

WAVESKI SURFING AUSTRALIA NEWS



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2007 Australian Titles

Just under a week to go and everything is set for the 28th Australian Waveski Surfing Titles. We got lots of local support so all we need is for everyone to get their entries in. The surf has been good the last few weeks and looks like continuing so see you there. Winter has been a little cooler this year, but the water is still 20°C so it's far from polar.

The three main likely contest breaks are:

- Sandon lefts (Bommie) - a long left-hander that wraps around a point, draws the bigger south swell and relatively protected from NE winds. Competitors must note that if the contest is being held on the south-side of Sandon Point there will be no free-surfing allowed on the more famous right-hander on the Northern side to respect the local surfers.
- East Corrimal Beach - varied beach break with lots of room, marginally protected from NE winds but open to

most swell directions, likes NE swell best.

- Bellambi Pool - Right-hand reef break protected from SE winds. Fullish and smaller mostly but one of the true SE wind sanctuaries. Does get fun more often than people realise.

We would like to thank the our supporters of the event so far: Wavemaster, Go Fast and Blades Paddles, Gee Boards, Tourism Wollongong, Corrimal Surfpit, Bulli Tourist Park, Safehouse Property Consultants, New Age Pest Control, Ray White Albion Park, Gala Trophies, Rich and Frame-Us, Layback Longboarders, Skipp Surfboards, Dave Milnes Photography.

See you in the water.

Lance Milnes
WSA Contest Director

Baby News

By 2020, the Australian waveski surfing scene should have a burst in numbers. Introducing on the left, Mason Spencer (son of Mark aka Spaz) and in the words of the proud dad "he's small, dark, handsome and not so hairy yet". And introducing on the right, Jorja Louise Herman (daughter of Luke and Kim), born on the 22nd of June and weighing in at 8lbs 11ounces.

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Mason Spencer

Jorja Herman

Editorial

Hello fellow Waveski Surfing Australia members and welcome to another edition of your newsletter! Firstly I would like to acknowledge the awesome achievements of Rees Duncan (Open), Luke Herman (Seniors), Neil Decker (Masters), Ben John (New Age) and Basil Repa (Veterans). All of whom are 2007 World Champions after their success in Gisborne, New Zealand. There is an article later in the newsletter on all the champs. Australian surfers dominated the event and carried on the success in the team's event contested after the finals. It was great to see such a large turn out of Australians at titles. While the event was starved for waves, quality surf was on offer for the travelers with Raglan and the Coramandel Peninsula turning on excellent conditions!

While "The World's" have been run and won, the next focus for Australia is our national title to be held from July 30 to August 4 in Wollongong. This event provides a great opportunity to achieve their personal best national ranking, with the returning World competitors having honed their competition skills in NZ. Looking back to 2002, attendance at the Australian Titles was down with the 2002 World titles in QLD that were to be run later in the same year. Please make every effort to get to Wollongong and be a part of another sensational and fun WSA event.

You may be aware recently Ben John and the Duncan boys joined the Subgraviti crew in the Mentawai's, coinciding with their journey was one of the largest swells to hit the region in recent times so keep an eye out for the DVD that will come out of the trip. The same swell that produced the massive waves in Indo also made it's way East and resulted in some pretty special conditions at the Port Fairy Lighthouse during the Portland Search Weekend in the deep South West of Victoria. The Lighthouse would be one of the most fun locations to surf large waves that I have experienced, it has everything - hollow, sections, lips, massive amounts of speed and power and yet it is a remarkably easy place to surf. Once again it was a pleasure to catch-up and surf with Bummer aka Mark Brondsema. Bummer's full rail turn carving style is truly something special the fact he is able to surf like that with out the use of a belt is mind blowing! The freedom Bummer has to move around on his board enables him to position his ski perfectly on a wave face and has seen him make finals of the Bells Invitational and state events in Vic, S.A. and NSW. Bummer displays control in large surf that few waveskiers can match and is no more of a danger than a longboard if he is caught out of position as he is attached to his craft of similar volume to a longboard via a leash. The seemingly ridiculous fact is because Mark doesn't use a belt his craft falls out side of the definition of a waveski. Recently I've seen discussion on the internet

