

From the Chair



Welcome to the Winter Edition of Australian Surfrider

Dear Surfriders,

Welcome to the Winter edition of Australian Surfrider.

It is with gratitude and optimism that I inform Surfrider Foundation Australia members and supporters that I step down as Chairman of the National Board of Directors (BoD).

As the organisation's longest serving Chair, it has been a great honour and privilege to serve the organisation in this role for nearly 5 years. This period has been full of challenges and many achievements. I can proudly say that with the assistance of current and previous BoD members, the General Manager and all our valuable volunteers, the Foundation has consolidated, evolved and improved generally right across the organisation.

During my time as Chair we have all learnt much and we have had some great wins and outcomes. We have developed new management systems and processes, compliance requirements, protocols and procedures as well as importantly raising the profile of coastal issues and the need for better protection of our coasts. We can now move forward with confidence with all our members, supporters, staff and volunteers continuing to achieve great outcomes for the coast.

I would like to make a special mention and thanks to Stuart Ball (General Manager) and the many fantastic volunteers and supporter that have assisted in the national office and the organisation generally over this time. We are indeed indebted for all their efforts and service to the organisation over many years.

I now look forward to continuing to assist as a Director and working under the leadership of the current Deputy Chairman, Chris Tola who will undoubtedly do a fantastic job as Chairman of our great organisation until the 2007 AGM and beyond.

Geoff Withycombe
Chair

Stop Press: The 2007 National Conference and AGM will be staged in October on Sydney's Northern Beaches. Keep October 19 – 21 free, with the venue of the Coastal Environment Centre at North Narrabeen. This is great news and we know the Northern Beaches Branch, in collaboration with the Eastern Beaches Representatives and the Board will put on a great show. Place this date in your diary now!

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Branch News

Tasmania

Northern Tasmania

Surfrider Foundation Australia's North Tasmanian Branch expressed concern over recent statements made by Gunns Ltd Chief Executive Officer John Gay concerning the drinkability of potentially toxic effluent discharged by pulp mills. Gay publicly stated that on a recent tour of South American pulp mills he drank effluent discharged from those mills, finding it "drinkable." Gay's comments come at a sensitive time in the current Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC) review of a proposal by Gunns Ltd to construct a new pulp mill at Tamar in North Tasmania, and public submissions regarding this proposal. Surfrider Foundation Australia provided one such submission, outlining a 50 page scientific analysis to the RPDC on the potential health concerns for recreational users of the coast and requesting that these concerns be addressed in a formal, scientific manner.



Peter Whish-Wilson addressing public a meeting
Peter Whish-Wilson of Surfrider Foundation Australia North Tasmania said "These comments go against the spirit of the current Tamar Pulp Mill approval process, where submissions made to the RPDC should be meaningful and be based on sound scientific research. Mr. Gay's comments are simplistic and misleading and do not take into consideration the involuntary, extended exposure both to the public and the environment."
Whish-Wilson also commented "If the Gunns CEO believes the effluent is safe to drink, we recommend that he have medical scientists test this claim, and verify it with experienced pulp mill engineers before taking such a claim public. If this is found to be the case, I'm sure Tasmania could do with the extra 30 billion litres of drinking water per annum from the mills effluent discharge rather than having it dumped in the ocean." Surfrider Foundation Australia's submission can be found at www.surfrider.org.au
Peter Whish-Wilson
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Paddle with Simeon

From the website www.paddlewithsim.com
On the 2nd of January 2007 Simeon Michaels set out on his epic 2000 km paddle from Sydney to Hobart. Sim paddled to raise the profile of the purposed Gunns Pulp Mill to be located at Tamar Valley on Tasmania's North Coast.
Travelling South down the East Coast of NSW, passing stunning beaches and beautiful towns and hoping for great weather, Simeon Michaels paddled across the Victorian border to Wilson's Promontory. From there it's was a series of long and exposed paddles across Bass Strait, taking a right hand turn to Launceston on arriving at Tassie, then retracing steps (or strokes, as the case may be) across the top of Tassie, past the

spectacular Freycinet Peninsula, finally reaching Hobart more than 2 months, and 2000 kilometres later.

