

WAVESKI SURFING AUSTRALIA NEWS



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2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 23 – WA STATE ROUND1 LANCELIN BOMBING RANGE

MARCH 1,2 - LAKE SEA CLASSIC, SOUTH DURRAS

MAY 3,4 – THE SEARCH, PORTLAND

MAY 31, JUNE 1 – WOLLONGONG OPEN

JUNE 20-29 – WORLD WAVESKI TOUR, REUNION ISLAND

JULY 26 – WA STATE ROUND 2 COTTLESLOE

AUGUST 2,3 – COFFS OPEN & AUSTRALIAN JUNIORS TITLES

SEPTEMBER 13,14 – QLD/NORTHERN NSW EVENT

OCTOBER 11 – WA STATE ROUND 3, SECRET HARBOUR

OCTOBER 25 – 31 – AUSTRALIAN WAVESKI TITLES, VICTORIA

2007 AUSTRALIAN TITLES

Those of you who didn't come to warm, wonderful Wollongong in August missed one of the best Australian Titles ever. Despite the chilly winter mornings, Huey smiled on us and sent consistent quality waves and favourable wind conditions for the week.

As Monday dawned, solid waves were breaking on outer Sandon Point lefts. The top sixteen seeded riders surfed off in two man heats to decide on the eight top seeds. Although the swell direction wasn't good, the thrilling, hollow waves providing excellent opportunities for the top riders to show their form with Rees Duncan, Lance Milnes, Blair Moore and Craig Dinning all scoring 9's with some spectacular moves. When other elimination rounds began, Sandon Point allowed less experienced surfers to paddle out to the break without getting knocked around too much when conditions got heavier.

The contest continued at Sandon Point on Tuesday and Wednesday with Open and division qualifying rounds being contested. By Wednesday the Open was down to the top eight with resumption of two man heats.

On Thursday the event was moved to East Corrimal Beach where sharp 1-2 metre faces on a nice bank provided more challenging conditions for the advanced riders who showed some classy surfing in the hollow waves. The Open Final was held on Thursday while good conditions prevailed. World Champion, Rees Duncan won his eighth national title from Blair Moore with a truly spectacular display of radical surfing from both competitors.

Division finals were also tightly contested on Thursday and Friday with quality surfing in all age divisions. Head Judge, Lyn Furbank worked hard all week keeping judges focused and clarifying judging criteria throughout the contest.

The presentation dinner was held at Wollongong Tennis Club on Saturday night. The framed historical South Coast beach photos [courtesy of Dave Milnes] presented to winners and placegetters were very well received.

Although the wintry cold conditions may have deterred a few, more consistent swell prevailed throughout the contest and the usual summer afternoon north-east winds didn't spoil

conditions. The excellent planning and organisation by Contest Director, Lance Milnes ensured a terrific week for competitors and spectators.

The organisers would like to thank the following sponsors, without whom the contest could not have been a success:

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Bulli Tourist Park
Skipp Surfboards*

Results

OPEN

1. Rees Duncan, NSW; 2. Blair Moore, NSW; 3. Darren Kearns, QLD; 4. Dave Dinning, QLD

OPEN AGE

1. Dave Dinning, QLD; 2. Ben Buckley, NSW; 3. Gerry Buckley, NSW

SENIORS

1. Rees Duncan, NSW ; 2. Dale Randahl, NSW; 3. Lance Milnes, NSW; 4. Craig Dinning NSW

MASTERS

1. Cisco Nascimento NSW; 2. Larry Adams NSW; 3. Col Samways NSW; 4. Albert Golledge NSW

GRAND MASTERS

1. Colin Sugars, NSW; 2. Jackie Dillon, WA; 3. Rob Borg, WA; 4. Mark Buckley, NSW

VETERANS

1. Kevin Marshall, NSW; 2. Gary Ross, QLD; 3. Joe Whiteley, NSW; 4. Richard Croome, WA

WOMEN

1. Lisa Ryan Qld; 2. Jackie Dillon, WA; 3. Karen Campbell, QLD; 4. Melissa Hardy, NSW



Sandon Point, 07 Aussie Titles

EDITORIAL

At the French National Waveski Titles last October there were over 90 surfers and more than 60% of the competitors were juniors.

