

WAVESKI SURFING AUSTRALIA NEWS



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Christmas edition 2006

Iluka Training Weekend

Professional surfing Coach Steve Foreman, a past coach of many Australian elite waveski surfers, assisted Neil Decker, with running the first training weekend for Australian competitors in the lead up to the 2007 World Titles. Those who attended underwent a series of drills at the testing venue of the Iluka break wall in NSW.

Conditions were challenging, powerful and wedgy with the rocky wall close by ranging up to 5ft on the sets. Heat training is much more intensive than free surfing and everyone was forced to put their thinking caps on and concentrate on heat strategy, making the most of 15 minutes, surfing as a team and to the judging criteria. Two long sessions on the windy cold Saturday were followed by a theory session at the pub over dinner. Sunday ran through some more heat practice consolidating all the new practices everyone learnt,

finishing with a planning session for attending the world titles and a final pep talk from the coach.

Everyone had a fantastic weekend. Feedback from some was that they had learnt more on waveski surfing in one weekend than they had in years. All ranges of experience attended including some not planning to go to worlds and everyone walked away with some new tips, renewed motivation to give it their best over the next 5 months. Another session is planned for February 3rd - 4th and a final session the first week of March. This will give everyone time to consolidate their final training sessions before the big event.

Waveski Surfing Australia and all that attended thank Coach Steve, organizer and planner Neil Decker and Penny Bedford, the photographer who took these amazing photos.

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Nigel Bryant



Graham Roberts



Scott Waldron



Coach Steve



Darren Kearns



Travis Best

More photos can be found at
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At the 2006 World Waveski Titles in Durban, South Africa, the Australian competitors put on a battle with Neil Decker, Blair Moore, Kev Marshall and the Australian Tag team finishing with some great results. At the World Waveski Association AGM it was decided to conduct a survey with member countries on the need to create a new age division for competitors over 50 years of age. Based on the results of the survey, the World Waveski Association decided to create a new age division at the 2007 World Waveski Surfing Titles in Gisborne for competitors over 50 years of age - Grand Masters 50-54 years and Veterans 55 years plus. To read more, go to World waveski association website www.worldwaveski.com.

With the 2007 World Waveski Titles only a couple of months away, if you are keen to compete be sure to log on to the official website of the World Waveski Surfing Titles 2007 www.waveski07.com and complete your entry form to secure your spot. Entries close on the 16th of March and the organizing committee needs competitors to enter as soon as possible. There is even a prize for the country that has the earliest number of entries. The 2007

World titles promises to be one of the best ever world events on the waveski surfing competition scene. Don't forget, all Australian competitors will need to be current 2007 members of Waveski Surfing Australia. The 2007 membership form will be posted on the website waveskisurfingaustr.com in the next few weeks.

WA Junior Development Program - On Track

In the last edition of WSA News we announced the arrival of Harper O'Donnell. Now it's Julie and Kim Gardiner's turn. It appears Kim may have had himself cloned making it a first for Wavesking Junior development worldwide! Kim's clone was named Aidyn and weighed in at 3.62kgs



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2007 Australian Waveski Titles

The end of the year is almost upon us and most people are looking towards New Zealand for the World's in March 2007. But not long after that we will be hosting in Wollongong, NSW the 28th Australian Waveski Titles.

The venue will be based around the northern suburbs of the 'Gong and we look to be using the Bulli Caravan Park as a main base for the contest. There is also ample alternate accommodation available.

Targeted surf breaks for the titles include Sandon Point Lefts, Bulli Beach, East Corrimall Beach, with a few other spots available pending conditions. It will be winter so conditions are usually cool without being frigid - although the crowds will be down and the swell should be up! So pencil it in and see ya there!"

Lance Milnes

Western Australian Waveski Association (WAWSA) - Annual Report

WA has had a quiet year with waveski activities both socially and competitively. Both clubs Perth and West Coast, continue to be instrumental in developing the sport at the grass roots level. Adrian Simonetti from the Perth club has strong connections with three primary schools in the northern suburbs with some potential juniors identified.