questioning the definition of a waveski. The belt issue was also raised at the 2002 World AGM and the World body argues that not using a belt increases the dangers to other surfers. Unlike those on the world body I have witnessed Bummer surf and know their position to be uninformed and wrong. If caught out of position, all waveski's can pose a danger so long as the rider is attached to the craft either via belt or via leash the risks are the same and therefore the use of a belt shouldn't determine if the craft can be defined as a waveski. If nothing else Bummer's longevity in the sport of Wave?ing in an area that consistently produces some of the most heavy duty waves in Australia speaks for itself. Never the less the Portland event will continue next year with the support of Bummer. I just hope if the day came that a major event was held around Portland again there would not be an issue as ridiculous as this preventing Bummer from competing. Best of luck to all of you in Wollongong,

Travis Best
Editor

Association of World Waveski Professionals

2007 will be a groundbreaking year for Waveski Surfing with the first ever Professional "World Waveski Tour" (WWT). Seven-time world champion Caroline Angibaud, two-time world champion Mathieu Babarit from Hossegor, France and Xaver Walser from Subgraviti production along with some of the leading waveski organizers from all over the world have formed the Association of World Waveski Professionals (AWWP).

We wanted to develop a new way of competing in waveski surfing and Mathieu came up with the idea during the World Series in South Africa. To have more than one international contest in the World series tour was a really great opportunity. The team has been working on the concept throughout the winter and announced it at the World titles in NZ.

It's a big challenge for us because it's a huge amount of work but we are very motivated and we want to develop waveski surfing.



Mathieu Babarit in The Mentawai's

AWWP Cont'd

They have created 2 associations: one for the northern hemisphere and the other for the southern hemisphere and the AWWP is connecting both. They don't want to create a parallel circuit the World titles, but to have more international contests with the best riders on the best waves.

The aim of the AWWP is to provide waveski surfing a new level of development and a higher level of exposure for the sport. The world's best riders will compete at the best breaks in the best possible surf conditions. Along with this there will be the best manoeuvres, great media coverage, backed with prize money for all surfers. AWWP believes that the World Waveski Tour (WWT) is the key to make young boys and girls dream of waveski surfing.

The WWT is structured for the top 14 MEN and top 4 WOMEN plus a few wildcards. In 2007, France will host the first leg of the tour with 2 contests from 29th October to 2nd November 07 just after and in the same place as the French Championships. The total prize money for the events is \$6000 USD.

For more information go to the website www.awwp.org or email france@awwp.org or southafrica@awwp.org.

Caroline Angibaud
AWWP



Caroline Angibaud

Photo by Morgan O'Sullivan

Judging Highlighted

Whether it's a local comp or the world titles, we always need competent judges to decide who the winners are. The aim of this is to guide and clarify judging criteria, scoring scales and to give some hints to improve judging in our sport. Surfers need to realise that if you do regular judging and know the criteria, you can improve your surfing as well. Our sport has a lot of experienced waveski judges but official qualifications can only be gained through Surfing Australia who runs a fantastic course in judging (www.surfgaaustralia.com follow the links).

This information is for both experienced and beginner judges to improve their accuracy and confidence and is taken from WWSA

rules, ASP judging course and experience gained over 20yrs (gee that's old!!) judging all levels of the sport.

CRITERIA USED IN JUDGING

The criteria can be broken into three paragraphs:

1. A surfer must perform radical controlled manoeuvres in the critical section of a wave with speed, power and flow to maximize scoring potential.

This is by far the most important part of the criteria. Key words are - Radical Manoeuvres – Critical Section – Speed Power Flow

a) Radical Controlled Manoeuvres:

Modern day manoeuvres basically constitute change of direction of the ski on the wave (not the waveski surfer on the board). Such manoeuvres include re-entries, cutbacks, floaters, aerials, tube rides etc. When performed with a high degree of control and commitment, they are the highest scoring part of the criteria. When combined with all factors of the criteria (i.e. speed, power and flow) in the critical section, the judges should reward them). **It is important to note that even if a surfer has completed 90% of the manoeuvre WILL NOT score if they lose control and fall off.**

b) Most Critical Section:

This part describes where on the wave manoeuvres should be performed to score the maximum points. **The critical section of the wave is the pocket closest to the curl.** The degree of commitment and the risk involved in performing close to the curl is the reason that it scores higher.

c) With Speed, Power and Flow

Speed and Power become more apparent when performed in the critical section of the wave.

