



MEDIA RELEASE

29 AUGUST 2009

Peter Thomson Celebrates His 80th Birthday at Sandhurst



'Peter Thomson Australia's most decorated golfer celebrated his eightieth birthday last week when he returned to Sandhurst Club which features two of the golf courses he has designed in Australia.

Mr Thomson has a major connection with Sandhurst being honorary Captain of the Sandhurst Golf Club during its establishment.

Peter born in Melbourne on August 23 1929 is most famous for his five wins in the British Open Championships in 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, and 1965. He is the only man to win the tournament for three consecutive years in the 20th century.

He was inducted into the World of Golf 1988.

Speaking at the special occasion Chairman of Sandhurst Club Ken Roche paid a tribute to Peter Thomson's major

contribution to the development of Golf in Australia and the success of the Sandhurst Golf Club.

A special surprise for Peter was the arrival of a suitable birthday cake featuring a giant golf ball which he cut with . Glenda Williams Ladies Captain Sandhurst Golf Club and Inaugural Captain of Sandhurst Golf Club, Matt van Rensberg.

Media Enquiries Ron Smith 0417 329 201



Peter William Thomson

Peter William Thomson (born 23 August 1929) is an Australian golfer. He is best remembered for his five wins in The Open Championship.

He was born in Melbourne. Thomson's Open Championship wins came in 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, and 1965. He was the only man to win the tournament for three consecutive years in the 20th century.

Thomson was a prolific tournament champion around the world, winning the national championships of ten countries, including the New Zealand Open nine times. He competed on the PGA Tour in 1953 and 1954 with relatively little success (finishing 44th and 25th on the Money List) and after that was an infrequent competitor. However in 1956, playing in just eight events, he won the rich Texas International and achieved his best finish in one of the three majors staged in the United States (fourth at the U.S. Open) to finish ninth on the Money List.

In the era that Thomson won his first four Open Championships, it was true that very few of the leading professionals from the United States travelled to Britain to play in that event. However, Thomson demonstrated with his win in 1965 that he could beat a field of the world's very best players, as that victory came against a field that included Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Tony Lema, three of the top four American golfers from the 1964 Money List.

Thomson enjoyed a successful senior career. In 1985 he won nine times on the Senior PGA Tour in the United States, and finished top of the money list. His last tournament victory came at the 1988 British PGA Seniors Championship. He was president of the Australian PGA from 1962 to 1994 and a victorious non-playing captain of the international team in the 1998 Presidents Cup.

He was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1988.

Thomson was a guest at the presentation ceremony of the 135th Open Championship, which was won by Tiger Woods. The event marked the 50th anniversary of Thomson's third Open victory.

Among golf's top players, Thomson has perhaps been the most active as a golf writer, having contributed to the Melbourne Age for some 50 years, since the early 1950s. He was for many years the club professional at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club, one of the world's top courses. Thomson has designed several golf courses in Australia.