

## *'Pressure's on for the World Titles'* **Travis Best In Breakthrough Win**

### 2008 Australian Titles

By Rees Duncan

The 2008 Australian Waveski Titles were held in Victoria for the 5<sup>th</sup> time since the inaugural titles back in 1980. For months leading into the event Travis Best would send me photos of world class waves breaking on his door step, which was to be the venue of the event. The only problem with the photo's was the amount of rubber the surfers were wearing in them. It looked so cold.

On the Sunday night before the event was to start we all enjoyed a great meal and catch up before the briefing and AGM. This all went well with some great discussions thrown around the room. A new committee was elected with some new faces brought on board, which is always great to see. Details on the AGM can be found on the WSA web site. The few days leading into the event saw most competitors surf all day in 3-5 ft clean barrelling beach breaks. This set our expectation high and with the thought of surfing some of Australia's epic south coast waves we all arrived early at the Gunnamatta car park for the first day of competition only to be greeted with a small swell and a light sea breeze which was to increase throughout the day, from the wrong direction of course. We soldiered on, as we do, for half the day just to get through a few rounds.

The sea breeze brought a new but wild swell with it, so a lay day was called on the second day. The following day the swell was big enough to move the comp around the cape to the break Big Left at Flinders. It was a 15 minute paddle out but enough time was allowed for this and with the heats extended everyone was able to catch their required amount of waves. The waves weren't what we were expecting in quality but it did allow us to run some more heats and it was contestable for all age and ability levels.

The final day I had an early phone call with a very excited Travis on the other end... It's pumping! We surfed a break in front of his home which sounds close but believe me it was a struggle to get down the 800 metre sand path to the water. But it was well worth it once you finally made it through the sand dunes. We set up in the middle of two banks with each bank working on different tides and a deep gutter in the middle which made for an easy paddle out.

## NEW AUSTRALIAN OPEN CHAMPION TRAVIS BEST

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We surfed from 7am to 4pm with offshore conditions all day and the odd Victorian rain shower that disappeared after a few minutes. There were many highlights throughout the day with several nice barrels, aerials and some spectacular good old surfing. It was awesome to surf such quality waves, but just as exciting watching the other surfers rip these quality waves apart. As with all competitions there were several upsets along the way, but that's what keeps us going, knowing that on the day anyone can win, you just have to be there to give it a go.

It will go down as some of the best contest surf conditions I have ever surfed and some of the best contest decision making, as the following day was a wash out with howling onshore winds and huge un-surfable conditions. Travis not only ran a very enjoyable and successful competition but also managed to win the Open division, which was a huge effort considering all of the stress he was under. He is the first Victorian to win the Open division and to do so under very trying conditions is a huge achievement. Well done Trav! The down side to the competition was the number of competitors. This didn't detract from the event or atmosphere but did make it hard to run the event profitably for the association. Bearing this in mind and with the World Titles being run in Australia this year, WSA made a decision earlier in the year not to run an Australian Titles in 2009, but will put more effort into the East Coast Comp Circuit. Australian Titles was a good rehearsal for the Worlds, Travis worked very hard preparing for the 08 Nationals, as well as testing the comp waves.

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## **Stalwarts Win 2009 Lakesea Classic**

Two of the sports stalwarts in Mark 'Spaz' Spencer and Brett 'Piggy' Titterton have taken out the 2009 Lakesea Classic. Mark overcame the likes of Dave Dinning, Dale Randahl and a host of others such as Terry Ohem, Paul Norman and a resurgent Gerry Buckley to take out his first Open win in the A grade event having been knocking on the door for a long time. A very happy man was 'Spaz' as he took