Generally, the greater the speed the more powerful the manoeuvre will be when performed in the critical section of the wave. Flow relates to how the surfer links their turns together on the wave and how manoeuvres are functional in regards to where they are performed. A surfer that is flowing with the wave generally will look as though he/she is reading the wave well and performing the manoeuvres that are suitable to the sections being surfed.

2. Innovative/progressive surfing as well as variety of repertoire (manoeuvres) will be taken into consideration when rewarding points for waves ridden

Innovative and progressive surfing - Innovation is a critical element that top surfers must employ in order to distinguish themselves from fellow competitors. Innovative manoeuvres require commitment and should be rewarded when performed in the critical section with all the criteria.

3. The surfer who executes the criteria with the maximum degree of difficulty and commitment on the better waves shall be rewarded with the higher scores.

Maximum degree of difficulty and Risk (commitment) =

Reward - The highest degree of difficulty and control are the most important of this final paragraph. To perform manoeuvres that will be rewarded highly by the judges, the surfers must commit themselves to performing high-risk manoeuvres in the critical sections, with control on the better waves.

JUDGING TIP – Commitment to manoeuvres in the critical section of the wave should be rewarded highly.

JUDGING SCORING SYSTEM

Judging Scale -The zero to ten point scoring system used by the WWSA is broken into the following categories:

0.1 – 1.9 Bad (no manoeuvres or minor manoeuvre with little or no control)

2.0 – 3.9 Poor (minor manoeuvre or basic manoeuvre with control)

4.0 - 5.9 Average (basic manoeuvres 1 major and minors with control)

6.0 - 7.9 Good (radical major manoeuvres, speed, control and power)

8.0 – 10.0 Excellent (radical major manoeuvres with speed, control, power with elements of progressive committed surfing).

******* HAVE ALL POTENTIAL JUDGES GONE TO SLEEP YET !!! *****

I know reading up on criteria can be a bit dry when all you want to do is catch a wave!!!!. But we have the criteria so we can apply the scoring system to get a winner on the day. So here's a few tips to improve your judging.

- Start the heat scoring in whole and half points. This is good for beginner judges to encourage the whole scale being developed. Only resort to decimal places when necessary usually for advanced judging.
- Reward committed manoeuvres in critical section highly. So often judges start out with a lower score, which can really hinder using the entire scale (getting stuck on 4 or 6 for best waves.)
- Compare every individual wave score from start to finish of the heat and keep in mind important waves to compare against e.g. first wave of the heat and current highest wave score of the heat, and best wave for that rider.
- The score given for the first ride or rides will set the scale for the remainder of the heat.

- Don't deliberate too long on making your call and put pen to paper. Don't copy off the judge next to you - they might be incorrect. If you need clarification check with head judge.
- When judging simultaneous rides, watch the whole sequence of rides before scoring, identifying the colours in their correct order (e.g. first up was blue, then red, then yellow) and associate these colours with word to reflect the quality of the ride (e.g. blue fair, red excellent, then yellow poor). Get the best score down first, then the poorest next and other or others in between.
- Score manoeuvres not length of ride, commitment on the first turn and top to bottom surfing.

Next installment will be on interference, qualities to develop for good judging and more hints.

Yours, From the Hot Seat

Lyn E. Furbank

Surfing Gnarloo On a Waveski

Australia is blessed with many varied surf destinations. Over the years surfers have reveled in taking time out to hit the road and drive up the coast in the search of perfect surf. The most popular drive would be the North coast NSW to the Goldie . However for a couple of veteran waveski surfers from the Mornington Peninsula, the truly "EPIC" Australian road trip is head west where King waves Kill and the Tombstones Thrill.

