

WAVESKI SURFING AUSTRALIA NEWS



Waveski Surfing Australia Inc. ABN 98 343 534 867 email admin@waveskisurvingaust.com

June 2006

WSA Inc. News

A year in review

Twelve months have passed since last years AGM and looking back its pretty amazing to see how much has been achieved in such a short period of time. For those who missed the AGM the following summarizes the accomplishments to date and plans for 2006/7. As you will see there are plenty of opportunities opening up for the future of the sport in Australia.

A vision for WSA was developed to provide strategic direction for the future of the association and sport in Australia and be utilized as the foundation for a business plan to be developed in 2006/7.

Key areas of focus were identified for activities throughout the year and will evolve as the association and sport changes over time.

continued on page 2

Proudly Supported by



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 WSA Inc. – A Year in Review
- 1/3 2006 Australian Titles
- 3/4 To the Editor
- 5/6 State and Club News
- 6 World News
- 8 Defending a world title after 20 years in a sport
- 9 Laz's Tips for looking after your waveski
- 9 2006 WSA Membership

2006 Australian Titles

It isn't hard to understand why Emerald beach is proving popular as a venue for the Australian Waveski Surfing Titles. The Sapphire coast lives up to it name with clear warm water partnering with a sun that rarely take a day off. Add in one of the best holiday parks around supporting the event with family friendly accommodation directly on the beach.

Once again the efforts of the contest organizers assisted by WSA made for a special event!

The swell was pumping leading up to the event! In fact Emerald was reported to be too big on the Friday. By Saturday as the swell dropped there were some nice waves. The contest commenced Monday in smallish clean conditions. The Open division started with a man-on-man format with the winners progressing through to round 5. The conditions meant that an element of luck was needed to get the better waves. I'm sure the seeded riders who won were happy to skip a couple of heats in the fickle conditions. While the surf did pick up unexpectedly for day 2 and 3, it didn't hang in for the rest of the competition.

Each morning we were greeted with perfect conditions making the small surf still enjoyable. As the comp finished on Saturday there was a concern of crowds with the point area of Emerald Beach having the only surfable wave. The committee made a good call to shift the event over the headland to avoid any issues. Most of the finals were contested in clean waves. The Open man-on-man final contested by Dave Dinning and Rees Duncan was unfortunately held in wind affected poor conditions. After the hooter rang for the last time at the 2006 Australian titles, only half a point on most judges score sheets separated the two. Similar to 2003, Dave came very close and had the set waves. Rees's two best waves had more flowing turns that commence with off the top maneuvers while Dave went all out with power slashes which stalled in the underpowered waves.

continued on page 4

continued from page 1

Outstanding incorporation requirements for the Office of Fair Trading and ASIC were finalized.

Routine communication to all Australian waveski surfers was developed through:

- WSA Website went live in Sept and now averages over 140 unique visitors per day and offers advertising opportunities for businesses.
- WSA Newsletter is sent every 4 months and is distributed to over 300 people in Australia.
- Email updates sent every 2-3 months to raise awareness website additions and events.

The WSA Membership Structure was developed after a review of the national insurance options. The broker for our insurance policy was changed to a cheaper more extensive policy. All members now pay an annual membership fee which covers insurance, a levy towards operational costs of running a national association and provides affiliation benefits.

A hugely successful 2006 Australian Titles was recently held with a format to challenge our top surfers and ample opportunity for the less experienced surfers. There were lots of social opportunities, an ASP qualified head judge, media activity and promotion of the event.

Fundraising through DVD, book and shirt sales, classifieds, raffles and a trivia night have been created to raise money to go towards the running costs of the association and development of the sport. Annually it costs \$4000 to run an association and membership fees alone are not sufficient. Ongoing fundraising is a necessity to keep WSA afloat. In 2005 over \$1200 was raised and 2006 is looking like it will raise twice this amount. This highlights the importance of running events and fundraising activities to keep the clubs and associations afloat and allow more time and money to be spent on development. If you want to see the sport in Australia develop and grow, help out with raising funds where ever you can.

