PGA Tour’s Vardon Trophy for lowest scoring average three times

(1989, 1990, 1994)

- Leading money winner on the PGA Tour three times (1986, 1990, 1995)
- Leading the PGA Tour’s total driving statistic three times (1988, 1989, 1993)
- Registering 129 top-10s from 330 appearances on the PGA Tour (39.1%)
- Notching 30 top-10s in men’s Majors, the most by an Australian.
- Leading all four Majors through 54 holes in one season (‘Saturday Slam’ in 1986)
- Finishing second at eight Majors
- Losing all four Majors in playoffs (1984 US Open, 1987 Masters, 1989 British Open, 1993 PGA Championship)
- Leading the 2008 British Open with nine holes to play at the age of 53.

Norman was a mesmerising presence on television screens, especially Monday mornings in April and Sunday afternoons in summer. For that reason alone, Norman’s greatest legacy is the many, many Australians he lured to the game. **G**