'It was the perfect day to finish. My destination was Constitution Dock, the final stop of all good Sydney to Hobart voyages. A huge sea lion had come into the dock just before me, entertaining the welcoming party, and what a welcome it was. With so much going on I didn't expect much media coverage, and was happy to slip in quietly, but it certainly didn't turn out that way.

After 79 days at sea, the trip is finally over. I'm not sure how its going to be getting back to normal life, but doing the trip and speaking to hundreds of Tasmanians about the future of their state has made me absolutely certain of the following:
Tasmania is an incredible place, with incredible natural resources. It deserves a government and a vision which will make the most of those resources in the long term.

The proposed pulp mill could never stand up to an independent and public assessment process, and would be an economic and environmental disaster for Tasmania if it proceeds.'

Along the way I met hundreds of people, celebrities, some impressive locals (wildlife) & a incredible coast line. I would like to thank everyone for their support on this trip.

Sim paddled to raise the profile of the GUNNS Pulp Mill, and met hundreds of people along the way.



Sim with Ross Wilson, Jim Keays, Frankie J Holden & friends

Check out the website, sign the petition, and get involved! www.paddlewithsim.com
Simeon Michaels

Tasmania's Marine Debris Cleanups

Tasmanian members of Surfrider Foundation have been conducting marine debris clean ups within Tasmania's Southwest World Heritage Area for well over ten years. The last two rubbish clean ups have received national recognition through the Federal Environment Minister's inaugural Environmental Award and the Coco-Cola Community Environment Award. The prize money for these awards has been the source of funding to keep the clean ups continuing.

The project uses local cray fishermen to take teams of volunteers to remote and rarely visited beaches in the heart of the South-west wilderness. The remoteness of the area is important - no rubbish is removed between clean up trips as the only way to get there is by boat or helicopter.

Over the years the fishermen have identified the beaches that collect the most rubbish and their exceptional seamanship enables them to safely land the volunteers on one of the most wild and unforgiving coastlines on the planet. The remoteness also offers the opportunity for some of the best wilderness surfing on the planet, usually only surfed by the cray-fishermen and their deckhands.

The last three trips have been planned around a ten day project window allowing for weather and 2 days travel. Each time we manage to clean 4 to 6 beaches. We systematically clean each beach from end to end and we record each item on specifically designed tally sheets. We note any shorebirds, invasive weeds and unusual or foreign items. Where possible we contact the sources of the rubbish and inform them of the damage they are causing to the wildlife and amenity. We separate out recyclables and re-usable materials and transported them to the recycling depot on the return to port. Weavers and sculptors have first pick of the rest of the rubbish. On the last four trips over 20 tons of rubbish totalling over 30 000 individual items have been collected.

Two or three beaches receive special attention on each trip. These beaches allow for easy access in most weather and usually provide some of the best waves on the trip. These revisited beaches enable us to track trends in the source and type of rubbish that washes up. We have noted a significant decrease in the amount of locally derived fishing rubbish that was traditionally 'deep-sixed' by the fishermen. These items include plastic bait bags and bait box straps, which are responsible for the suffocation and entanglement of many marine mammals including whales, dolphins, seals and turtles.

Places on the clean up are keenly sought, as they are a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit one of the most spectacular and unspoiled Wilderness left on the planet. The Velocity is the mother ship of the clean up fleet Dave Wyatt the skipper has been surfing and fishing on the West coast of Tasmania for 20 years. Dave has been involved in the clean up since 1999 and donates his time and invaluable seafaring and surfing experiences free of charge. Without the help of Dave and the other regular clean up skippers, none of this would be possible. Thanks Matt Dell President mattzell@tpg.com.au 0409 561 190



Part of the rubbish collected

Western Australia

Barrow Island

Surfrider Foundation Australia supports the WWF petition against the planned development of a gas plant on remote Barrow Island off the north-west of Western Australia. Economics and the environment come into conflict again as a consortium of the planet's major multinational oil and gas companies plan to build a gas plant on the island nature reserve.