The journey began on April 15 for 2 surf crazed grommies, Rod Sly (70) and Garth McIntyre (63) both veterans of several Indo boat trips and many other classic Australian destinations. For the boys, the first stop was retracing old steps at Pondalowie Bay, SA before heading to their old haunt of Cactus where they spent the next 5 days surfing outside Castles ranging in size from 3-8 feet.

Our grommet's needed to stock up on waves as the next part of their journey was inland to Kalgoorlie before emerging 200km north of Perth. Fuelled by the excitement of that first glimpse of ocean, the now frothing grommets took off for Kalbarri home of Jakes Point. *(Cont'd next page)*



After 4 days, the lure of the destination overcame our dynamic duo. Onwards they drove through Carnarvon, the Blowholes and then up 75 kms of corrugated track to the 3 mile camp at Gnaraloo which the boys describe the place as "Watersports Bliss", "If Cactus is a 7/10 - Gnaraloo rates 10/10!"

Greeting our intrepid travellers was clean double over head swell with tow-ins at Midgies. Rod and Garth are no strangers to big waves and are aware of their abilities so chose to stay away from Tombstones on this occasion. The Bommie was a little tamer and suited their needs. It may be just the laid back WA lifestyle, but Rod and Garth had noted that the locals weren't big on rushing out into the surf. Understandable really when you are dealing with a potentially devastating wave in a extremely remote part of the country.

By day 3 the swell backed off enough (6 ft) for the duo to take on Tombies. The powerful lines of water were shunting them



along 300m on these waves from the mid section of the coral reef. After a week the boys were joined by Paul Trigger, a surf Chain founder in Victoria and champion surfer. Ideal conditions prevailed, 25 degree water max temp 30 and offshore wind in the mornings before the sea-breeze. Once the sea breeze comes in most of the locals then turn their attention to fishing.

After surfing the breaks for fifteen days it was time to head home totally surf stoked. They travelled back via an inland route which proved to be a bit of a shock to their systems with the temperatures inland plummeting to freezing over nights. Now home back on the Mornington Peninsula the Grommets rate the trip equal to their most recent Sumatra visit and an all time epic Australian Surf Road trip.

Travis Best



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*Congratulations to
Lance Milnes, Jackie Dillon &
Basil Repa at the
2007 World Titles*

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Aussie World Champs

What do you remember about your first contest?

Ben John (New Age Champ) - My first contest was the Aussies, Gold Coast in 2000. I was blown away by the guys. I remember fluking my way through to round four or five and I had rippers in my heat. One of them was Luke Herman. I was overwhelmed by these guys so much I paddled over to Luke and said to him, any wave you want just let me know and I'll give it to you.

Basil Repa (Veterans Champ) - First Contest was in the late 70's on a 8' 6" ski and no belt with 30 people at a club comp.

Rees Duncan Jnr. (Open Champ) - My first contest is a funny one. I was 11 yrs old and the Clarence Valley WSC had their monthly comp at Arrawarra. Dad didn't make the final, so I was mucking around in the shore break on an old Byron Bay Classic with a friend. We got out of the water and the judges said they had scored us as well.

But my first real comp of significance was the NSW titles when I was 14. I made it to the open final, against the guys I looked up to, Christo, Bernard Burns, Mick Smith and co. I got 4th and turned heads. This was my first taste of the big time.

Neil Decker (Masters Champ) - Sunshine Coast Open division and got 1st place in the moulded division – Mike Petrie blew me away!

Luke Herman (Seniors Champ) - It was at Yallingup and the surf was about 4 – 8 ft faces, good contestable waves. It was a Perth Ski Dogs contest and they were a side kick to the WAWSA. I couldn't roll which was just as well it had a easy paddle out. I beat Ben Corneous, a thing that took me some time to do again. That night the preso was very funny with the "Dogs" being notorious partiers and piss takers (poor Ben).

