



MEDIA RELEASE

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All-Star Field for Australian Open of Golf at Royal Sydney

Some of Australia's and the world's top golfers will be competing in the Australian Open at the Royal Sydney Golf Club next month, Minister for Tourism and Major Events, George Souris, announced today.

"Among the starters is the evergreen Peter Senior who will be defending his Australian Open title against a red hot field," Mr Souris said.

After already securing world number two Adam Scott, the first Australian to win a U.S Masters; Rory McIlroy, the winner of two Majors and Jason Day who was who was runner up at the US Open and third at Augusta, the Australian Open has also attracted Geoff Ogilvy, Aaron Baddeley, Robert Allenby, John Senden, Greg Chalmers, and Marc Leishman.

"From November 28 – 1 December, sporting fans have an extraordinary opportunity to see some of the world's best golfers, exclusively in Sydney.

"It's a very special year for Australian golf and it's great to see Sydney host this world-class event. Visitors coming to the Australia Open of Golf in Sydney are in for a real treat to indulge in their golfing passion.

"The NSW Government remains committed to the long term vision of showcasing the historic Australian Open of Golf to and highlighting Sydney and NSW's stunning, world-class golf courses to the world."

Minister for Sport, Gabrielle Upton, said: "Australia has consistently produced world class golfers and sporting ambassadors and this year promises to be an exciting and hotly contested Australian Open at Royal Sydney.

"Adam Scott is in career best form having earlier this year become the first Aussie to win the US Masters, and just last week he was awarded Australia's prestigious Don Award by the Sport Australia Hall of Fame – a first for a golfer.

"Following the record-breaking winter of sport events secured for our State, by the NSW Government, which delivered an estimated boost of over \$100 million to the NSW economy, this talented, world-class golfing line up reinforces Sydney's position as Australia's home of major sporting events," Ms Upton added.

Golf Australia CEO Stephen Pitt said Australian players held a special place in their hearts for the championship and always returned to support the Emirates Australian Open.

“We’re really pleased to be able to showcase so many of the Australian players who already have their name on the Stonehaven Cup. These six have won the trophy ten times between them,” Pitt said.

“It’s also an exciting time for the next generation – players like Jason Day and Marc Leishman – who are bidding for their first Emirates Australian Open victory at the end next month in Sydney. We’re looking forward to a fantastic championship and have no doubt the crowds will be out in force to see world-class golf.”

The NSW Events Calendar continues to feature Australia’s world class sporting events including:

- The Sydney 500 Grand Finale at Sydney Olympic Park, 7-8 December, 2013
- The Australian Open of Golf, 28 November - Sunday 1 December, 2013
- The Special Olympics, Asia Pacific Games, 30 November – 7 December, 2013
- Australian Junior Surf Titles, 30 November – 7 December, 2013
- Ashes Test 3 January – 7 January, 2014
- Apia Tennis International Sydney, 5 – 11 January, 2014
- Australian Open of Surfing, February 8 -16, 2014
- Two rounds of V8 Supercar Championship Series, 30 November - 2 December, 2013 & 22-24 August 2014
- Top Gear Festival, 8-9 March 2014
- The Opening Series of Major League Baseball, March 21-22, 2014.

Tickets are on sale via Ticketek at www.ticketek.com or by calling 132 849.