The 2005 financial results reported financial stability from the previous year. This puts the association in a comfortable position for developing the sport over the next 12 months.

The WSA office bearers from 2005 for President, Secretary and Treasurer were renominated and voted in for the 2006 period. New office bearers for Contest Director include Lance Milnes and Kevin Marshall; Two new roles were created to assist the committee with ongoing needs. Scott Waldron is the Development

Officer who will be working on plans for future development of juniors and clubs throughout Australia and Travis Best is the Newsletter Editor.

Recent reports from manufacturers and event attendance suggests that the size of the sport in Australia has stabilized and there are initial signs of growth. Whilst it's great to see how much was achieved in the last 12 months, we have only scratched the surface and have a long way to go before we're in a comfortable position. In 2006/7 there is a long list of things to do such as WSA 3-yr Business Plan, policies required by the ASC to regain the sports recognition and junior development, Competition resources for clubs, development and promotion of the sport, more events and ongoing fundraising and activities developed over the last 12 months.

All these achievements wouldn't have been possible without the collaboration of the members, committee, competitors, businesses, families and new people taking an interest in the sport. If more people can put their hand up to help over the next 12 months we're sure so much more will be accomplished and a bigger brighter future will be ahead for Waveski Surfing in Australia.

Details on the 2007 Australian titles will be advised early August .If you would like more information on anything mentioned above please go to the WSA website.

WSA Management Committee

To The Editor

A Future Junior Champ?

Harper John O'Donnell was born to Paul and Renae 4.15 a.m. on the 18th March 2006 weighing 7lb 5oz. Mum, Dad and bub are all doing well (although a bit sleepless at times). Dad is going to try him on the golf clubs and a tennis racquet before he gives him a paddle in a desperate attempt to finance his retirement!



continued from page 2

To The Editor

Dear Melissa and Crew,
Just a few lines to thank you for sending me the last two W.S.A Newsletters. I'd also like to fill in the spaces for the info of anyone interested that we still have a hardcore crew of legendary (ask anyone who was at Batemans in '98) T.W.A.T.S still living the dream in TASSIE!! There are two red and white buses leaving both Sydney and Melbourne regularly so come on down and have and Aussie's down here, the meet and greet squad will have you remembering it for years. There are heaps of locations to get your juices flowing, if you know what I mean, e.g. Shippies, Lighthouse, Devonport Back Beach).

Although I no longer ride a ski (backs worn out) I still go on tours of duty with the inmates to spots far and wide, to spread the gospel of what surfing with your mates is all about.

Just a short ressie about me, (fade to trumpets):

- 1981 Foundation member of Tas Wave Ski Assoc.
- Won a few B grade comps
- Sponsored by Wave rate waveski's for three years
- Won gold medal for participating at closing ceremony Batemans '98
- 6th Masters in '98 (all bribes to lay down were much appreciated)
- Had a heart moment in Nov 2003
- Charged at Bells 10-12 ft 6am 14th Sept 2004 at the Aussie Longboards Titles (who said I had no heart)

You would think they would have made me a life member by now!!! Live the Dream, Live the Lifestyle!!!!

Yours in surfing
Neale McClymont

Thanks Neale for the update and great to hear the Tassie fraternity is still alive and well. Anytime your crew is planning a waveski tour of the Tassie coast, let us know and we will pass it on and see if we can get more Aussies down there to brave the cold.



BLADES
PADDLES

Go-Fast
Waveski's

Lance Milnes
Aust. Seniors Champion

Jackie Dillon
2nd Aust. Women's

**FOR QUALITY WAVESKI'S &
ACCESSORIES**

CONTACT LARRY ADAMS

WWW.BLADESPADDLES.COM

OR +61 2 4953 1404



2006 Australian Titles

For the seventh time Rees's name was read out in first place of the Open division. The sponsors of the event provided some nice prizes and the trophies were something special!