Can you pin point a moment or a feeling that prompted

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 30TH - AUGUST 4TH

AUSTRALIAN TITLES, WOLLONGONG

AUGUST 11

WA STATE ROUND 3, COTTLESLOE

SEPTEMBER 29

SURF PADDLERS UNITE, SYDNEY TBD

OCTOBER 6

WA STATE ROUND 4, SECRET HARBOUR

OCTOBER 27 – NOVEMBER 1

WORLD WAVESKI TOUR, FRANCE

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

you to continue riding a Waveski and ignore the pressures from other surfing disciplines?

Ben - I took up Waveski Surfing as a way to keep fit for footy. I felt so good from paddling afterwards and definitely noticed great fitness levels from it. Another draw-card was the challenge of trying to surf waves on the waveski.

Basil – More adrenaline on a ski than a board and you can't chicken out and dive off, a bit like climbing a mountain without a rope.

Rees - Growing up in Grafton, an inland, non surfing town, I had no realisation of the other surfing pressures. I was my dad's boy and what ever he did I wanted to do. We surfed Mini Waters and Wooli for years before even coming across others surfers, let alone the animosity towards waveski's. The other advantage was that our club and local area was a keen waveskiing district, so we had large numbers on our side and rarely saw conflicts.

Neil - No there was never a moment.... I just enjoyed doing something I was good at.

Luke - At school I had a fair bit of fun poked at me for riding a ski. I think it was an easy target at the time. But away from that and down at the beach most knew me as a stand up surfer before I rode a ski. I think at my first contest and getting a good result did change my way of thinking and started riding the stand up a little less, even though I would cop a bagging by a small minority at my local, most guys were really cool about it.

Who were big influences in your early years of Waveski club events and how did they help you?

Ben - All the Dee Why guys but most of all Justin Barnes. He helped out by handing me down his old skis and by giving good advice.

Basil - Roger Shackleton and his team,- innovators in board design and surfing style.

Rees - My father was the biggest influence and idol. I just wanted to be as good as him. When I eventually beat him and moved up the ranks he could see my potential and established a training program for fitness. Even though he never claimed any large titles, he was able to recognise in the early years the difference between waveski's and boards, and why we went fast or as manoeuvrable as they were. He then thought of ways to over come these hurdles, but was unable to produce the same technique himself. I believe this is why I surf faster than most other wave ski surfers. Later on it became Steve Bailey, whom took me to all the comps dad couldn't make. I later worked for Steve, which gave me the flexibility to train and surf as we did it together. Roger Buck and Neil Decker also had a large influence on my training, producing a regular competition model to train under.

Neil - Peter Price and Bill Campbell - They influenced me by the way they positioned themselves in the waves; always in the pocket.

Luke - My old boy got me into waveski's. I used to borrow his (and break it to). Bruce Radnidge, Mike Simmonetti, were always keen to push you and help train, and mainly Bruce on the brains department

On what make and dimensions of Waveski did you perform your first air on?

Ben - My Christo 7'3. I'm pretty sure it was the last board Christo shaped. I had so many great sessions on that. Once I jumped on a custom Christo I felt my surfing started to progress.

Basil -7' 2" Dallas custom

Rees - My first board that I really started to "surf" on was single fin junior Kyle. It was tiny. The nose would be no longer than 5-6 inches long, which I broke off several times. I just start to get some small floater air before trading it on a Phil Avalon hand shaped glass Wavemaster. It was Steve Bailey's. A quad fin rocket. It was very flat which made it so quick, but the quads made the turns very long, which wasn't my style, but with the speed it had, it turned every floater into an air.

Neil - Moulded Kyle 6.6ft 23" wide rounded pin tail. Best little moulded board made.

Luke - Wavemaster Pro Classic 2.26, that's all I can remember about it, not very light though.

Describe your best barrel?

Ben - New Caledonia last year. Came out of two solid barrels on one wave and went for the third and never made it out. It was so shallow and got cut up real bad but I couldn't wipe the smile of my face for days.

Basil - Mawi, Lombok with a 3m face.