I hear it said at almost every comp and gathering that there are no younger people joining our sport. Before we start making up reasons for this or blaming the cost of the equipment we should face the reality that waveski's aren't considered 'cool' by young people in Australia and fit in somewhere below kneeboards and bodyboards in the tribal food chain of the surf break. I watched the sport grow in the 1980's and shrink again in the late 1990's and I've realized that the 'goat boat' stigma that many of us have to wear grew out of blatant bad manners exhibited by many waveskier's when the sport was booming about twenty years ago. People bought a waveski, spent an hour or two learning to paddle then went out to catch some waves- usually ignorant of any rules or manners that exist at a surf break. Other surfers spent weeks or months learning to catch and use waves and learnt the rules along the way.

Those of us who care about our sport can help to turn this image around. I know that most people who read this are well aware of the **right of way rules** that apply to all surfers but we all need to be reminded about our manners at the line up.

Here are a few things to remember:

You will see a wave or set of waves coming before anyone else because you are sitting higher. Use this to your advantage occasionally- **not all the time**.

You can out-paddle anyone to get to the wave- **don't overdo this advantage**. You will make lots of friends if you give up some waves.

Impress people with your skill- **not your greed**.

Being hit by a surf board can cause injury, being hit by a wave ski can kill. A surfboard weighs 2-7kg; a wave ski weighs 90+ kg because the rider is fully attached at time of impact. Wave skiers should be **a lot more careful than other surfers**.

Don't always surf with **large groups of waveskiers**. Take the time to make friends with other surfers to break up the tribalism.

It might mean catching one or two fewer waves but if we all show some respect for other surfers we can improve the image of our sport.

Basil Repa

WSA Editor

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi all, hope the waves have been good to you since our last correspondence.

This is my first letter as the new president of the WSA, so please bear with me. If you have any suggestion or comment for content please don't hesitate to contact myself or Baz.

Firstly I would like to thank and congratulate Mel Hardy for all her amazing work over the past couple of years. Through hard work and commitment she has turned our sport around from its downward spiral. I would also like to thank you all for the support you have shown me over the past couple of year as I re-entered the waveski scene. From running the national titles to competing in the worlds and now the national president, the support I have received from fellow waveskier's has been amazing and has carried me to where I am now placed.

Congratulations must go to Lance and his helping crew for the great effort they put in running the very successful 2007 Australian Titles. All results can be found on the WSA web site.

We can now confirm that the 2008 National Titles will be held in Victoria on the Ocean Beaches of the Mornington Peninsula in late October but I must thank all the eager potential contest organizers for their willingness to run this year's event. We hope to be announcing more details about the event in the near future.

It seems that we have a number of keen surfers willing to put their time and effort into the promotion of our sport. We need to ensure these individuals are supported. If you have any suggestions on how to improve the profile of Waveski surfing please don't keep these thoughts to yourself, as your idea maybe the shot in the arm the sport needs right now. You can contact the association via the web site.

Well done to Mel, Blair and Ben John for holding up the Ozzie flag at the recent inaugural World Wave Ski Tour (WWT) in France. The event was won by Mathieu Babarit, and Caroline Angibaud but our national representatives did us proud in very trying conditions. See the WSA web site for link to full results and day by day blows.

It looks as though 2008 WWT will heat up with several more legs potentially being added to next year's tour including, Reunion Island, South Africa and maybe Australia. We'll keep you posted through the website.

By the time you read this the Australian Premier of "**Gateway to Sorga**" may have been watched, but for all those unable to attend, I would recommend purchasing a personal copy from either WSA, Col Samways at Wavemaster Australia or Larry Adams at Blades Paddles. This has to be one of the most professional Wave ski movies you will ever view.