We were also graced by the presence of Lyn Furbank as Head judge. Lyn was on the beach the entire contest! Lyn's judging knowledge and tireless efforts marshalling and supervising judges provided a fantastic service for competitors and contest organizers alike.

Rees Duncan reports that the contest committee was very happy with the overall competition. With small, challenging but contestable waves, there was a good level of surfing. Unfortunately with the size of swell, riders were limited to basic maneuvers with some snippets of brilliance.

The attendance was good with almost 50 competitors. It was great to see the regulars along with some blasts from the past and new competitors. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves which is our main goal each year. This was helped by the Emerald Beach Holiday Park supporting the registration night, Kids night and Pancake breakfast. The WSA committee was an enormous help leading up to the event which took a lot of work off the contest directors shoulders.

The contest committee would like to thank every competitor for supporting decisions made and their team work when it came to setting up and packing up the event. Outstanding efforts in this area were made by Russell Hudson, Garry Ross, Gary Sumpton, Larry Adams and Michael Peters. These guys along with many others were the first on the beach and last to leave. They also did a huge amount of judging.

Due to the success of this year's event, the Coffs Harbour club was able to forward \$500 left over from the takings to the National Association. The event also provided WSA the opportunity to raise much needed funds. The trivia night, raffle, shirt and DVD sales raised \$1386.35. More shirts are available through the WSA website. It should be noted in future to ensure a fairer raffle, Gary Sumpton who won two prizes should not be allowed! Sure take his money, but then throw away his ticket stub! That guy is uncanny!!!!!!

The Australian Waveski Surfing Titles will always be a prestigious event and you don't need to be a competitive animal to attend! Here is how the Perth crew turns the Aussie Titles into a classic Surf Mission!

Travis Best

Richard, Eric, Tom (our body boarding mate) and I arrived at Brisbane Thursday morning, the start of yet another Aussie titles Surf trip! After loading up the rental car we headed down to Kirra for breakfast. Checking out the surf on the way, it was pumping. After breakfast, we dumped the luggage, put the fins into the boards and headed to Rainbow Bay for perfect offshore 2m waves (what else could you hope for). Next day up early, we headed back to Rainbow bay for another great session and then went to Lennox for 2 nights. Up early again, Lennox wasn't very appealing and a quick phone call to Byron Billy found the Pass had 80 out. We headed to Watagoes instead where the swell was dropping but still very clean. The boys went out and I took some photos (great wild life on the beach and some good surf shots as well.) Next morning we surfed clean conditions at Lennox and loaded up the car and drove down to Woolgoolga where we rented a house for the remainder of our trip. Each day after we performed our duties at the comp site we would head off to find some new waves. Over the duration of the week we surfed at Mullaway, Arrawarra, Wooly back beach which all greeted us with clean waves. When you come from Perth anything that's clean and doesn't close out is an absolute joy. Before you know it, its time to head home with some great memories.

Attending the Aussie titles gives us a chance to catch up with great people, surf good waves (well most of the time) watch Rees, Khane, Dave and others surf with such confidence and ability that we wish we were 20 years younger. So round up your mates, write it in your diary and come and have a good time then we won't be asking WHERE THE BLOODY HELL ARE YOU. See you at the Aussies next year.

Rob Borg



Emerald Beach at Dawn

Photo by Travis Best

State & Club News

NSW

The first few months of 2006 saw a few comps giving ample preparation for those targeting the 2006 Aussie Titles.

The Wollongong Open was held in January and won by Dale Randahl for the second year running. Small surf conditions didn't dampen enthusiasm and a great social comp saw the debut of a few first timers and a few making come backs.