out the win in front of his wife Anna, the kids and his mum and dad. Another "legend" of the sport Brett Titterton in a display of surfing that could only be described as dominating took out the B grade. Taking care of riders such as Ben Buckley, Brandon Small, Albert Golledge, and other unfortunates. In one heat Brett took the punt and moved off the bank everyone else was surfing and took on the right hander coming off the car park bank at Durras. He surfed undoubtedly the two best waves of the whole event and ripped all the way to the final. The whole crew was roaring at the display and the car park spot is now known as "The Piggy Bank". Congratulations to both Mark and Brett on a pair of great results. Durras turned it on for the whole weekend with possibly the best weather in the events 22 year history. Even the surf was alright at about 3ft for most of the event and with high tide in the middle of the day the bank behaved itself for the competition's duration. The new elevated cabins overlooking the dune and the sea were a big hit with the competitors. The Lakesea Park is on a winner with this setup. As usual the spit roast was a big success and Buckie ordered extra so we could all have a big lunch on the Sunday at the presentation. We also held the inaugural South Pacific Tag Team Championship first thing on the Saturday morning with teams entered from the Gold Coast, Northern Beaches and the South Coast. It was a well received event and put every one in a great frame of mind for the rest of the Lakesea Classic '09. Unfortunately all the teams were disqualified for rule rorting or down right cheating, so we will have to hold over the trophy until next year. Contest directors note its a great way to get contestants onto the beach early with everyone in the first heat!!

The Lakesea Park and The Bay Club thanks all those who participated. To those who did not make it this year make sure you come along next time as its still the best comp on the calendar. We would like to thank Paul from Aero Ski Sydney for his continued support of the event. His prizes of two Kevlar paddles went to first timer novice and Bay local Lindsay Ragg who with Alan Syne came out to try his first comp and has the Tabourie comp in May penciled in already. The second is off to Bali with the veteran Baz Repa who could not shut up about how good his new Kevlar paddle would go over in Indo! Don't be surprised Paul if you start getting orders for paddles mid year from strange places like Lombok and Flores, it will all be down to Baz! Also welcome to first timer and another junior Ben Hunt who along with his camera had a great first comp, running a close second to Ben Buckley in the juniors, also second place in the B grade to 'Piggy' and he cannot wait for the next one. So we will see you all next year.

## AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR WAVESKI TITLES and COFFS HARBOUR OPEN

Emerald Beach NSW August 3-4 2008

### Juniors

Once again the surf gods shined over Coffs Harbour for the inaugural Australian Juniors Waveski Titles and the annual Coffs Harbour Open pilgrimage at Emerald Beach. The event started on Saturday morning with the open event in beautiful sunny 3ft clean conditions for the 30 competitors who travelled to the event. The open and age divisions progressed through the day and then finished off with Juniors division with 6 young contestants in the event. It was fantastic to see the children of waveski surfers Mark Buckley, Col Samways, Bill & Karen Campbell and Rees Duncan who have been in the sport for over 25 years take to the water in the largest Juniors division to be held in over 8 years. The older competitors stood by to cheer the kids on and give them support in the surf. The day was finished off with some eskimo roll lessons taken by Larry Adams in the nearby holiday park pool and dinner at the local Moonee Moonee Tavern with presentations for the Juniors division. Ben Buckley won the Juniors division, with Rees Duncan Jnr in second place, Daniel Samways in third place, Savannah Campbell in fourth place and our youngest competitors aged 9 years Kye Duncan and Bryce Campbell in fifth and sixth place. Despite predictions of the surf dropping on the Sunday, it doubled or even tripled in size, leaving limited contestable opportunities at Emerald Beach. So everyone convoyed to one of the many secret Duncan surf spots in the Coffs area and down the dirt track to finish off the open and age divisions for the weekend in challenging conditions. The Open finalists went home with prize money and each winner took home a nice beach towel. Everyone had a fantastic weekend in the Coffs Harbour surf and sunshine and all are very excited about the up and coming World Titles to be held there next year. Unfortunately the local World Champ was unable to compete due to other sporting commitments and maybe there was a sigh of relief amongst the other Open division contestants. However despite his busy schedule, Rees still organised the event and was there all day Saturday looking after things. Thanks have to go to Rees, Trish and Khane Duncan for their help with running the event, Jackie Dillon for her support for the WSA Young Ones program, Wavemaster for donating prizes for the Juniors and B grade divisions, Larry Adams for freezing for an hour in the pool to teach the eskimo roll and everyone for traveling to the event and making it such an enjoyable weekend. This was the third event of the East Coast Circuit for 2008.