Rees - In the Mentawai's, but which one. Hideaway's, Mentawai's Teahupo'o, was solid double overhead, low tide, and sketchy!! Was first in the water, first wave, everyone was still on the boat getting ready or watching. Only me and Rip in the line up. Rip takes the first set wave and I take the second, a bomb, I'm too deep, but so amped from the whole set up I charge with 110% commitment. The wall looked a mile long, so I go for a long speed driven bottom turn. (You can't sit high and race as the lip is too heavy and pitchy). I draw my line off the bottom sliding up to the barrels line, just ducking under the lip as I enter the green room. With the paddle across my knees the lip explodes way out in front of me as well as past the end of the paddle. I think to myself I'm going to get killed as I haven't even got to the double suck section which you have to back door at the best of times and I am already several metres deep. As I see this section approaching I move up closer to the top of the

Laz's Tips for Looking After your Waveski - Ding Repairs

It's essential for all waveskiers to know how to do small repairs at home or away. Firstly the damaged area needs to be sanded 10-15mm around the damage to expose the fiberglass. This is a **MUST DO** as the resin will not stick to the paint and keeping the water out of the ski is **critical**.



An **Epoxy Resin** or 24hr / 5 min Araldite or similar **must** be used on all modern custom waveski's (Polyester based resins will dissolve the Foam). Before mixing any resin , if using fibreglass to do the repair, cut at least 5 pieces of 200gm fibreglass cloth to cover the damaged area. Fill any holes with a Resin/Filler mix (Talc is an OK filler, 'Q' Cells are better). Mix the resin and cover the sanded fiberglass. Apply the cut fibreglass pieces one at a time. A spatula or knife can be used to push the fibreglass into the resin and remove any air bubbles as seen below.



Before the resin sets, cut a piece of shopping bag or garbage bag plastic larger than the repair and place over the fibreglass. Masking tape can hold the plastic while you stretch and smooth it over the fibreglass. The plastic will release when the resin hardens and leave a smooth safe surface (no exposed f/glass). Any resin which has lifted around the edges can be cut off with a sharp knife.

If not using fibreglass, resin/filler mix should be applied and left to set. Lightly sand then 1-2 coats of resin are applied and the plastic is not necessary. Note this repair will not be as strong as a Fibreglass Repair. Don't lick the spoon.

Another Hot Tip from Larry Adams



Rees at Full Noise

DESIGNED BY

Rees Duncan
Current World and Australian Champion

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Photo By Coenie Calitz

barrell as it loses a bit of shape. This move made all the difference as if I had kept my original line I would have been smacked in the head straight into the double suck rock platform below. This last little uneven shaped lip then grew into a large round perfect lip which allowed me to exit without a drop of water on me. To then hear the screams and whistles from the boat, made me realise what a perfect wave I had just ridden. There were many more like this over the trip, but none as deep or scary. I could have gone home after that wave a happy, happy man.

Neil – Undoubtedly Cliffs, SA.....ask Bowie he was there.

Luke - Solid 5ft North Point, WA pulled into a nice section with the lip breaking just level with the nose of my ski and thinking I was just coming out when the next section slabbed over and was now about a foot in front of my nose, seemed like an eternity but came out clean as I could have wished. I fell off straight away in the channel after coming out. Fully Pumped.

Where and when was the best contest surf that you have been in?

Ben - I must be cursed, still yet to surf in a heat where its been any good or over three feet.

Basil - Sandon Point - Wollongong Open- late 80's.

Rees - I've attended many comps with good surf, but never brilliant. Margaret River in WA always looked perfect, but not so good when you surfed it. Port Stephens one weekend for the PS Open was about 6ft plus all weekend with slight offshore winds. Big peaks, long walls. I think Lee Dinning won that one.

Neil - Hard to pin point the exact contest after so many, but always hold fond memories of W.A (never let down by the waves there).

Luke – Three bears near Yallingup - glassy shoulder to overhead waves, no crowds, it would have to be over 8- 10 years ago. I remember it best not because I won but 4th place had 3 airs on his sheet out of 4 waves.

Where would you love to see a Australian Titles held?

Ben – I haven't been to W.A yet so I would have to say there. If they could find somewhere solid and uncrowded, I would be stoked. Anyone that sticks there hand up though to hold a Aussies anywhere deserves a gold medal.