One of the WAWSA's major sponsors, Mainpeak has provided some groundwork in fostering partnerships with one of Perth's largest canoe/kayak clubs. It is expected that throughout 2007 there will be much greater exposure for waveski surfing via the canoe/kayak club and association.

This year, 3 of the 4 State Rounds were held with the 2nd round cancelled due to ongoing inclement weather and the most successful being the Cottesloe Classic. While numbers of competitors has decreased this year, the events were hotly contested with the WAWSA's State Champion winner Richard Croome and in 2nd place Jackie Dillon.

The Veterans division had the greatest number of competitors and was highly competitive with the winners dais rotated between Eric Tocock, Rob Borg and Richie Croome (aka 3 Amigos). The 3 Amigos have moved up to the new nickname of Traveling Amigos have kept the WAWSA going by their presence and support at every State Round with administrative responsibilities as well as attendance at the Australian Waveski Titles. The 3 Amigos will be going global next year and will be attending the World Waveski Surfing Titles in Gisborne.

Our President Scott Wakefield worked tirelessly to ensure that the WAWSA remained on the radar with the

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Department of Sport and Recreation who continued financial support that has enabled the WAWSA to provide funds for athletes to attend the Australian Waveski Titles as well participate in elite training camps.

While 3 of the state's top waveski surfers were caught up with new parenting duties (Luke with Jaidyn, Paul with Harper and Kim with Aidyn) it is hoped they will all return for the 2007 competition year.

State champions for 2006 are: **Open** – Richard Croome, **Seniors** – Scott Wakefield, **Masters** – Jackie Dillon, **Veterans** Eric Tocock, **Women's** – Jackie Dillon and **Top Judge** - Gus Rutkay.

The final windup training and AGM was held at Yallingup in south west early November and saw a changing of the guard. The president Scott Wakefield opted to take on the role of Development Officer. Rob Borg remained as Treasurer, Eric Tocock to continue on as Contest Director, Richard Croome Vice President and Secretary with Jackie Dillon picking up the President's position.

Four State Rounds have been penciled in for next year taking into consideration public holidays and National and International fixtures.

Jackie Dillon, President WAWSA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 3RD - 4TH

WORLDS TRAINING WEEKEND NORTH COAST NSW

FEBRUARY 10TH - 11TH

20TH LAKESEA CLASSIC

MARCH 3RD - 4TH

WORLDS TRAINING WEEKEND TBA

MARCH 24TH - 31ST

WORLD TITLES GISBORNE NZ

MAY 5TH - 6TH

THE SEARCH, PORTLAND VIC

JULY 30TH - AUGUST 4TH

AUSTRALIAN TITLES, WOLLONGONG

If you have any other club events not listed here, please let us know any details so they can be added to the website.

Victorian News

The core group of hardy Victorian waveskiers have been enjoying some classic conditions over spring! Winds are tending a bit more onshore now as the water temperature starts to rise.

The past winter saw water temperatures stay marginally in double figures, so it is no surprise the crew is always keen to jump on a plane and head to warmer climates chasing waves. One such trip involved a pairing of a couple of social surfing early morning waveskiers who took the plunge for the second time on a boat trip through Sumatra, Indonesia.

One of the travelers Rod Sly is still as keen as any grommet! A veteran of many indo, Cactus and WA desert trips, its rumored Rod doesn't even know how long he has been surfing for! Let's just say it is over 50 years! Anyway Rod is 70 years old and I'm told like any grommet he couldn't bring himself to get out of the water on their first day, surfing for 8 hours until he strained some ligaments in his shoulder. Rod has developed a ski that is based on a Malibu style shape and at times he can take off on a wave just by wiggling his arse!

On another occasion the boys got caught inside by a particularly nasty set, Tony Wishart reports that he came up gasping for air, when Rod floated up seemingly from nowhere, dazed and bloody! After getting him on the boat to assess the damage they found some of Rod's hair embedded in the stringer of his ski, which was of some relief, the reef didn't cause his wound. Ten wide spaced stitches had the old Pirate bolted back together.