Watch as some of the world's best waveskiers take on some of the best waves in the world. This film was made during a 14 day boat trip in the Mentawai Islands off West Sumatra. I hope you enjoy watching it as much as we enjoyed making it.

Rees Duncan Jnr
President WSA Inc

WSA 2008 Junior Scholarship Program

To assist with junior development in the sport of Waveski Surfing in Australia, WSA is proud to announce the 2008 Junior Scholarship Program. The program aims to encourage the youth of Australia to learn the sport of waveski surfing, enable participation at events and assist the growth and development of the sport to ensure that Australia remains at the helm of waveski surfing long into the future.

The program is open to males and females between the ages of 10 and 21 as of the 7th of March 2008. Applicants need to be Australian permanent residents and 2008 financial members of WSA Inc. and will need to commit to attending club events and the inaugural Australian Waveski Surfing Juniors Titles to be held in Coffs Harbour in August this year.

The scholarship program will award up to \$7500 worth of grants in 2008. Successful applicants will receive a financial grant up to \$750. You will be able to track the progress of the successful applicants on the WSA website.

Information on the application process is available on the WSA website www.waveskisurfigaust.com/juniors/juniors2008.htm. Applications for the 2008 program will close 7th March, 2008. Successful applicants will be advised by the 14th of March, 2008. For any questions or further information, please email WSA on 2008juniors@waveskisurfigaust.com.

The 2008 Junior Scholarship Program is an investment into the future of Waveski Surfing in Australia.



One of Australia's current Juniors, 17 year old Ben Buckley

LAZ's TIPS FOR LOOKING AFTER YOUR WAVE SKI

"PLEASE BE SEATED"

With a little work the standard EVA shaped seat pad can be easily transformed into a snug fitting Jason Recliner.



Clean seat well area before using contact cement to glue seat pad to the ski. EVA Foam sheeting can be purchased from your Waveski Supplier or Clark Rubber

Sit on the seat pad on the ski to see how much extra foam is needed around the outer edges.

Cut straight strips of foam, if 2 layers cut one narrower, 35mm & 60mm are used here, (stretch and compress around curves) and glue into position using contact cement to the underside of pad. Try again on the ski to see if more foam is needed. Using 40-grit sand paper and a sanding block rub away inside corners

Use 40-grit sand paper to finish the outside for a professional look.



I hope you all get plenty of waves during the summer.

Laza



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Gateway to Sogga

Coffs Harbour Event, November

Once again the Sapphire coast of NSW turned on some epic swell for a get together at Emerald Beach in Coffs Harbour. Over the years this area has most of the time switched on the waves for us and leaves no surprise for why this area is a breeding ground for champions of all surf disciplines.



Shelley Beach, Photo by Steve Farthing

Over 25 waveski surfers from as far as Bateman's Bay, Victoria and the Sunshine Coast travelled to the event including some new faces from the local area, Darcy Right and Andrew Garner and some budding juniors such as young Rees Duncan Jnr and Kye Duncan. The Saturday started off with a training and social surf where some surfers were buddied up to gain feedback on their surfing. Some of the top riders were also experimenting with new aerial manoeuvres like the "Sausage Roll". The morning was followed by a BBQ at the Emerald Beach Holiday Park kindly organised by Rees and Trish.



Rees Duncan Jnr Photo by Steve Farthing

The group then gathered that night at the Woolgoolga Bowling Club for the East Coast Premiere of Gateway to Sorgia. Over 60 people turned up for the event with half waveski surfers and the other half local surf board riders and stacks of kids. There were lots of laughs, hoots and whistles as the movie unveiled. It broke down barriers with stand-up surfing, while also encouraging fellow waveski surfers to push the limits. It was a great moment for our sport. The lucky door prize winner was Robert Tap who took home a copy of DVD.