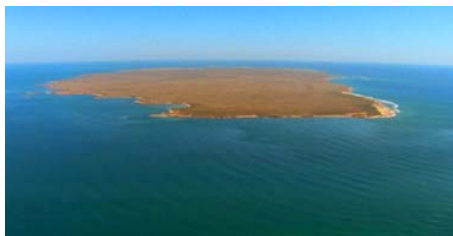
Barrow Island is a "Noah's Ark" for species of rare Australian marsupials that are doomed to extinction due to human impacts on the mainland. Not only will the gas plant infrastructure pose a risk to the island fauna but the surrounding coral reef will need to be dredged for gas tanker ships to collect the processed natural gas.

"We realise that Barrow Island is not a pristine environment and has been an off shore Australian oil field since 1964", concedes Surfrider Foundation Australia Chairman Geoff Withycombe. "However, the minor, in comparison human impact in the last 40 years has been managed so that the island's rare inhabitants and marine life have survived, where in other areas they rapidly have become extinct. The place has been a nature reserve since 1910. We can see that the major infrastructure planned for the gas plant will have a massive impact on this nature reserve."

It may not be a well known surfing area (absolutely no waves there, don't even look at a map), but part of the wealth of our country is our unique coastal and island flora and fauna. Barrow Island's west coast beaches are important nesting sites for green turtles (Chelonia Mydas). On that remote island the burrowing betong and the golden bandicoot need surfers to stand up for them.

The campaign can be accessed at:

<http://passport.panda.org/campaigns/campaign.cfm?uNC=06368995&uCampaignId=1501>
http://www.rescuebarrowisland.org.au/About_Barrow/About%20Barrow%20Island.htm



Barrow Island

Cape Naturaliste Area (South West W.A.)

Proposed Smiths Beach Development - Local groups are awaiting the results of a damaging State Crime and Corruption Committee investigation into alleged web of deceit used by the developer and others to ensure it gets the right people voting for its Development Guide Plan at the Busselton Shire Council. I have attended numerous meetings about this development over the last three years representing local surfers and SFA. The Smiths Beach Action Group are keeping us in the loop and call on us for support when deliberations take place. It would be a brave local councillor who gave this development the go-ahead with its excessive size and environmental impact, following the revelations at the CCC probe!

Please take the time to log onto the Smiths Beach Action Group's comprehensive website at: www.savesmithsbeach.com and register your concern. The latest developer proposal involves a plan for: 2 hotels (100 rooms total); 263 tourist accommodation units; 104 houses; 1,700m² commercial floor space, plus backpacker accommodation. This will monster the hillside and ruin the natural vista currently on show. Registering your concern will allow the Smiths Beach Action Group to contact you to assist in putting in a submission to the Busselton Shire when the imminent Development Guide Plan goes out for public comment soon.

Special Purpose (Surfing) Zones in the Proposed Cape to Cape Marine Park. As a member of the local surfing community and beach rep for SFA, I have been involved, along with Surfing WA, in getting Special Purpose (Surfing) Zones included into the marine park. This comes because of our push to exclude cray fishing operators from dropping their pots and floats too close to important surfing spots, following some very dangerous events over recent years. We have already succeeded, in conjunction with two local board riding clubs and Surfing WA, in getting Fisheries to proclaim regulations within the cray fishing season (15 November to 30 June) which set ten surfing exclusion zones for last season and indefinitely into the future.

We also put together a comprehensive submission to go to the marine park public comment process to support these very same exclusion zones going into the marine park. If successful, surfer safety will be greatly enhanced in our region.

Tim Lynch Beach Representative for Cape Naturaliste Region tim-lynch@inet.com.au 08 9756 8056

Bunbury

Coastal Enhancement Project, Stages II & III.

Negotiations resulted in more funding and larger machinery for a very effective clean up of the final 50 metre section of rubble affected waterline early in the year. Ten tonnes of rubble was removed in six hours.

Further monitoring throughout the winter, spring and summer indicate the beaches are now cleaner than they were prior to stage II of the project. These efforts also resulted in the opportunity for meaningful input at the preliminary design and planning phase of stage III and important recreational and coastal environmental details were incorporated into the final plan.

Invitation to join the CoastSWaP Committee, August 2006.