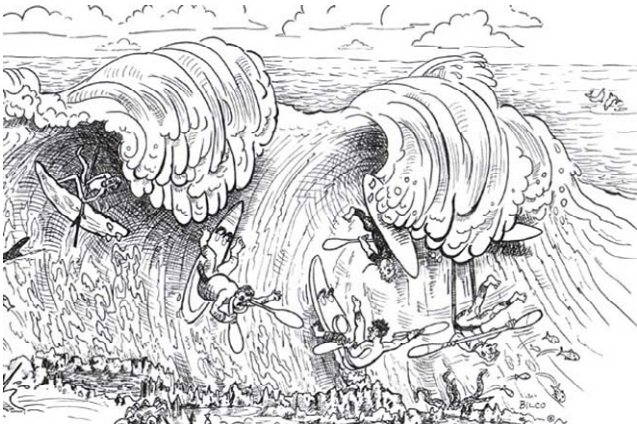
There were other mishaps on the trip including a couple of beat up Wave Masters, overall though the boys surfed themselves silly!

Keith a board rider who accompanied them on the trip



Tony Wishart in Sumatra, Indonesia

recently completed a DVD of their journey. The movie was premiered at Tony Wishart's house, most of the crew and a couple of stowaways attended what was an enjoyable night.



Portland

By Bilco

The annual Portland waveski pilgrimage will be on again this year on May 5th - 6th. So many good waves from quality sand on reef beachies to arguably the best right hand point break in Victoria. For more info e-mail Travis tbest@nex.net.au. For those that can't wait that long a trip down there early in the New Year is currently been arranged.

WSA Secretary Update

With the present WSA committee looking to stand down at the next AGM it's time to consider nominating for the committee. Current Secretary Darren Kearns gives us an insight into this role.

Over the last 18 months we have achieved quite a lot thanks to the previous committee. From their good work we have been able to set in place public liability insurance, establish a bank account, common seal, ABN number, model rules and web site, to name a few achievements.

One of our current major areas of focus is to regain recognition with the Australian Sports Commission. To do this we need to be incorporated for 3 years, show financial statements for 3 years and develop anti doping, harassment, risk management and member protection policies. When this is all done who ever takes on the Secretary role in future will just need to keep everything up to date.

From a regional perspective, our future focus will be the coaching sessions and building the clubs back up by supporting them with the web site.

Darren Kearns

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Wavemaster Aussie Titles Open Results

- 1st Place - 1996 - Cabarita - Rees Duncan
- 1st Place - 1997 - Emerald - Rees Duncan
- 4th Place - 1998 - Batemans Bay - Nick Boon
- 1st Place - 1999 - Rottnest Island - Nick Boon
- 2nd Place - 2000 - Newcastle - Khane Duncan
- 1st Place - 2001 - Gold Coast - Khane Duncan
- 1st Place - 2002 - Phillip Island - Nick Boon
- 1st Place - 2003 - Ulludulla - Nick Boon
- 1st Place - 2004 - Newcastle - Khane Duncan
- 1st Place - 2005 - Emerald - Rees Duncan

* Not to mention - Kev Marshall's wins in masters & vets

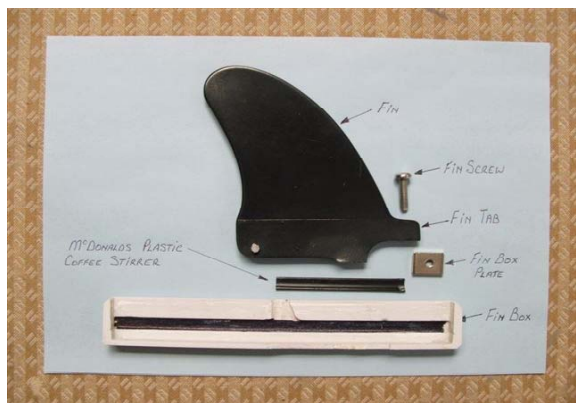
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Laz's Tips for Looking After your Waveski – Loose Fins

A loose fin is easily fixed, all you need is a McDonalds plastic coffee stirrer (plastic will not rot).



