

# ***Peter Thomson, 88, Australian Golfer With 5 British Open Wins, Dies***

By Richard Goldstein

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Peter Thomson, the Australian who won five British Opens and became the only player in the 20th century to win that major in three consecutive years, died on Wednesday in Melbourne. He was 88.

His death was announced by Golf Australia, the sport's governing body in that country, which said he had been treated for Parkinson's disease for the past four years.

At a time when Australians had made little impact on international golf, Thomson emerged as a leading player on links far from his homeland, winning the British Open each summer from 1954 to 1956 and again in 1958 and 1965.

Thomson played for only a few seasons in the United States, where courses were more suited to long hitters than to his finesse game: low, running shots on hard courses, ideal for the British seaside venues. But he flourished in his brief run on America's Senior Tour, winning a record nine times in 1985.

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