Basil - South Coast NSW

Rees - Somewhere different? Vic? We need a change of venue. Maybe even Iluka. A place where there are consistent waves, a little unknown, to reduce the crowds and everyone can get together as a waveskiing family, instead of the division we see at so many venues.

Neil – Western Australia

Luke - I think near Travis Best's house sounds great?? Free beer etc....

What is the best Break that you have surfed in Australia?

Ben - Treachery Beach on the Mid North coast, N.S.W.
Powerful A frame peaks with no one around.

Basil - Green Island - South Coast NSW

Rees - Red Bluff, WA is my second favourite wave in the world, only recently being pipped by Hideaways. I have only surfed it twice, but it is so powerful, and when it works it is very daunting to surf, but challenges you to sit deeper and push yourself to the limit. That's the sort of wave I live for, something that you can work into and then really push the limits, but be rewarded if you make it.

Neil - The Alley; When the banks are lined up.

Luke - Gnarloo hands down, hard to get to, but your rewards are great. I tend to ride my stand up more when I go there. Just don't tell anyone where it is.

What are your Waveski plans for the next twelve months?

Ben - Hopefully later this year go to the Solomon islands on a boat with a dude that knows some amazing secret locations.

Basil - Just Free surfing

Rees - After the world I was very keen, and with the purchase of a ski for my boys from Jackie Dillon, thanks Jackie, I was hoping to be surfing more than ever. I then went on the trip of a lifetime to the Mentawai's with some of the best surfers and blokes (and Caroline) I have ever met, so this has just added to my renewed enthusiasm. I also have a new board on the way, which should look a bit different to my last couple, so this also has me excited. Many years ago diving took over as my no.1 sport and became my passion. This has now taken a full circle and I don't even look at diving mags anymore, I have replaced them with Waveski info, Subgraviti and other waveski sites as my regular read, when time permits.

Unfortunately my shoulder may put me out for a while as I will be having it reconstructed after the Aussies this year.

Hopefully the recovery won't take too long and I can get back into the water ASAP. Even though I had injuries I felt that in Indo I was surfing as well as I ever have and can see myself, once fit, pushing beyond the current limits of our sport. I think these limits are being pushed higher at the moment by other riders around the world like, Mathieu, Ben John, Rip, Fletcher Burton are all doing some crazy things and I'm keen to push it too.

Neil - No plans, hopefully to get back out in the surf soon.

Luke - After just having junior No 2 my surfing will just have to fit in with the family, don't get me wrong I am still keen as

ever but there are priorities. Possibly a boat trip with my mate to the local reefs when it is on or a thrash at trigs beach.

Will you defend your title at the next "Worlds"?

Ben - Keen to, depends on where they are held. Looking forward to getting out in the surf heaps and improving for the next worlds. After going on a surf trip with the Duncan Brothers it was a humbling experience to see what they are doing in the water. Definitely learnt heaps.

Basil - No - World Titles are too stressful

Rees - At this stage I'm very keen to defend my world title, and hopefully in a surf that will be more contestable. As long as my injuries are kept a bay I'll be their, along with my two boys.

Neil - No plans at the moment.

Luke - If I knew where and when they will be on. At this point I don't at all feel burnt out with contest surfing as I have done in the past. Even though NZ didn't deliver any where near good waves as it should have we both still enjoyed the break of just getting away catching up with friends and surfing so don't count me out.

Other Articles

Given the ease of publishing on the WSA website, when we started working on this issue we were worried about not having enough to write about. Unfortunately our deadline for finishing stretched out because in the end we had so much news.

If you're interested in reading more, there are numerous other articles posted on our website:

- 20th Anniversary Lakesea Classic – Report from the anniversary event posted on www.waveskisurfgaust.com and www.get-air.com
- Surf Paddlers Unite – Report from the first surf paddlers day with Qld Canoeing on www.waveskisurfgaust.com
- Nige takes on the Boardies – Nigel Bryant on the Gold Coast comes second in a board riders comp on his waveski – www.waveskisurfgaust.com



Spot the Waveski – Justin Barnes in Ayers Rock on the way to Gnarloo

WSA Inc News

It has been over two years since Darren, Larry and myself have been in office for WSA Inc. Reflecting back over that time, its incredibly rewarding to see how much has happened in such a short period of time. The association is now in a maintaining phase and no longer needs to be concerned with building the administration side of the sport but for everyone in the greater waveski community to help grow the sport.