### RESULTS 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

**Open:** Dave Dinning Darren Kearns Bill Campbell Dale Randahl  
**B Grade:** Ben Buckley Brett Titterton Steve Howarth Jackie Dillon  
**Seniors:** Darren Kearns Dave Dinning Mick Feenan Dale Randahl  
**Masters:** Steve Farthing Bill Campbell Paul Norman Terry Oehm  
**Veterans:** Gary Ross Joe Whiteley Larry Adams Jackie Dillon  
**New Age:** Khane Duncan Gerry Buckley Ben Buckley  
**Juniors:** Ben Buckley Rees Duncan Jnr Daniel Samways Savannah Campbell Kye Duncan and Bryce Campbell  
**Women:** Lisa Ryan Melissa Hardy Karen Campbell Jackie Dillon



## WOLLONGONG OPEN

31 May 2008

The promise of winter swells unfortunately didn't eventuate for the 2008 Wollongong Open. Sandon Point lefts presented the only contestable option on the Wollongong coast line. Competitors from as far north as Queensland and south as Bateman's Bay traveled for the occasion. One of the WSA young ones, Ben Buckley took out the B grade final. Lance Milnes who has been practicing hard on those Sandon lefts for the WWT in Reunion took out the Seniors/New Age division and Paul Norman won the Masters/Vets final. It was an all out local final for the Open division with all four surfers from the Wollongong area.

Blair Moore dislocated his shoulder during the heat and all four settled for equal first. Thanks to all who attended and Blair Moore and his family with helping organizing the event. All entry fees went towards a picnic lunch for the competitors and prize money for the winners and second place getters of each division. This was the second event of the East Coast Circuit and all placings will receive points towards an overall point score winner for 2008.

**1st 2nd 3rd 4th Open Equal 1st:** Blair Moore, Lance Milnes, Dale Randahl, Mark Spencer **B-Grade:** Ben Buckley, Robert Creeley, Mark Buckley, Steve Howarth **Seniors/ New Age:** Lance Milnes, Blair Moore, Dale Randahl, Dave Dinning **Master/Vets:** Paul Norman, Mark Spencer, Larry Adams, Albert Gollidge



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## GOLD COAST TWEED OPEN

South Ballina, NSW 13/14 September 2008

By Dale Randall

The fourth Round of the East Coast Circuit was held on Saturday 13th September 2008. From my eyes, this is how it went. I drove up on Thursday night with my girlfriend from Wollongong and made it as far as Coffs Harbour. Who would have thought the Formula 1 hotel would be booked out so we took what we could that late at night and slept in the dirtiest hotel run by some half giant with a wig. The hotel was at the bottom of a hill on the main road so you couldn't help but hear and feel every truck groan past using its compression brakes all night. I slept like a baby, Adriana got maybe two hours sleep. Bright and early we headed to Ballina, checked into a cabin at the local Caravan Park and went for a surf check. The only place I found waves was South Wall, protected from the northerly that had set in for the weekend. Two - three foot waves that were nice but I could wait for Saturday. The comp was held at South Wall about 300m from the wall itself leaving the cleaner more protected break for the locals. There was a nice bank down the beach that would have been awesome if it was a foot or two bigger but at 2-3ft was a little fickle. There were two banks you could surf. Both had lefts and rights but in the small conditions some people had trouble deciding which bank to surf or which way (left or right) and some moved from bank to bank missing the sets on both banks, others like myself found an abundance of waves on both banks leaving competitors scratching their heads. So in the end it all came down to luck. Although small, the waves had a bit of punch and did allow for some competitive surfing. Numbers were down, allowing the comp to be run over the one day. Everyone was there to firstly have a good time but secondly maybe snatch a win. And given the tricky conditions you couldn't call the results of any heat before the hooter had blown. The Open division went to two man heats from the semi's onwards. This was a great idea because conditions did deteriorate in the afternoon as the wind became stronger.

Honourable mentions go to: □ Timers and hooter blowers. Timing for heats was left to more primitive methods - wrist watch and hand held air horn. Worked a treat and for the first comp in my life I could hear the hooter loud and clear. □ Steve Howarth only person to break the nose off his ski. Someone had it coming on the shallow beach break and Steve gracefully cartwheeled his ski on his first wave of the heat early in the day. □ Jason Dresher [the judges didn't give it a mention], for his kick ass aerial on a 2ft wave. He took off, first manoeuvre was the smoothest cleanest air back onto the green face. He was later advised that judges hadn't called it an air and thought it was an ugly turn because he came down a bit sideways. Lucky for me. I was in that heat and sitting about as close as you want to get to Jason getting air on a 2ft wave. □ Gary Ross for his ski with f-18 fighter tape on it. He told me that he has this special sticky tape that is actually metal. Apparently the air-force stick our fighter planes up with it when they get holes in them. He reckons he uses it sparingly. Not sure if it was doing a good job though as he has about 40 patches of his fighter plane metal tape on his ski. Maybe next time ask the navy for some of their tape Gary. □ Matt Kennedy for his sand eating baby. Not sure if that's healthy for you daughter Matt. □ And the call of the day was Matt's wife, "Can you put normal sunscreen on a baby?" and

