

Lisa knows she has big (golf) shoes to fill

ROB PEGLEY | June 2021

Part of Palm Beach Golf Club's revamp includes new resident professional, Lisa Newling, the first female to oversee its Pro Shop and coaching duties. Alan Berry retired last year after 40 years in the role – and his successor can't speak highly enough of the shoes she has to fill. "Alan is so highly respected, and he's the nicest man you could ever meet," says Lisa.

With a happy and positive approach, and an impressive CV, Lisa is very much in the same mould through. A Certified PGA Professional for over 30 years, she has previously been named in Golf Digest's 50 Greatest Teachers in Australia.

And indeed, she loves teaching as much as she loves golf. "I started playing at 14 when my family took up golf – although it took a while to fall in love with the game, as I played a lot of other sports," Lisa admits. "But then I had a lesson and everything became more clear," Lisa explains. "That's where my passion for teaching first started."

"I got my first job in the Pro Shop at Wagga Wagga when I was 17. Then I did my apprenticeship at Royal Sydney and stayed there for seven years."

Although she competed when she was younger, it is that passion for coaching that has shaped her career – managing and coaching Australian teams of all ages with great success. And despite golf being quite a male-dominated environment, Lisa has always felt supported by the industry. "I've always found the PGA very welcoming to females – it's always been positive for me personally," says Lisa. "It also depends on your own attitude, and I love the life that the golf industry has given me – I've had great experiences."

And Palmy provides the latest of those. "I love it. There are so many positive things happening with the Club and the course," she says. "We've also given the Pro Shop a renovation and made it look awesome – members from other clubs on the Northern Beaches have been coming in to see us."

So does Lisa plan to stay for 40 years? "Well I'm 50 now," she laughs. "But I certainly don't plan on going anywhere soon!"