This year a huge Australian team of 33 people attended the World titles in New Zealand with some fantastic results.

Congratulations to all the winners and place getters in the event. Thank you to Karen Campbell for organizing the Aussie team shirts, the team certainly looked united. It's also great to bring the crown of the sport, a world title back to Australia. Over the years, Australia has won 14 of the 21 world open titles with Rees Duncan Jnr bringing home a third title at this event. Congratulations on another phenomenal win and proving to be an ongoing legend and ambassador for the sport.

In the lead up to the event, three very successful training sessions were run on the far north coast of NSW with professional surfing coach, Steve Foreman who is also the coach of multiple world champion Layne Beachley. The teachings of Steve certainly opened minds to the challenges and discipline required in competition surfing versus free surfing and it was great to see over the 3 weekends what an amazing difference Steve made to everyone's surfing. It also promoted a great team atmosphere within the regular crew and the continued support in New Zealand was overwhelming.

The WSA membership numbers for 2006 and 2007 have been promising. We saw increases in 2006 and this year is also looking bigger than the previous year again. Along with this there has been a small revival in club days in different areas of the country.

Promotion of the sport through media releases before and after events has resulted in the most media coverage on the sport in Australia than we have had in years. Activities such as the 2007 calendar and two new DVD releases also helped develop awareness of the extreme and dynamic side of the sport the general public rarely sees.

Fundraising activities throughout the two years including numerous DVD releases, thanks to the help of Steve Farthing, shirts, calendars, trivia nights, raffles, fundraising, advertising and sponsorship has contributed to the association being financial and having sufficient funds to be comfortable for some years. It has become evident that a non-profit association cannot survive on membership fees alone and requires the contributions from other sources to keep the national body afloat and able to generate further activities to maintain that position.

The challenge of running routine competition events seems to

be affecting the longevity of the competitive side of the sport.

Whilst maintaining the National association assures us of a National title event, local events in regional areas are now few and far between. Congratulations to Mark Buckley with holding one of the longest running club events in the history of the sport in Australia. With the sport being so small these days, the number of volunteers and leaders to drive these events are disappearing. It's really important for everyone to contribute and have a go at running events whether it's a competition or a social surfing weekend in a great location with other waveski surfers.

The survey done by Scott Waldron, the Development officer, made us acutely aware of these gaps and the importance of making information and tools available for new people to come in and run events. Scott has most recently been working on an action plan for developing resources to assist new people with running events and to take the pressure from the same people organizing events year after year. In addition club assistance for equipment was offered to all active clubs and was taken up by the Bateman's Bay Club with the purchase of competition rash shirts for the ongoing events.

Policies for the association have been developed by Robert Tap from Queensland and are now going through a final review process with the aim to be completed and posted on the website in the coming months.

Our contest director Lance Milnes with the help of Kevin Marshall, has been working incredibly hard with planning this years Australian titles in Wollongong and should be a successful and enjoyable event. Thank you to all the businesses for your continued support, with it events like this could not happen.

Whilst a great deal has been achieved, there are many more opportunities at our finger tips to develop the sport further. In terms of events, there is interest in holding a world title in Australia again, events held in the asia pacific region and contributing to the World Waveski Tour with one event in Australia which would be an incredible promotional opportunity. We have also been invited by Fuel TV to submit some footage of this years Australian titles for some possible coverage in the coming months. And finally QLD and NSW Canoeing are initiating surf paddlers events and discussions about the possibility of affiliating with their association to assist us with building the sport and developing juniors.

The AGM will be held on August 1 and may be time for some new committee members to take the chair and help progress the sport to the next level. Please consider volunteering to help grow this sport that we are all so passionate about.

Mel Hardy,

President WSA Inc.