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Terry Oehm's response, "No it melts them". If nothing else the comp was a great social event and I think all had fun. Entry fees turned into prize money which was handed out to the finalist and some of that went back over the bar at Ballina RSL and Hooters Restaurant on the Gold Coast on Sat night. This is the fourth event of the East Coast Circuit and all placings will receive points towards an overall point score winner for 2008.

Results: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th Open: D. Randahl, S.Farthing, J.Drescher, D.Dinning

B Grade: R. Hudson, G. Ross, T. Oehm, G. Roberts Seniors: D. Randahl, D. Dinning, J. Drescher, M. Kennedy

Masters: S.Farthing, R.Hudson, G. Ross, T. Oehm Veterans: G.Roberts, G. Ross



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since my last presidents report many waves have been ripped apart by our WSA members. I hope you have all been getting your share.

### 2008-09 SO FAR.

The WSA have been working hard to increase the profile of our great sport in Australia as well as investing in our sport's future. This included the establishment of the "Young One's" a Junior Scholarship Foundation. The funds for this program have been kindly donated by *Jackie Dillion*. It amazing to see someone so dedicated to improving our sport and in particular the growth of the juniors. Thanks Jackie. The program aims to encourage the youth of Australia to learn waveski surfing, participate at events and help grow and develop the sport in Australia. The 2008-09 Junior Scholarship Program is an investment into the future of Waveski Surfing in Australia and a great opportunity for juniors to train towards the 2009 World titles in Australia. We are very proud to announce the successful riders for the 2009 Junior Scholarship program:

Ben Buckley, Batemans Bay, NSW; Rees Duncan Jnr, Emerald Beach, NSW and Kye Duncan, Emerald Beach NSW.

WSA has also established the "East Coast Circuit", which consists of a series of events where points will be allocated to placing in the Open division from each event and an overall points score winner for the year. All events are open to Internationals and WA surfers, with the exception of the Australian Titles which is open to Australian residents only. Congratulations to Dale Randahl who was the overall point score winner for 2008. Dale went home with a \$200 travel voucher from Flight Centre. Divisional prizes also went to Graham Roberts in the Veterans, Ben Buckley in the juniors and Melissa Hardy in the womens division. Thanks to [Ocean Calendars](#) for their kind donation of East Coast Tide Calendars for the divisional winners. The events in the '08 circuit included: Lakesea Classic, Bateman's Bay, Wollongong Open, Coffs Harbour Open, Gold Coast and Open Australian Titles, Victoria (additional 20% pts were allocated to this event). Final point scores for 2008 are as follows:

1	Dale Randahl	4736
2	Dave Dinning	3474
3	Graham Roberts	2665
4	Gary Ross	2605
5	Albert Golledge	2604
6	Terry Oehm	2210
7	Travis Best	2106
8	Melissa Hardy	2042
9	Mark Spencer	2010
10	Ben John	1999
11	Gerry Buckley	1965
12	Steve Howarth	1960
13	Lance Milnes	1943
14	Russell Hudson	1806
15	Paul Norman	1806
16	Steve Farthing	1731
17	Blair Moore	1710
18	Jason Drescher	1476
19	Jackie Dillon	1468
20	Brett Titterton	1420
21	Matt Kennedy	1380
22	Ben Buckley	1360
23	Craig Fouracre	1339
24	Larry Adams	1272
25	Danny Hand	1238

26	Craig Dinning	1200
27	Joe Whiteley	1092
28	Rees Duncan	1051
29	Darren Kearns	1032
30	Lisa Ryan	1010
31	Mark Buckley	950
32	Luke Herman	878
33	Bill Campbell	876
34	Bernie Huigsloot	799
35	Kev Marshall	799
36	Robert Creeley	765
37	Richard Tadday	732
38	Khane Duncan	699
39	Mick Feenan	699
40	Brandon Small	540
41	Col Samways	540
42	John Butel	540
43	Leon Dalton	492
44	John Trebilco	410
45	Basil Repa	410
46	Scott Waldron	410
47	David Fredericks	410
48	Derek Forsyth	410
49	Greg Dell	410
50	David Howard	225






