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# Geoffrey Drakeford

Yarram's junior member making a huge splash in Australian and international golf

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**Seventeen year-old Geoffrey Drakeford had just finished his last practice round at Yarram on the eve of departing for San Diego when we caught up with him (July 7, 2009) for this interview.**

Geoffrey will mix it with the world's best junior amateurs with one practice round and a four day, 72 hole, tournament on the incredible Torrey Pines layout. He is fast becoming used to international events, having played in The Aaron Baddeley International in China last year. To qualify, he came third outright in The Aaron Baddeley Junior Australian Tournament, again winning the under 17 division. The week before Geoffrey finished well in the China Amateur Open.

The 17 year-old has all the makings of a world-beater. He is cool and calm and has demonstrated in many events that he is a strong finisher under pressure. In May this year Geoffrey won the Division One Pennant for his Melbourne club, Commonwealth, on the last hole of the last match.

A few weeks before that, he claimed

the Yarram course record and stated that he wasn't so good with the driver on the day, but kept it in the middle of the fairway. His round opened with a bogey on the 1<sup>st</sup> and he managed nine birdies for an incredible 64.

Geoffrey plays for Commonwealth almost every weekend and practices at Yarram every day after school. Occasionally he is here for a weekend.

It is a hard schedule managing school and golf virtually seven days a week with international competition into the bargain, but Geoffrey is going to go hard at it for the next year and will consider a professional playing career. Geoff is well supported by his parents, the Yarram Golf Club and of course, Commonwealth GC.

I asked Geoffrey is there was anything he wanted to say.

*"We're lucky to have this course. Very lucky; and to think it is all run by volunteers is amazing. All the other country kids don't have much to play on, but I've got Yarram as my home course. How good is that?"*