

# Profile

## Damien Thomlinson

SADGA and [Canon South Africa](#) welcome Damien Thomlinson to the 2019 Canon SA Disabled Golf Open at [Magalies Park](#) Golf Club.

Damien Thomlinson is, without exaggeration, a walking miracle. While serving in the 2nd Commando Regiment in Afghanistan in 2009, the Australian's unit drove over an improvised bomb during a night patrol. Thomlinson sustained such severe injuries that the medical team that treated him in the ensuing weeks and months deemed it a miracle that he survived at all. Nevertheless, losing both one's legs is an absolutely devastating reality for anybody to face.

Thomlinson however, has embraced the challenges that come with being a double-amputee wholeheartedly and has gone on to achieve some truly remarkable things – not least of which has been learning to walk again after rigorous rehabilitation.

Damien is a talented athlete and the loss of his legs has done little to dim his love of physical challenges. Thomlinson represented Team Australia at the Invictus Games in 2014 and again in 2016.

Damien's talent extends beyond just the physical, though. In 2016 he started to pursue an acting career and found success almost immediately. After landing a role in the film *Hacksaw Ridge*, Damien played the role of Ralph Morgan, a soldier who has both of his legs blown off during the battle of Okinawa. After its 2016 release, the Mel Gibson-directed film went on to win Best Picture in 2017. While few can lay claim to tackling life as a double-amputee with such grit and determination, even fewer can claim to have made their acting debut in a move that ultimately won Best Picture.

Damien has taken an experience that would've left most people physically and emotionally broken and channelled it into something positive by sharing his story of inspiration and courage with the world. In 2013 he released a best-selling autobiography titled *Without Warning* while he also fulfils ambassadorial roles with DefenceCore, Soldier Core and the Commando Welfare Trust. Damien has also forged a successful career as a motivational speaker, providing him with another platform on which to tell his story of overcoming adversity and the power of a positive attitude.

Damien has a seemingly insatiable desire to set personal challenges for himself and his golf is no different. He has aspirations of being ranked on the World Disabled Golf Rankings and ultimately turning professional.



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Life stories such as Damien's are what make the Canon SA Disabled Golf Open such a fantastic event and we look forward to welcoming him to the 2019 edition.



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