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## WORLD WAVESKI TOUR 08

By Mel Hardy



Reunion Island, a picturesque French Island 200km off the coast of Mauritius, was the location of the second WWT. With winter mid-day temps of 25-30 degrees Celsius, abundant left hand reef breaks and epic swell, it was a great winter escape for the Australians (and lone kiwi) that qualified for this event. The event was held at Plage des Brisants in the happening little party town, St Gilles Les Bain. This break was the home of one of the Reunion Kayak clubs who hosted the event and also had some interesting pointy rocks in the inside close out section, which the odd international met with the nose of their ski prior to the event. The town was lined with WWT posters and postcards in the local bars

and cafés. The beach site was covered in tents with sponsors promoting and selling product and of course the hundreds of friendly Reunion locals visiting to catch a glimpse of 20 of the best waveski riders in the world. A common theme was starting to reside in the WWT event and rarely seen by us in Australia today, that is hundreds of young kids riding RTM Slide waveski's and going for anything they can and having no fear. The early arrivals were treated with a spike in the swell charts which settled and then picked up again just as the first leg of the tour began and just in time for some bags and ski's to arrive for the competitors. The start of the event was delayed for a day or so with the aim to run the competition in the best conditions possible and allowed the locals some more time to practice and the internationals some time to work out how to miss those pointy rocks!

The men were the first ones to surf in the first leg of the tour. In the earlier rounds we saw some shock upsets with local teenage wildcard riders Arthur Schott and Arthur Chardon who were going for every aerial possibility and taking out competitors with 10-20 years more experience than themselves. The eventual final for the mens was left to current # 1 and # 2 in the world, Rees Duncan and Matthieu Babarit who battled it out to the



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end with Rees winning the first leg. In the Womens division, young Zoe Schott from Reunion made the earlier rounds tough and Jackie Dillon ended up taking out the final against Melissa Hardy.

There was a well deserved break for a few days before the second leg of the tour started and it allowed the visitors to tour some of the other breaks on the island such as Etang sale des bain, St Leu (only the early before the locals took over the break) and St Pierre which allowed all the competitors to refuel before the start of

competition again. The second leg began in clean 3-4 ft conditions and was run over the Friday and Saturday while the swell hung around and was expected to drop on the Sunday. There were strong performances in the Men's from the local crew with Rees Duncan, Nigel Bryant and Steve Farthing. One of the most hotly contested heats was between old rivals, Rees and Steve. The final was down to Rees and young Andre Burger from South Africa with Rees winning his second final. Amongst the Women's, Melissa and local Reunion surfer Camille Morin battled it out in the final with Melissa winning the second leg of the event. Both Rees and Melissa were the overall World Waveski Tour winners for 2008 which was a great achievement for Australia.

This was the first international waveski event where priority rules were utilised and helped make the tour one of the most professionally run events ever. A shout system and live scores were available on the website which enabled supporters from home to send messages to the competitors on the other side of the world. The phenomenal local promotion and organization of the event was attributed to Arnaud Darbon and his team, the AWWP and Subgraviti. Thank you to all organizers, competitors, spectators and supporters back at home for making the event such an enjoyable success.



## WORLD TITLES 2009 UPDATE

Everything is on track for what we expect to be a great contest. We are arranging some after hours entertainment which will include a daily viewing of the previous days surfing. This will be watched at the local hotel which have come on board as a major sponsor. We will keep you all posted on the final agenda as we get closer to the event.

The surf at Emerald Beach has been the best we have seen it for years with two banks working into a rip for an easy paddle out. Hopefully the banks will hold out during the winter season. We are in the process of producing a competitors magazine with things to do in the local area as well as each competitors details as you provided on the entry form. If you could provide me with a photo we will endeavor to add this to your profile as well.

Just on another note, we require helpers to ensure this event runs smoothly. If you are coming with a friend or partner or would like to help during the 8 days let us know in advance, as any help would be appreciated.