One of the best social comps in its 19th year was the Lakesea Classic held in April. Small numbers were balanced by some big names as Dave Dinning conquered all. Surf conditions were challenging and the infamous Durras shore break kept everyone on their toes. Next year will be the 20th anniversary so it will be one to pencil in the calendar.

Blair Moore trespassed into enemy territory to steal the silverware at the QLD Titles in early March. They can get that back next year.

There will be discussions in Wollongong soon on a regular social gathering to nurture interest in the sport. Stay tuned to the WSA website as details get finalized.

Lance Milnes

QLD

The QLD titles were held in March at the Spit with a crew of 30. The conditions varied from 1-3 ft throughout the day. The format was 10min heats, best 1 wave giving everyone ample comp time. Blair Moore won the open from Nigel Bryant, Steve Farthing, Lisa Ryan and Jason Drescher. A repeat of the event is planned on the Sunshine Coast later in the year.

Neil Decker is heading off to Durban soon to defend his world title. Both Travis Best and Nigel Bryant have been pushing him in regular training sessions this year. We wish him well.

The North Coast Wave Ski club had an informal meeting recently to get the club up and running again. The Campbell's, Steve Farthing, Rob Dalla Bona, James Timperly and Mike Payne turned up to discuss the future direction. Club days are set for the 4th Sunday of every month, the next being 7am 25th June at the Kawana Surf Club. A key focus of the club will be on juniors with 13 yr old Cassandra Farthing the first one to take to the waves. The next club day will also coincide with the launch of "Twenty Seven" the next waveski DVD from WSA, another good reason to come along.

Steve Farthing



Custom
WAVE-MASTER
EPOXY
WOOD VENEER

Wave-Master
Since 1979

**2006 SHAPES
AVAILABLE NOW**

DESIGNED BY
Sam Way

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 - Rotnest 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

ACCEPT ONLY THE ORIGINAL!

WAVEMASTERSURF.COM

Ph: 02 4962 2011
Fx: 02 4962 2084

State & Club News

WA

State Round 1 was held at Lancelin Bombing Range in March. After some adventurous driving to get there, the swell was around 4 ft. Kim Gardiner took out the open division.

Training sessions were held at Denmark over the Easter break prior to the Aussies. These sessions focused on wave selection as the area is similar to Emerald Beach.

The State Round 2 will be held at 7am 17th June at Surf's Beach. For more information contact Eric Tocock Ph 08 9390 1592.

There are 4 State round competitions per year and they are very competitive. Although the number of competitors is small, standards are high with everybody looking for improvement in their performance.

Scott Wakefield has nearly finished the Level 2 Training package for Waveski Surfing and those who wish to be qualified to coach the Introductory Course should contact Scott to express interest.

Scott Wakefield

World News

The countdown is on for this years world titles which will be held in Durban, South Africa from July 1-9. Prior to the main competition there will be a series of events along east coast including Capetown, Jeffreys Bay and Nahoon Reef.

There are 6 Australians who will be competing in the event: Neil Decker (QLD), Paul Thesner (QLD), Damien Jones (TAS), Kevin Marshall (NSW), Blair Moore (NSW) and Jackie Dillon (WA).

WSA wishes everyone the very best of luck. Keep an eye out for results on the South African website www.sawaveski.co.za.

The World Waveski Association has a new website www.worldwaveski.com – go to the site and check out the latest newsletter on world activities.

The world waveski rule book was updated in 2006 and the current version is now available on the world website.

World Titles 2007 is being planned for the east cape of New Zealand's north island at the beautiful seaside town of Gisborne. Dates for the event look to be for late March 2007. There will be more news to come.