*Nigel Bryant attempting the Sausage Roll
Photo by Steve Farthing*

The weekend concluded with some free surfing on the Sunday along the beautiful coast line of Coffs Harbour. Thanks to Rees and Trish for organizing a fun weekend.

Melissa Hardy

East Coast Competition Circuit

This year, there will be a series of events along the east coast of Australia including the Australian Titles in Victoria at the end of the year that will form be part of the 2008 WSA East Coast Comp Circuit. Points will be allocated to all placing's from each event in A grade, B grade and junior divisions with overall points score winners for the year.

The overall points score winners would not replace the National Titles winners or event but be inclusive of the prime event and provide an incentive for those that attend more competitions.

Point scores of competitors prior to the Australian Titles will also contribute towards seeding and inclusion in the top 32 of the open division.

All events are open to Internationals and of course our WA compatriots, with the exception of the Australian Titles which is open to Australian residents only.

More Info on the circuit will be posted on the WSA Website shortly.



WAVESKI DESIGN

To help us better understand the many design features of wave skis, we recently asked five of Australia's top riders for a personal opinion of the features of their boards that they like best.

Rees Duncan Jnr, Current World Open and Australian Open and Seniors Champion



Photo by Penior photography

Rees has been riding his current Wave Master board since the middle of this year and won his 7th Australian title on this board at the recent event in Wollongong.

“I like my skis to have fine rails, being low in volume without being so sharp that they will catch. This allows you to pump your board like a surfboard and generate speed. If your rails are too thick or have too much volume they are forgiving, but won't allow you to hold your line in the crucial part of the wave and make you lose control.

I also prefer a small tail, rounded square or a very fine swallow. I personally feel, this allows for better manoeuvrability. A wider tail allows for continued speed in a fat section or gutless wave, but the smaller tail combined with the finer rails allows you to pump your board to generate speed, while still maintaining control in sucky surf and enables easy tail release.

One other area that I have a personal preference for is my seat. Most waveski surfers shape their seats deep and mould the seat to the shape of their bums. I prefer and have always ridden with a fairly flat seat, but also one which is quite high, to the extreme of just being able to control balance. I feel this also allows me to turn my ski from rail to rail with ease, due to my high centre of gravity. I feel as though I'm sitting up on my ski with maximum leverage rather than down into a moulded seat, which feels like you're in the ski. It works for me and other riders like Khane and Mathieu Babarit.”

Darren Kearns, 2001 World Open Champion and 2003 World Seniors Champion



Photo by Penior Photography

Darren has been riding his current Dekka waveski since February 2007.

“I like the rocker (bottom curve) on this ski and the seat is 28 inches from the tail. This board is the quickest board I've ever had and it also comes off the bottom well. With more foam behind me, (my last board was 24 inches from the tail), it makes it very easy to paddle out because it is stable and I make more landings from big manoeuvres. This board also has an extra fin box, so I have a traditional centre fin box and another one behind it closer to the tail. This gives me the ability to experiment with fin positions. If there is any advice I can give, it would be to experiment with your fin positions and different fins. A bad performing board can turn into the best board you have ever had just by tuning your fins.”

Lance Milnes, 2006 Australian Seniors Champion, 2007 World Titles, 3rd in Open Division



Photo by Albert Golledge

Lance has been riding his current Go-Fast waveski since April 2006.

“The ski I have been riding was made to suit the most common conditions I ride, both socially and in competition. That type of surf is usually semi-full beach breaks anywhere from 2ft to 6ft. I needed something that would get enough speed to go skyward in so-so surf without sacrificing turning ability. To cater for this and my larger build the ski was made a bit wider

through it's length to give it a broader planing surface for carrying speed. There is modest volume in the rails to handle the messier days we also usually encounter on the NSW East Coast, and medium "V" bottom and double concave to maximise performance. This ski has given me the best contest results of my career, so I think I can say it has worked well for me."

