

Keynote Speaker

Damien Thomlinson

Damien joined the Australian Defence Force and at the age of just 24 achieved his dream of becoming a Commando. This elite group is tasked with the most physically demanding, mentally challenging and dangerous roles in the armed forces.

It was while serving in Afghanistan in April 2009 with the 2nd Commando Regiment that Thomlinson's life was changed forever. Whilst on night patrol in Southern Afghanistan, Damien's unit drove over an improvised Taliban bomb. Damien suffered horrendous injuries in the explosion, which resulted in both of his legs being amputated.

Most people could not imagine recovering and moving on from something as debilitating as the loss of two limbs – but Damien isn't most people, and giving up is not in his nature. Instead of sinking into depression and retreating from the world, Thomlinson decided to treat the loss of his legs as another challenge to be overcome, a challenge that would forever change his life.

Damien's triumph against adversity, positive attitude and ambition for the future continues to resonate with people from all walks of life. Above all, Damien's incredible journey stands as proof that no challenge is too great and that the ANZAC spirit truly is alive and well.

SOURCE: WWW.DAMIENHOMLINSON.COM

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