DEKKA
WAVESKIS

**PROUDLY SUPPORTING
WAVESKI SURFING AUSTRALIA INC.**

**20 YEARS OF HAND MANUFACTURING
NOW COMPUTER SHAPING**

CUSTOM WAVESKI'S FROM \$1400
WWW.DEKKAWAVESKIS.COM
PH: 0412 686 569

Air→ski[®]

Air ←————→ ski[®]

one size fits all, you choose



Waveski Gear for Beginners to Experts

* Waveskis * Accessories * Paddles * Repairs * Concept Design

Tsunami

Ph: 64-9-412-7111

Fax: 64-9-412-7412

www.waveski.co.nz

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2006

JUNE

- 17 WA STATE ROUND 2, GERALDTON
- 17-19 WESTERN PROVENCE OPEN, CAPETOWN
- 22-24 EASTERN PROVENCE OPEN, JEFFREYS BAY
- 26-29 BORDER OPEN, NAHOON REEF

JULY

- 1-9 WORLD TITLES DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

AUGUST

- 12 WA STATE ROUND 3, COTTLESLOE

SEPTEMBER

- 7 WA STATE ROUND 4, SECRET HARBOUR

NOVEMBER

- 11, 12 WA WINDUP AND TRAINING WEEKEND, SOUTH

2007

MARCH

- LATE MARCH, WORLD TITLES GISBORNE NZ

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

FOR SALE

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

All proceeds go to Waveski Surfing Australia Long Sleeved T-Shirts

White or grey long sleeved T-shirts with one of three tag lines: "Dare to be Different", "No Standing Anytime" and "Give it a go" on the front and the WSA logo on the back. Check out photos in the Stuff to Buy Section of the WSA Website.

Cost: \$30 plus Postage and Handling

Xtreme Waveski DVD

Watch Neil Decker, Rees Duncan, Darren Kearns, Khane Duncan, Lance Milnes and many more tear up Emerald Beach Coffs Harbour at the 2005 Australian Waveski Titles. Go to the WSA website to check out the trailer.

Cost: \$25 plus Postage & Handling

From The Archives DVD

Video footage taken over the last 5 years, from comps to free surfing along the east coast of Australia and Bakio, Spain. Features 5 Australian past and present World Champions: Nick Boon, Rees Duncan, Darren Kearns, Dave Dinning and Neil Decker and so many more. Go to the WSA website to check out the movie trailer.

Cost: \$25 plus Postage & Handling

All About Waveski's – By Roger Shackleton

All you need to know about getting started with waveski surfing; step-by-step techniques and photography on advanced maneuvers. A great reference guide for newcomers to the sport and those wishing to progress to a more advanced level.

Cost: \$39.95 plus Postage & Handling

Twenty Seven DVD

The 27th Australian Titles coming to you soon on DVD. Keep checking the website waveskisurvingaust.com.

Defending a World Title after 20 years in a sport

In November 2004, a 20 year veteran of waveski surfing won the open division of the World Waveski Titles. Neil Decker was the oldest person on record to win the open division. To this day, he attributes part of his success to the Australian team in Brazil. In July this year, at 40 years of age, Neil will be defending his title in the midst of top waveski surfers from France, South Africa, Brazil and the UK. Recently we caught up with Neil to find out about developments in the sport over the last 20 years and what it will be like defending his title.

Neil started waveski surfing in 1983. Along with being a regular competitor, he has been closely involved with organizing numerous small and major events, shaped and manufactured waveski's for 22 years and has probably made around 2500 waveski's.

Over the years Neil has surfed with a number of teams and a lot of remarkable surfers. He recalls his time on the Raider team as an amazing experience. "There were Raider hats; Raider jerseys and Raider shorts and you would get money from Raider if you won a contest."

He also recalls some of the most memorable surfers. "No one has ever come close to John Christensen as a surfer. He is by far the best that you will ever see and has an amazing style where he could do anything he wanted to. Rees Duncan is probably the second best and has aggression and ability to pull aeriels wherever he wants but with power in little stuff or big stuff. Nicki Carsten would have to be third best because he added a dimension to waveski surfing that no one else has been capable of". Neil also points out that he wouldn't put himself in that same category. Humbly, he feels he's just been lucky to be a good competitor. Whereas those guys are good competitors and great surfers

When asked about the standard of waveski surfing since the 80's, he feels that it has hardly changed. Although you now see strengths have grown in countries like France, Brazil, South Africa and the UK and these countries have more depth in their rider's abilities.

