Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2280

Bridges, Patricia Marie

(1921 - 2017)

Born	19211230, Australia
Died	20170805, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Golfer, Sports administrator

Summary

In 2006, Patricia Bridges was awarded the first ever life membership of the newly established golfing organisation, Golf Australia. It was a fitting tribute to her for her years of service to the sport. Throughout a career in golf administration that spanned four decades, she has held several positions on the executive of the Australian Ladies' Golf Union, including president. In 1994, at the age of seventy-two, she was appointed Chairman of the Women's Committee of the World Amateur Golf Council, the first Australian man or women to hold an executive position on an International Golf Committee. In the same year, she negotiated exclusively with Holden to sponsor the resurgence of the Women's Australian Open Championship. The trophy for the winner of the Women's Australian Open is named the Patricia Bridges Bowl, in her honour.

Patricia Bridges was respected for her organisational skills and her ability to move with the times. At an media conference in 2006 announcing the timing and whereabouts of the 2007 Women's Open, organisers played a video of some of the up and coming women players. Bare midriffs were once banned in women's golf but plenty were on show throughout the video. One shot showed images of a young woman with a tattoo on her lower back. 'Good grief,' muttered a member of the crowd. 'Why not?' responded Mrs. Bridges.

Events

1969 - 1969
Appointed Australian Team Selector

1964 - 1964
Appointed to the Australian Ladies' Golf Union

1970 - 1970
Elected president of the Australian Ladies' Golf Union

1991 - 1991
Elected to her third term as president of the Australian Ladies Golf Union

1981 - 1981
For services to Golf and the Community

1970 - 1970
Invited to travel to the United States to investigate promoting a Women's Open Tournament in Australia

1976 - 1976
Re-elected president of the Australian Ladies Golf Union

Published resources

Newspaper Article
Bridges built for women's Open, Stone, Peter, 2006

Site Exhibition
She's Game: Women Making Australian Sporting History, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2007, http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/sg/sport-home.html

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Author Details
Nikki Henningham

Created 4 February 2007
Last modified 25 March 2019