



Jacob puts his feet up

By Paul Haigh

SWIMMER Jacob Zammit, 14, is outgrowing shoes faster than a rubber plantation can harvest the trees.

The emerging breaststroker is leaving his rivals flat-footed in the pool, so significant is the improvement in his training and race swim times.

The teenager needs training flippers which are size 15 to 17 and the 170cm tall athlete is growing rapidly.

Jacob's huge feet are not unlike that of his swimming idol, former Olympic and global champion Ian Thorpe, who boasts size 17 feet.

A few years ago, Jacob was able to get a photograph with Thorpe, which has pride of place at his Lepington home.

Jacob's mother, Madeline, said her son is growing at a rapid rate.

"Jacob has grown about six or seven centimetres in the past few months and I have to buy him new shoes all the time," she said. "He's had a huge growth spurt, it's amazing."

The laconic Jacob said his growth spurt has only occurred this year.

"I've suddenly grown a lot," Jacob said.



Feet up: Jacob Zammit takes a break from training at Whitlam Leisure Centre.

Picture: Angelo Velardo

He is a member of the Justin Rothwell Swim Academy at Whitlam Leisure Centre.

His coach, Justin Rothwell, said that Jacob is making giant strides and is well on his way to the state titles in January.

"He's literally grown centimetres - he's getting bigger, stronger and his swim times are getting quicker," Rothwell said. "I coached him several years ago when I was at Macquarie Fields and last year when I came here to coach to the Whitlam

Centre Jacob reunited with me."

Jacob said returning to his favourite mentor has seen him improve out of sight. "Justin is really good to speak with. He works with you as an individual and I like being coached by him."

Austral trials

Austral Soccer Club is holding trials for players in various grades between January 21 and January 31 at its home ground WV Scott Memorial Park. Trials will be held for under 9s to under 17s. Details: Kevin Campbell, 0410 497 022.

Chai's golf win

Twin Creeks Golf and Country Club member Alvin Chai recently won the club's Callaway Challenge final. He finished with 38 points, winning the Callaway Trophy. More than 700 players participated in the preliminary rounds throughout the year with 40 players reaching the final. Next series starts December 28.

Details: 9670 8877.

Racing returns

Racing returns to Warwick Farm on January 9. It will be the first race meeting at Warwick Farm since the horse flu crisis outbreak four months ago.

Razors' 10th birthday

Westbus West Sydney Razorbacks are turning 10 and fans are invited to help them celebrate at a free barbecue at Sydney Olympic Park State Sports Centre, on Sunday, December 16, 3.30pm. Whitlam Leisure Centre, Liverpool, was the birthplace of the NBL club a decade ago. There will be stilt-walkers, face-painters and clowns before the team plays the Cairns Taipans at 5pm.

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