

HOLE LOT OF SKILL

Young golf ace turning heads

OWEN LEONARD

A PRECOCIOUS six-year-old golfing star from Caulfield South has been crowned the best junior golfer in the world.

Zac Wolfe is turning heads around the globe after winning the US Kids Golf World Championships in North Carolina this month – the latest step towards his Masters-jacket dream.

He claimed the boys six-and-under title with a score of seven-under, beating a field of 73 elite junior golfers.

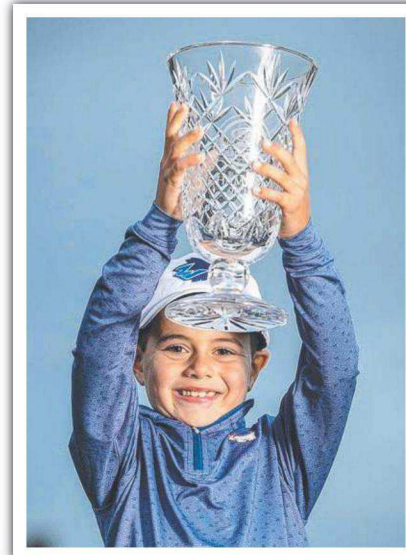
The tournament, held each August at the world-famous Pinefield Golf Club, is considered the pinnacle for junior golfers.

Huntingdale member Zac – or the King of Huntingdale, as he is locally known – has already chalked up a long list of achievements.

At two years old, he won the world's best kids golf swing – as judged by Jack Nicklaus – and at three won the US Kids Tour Local Series in Melbourne to achieve qualification for the world championships.

Zac scored his first hole-in-one at four, before winning the US Kids Australian Challenge at five.

Now a world champion,



world championships. "And what handle hard better means is you handle the hard when it gets hard," he explained. "I was pretty happy (after being crowned world champion). Dad said I'm going to have a party."

Zac's dad, Jeremy, says lessons in commitment, confidence and making friends with kids from different countries are all coming through his golfing pursuit.

"I'm just so proud. I think what he's done is so cool. Whether he continues with golf or whatever he does, it's a great set of experiences for a kid to go through," Mr Wolfe said.

"He loves being out there, and he's so creative. His short game is just phenomenal.

"It comes through so much hard work.

"Huntingdale created a new membership category for him, a sub junior, which is pretty cool.

"I've been taking him there since he was about three. He works so hard there, it's like a second home."

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Zac is focused on continuing his ascent up the golfing ladder step by step. "Dad and me have a ladder," Zac told the Herald Sun.

"On top of the ladder is the Masters jacket. That's what I want to win, like Tiger."

But Zac isn't getting ahead of himself. When nerves kick in during high-stakes play at tournaments, he draws on the preparation he puts in – including dawn practice sessions before school – as well as a simple motto.

"Handle hard better," Zac said of his golfing approach, adding he "brought a smiley face" to the



Young golfer Zac Wolfe, 6, on the course; with dad Jeremy; and at the scoreboard at Pinehurst Golf Club. Picture: Jake Nowakowski



Schnitty price to rise as chicken costs soar

THE price we pay for our plate of schnitzel or favourite pub chicken parma is about to get more expensive after the nation's largest poultry producer Ingham's warned it was pushing through significant price increases this year.

Ingham's has revealed it has already begun discussions with its customers to prepare for price hikes this year as its own costs to feed its national flock of chickens rose more than

\$45m last year and is expected to blow out another \$45m this financial year.

A combination of global economic and supply chain shocks caused by the war in Ukraine and Covid-19, as well as local floods, soaring fuel bills and labour shortages, has snowballed to ramp up the cost of growing and processing chickens – and it's a higher cost the consumer will ultimately have to stomach.

Ingham's said on Friday it would be forced to ratchet up prices across all its channels where its chicken products were sold – from supermarkets and restaurants to butchers and fast-food chains – and it expected that to flow through to prices on the shelf.

Chief executive Andrew Reeves said all his customers across all retail and wholesale channels would see more expensive chicken on their or-

ders as the company fights its own battles against soaring inflation led by more expensive chicken feed ingredients.

"We will be seeking price increases as we go into the new year and most of those have been discussed and agreed with customers and ultimately that will flow through into their prices to their shoppers or their customers," he said.

Ingham's is Australia's largest poultry producer.

Ex-cop's gun 'assault'

A HIGHLY commended Victorian police officer pointed his loaded gun at a handcuffed suspect's chest and demanded he reveal where his drug stash was in an intimidation tactic usually saved for Hollywood movies.

But detective sergeant Michael Gaul is not expected to spend any nights behind bars for his terrifying on-duty actions during a drug bust raid on a Richmond home in July,

2010. The County Court was told police knew a large quantity of heroin was in the Church St property due to a \$73,000 transaction involving an undercover operative moments earlier.

Gaul, now 50 and retired from the force, has pleaded guilty to a single count of common law assault.

His plea came after a mammoth 12-year probe. He will be sentenced next week.