

MARK GIBSON'S SPEAKERS INTRODUCTION

Please feel free to use any elements from the below information about Mark as you see fit:

- ✚ Mark Gibson is passionate about teaching golf, so much so that he has won the prestigious awards of Queensland PGA Teacher of the Year – **three times** and Australian PGA Teacher of the Year – **twice**.
- ✚ Mark joined the PGA and turned professional in 1980, later becoming an AAA Professional and a Master Club Fitter.
- ✚ He is the Education Chairman of the Queensland PGA division.
- ✚ Mark is currently the Director of Golf Instruction and owner of Mark Gibson's Exceptional Golf @ Royal Pines Resort on the fabulous Golf Coast.
- ✚ Mark's private tuition clients are based both here in Australia and Internationally. Mark's ability to coach golf in Japanese is a distinct advantage in the international coaching market.
- ✚ Mark's love of teaching, his commitment to learning and improving his own teaching technique is what sets him apart. He has extensive experience in the development of programmes for all ages and as a result is a key member of the PGA IGI Education Programme.
- ✚ Mark has a holistic approach to coaching, believing that to be effective tuition must encompass many things: good structure, body support, good levels of flexibility and strength, good equipment, and advice from physiotherapists, dieticians, sport psychologists – the lot.
- ✚ Born in Murwillumbah in 1958, the youngest of three brothers, he was only four when he regularly trudged the golf course caddying for his father Keith and was just six when he had his first golf lesson. After school father and son would play 9 holes most days. His mother Margaret, a keen golfer herself, born in the home of golf, Scotland, encouraged Mark to follow his Scottish heritage and take up the game she loved with gusto *and for life*.

- ✚ His early schooling was at St Augustines in Coolangatta, where his family was involved in the fish wholesaling business. He continued his love of sport into high school – he was part of the first intake at Palm Beach Currumbin High – where his plans of becoming a lawyer became unstuck with an offer of a part-time job at the Tweed Heads Golf Club. He was just 18 when he leapt at an opportunity to become an apprentice there to professional Reg Want. With three years in the pro shop and plenty of time to hone his golf skills, he was on the path to a new career.
- ✚ He moved to Brisbane to work with Charlie Earp at Royal Queensland Golf Club and it was about this time that Mark started to realise his passion lay in teaching rather than playing, so he headed to Gladstone Golf Club to start this new side to his career. A few years there, and then it was on to Keperra Golf Club, where he worked alongside Ian Triggs and furthered his teaching skills. Pine Rivers Golf Club and Caloundra Golf Club followed before he accepted the head pro's job at Royal Pines Resort in 1994. In 1998, Mark was appointed Academy Director of the newly set up Australian PGA Royal Pines Resort Golf Academy, where he guided the talents of many up-and-coming players before moving on to Lakelands Golf Club, where he stayed for seven years before returning to Royal Pines Resort in March 2006.
- ✚ In 2007 Mark was co-author of the best seller "The 7 Simple Secrets to be an Exceptional Golfer".
- ✚ Alongside Mark is devoted friend, wife and soulmate Sue , who supports him wholeheartedly along their "adventure" of life. Sue, runs the administration and marketing sides of *Mark Gibson's Exceptional Golf @ Royal Pines*. They are a great team with a deep appreciation of Japanese and indeed the cultures of the Asian Region and are also enraptured by the beauty and cultures of Europe. Taking too few (according to Sue!) trips overseas, they have the travel bug, preferring to be called travellers rather than tourists! Together they enjoy ballroom and latin dancing.
- ✚ Mark and Sue have completed extensive studies in Reiki, the Japanese art of healing and self-awareness, becoming Reiki healers. Reiki, Mark says, has opened up a completely new spiritual world for themselves and for those he teaches.
- ✚ Every day is a fresh adventure for Mark who lives by his creed: "Those who dare to teach must never cease to learn."