Ongoing local lobbying activities and networking resulted in an invitation to join the South West and Peel Coastal Management Committee. This will enable monitoring of future developments impacting on surfing activities, and will be a forum for Surfrider Foundation Australia to table proposals in the future.

Naming of a new beachfront park, December 2006.

A formal proposal was lodged to name a newly landscaped park as 'The Brightspot'. That is the name of the building which was on the site in the 1940's to the 1960's. The proposal was part of a campaign to revive interest in the city's significant surfing and surf life saving heritage. It is hoped this will inspire enthusiasts to become active in future beach care initiatives. Due to the interest already created, it is expected a beach heritage

committee will form to progress several themes such as coastal interpretive pieces and formalising surfing locality names.

Dolphin Behaviour Study.

Careful negotiations will be needed to preserve access to The Cut, a local surf break which is the subject of a major study into human impact on dolphin behaviour. Early indications are that an exclusion zone may be created around the breeding area in Koombana Bay and discussions have already commenced with the research team to ensure surfers are included as stakeholders throughout the process.

Bunbury Looking Ahead Ongoing activities include

- Monitor construction as Stage III of the Coastal Enhancement project commences in 2007. In particular control of contamination of beach zones with rubble, and allowances for safe access to beaches during construction activities.
- Ongoing monitoring of the beaches for rubble exposures.
- Monitor detailed releases of plans for Bunbury Outer Harbour and Turkey Point Redevelopments.

Noel Whittle bunburysurfsports@inet.net.au 0419 627 556



Smith's Beach

Ningaloo (From their website – Surfrider Foundation Australia has helped lobby hard to save this wonderful area) - The organisers of the Save Ningaloo Campaign have concerns about a major salt mining development proposed for the Exmouth Gulf. Scientists believe the proposal has the potential to detrimentally affect the health of Exmouth Gulf and there is mounting evidence that the health of Ningaloo Reef is connected to the environmental quality of Exmouth Gulf. This alert is about new threats to the area. An independent campaign has been started to challenge the proposal. To find out more about the proposal and the campaign opposing it, visit www.healththesalt.org.au. Note: To receive updates on this new campaign you must visit that website (and please send their online submission).

Victoria

Surfcoast Branch Report

The Surfcoast Branch has had a busy year with an outstanding breeding program going on. Steve and Ann Blackley kicked off the baby boom mid year, Iain Lygo had a boy in September, and John Foss and Linda welcome Tahlia Rhiannon. We have continued the dune restoration project at Torquay beach, but the drought meant we lost all last year's planting. Fingers crossed for the replacement crop. Surfcoast is overjoyed at the formation of a new Geelong Branch, and we celebrated Terry the Turd's 10th birthday with the new branch. Terry made it into the October issue of Tracks with an amusing interview with the editor and long time supporter, Sean Doherty.

The branch has been campaigning against Barwon Water's continued waste of reusable water out of the Black Rock Ocean Outfall, and the public is starting to come around. Current water restrictions may end some football season early as many of the grounds are too hard for safe play

A recent press release praising and criticising the major parties in the lead up to the state election was released, and we have ramped up the I Surf I vote campaign. The Branch was also a sponsor of the inaugural Festival of Surfing held at Surfworld. This annual event should get bigger and better in the future. We are also working on stencilling messages on the Shire's drains. Finally, we had an excellent Bells Beach clean up day and BBQ for our XMAS break up.

Iain Lygo Branch President iainlygo@yahoo.com 0437 745 874

Far East Gippsland, Mallacoota

It's been our first year as a branch of Surfrider Foundation Australia, and we are happy to say it's been a successful one. Much of the branch's time has been spent on the

Save Bastion Point Campaign, but along the way, we have also focused on having positive events such as BBQ's and get togethers, to retain good thoughts and a clear perspective.

Over the past year, we have had two successful surfboard raffles with the support of Neil Oke. Neil generously shaped a board with the theme of Saving Bastion Point, he also donated some classic Oke Surfboard clothing. We have also had great support from our local surf shop, The Surf Shack, as well as our friends at Pambula and Merimbula Surf Shops over the border in NSW.