Blair Moore, 2007 Australian Titles, 2nd in Open Division, 2006 World titles, 4th in Open & Seniors Division



Photo by Dave Milnes

Blair has been riding his current Christo waveski for the last 7 years and recently got a Carsten's waveski from South Africa so has given us a snapshot on both boards.

"My Christo ski has a double concave bottom which accentuates the vee, and gives the board more lift on the wave surface, allowing quick rail to rail transition in all types of waves. In fat waves my rail to rail transitions on this board feels loose and quick in the turns.

The Carsten board has a single concave bottom, which I have found to be faster, and I believe speed is one of the most important things you want in a board. The single concave gives a more secure feeling on a sucky wave face, because the concave sticks to the wave face more. This has allowed me to improve my barrel riding ability, not only with added speed but the board sticks more once you set your line. This waveski also has more tail and nose lift in comparison to the Christo and the additional tail lift in the bottom curve helps with increasing the looseness of the board. If the conditions are barrelling and the waves have a lot of power, I would choose to ride the Cartens board.

One aspect I really like about my Carstens board that I would choose to have in all my boards is not much meat in the nose, and nose kick right towards the end of the nose. Having bad shoulder, I have definitely notice how much easier this board is to duck dive under waves.

Now I have tried the single and double concave bottom profiles. I would like to try a single concave that runs into a slight double. So I have the speed of the single and just a touch more looseness. Not much because I like the secure feeling the single concave gives me in the steep sucky section of the wave.

With the Christo, I prefer one with the shortest and widest tail

in beach break conditions, which I can turn quicker, tighter and have more drive, though is much harder to paddle out. In point breaks, reef breaks over 4-5 feet, or in rough, fat conditions I find the longer tail boards can at times surf better and smoother, as there is more room to move on the wave face and the longer tail can provided more speed throughout your turns.

Mark Spencer, 2001 Australian Seniors Champion



Photo by Travis Best

"Like most Guys my age (just a bit over 20... Ok, 40) who've been riding in competitions all their lives, I've moved from going for full sponsorship to buying my own gear and getting exactly what I like. My current board is the S7 Model Gee Board and its about 18 months old and will highlight the main features I like best.

Turning and performance - basically it does what you want when you want it to pretty much all the time -The deep dual concave from the mid section to the tail make this board really stick when it comes out of a bottom turn, and creates a nice short arc to get you vertical and into the lip really quickly. The higher buoyancy nose in combination with a good chime and rail combination keep the rails very hard but allow the board to release from the top of the wave easily.

Paddle Ability - Let's face it - you're not getting any younger! And even if you're as fit as you have ever been you still probably want to get out though the messy bits more easily. These boards are really nice to paddle, the basic features (rail design, fat back style and chimes) mean that the ski has heaps of buoyancy without sacrificing on wave performance. Makes for an easy take off as well when you can get up to planning speed faster (particularly handy in 4ft+ suck).

Durability- Not much to say here. Gee-Boards have a reputation for extremely high durability. My board is computer shaped and Glass / Fibre / Titanium / you name it is added and it has ended up light and very strong. I've nosed mine vertically off a 4ft wall several times without busting anything - they're really strong for their weight."

Hope this has helped you learn more about different design features and next time you are asked about what you want in your next board you won't be just commenting on the colour!

World Waveski Tour, October 2007



The first signs of the inaugural World Waveski Tour were posters lining the roadside from Bordeaux airport to the sleepy village of Lege on the west coast of France. Representing Australia was Blair Moore, Ben John and Melissa Hardy. The village at this time of year was quiet as signs of winter were about despite the area being renowned for a holiday mecca in the summer. A few of us arrived a few days early and got the chance to tour the area and go surfing at the world famous break Lacanau, the break where fellow competitor Michael Orsmond won his world title in 1995.

