

Round 1 WriteUp – Thursday 21st January 2010 – 6pm

MELBOURNE GOLFER LEADS CHAMPIONSHIPS WITH SEVEN UNDER

Twenty-one-year-old Melbourne golfer, Kieran Pratt, blitzed the Greater Building Society Lake Macquarie Amateur Golf Championships field at the Belmont course this afternoon with a scorching seven under par 65.

Pratt, a member of the Commonwealth Club, had eight birdies in his round which was only two shots outside the course record of 63 set by Jason Day in 2003. Day is now a successful professional on the US circuit.

The Melbourne golfer, who plays off a handicap of plus 2.9, had birdies at holes 2,3,4,6,10,15,16 and 17 and one bogey at 7. This was his first competition round at the Belmont links course.

Pratt, who has been playing golf since the age of 12, took the lead from 17 year old schoolboy, Jamie Hook, who earlier had a 6 under par 66.

Hook who has been playing golf for only six years, had an eagle and six birdies and only two bogies in his amazing round.

The year 12 student works as a casual in the Pro Shop at the South West Rocks Golf course.

A member of the Australian Schoolboys team last year Jamie's long term ambition is to turn professional.

Last year he missed the cut in the Lake Macquarie Championships but today he birdied holes 2, 3, 4, 7, 10 and 16 and eagled the tricky par 5 ninth hole.

He took only 31 puts for the entire round.

Earlier today 19 year old Perth player Aidan Bae whose parents come from South Korea, took the early lead with a four under par 68.

Bankstown player Sean Underwood, Chris Wood, from Wynnum, Brisbane, Adam Downton, Ashlar, Sydney, and Daniel Bringolf, the Australian, also had 68s and veteran champion Lester Petersen from Bardwell Valley, Jordan Skerrat, of Adelaide, Joshua Ringfleish, of The Australian, and Matthew Wittenberg of Avondale came in with 69s.

Belmont youngster, Daniel Buyers, and strongly fancied local champion Brendan Smith, both had 70s.