We have had a Surf Contest supported by the Red Bluff Boardriders from Lakes Entrance. The Contest was called 'Surf to Save Bastion Classic', it was a great success and launched the Save Bastion Point Petition Board. The Petition Board was shaped by the surfers in the local school, and supported by the local and national surfing industry. We printed our own t-shirts for the contest and t-shirts for the branch to promote surfing in Mallacoota and become known and proud of our great location.

In our first year, we have had great support from many people, groups and the local school. We are currently running a safety programme at the school to educate all the kids that use the Special Purpose Zone (shared zone) at Bastion Point, to make them aware of their responsibilities whilst using the area. We have also been involved in submission writing for the local council Tourism Strategic Plan, we haven't been successful in trying to convince them that surfing should be included which is upsetting, but we won't give up!

During the past year we have written many letters to our Local and State Government trying to convince them of the importance of the Surf Culture in Mallacoota and the importance of saving Bastion Point from becoming an industrial site. We have also had great support from Tracks Magazine, Swellnet, Australian Conservation Foundation, National Parks Association and all the local groups in Mallacoota.

The Far East Gippsland Branch would like to personally thank Neil Lazarow for his support throughout the year, his many hours has made our fight to save our local town surf beach all the more effective. Stuart Ball has also been a constant support, ready to talk anytime, so we are looking forward to the year ahead and the realisation Surfider Foundation Australia is a big family, striving for the same things in life, happiness and future.

Tim Frazer Far East Gippsland Treasure
tfairtime@yahoo.com 03 5158 0524

Australian Capital Territory

Chris Tola, Director and now Founding Director on the Australian Coastal Society, is representing the Society in the ACT. The main goal is to encourage greater awareness of coastal issues in the ACT.

New South Wales

Wollongong

There are many people working for the beach in Wollongong (as past or present members) and we still help the Save Sandon Point campaign financially (although modestly). Jason Gava has been the contact for this issue. SFA Wollongong donated \$200 to help with legal fees to challenge the legality of building compliance and set backs from the beach to the housing development. We still argue the case for the developer and the council to follow Commissioner Simpson's development findings. Mark Spence Beach Representative markspence@optusnet.com.au

Kiama

The Killalea Debate so far

'The Farm' is a classic south east facing beach break on the South Coast of New South Wales. It is situated in the Killalea State Park. Today, you can enter the park for free, unlike every other state park in N.S.W where fees are sought. The State Government believes the park has been getting a free run for way to long. Not surprisingly locals were reluctant to pay for the right to surf 'The Farm'. As a result the Killalea State Park Trust looked to tourism to generate profits from the park and make up for the years of free public access. The State Government believes tax payer dollars are not enough to maintain the park. And so began the process of applying to privately develop the Killalea State Park, the first such application ever made. No other state parks in N.S.W have been leased to a private company. Way back in December 2002 the Killalea State Park Trust announced it would look for a partner to develop the park. In February 2003, the trust put the idea on public submission for comment and expressions of interest. Only eight submissions were received. From July 2006 the Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly announced that the park will be the first state park to

have a tourist development built within it. The deal was all but finalised in February 2007.

On the 13th of April the local newspaper reported that the Minister would grant a 52-year lease to Killalea Coastal Investments Pty Ltd for the development of three portions of the park. The multi-million dollar lease was officially granted on the June 30 2006. The development application has yet to be put on public submission. Yes, the lease for construction was approved without consulting the public regarding the scope of the development. We still do not know for sure what will be built. It is expected that the developers will build strata developments on the leased land and sell them to people who buy the strata units. The majority of the community is outraged about the situation. Many people would now rather pay an entry fee than see this development go up.

In the weeks, before the lease was granted a lot of pressure was placed on the State Government to brief the community and the councils of its intentions for the park. The park trust did not reveal anything more than what they had in February 2003.

Now that the lease has been granted, the Killalea State Park Trust will have to put in a development application with Shellharbour City Council. This is expected to be done so in the coming months. Once the DA is received, it will go on public submission for comment.

There are a number of reasons why people are so disgruntled with the development.