If you are still looking for accommodation, the Emerald Beach caravan park still have some very nice cabins available with a competitor's discount. This is a great place to stay as its where some of the entertainment will be held and is only 150m walk through the sand dune to the event site. Car hire is also available at discount rates with the local Hertz dealer. All details are available on the 2009 World Waveski surfing site which can be located through the WSA website.

### **2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS (Includes the East Coast Comp Circuit)**

March 14,15	Lakesea Classic, South Durras, NSW
March 21	WA State Round 1, Lancelin Bombing Range
April 11,12	WA Coaching and Training Camp, Denmark
May 2,4	East Coast Comp., Ulladulla, NSW
May 30,31	WA Promotion Coaching and Training, Geraldton
June 6,7	The Search, Portland, Vic.
July 4,5	Gold Coast Tweed Open, Fingal, NSW
July 18	WA State Round 2, Main Peak Classic, Cottesloe
Aug 1,2	Wollongong Open, NSW
Sept 5,12	World Waveski Titles, Emerald Beach, Coffs Harbour, NSW
Oct 24 tbc	WA State Round 3, Secret Harbour
Oct-Dec	WAWSA Training and Coaching Weekend Yallingup area

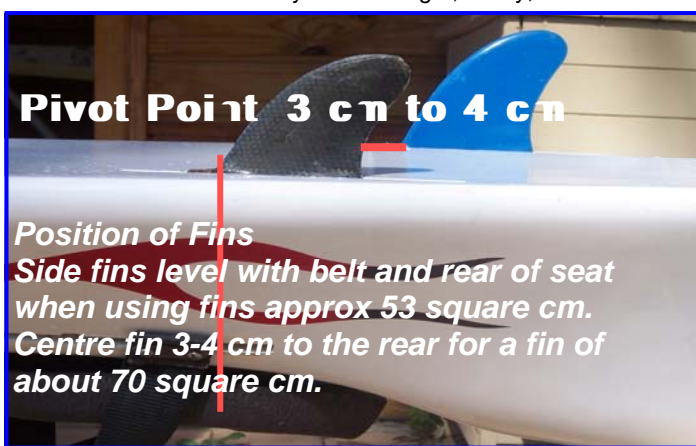
## LAZ's TIPS FOR LOOKING AFTER YOUR WAVE SKI-"FiFo"

Waveski fin position is extremely critical for obtaining the optimum performance. Always be prepared to try different shapes, sizes and moving them around. The shape of your ski, your riding style and the wave shape will also influence fin placement. We've collected a few ideas from people that might help you set up your fins correctly. The following finfo from **Lance & Baz** is a good starting point.

A stand up board's pivot point is near the tail while a waveski pivots around the seat. Consequently the positioning and size of fins is more critical on a waveski. While most stand up boards have fixed fins, waveski fins are adjustable and size and position is determined by fin size, tail drag and riders weight. Remembering that the pivot point on a waveski is under the rear of the seat, side fins should be positioned close to this point and centre fin approximately 3-4 cm behind if using a centre fin of about 70 square cm. If using smaller side fins they should be set slightly further back. A smaller centre fin can be moved back if required. Moving fins back makes the ski tighter [more difficult to turn] while moving them forward make the ski looser [easier to turn but can side-slip]. This is a starting point only and further adjustments are determined by rider's weight, ability, amount of induced tail drag and fin size used.

### FCS Fins by Justin Barnes.

My current board is 7ft 5inches long by 23 and 3/4 inches wide and I have been getting some of the best barrels and aerials on it. However, after chatting to Ben John one day we decided we would try some new styles of fins to see if we could improve our surfing. I replaced the fins supplied with the board with FCS fin box adaptors and am now using FCS G-L glass fins in the sides, which are a small fin in similar size to the old ski ones but a slightly different shape, as in they have more of a kick in them. The centre fin is an FCS TC Red-Line ultra light epoxy. This is a fairly large fin, much bigger than the old ski centre fin, but I am a bit heavier than the average ski rider so I don't find any problems with getting bogged or with the fin being too big. These fins alone once set up correctly have enabled me to take on some pretty good waves with a lot more confidence as there is no sliding out at the critical time and they don't hum like some fins. I can honestly say in a free surfing scenario in good waves the fin set up improved the board by quite a margin. If I could give any rider looking for better performance any advice, the first thing I would say is to look at your fin set up and don't be afraid to try something a bit different.