Neil Decker has also been experimenting with tow-in waveski surfing. Coming from a background in motor cross riding, he is a big fan of jet skis and is crazily keen to tow into some big 50ft waves. The equipment is being developed and he is researching waveski shapes with the tow-in surfboard shapers, so watch this space.

After 20 years of selling waveski's, Dekka Waveski's

has also gone through some developments with a new website and computer shaping. If anything, he complains that the website is causing a few problems with too many orders. The computer shaping helps produce consistent shapes that are hard to achieve with hand shaping. It's also meant to help save his shoulder from a reconstruction after shaping for so many years. But now he has a real job at Riviera along side two other past world waveski champions, Darren Kearns and Dave Dinning. Neil reflects on Riviera giving him stability which contributed to winning the world titles in Brazil.

In relation to the state of the sport in Australia, he's pretty happy that numbers are up and the growth of the sport is on a positive upward slant....what else would you expect from someone committed to a sport for so many years. Does he have an answer for the future of the sport? Well Neil has lots of ideas and vision and if only we all possessed as much motivation and unlimited energy. However one key point continues to hit home, he feels that we need to look at new ways of doing things and communicate heaps better rather than get caught up in the minor details.

Despite winning the 2004 World Title and 1994 World Cup Title, one of the most frustrating things in his competition years is after making seven finals; he is yet to win an Australian Title. The Australian Titles is one of the best and hardest contests to win. On the other hand, it's now also hard to win when you travel, particularly with the added depth of surfers overseas.

Winning in Brazil was a special event. He recalls Brazil being an amazing place, a catalyst to losing focus. It took the pressure off and in the end he just went surfing. So how does he think he'll go in the World titles? "I'm going to South Africa to get myself to the level that when I get out of the water I feel happy and whatever happens from there, happens."

Melissa Hardy



Neil Decker, Uluwatu April 2006

Laz's Tips for Looking After your Waveski

Is your Seat belt is cutting into the seat pad area like this:



Turn the seat belt over and point to the outside.



This will move the Belt 25mm away from the pad.



Larry Adams

2006 WSA Membership

WSA introduced a new membership structure from 7th of March 2006. All waveski surfers who take part in any club or association activity from this date need to be members of WSA. WSA membership is also necessary if you intend on competing at a world title event.

The membership includes insurance for yourself and your club/association, affiliation benefits and contributes to the overall running and development of the sport in Australia. You can either register via your club or direct to WSA via the website.

The insurance cover provided includes public liability, professional indemnity and personal accident insurance. Insurance cover is inclusive of social, training and competitive events. All affiliated associations and clubs are also covered by the insurance policy.

Some of your membership fees also go into running the association, keeping you up to date, contributing towards junior and club development and promotion of the sport in Australia.

2006 Membership fees:

WSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$50.00

JUNIORS AND FULL TIME STUDENTS - \$35.00

For more information on the membership and insurance policy, go to www.waveskisurfingaustr.com

Affiliation Benefits

Hertz Car Hire – If you're traveling within Australia or overseas and need to hire a car, check out the discounted rates with Hertz through your WSA membership. Either call the Hertz Corporate Plus reservations line 1800 082 167 or book online at www.hertz.com.au and quote the number CDP 1670367 to access your WSA rates. When you pick up your car, show Hertz your current WSA membership card.

Rebel Sport Discounts - WSA is registered with the Rebel Sport MVP program. This entitles WSA members to 5% off any items including those already discounted. Rebel Sport has stores in every state except Tasmania. To get your discount, provide the code # 11918 and your membership card at the point of purchase and mention that it is for the MVP program. Rebel Sport have provided specific membership cards which will be mailed to everyone shortly.