- The claim is that the development will pay for the maintenance of the park. Killalea is the only state park with no entry fee. However, it has been confirmed by the Minister himself that the profits from this development will be distributed to parks all across the state via the Public Reserves Management Fund. Therefore, Killalea is essentially being 'used' for profit.
- Construction is expected to include accommodation, restaurants, pools and the like. This will take away from the surfing experience that is 'The Farm'. Although it is situated, adjacent to a very large housing development, The State Park had previously been a sanctuary for 'The Farm'. You currently cannot see any construction from the beach itself. In the park itself, there is only an occasional park bench, a car park and a small demountable. It is a very natural environment. It reminds many people of the Soul Surfer era of the 1960s and 70s with its country setting and distance from commercialised activity.
- Politically, the park is situated in a very safe Labour seat. No matter how upset locals are, the State Government is not threatened with any serious voter backlash.
- As this is a private development, the confidentiality of the leasing process has rendered many people suspicious of how the construction will affect the park.

There is going to be meetings in May and all of the community groups who have involved themselves in discussing this development will be there. I look forward to reporting on this development in the further.



The waves at "The Farm"

For more information please contact: Tristram Devitt Beach Representative thgd371@uow.edu.au 0410 145 324

Hunter and Central Coast Branches

The Hunter and Central Coast Branches, represents the stretch of coastline between Patonga in the south to the Sapphire Coast in the North (yes, we need more representation on the north coast!). We had a busy year initiating or assisting in a number of high profile campaigns, submissions and activities. Branch representatives attended numerous meetings, conferences and workshops. Some of these activities include:

- The Save Catherine Hill Bay initiative (Catherine Hill Bay is facing its moment of truth as its supporters gear up to oppose a ten-fold increase in the size of the village. A first-stage proposal for an extra 600 houses overlooking Moonee and Catho is on public

display. You can help by going to www.catherinehillbay.org)

- Opposing the Magenta Shores resort on the Central Coast
- Arguing against DeSal projects in Wyong Shire
- Fighting the Nobbys Signal Station development
- Dune restoration works at Budgewoi
- Rejection of the current direction of Coastal Regional Strategies and Planning Overhaul, Forrester's Beach
- Learning more about the sand dredging at The Boulders
- Opposing the sea wall at Wamberal Beach.
- Nobby Edwards' apologies were duly noted at he AGM, and his company sorely missed.

Chris Tola Branch President christola@surfrider.org.au
0438 203 964

Bondi

Surfrider Foundation Australia welcomed our new Beach Representative to the organisation. Julien Lacave works for the Australian New Zealand Solar Energy Society and recently travelled home to France for Christmas. Julien sent us a letter while overseas: An excerpt "November 2006 has been the warmest November in Europe ever recorded - so it is not so hard for me to cope with the cold here & the massive bush fires in Victoria Australia remind us that climate change and global warming is real and not science fiction (you already know that our summer down under is the driest ever recorded too).

In France, famous and well respected ecologists such as Nicolas Hulot or Hubert Reeves are strongly lobbying the presidential candidates for placing the environment into the core of their political programs. On the other side of the planet in Australia, former leader, front man and activist of my favorite rock band ever Midnight Oil - Peter Garrett - has just been nominated Shadow Minister for Environment and Climate Change! The time has come for a change.

Whoever we are, whatever we do for work, wherever we live, we can bring something and help change the world, to make it more sustainable and more equitable for us and our future generations. It makes me think: Where will we be in a hundred years? What sort of planet will we be living in?! I believe we can all do something.

In Bondi Beach I began meeting with local surf shops in order to raise our memberships and support. I also propose that we produce a banner saying: 'The Beach is sick of your rubbish' - with the Surfrider Foundation Australia logo. This banner would be placed at Bondi Beach entrance, with the approval and cooperation of the Waverley council. The Manly Council did that in 2006 in order to raise awareness. "

Julien Lacave Beach Representative
julienlacave@hotmail.com 0431 658 969

Queensland

Capricorn

A low-key year has been financially stable but plagued with boat problems. The core group of members has maintained the work with the development of the Big Dune Surfing Reserve management plan. The Village Festival was again a creative outlet for members. A focus for the group must be maintaining assets.