### Travis Best's Experiments with Fin Design

My first ski had glassed in side fins with reduced drag and increased drive. On my next ski I had FCS plugs installed. This allowed for replacement of broken fins and removal for travel, but the feel of the glassed on glass side fins was lost. I never found a shape of FCS fin that I liked and later when I started experimenting with waveski designs I could no longer be sure of a set side fin position. When adapting to the Christo waveski's increased turning ability, I increased the size of my side fins and started to move all fins to the back of the box. This suits walling full volumed waves but is less suited to under powered peaking beach breaks. I've found in those types of conditions short jamming turns and less time on rail keep planing speed up and a plastic flexi fin can help with a squirt type of drive out of those turns. During the twelve months I spent in Queensland I started riding Dekka's. As most will know, the centre box is placed at the back of the tail. Both Neil and I found that by using a cutaway fin which could be moved even further back gave even greater improvements. The rear fin placement didn't feel much different to a normal set up, but when using a quad belt, at times my movements wouldn't maintain enough weight over the rear fin and my tail would skip out. Neil started experimenting with longer based fins and the difference was instantly noticeable. Further experiments resulted in a TS3 size fin styled into a C drive, a fin with an elongated base with the rear of the fin shaped like a C. These fins retained the release of the TS3 but when placed on rail and pushed the extra drive and holding power was a huge improvement.. When I returned to Victoria I noticed that they increased drag, so my next experiment was to bring these fins off the rail and set the boxes with minimal toe-in to reduce drag. By this time I had shaped down an old set of plastic fins into C drives but after looking at the FCS version I chose to add more rake (the rearward angle of the fin) and reduce the surface area of the tip, resulting in a stiff base and flexible tip. At this stage my preference was for stiffer fin set up and the changes I made resulted in more drive and release. The other area giving greater drive was creating a hook rail with deep double concaves, I'd returned to placing the fins closer to the rail but this meant it was very difficult to set the fin boxes as the fins would want to slant inward rather than outward. With the extra drive generated by the rail I was also wanting to loosen up my skis to make it easier to go more vertical. I also tried the curved side fins - The depth and rake of the new curved fins was exactly the same as what I was currently using so I put them in exactly the same position as my old ones. Once in they looked a perfect fit for the double concaves and the curve placed them nicely on the rail. They retained a similar feel to the last set of fins I was using with a little less drive but they have helped me go more vertical.



**WAIRO BEACH, ULLADULLA NSW May 3,4 2009**



The East Coast Conference was held on the weekend of May 3,4 on the South Coast of NSW. The surf gods shone down on the week leading up to the event providing the East Coast with a third week of unbelievable surfing conditions. By Friday afternoon, the lull between swells started with pristine autumn sunshine and water temps around 23 degrees. The fish were abundant on the Friday afternoon including the odd Noah enjoying the bait fish on dusk. Comp central was at Old Wairo Town on the northern end of Wairo Beach and caters for the whole family including well maintained cabins themed in the Wild Wild West. The event kicked off on the Saturday out the front of Old Wairo town in 2-3ft conditions and as the SE wind kicked in, the comp was moved to the south end of the beach after lunch. Majority of the Open event and the first round of the B grade were run on the Saturday leaving a large chunk for the Sunday and the predicted improved conditions. Saturday night was spent for the majority of the competitors at the local Bawley Beach Cafe enjoying some fantastic Gourmet Pizza's.

Sunday morning was held at the infamous Bommie on Wairo Beach in picture perfect clean 2-3ft A-frame sucky conditions. Dave Dinning started the day in the semi-finals of the open division with some spectacular aerial surfing to meet Dale Randahl in the final who reveled in the conditions to take out the Open division.

Thanks to Albert Golledge, Dave Dinning and the rest of the crew for running a great comp. It was also great to see some new faces and travelers from Queensland and Victoria. Two of the travelers will make some people sit up and take notice. Lauren Best is a great addition to the female ranks and has a huge future in front of her, and the other is Paul McLennan, who had not been on a ski for 5 years since the last Worlds in OZ. Just got back in at Xmas and look at his results in the Seniors division,! Welcome back Paul. Like a lot of other riders of his age group he has been heavily into mountain bike riding in the interim, and is still the current Queensland champ in that discipline in his age division. Not too shabby a sportsman! Paul also mentioned that Terry Petch has made contact after a long battle with illness and is interested in getting back into the sport. So Rees and his crew have definitely stirred up the nest with the World Titles back in Oz in 09.