If there is no gap between the fin tab and the fin box plate, the fin will never tighten correctly. (As per Photo # 2)



Cut a McDonalds plastic coffee stirrer in half lengthwise and place in the bottom of fin box



Under the foot of the fin, this will lift the fin tab and allow the fin box plate to tighten correctly onto the top of the fin box track. (As per Photo #3).

Never over tighten a fin. All you are doing is pushing the fin foot into the bottom of the fin box and **risking damage**.

Another Hot Tip from Larry Adams

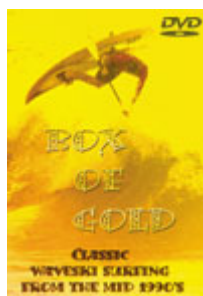
WSA - STUFF TO BUY

There are a large number of waveski items available on the WSA website, including lots of pre-loved waveski's. Make sure you check them out on the website and support your sport. Money raised from sales goes back into sport and helps the association develop the sport further. Here are some of the new items added recently.

Box of Gold DVD

The "Box Of Gold" was created from Rees Duncan Jnr's video footage featuring classic waveski surfing from the golden era of the mid 1990's. Starring the Duncan brothers, Christo, Boonie and many others free surfing and in the competition arena. This movie is full of big moves and radical surfing.

Cost: \$25 plus Postage and Handling



2007 Waveski Surfing Australia Calendar

Showcasing the sport of waveski surfing, the 2007 WSA calendar is A3 in size and spiral bound and includes 12 pages of action packed photography of the sport. Help promote the sport by buying one of these and hanging it up at work where everyone can see what a great sport it is.

Cost: \$25 plus Postage and Handling

To purchase any of these items, contact us on admin@waveskisurfgaust.com or Ph: 02 9907 6262

20th Anniversary Lakesea Classic - 10th – 11th February, 2007

Come along and help celebrate 20 years and have a weekend away with the chance to win a couple of brand new waveski's!

Here is how it all started - extracts from an old Surf Ski Quarterly.

The Batemans Bay Waveski Association held its first NSW Grand Prix rated waveski comp March 19th-20th 1988. The venue was the Lakesea caravan park at South Durras, in the National park 10km north of Batemans Bay. This was the first ever contest held on the mid-far south coast of NSW. Don Edgar and Phil Purdy from Lakesea looked after the catering including a spit roast on Saturday night and a T-shirt for every entrant.

The inaugural Lakesea Classic was the first full 72 man "B" Grade comp. With George Witterton traveling from Coffs Harbour and Rex Popplewell from the Central Coast; the youngest competitor was 12 and the oldest was in his sixty's. Dave Dunn from the Manning Valley accompanied Rex and provided expert help when

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needed, as did Ross Appleby and the other four club presidents who entered the comp.

Several competitors called into Green Island for a surf on the way down and wished they had stayed after seeing the surf at Durras upon arrival. Throughout the day people were arriving and by Friday night the socializing was in full swing around the camp fires. Saturday we were blessed with good banks re-appearing opposite the park after the heavy seas of the preceding week.

The weather was brilliant - a sunny 23 degrees with balmy nights and negligible winds. The surf was 3-5 ft and particularly good both mornings. We started at 7 o'clock. The competition was hard right from the first heat. Col Sugars started his return back up to the A grade competition ladder by ending up in the recharge heats as did many other fancied and prominent surfers. Indeed four of the eight semi-finalists went through the reps, still managed to get well into round 2 by 6 pm, allowing everyone time to wash up before the spit roast BBQ; with children being catered for earlier. Some 120 people came along for the feed and enjoyed some of the hospitality the far South Coast is famous for. A few tales were told

around the different camp fires that night. However, not surprising after the long day, there was not much heard after midnight except for a van full of local juniors.