The competition break was situated in the National park at Cap Ferret on a 90 km stretch of sandy flat coastline. At times the competition site had two breaks, one about 100 metres out and another being much closer to shore which would become a 3-6ft shore break depending on the tide and ended up being the break most surfed in the competition. The water temperature was reminiscent of an ice cream headache when you were dunked and the tide change was around 6 metres so presented some constantly changing interesting options.

The event started out with the French National titles with over 90 riders from all over France, Reunion Island and Guadeloupe, and more than 60% of the competitors being juniors. The French riders acclaim the success of the juniors to two factors - the RTM Slide waveski which is made of foam, light and virtually indestructible and a few dedicated people who put in weekends and training time to assist these kids with the sport. The event ran for 3 days and involved trials for all but the top 16 riders to determine who else would go into the titles event which consisted of 32 riders. In the trials there were up to 3 breaks being run and judged by 3 groups of judges. This allows the event to be run in a much shorter time period. The French titles also helped decide on the host countries wildcards who would take part in the tour event. The beach was crowded with spectators and young kids jostling for autographs from the WWT competitors.

The WWT Event started after the titles with some delays due to the huge conditions. The event consisted of two contests predominantly run in a man on man format with some three man heats. With the delay in starting, it meant that it was hard pushed to run both contests in 4-5 days. At this time of year, surfing started after 10 am and finished by 5 pm due to the

cold. The conditions for the first contest were hard and ranged from 4-6 ft or more and were compared to 6ft surf at South Durras and an icy strong wind in the afternoon. Depending on the tide, the shore dump could be up to 6ft with a rip dragging you down the beach to make the event and all the other helpers that made the week.

Congratulations to the AWWP for organising a successful event and all the best of luck with continuing the dream. All the results and video highlights can be seen from www.awwp.org super fast. There was difficulty getting out in both divisions. With only the men's division being run on the first day due to the difficult conditions, we saw some explosive surfing from the French riders, Matthieu Babarit, Sylvan Lounguet and Renan Leloutre, Andre Burger, Michael Orsmond from South Africa and Tyler Lausten from Hawaii. On day two the conditions dropped slightly seeing the conclusion of the men's division and allowing the whole women's division to be run meaning 4-5 heats in one day for some. It was an all French final for both the men's and women's divisions, with Matthieu Babarit the winner of the first leg and Coralie Jousset the winner of the women's. In this event Blair finished 6th, Ben 11th and Melissa 3rd in the women's.

The second contest presented very different conditions. The swell dropped significantly and the main contest break became a smaller shore dump on the first day and dropped even further for the finals. Again in the men's division, Matthieu and Renan dominated with Guillaume Justine meeting Matt in the final. After a very close 3 man heat in the women's with Caroline, Coralie and Melissa, Coralie later bowed out for 4th and Melissa finished 2nd to seven time world champion Caroline Angibaud.



Blair Moore and Ben John finished 9th and 10th. The total prize money going directly to the riders was \$6000 USD with no competitors leaving empty handed.

The new epic waveski film, *Gateway to Sorga* was premiered during the week to over 100 viewers at the town hall. Young fans of the film were hassling the movie stars for autographs. During the week of the WWT, moviemaker Xaver Walser spent day in day out filming and each night editing and uploading on the internet the best highlights for the event. Thanks to his dedication, family and friends were able to track the events progress on a daily basis.



Blair Moore, Cap Ferret, France
Photo by Paul Villecourt

All in all it was a great event. The conditions were tricky which has to be expected for a competition of this calibre and couldn't have been run any better with the conditions that were available. Thanks to the hosts, Caroline Angibaoud, Matthieu Babarit, the judges who donated their time for free, their families for feeding us every day, the man with the freshly shucked oysters that we sadly missed out on because we were too busy surfing that day, the sponsors for supporting the event, the competitors for travelling the world.

The next World Waveski Tour event will be held in Reunion Island in June 2008. Qualification criteria for this event can be found in the event rules posted on www.awwp.org.



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