<b>Open</b>	Dale Randahl	Dave Dinning	Mark Spencer	Gary Ross
<b>B-Grade</b>	Melissa Hardy	Col Sugars	Ben Buckley	Lauren Best
<b>Seniors</b>	Paul McLennan	Dave Dinning	Dale Randahl	Melissa Hardy
<b>Masters</b>	Mark Spencer	Paul Norman	Albert Golledge	RussellHudson
<b>Veterans</b>	Gary Ross	Graham Roberts	Col Sugars	Joe Whiteley
<b>Womens</b>	Melissa Hardy	Lauren Best		
<b>Novice</b>	Ben Buckley	Steve Ball		

## East Coast Competition Circuit

The winner of the 2008 East Coast Circuit was Dale Randahl who took home a \$200 travel voucher from Flight Centre . At the 2008 AGM, the viability of the Australian titles in 2009 with the world titles being held in the same year was discussed. It was decided that more emphasis will be placed on the East Coast Comp Circuit in 2009 as a lead up to the 2009 World titles which will be held in Coffs Harbour.

So far we have held two of the five events and Mark Spencer is currently in the lead with Dave Dinning following closely behind. Make sure you get to as many of the events as you can to increase your chances and help you train for the up and coming World Titles.



Dale in Action Down The South Coast

### 2009 East Coast Comp Circuit Total points so far from Lakesea Classic & Wairo Beach Ulladulla Competitions

	Name	Point Score
1	Mark Spencer	1956
2	Dave Dinning	1944
3	Dale Randahl	1638
4	Paul Norman	1206
5	Gerry Buckley	912
6	Brett Titterton	822
7	Albert Gollidge	777
8	Terry Oehm	756
9	Ben Buckley	708
10	Gary Ross	654
11	Mark Buckley	630
12	Melissa Hardy	552
13	Paul McLennan	552
14	Joe Whiteley	360
15	Lauren Best	360
16	Graham Roberts	360
17	Ben Hunt	360
18	Col Sugars	270
19	Russell Hudson	270
20	Steve Ball	270
21	Basil Repa	225
22	Brandon Small	225
23	Michael Peters	225

## WA News

By Jackie Dillon

The WAWSA had a fun year in 2008 with three State Rounds being held in different locations as well as a party of 14 travelling to the Maldives for a surfing experience of a lifetime. Social activities remain central to any organisation and the WAWSA is no different ensuring that State Rounds and training days include the obligatory BBQ and amber fluid. While most of us still search for that 'wave' we have been blessed in WA this year with consistent surf and enjoyable weather. We welcomed back Tim Dillon into the fold and he enjoyed his first surf in as many years at the Cottesloe Classic and managed to make it through to the semi-finals in the Open. Other newcomers or returnees included Trey Wakefield at only 11 years of age has some real talent and could be a future champion. Leon Dalton has not lost any of his magic and has vowed to have his six pack ready for next year's Worlds. Penny Bedford took some fantastic photos and as winner of the Veterans Division Les Johnston was presented with a memorable framed print of him taking off on the 'mother' of all waves at South Point – Gracetown.

The Three Amigos (Rob Borg, Eric the Bear Toccock and Richie Croome) are the backbone of the WAWSA without which we would not have an association and so many thanks are afforded to them for their contribution and commitment throughout the year. Scott Wakefield always ensures that the trailer is ready for every State Round. Like all good things there needs to be an end and with that Jackie Dillon passed on the mantle of President to incumbent Richie Croome at the WAWSA AGM 2008. We are all looking forward to World's 09 with a training program already being planned so that we can be fit and ready for the challenging surf in Coffs Harbour.

### State Divisional Gran Prix winners are as follows:

Open - Jackie Dillon, Les Johnston, Scott Wakefield, Richard Croome  
 Juniors - Trey Wakefield  
 New Age - Tim Dillon  
 Seniors - Luke Herman, Leon Dalton  
 Masters - Scott Wakefield, Mark Jackson  
 Grand Masters - Jackie Dillon, Rob Borg, Kim Gardiner  
 Veterans - Les Johnston, Richard Croome, Eric Toccock, Gus Ruthkay