Ross Lanyon Branch President rlkanyon@bigpond.com
0417 384 632

Gold Coast

Save our Spit

A Victory!!! Tom Alletson was a 'tour de force' in this campaign. Right now, the Government is still considering whether it will proceed with plans for the super yacht marina in the Marine Stadium. If this goes ahead, it's likely there will be dredging in the Seaway. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Desalination Plant Proposal

This is a huge priority for the Queensland Government right now. Rob Anker has stepped up and taken on the majority of the grunt and analysis work on this project and the SFA flag is flying high. The significant issue is that desal was earmarked as part of our water future by Council and slated to be brought online in a staged approach from 2025. Premier Beattie bumped this to 2008 because of the drought. So right now, we see a lame attempt at community consultation running concurrently with the early works (construction) program, final design and environmental monitoring.

Tom Alletson Beach Representative
goldcoastrep@surfrider.org.au 0266 846 409

South Australia

We had a Green Corps Team help us with the redirection of a walking trail between Tunkalilla and Boat Harbour Beaches on the South Coast. This work was in partnership with National Parks. This same Green Corps Team assisted Christies Beach High School to propagate plants for the sand dunes at Port Noarlunga South. Surfrider Foundation Australia donated materials and seed.

Clean up Australia Day - We picked up over 50 kilos of rubbish on Moana Beach with volunteers.

Planet Arc Tree Day - On our ongoing Surfrider revegetation site - we planted over 500 plants adding to last year's revegetation. We then assisted the Friends of Moana Sands plant another 1000+ plants. All species were colonising species and planted in areas of erosion. We were assisted by Green Corps.

Public access to surf breaks - "I have been researching this issue and have found some very good surf breaks on private property while doing this. I wish I could show you the photos. One location south of Adelaide, the road was redirected and native vegetation cleared. I approached local council about the rare plant association at the end of the new road. They allowed Surfrider Foundation Australia to fence off the area with Council materials, and it is now a public reserve."

Corey Jackson President moana5169@optusnet.com.au
0427 833 419

Campaigns News

Campaigns National

Launch of I Surf - I Vote Campaign (from our Media Release)

Politicians of all persuasions were put on notice at the Surfrider Foundation Australia Annual Conference, with the launching of the **I Surf - I Vote** environmental awareness campaign. Members, branches, beach representatives and directors from across the country were represented at the conference, and it was agreed that the message to come out of the conference should be simple and clear - ALL Australians have the right to expect clean water.

Geoff Withycombe, Chair of Surfrider Foundation Australia, said "... all Australians have an affiliation with the coast, whether you live in Alice Springs or on Manly Beach, and the continuing waste of potable waters by dumping in rivers, and creeks and the ocean is not viable. Surfrider Foundation Australia has focused on a catchment approach to water quality, and by launching the **I Surf - I Vote** campaign; we will draw Australia's attention to the position adopted by all political parties to the issues of water quality and access." As Federal and some State elections are happening this year, Surfrider Foundation Australia encourages everyone to consider Australia's waterways and coastal environments before they cast their votes.



By initiating the **I Surf - I Vote** campaign, it was agreed Surfrider Foundation Australia is not being party political, but wanted to raise the issue of coastal degradation and put firmly on the radar the fact that our coast has been neglected for far too long.

The conference also covered the detrimental effects of climate change and global warming on beach amenity, and the ever increasing threat of inappropriate development along the already stressed coastal zone. Surfrider Foundation Australia is determined to raise the profile of water quality and how existing and future environmental challenges will affect not only coastal ecosystems, but also the social fabric of Australia itself.

An integral part of the campaign is a bumper sticker distribution, as well as the distribution of a series of suggested questions which we're encouraging voters to ask of their local political candidates. Surfrider Foundation Australia is a non political organisation and can not endorse or oppose any candidates. Instead, we are encouraging all Australians who have an affiliation with Australia's coasts and beaches to ask questions of their local candidates, with the view of raising the awareness of coastal issues.

Some suggested questions to ask your local political candidates ...

Change these questions to better suit your local area or your concerns.