Mind you the committee did feel obliged to stay up till much later to keep the beer company. The whole event was strongly contested with the highest four in each division fighting out the finals. This wasn't as easy as its sounds with 13 juniors, 20 seniors and 13 masters involved in the contest.

Mark Buckley



OPEN FINALISTS

- 1 Col Sugars
- 2 Peter Buchanan, W.gong
- 3 Blair Moore, Illawarra
- 4 Roger Carrus, W.gong

SENIORS FINALISTS

- Ross Appleby
John Godbolt
Col Sugars
Alan Randhal



WSA Inc News

The year of 2006 flew by quickly with lots of achievements helping WSA progress further. Early 2006, we started off with a new membership structure and insurance policy. To date we have 87 financial members, a 25% increase from 2005 and a mailing list of over 400 people interested in waveski surfing within Australia alone. Whilst our financial membership numbers are still small, we have been able to stabilize membership numbers and influence some growth.

Along with the new membership structure we also combined membership benefits through Rebel and Hertz and hope to add some more in 2007.

At the AGM, we said farewell to some committee members and welcomed some new ones along with creating new roles to help progress the sport further.

In May, we held a successful Australian titles with close to 50 entrants and saw Rees Duncan Jnr. take out his 7th Open Australian title. That week, MC Lance Milnes coordinated an entertaining trivia night where much needed funds were raised to help develop the sport. Fundraising efforts such as this have put WSA in a solid financial position for the next 12 months.

In the first 6 months of 2006 we saw a number of competitions leading up to the World titles in South Africa. Clubs such as the Gold Coast Tweed and North Coast clubs revived their club days and Batemans Bay and Wollongong organized regular surf catch up days. Queensland held its first state titles in years with over 30 entrants, including new and more experienced surfers that we hadn't seen for ages, such as former world champion Lisa Ryan.

Whilst the clubs attempted to rekindle the regular meets from the good old days, the pressure of the small numbers of volunteers to help run them can also take its toll. It's hard to organize such regular events without helpers and the responsibility can continue to lie with people who have been contributing for years. Perhaps the times have changed and club days are not the way of the future and maybe social surfing weekends away could be a more attractive option. The regional club activity cannot grow without everyone contributing, taking a part and new ideas. Growth in these areas is key to maintaining WSA membership numbers and growth in 2007.

Regaining recognition with the ASC was also investigated and with the change in criteria, the requirements for membership numbers and club and state responsibilities make it incredibly difficult to regain recognition. A review is currently being undertaken.

Promotion of the sport through media releases resulted in some fantastic coverage through the Sydney Telegraph, Coffs Harbour and Gold Coast media. A 2007 calendar and two new DVD releases also contributed to promotion of the sport.

At the world titles, there were fantastic results from a small team representing Australia including some new competitors on the arena, Damien Jones from Tasmania and Paul Thesner from Queensland. The 2007 worlds training weekends started in October with professional surfing coach Steve Foreman blasting some motivation into those who attended.

A business plan has been developed to help direct the development of the sport over the next 3 years and will be finalized and published on the website shortly. We also will be introducing more flexibility with membership levels and costs in 2007 to help maintain and grow membership numbers.

Our Development officer, Scott Waldron has been busy conducting a survey with clubs to establish a baseline understanding where the clubs are at and how a national body can help these areas develop. Thank you to the responses received and whilst the interest is there, activity is limited and difficult due to lack of volunteers. The biggest challenge for WSA is influencing the regional areas to grow. An assessment of resources and ways to assist is being developed and will be published on the website.

The two years that the three of us committed to the association roles is slowly coming to an end. Whilst we have thoroughly enjoyed working together as a team and progressing the sport, there will come a time for new volunteers to take over these roles. Consider volunteering and giving back to your sport.

With the 2007 world titles being held in New Zealand, there will no doubt be a large team of Australian contenders attending the event. We expect a hive of activity in the first half of the year again through to the Australian titles. We look forward to another progressive year in 2007. Merry Christmas to everyone and their families and all the best for the new year.

Darren, Larry & Mel
WSA Inc.