- What are you doing regarding climate change in your electorate?

- What are you doing about sustainable water management (for example, water conservation, recycling, and reuse)?
- What will you do, or what are you intending to do, about sustainable development (ESD, local character, scale, design) in your electorate?
- In your electorate, what are you doing about protecting and enhancing access to public spaces such as beaches and recreational areas?
- What are you doing to better support local users and community groups (for example, supplying information on commonwealth funding programs, or equipment) in your electorate?
- What are you doing about the protection of iconic coastal assets (for example scenic sites, whales, sea birds, wetlands)?
- What are you doing about beach protection or possible erosion in your area through storm events or natural catastrophes?

These are draft suggestions and we welcome your comments, contact info@surfrider.org.au.

Surfrider Foundation Australia and Partner Initiatives My Blue Backyard

The program is aimed at raising general community awareness through a series of presentations (public and target groups), media releases and interpretative signage. Beach users wish to contribute to marine conservation but often don't have an outlet for their passion. The program also supports local marine enthusiasts producing locally relevant educational material and helps them deliver to the local community and visitors. The program provides a mechanism for these people to participate in marine conservation activities such as underwater clean ups and biological surveys.

Soles for the Soul

The Sydney Art sale was held with the support of footwear label Gideon and Jamesons, based around a sneaker art exhibition. Surfrider Foundation Australia was the nominated charity for the fundraiser. Twenty artists were given a pair of sneakers prior to the event. The aim was freestyle decoration, essentially using the shoes as a 'blank canvas' to create an artwork was the aim. Check out www.solesforthesoul.com

Science of the Surf Education Program

Surfrider Foundation Australia has been supporting the Science of the Surf Program (SOS), which aims to develop a variety of readily accessible educational media that will provide a basic understanding of the scientific principles of beaches and surf zones to the Australian and international community. The philosophy of the program is that the only way to make an informed decision on whether it is safe to swim or not on any beach is to have a basic scientific understanding of the way our beaches work. Our beaches are arguably Australia's greatest attractions and recreational resources, and the scientific principles governing them are not difficult, but these principles are not being communicated to the general community. This gap needs to be addressed and we're assisting in the promotion of this worthwhile initiative. Have a look at www.scienceofthesurf.com.au

Stratti

Stratti, our long term muso mate, is organising an east coast tour with all proceeds going towards Surfrider Foundation Australia. See www.stratti.com

Australia's Surfing Champions Fundraising for Surfrider Foundation Australia



Imagine the most legendary of Australian surfers hanging around your poolroom, shed, or bamboo bar. They might even hang out in your kitchen or above the TV. Surfrider Foundation Australia invites you to help out by purchasing a special piece of surfing memorabilia to display in your very own green room. Each surfer has personally signed

the print to create the definitive piece of Australian Surfing Memorabilia. More details: www.surfrider.org.au

International News

International Events

Surfrider Foundation Australia has agreed with Surfrider International that we will do our best to co-ordinate on three events this year: Initiatives Oceans on March 24, International Surfing Day on June 21 (or close to it) and the Paddle Out on September 22. Surfrider Europe is leading the charge on the Initiatives Oceans and has asked each International Affiliate to identify beaches where they would like to host a clean up on Saturday, March 24, etc. Surf Coast Victoria, Capricorn in Queensland and the Hunter and Central Coast Branches have already signed up and will undertake clean ups as part of Clean up Australia Day activities. For more info contact (07) 5536 1021 or info@surfrider.org.au

News and Information

Surfing Reserve in New South Wales

(From the Department of Planning Website) Angourie, on the NSW north coast near Yamba, was declared the first legally protected national surfing crown reserve in NSW in a public ceremony in January. The announcement was made to 400 people gathered at Angourie, which is a popular surfing spot loved by surfers for its breaks and natural beauty.

The surfing community was represented by four-time world surfing champion Dr. Mark Richards, former world champions Mark Occhilupo and Luke Egan, and current world women's masters champion Kathy Steed. Local surfers formed a surfboard guard of honour at the declaration, which included Malibu's, long boards, single fins, twin fins and novelty boards.

Both the land and waters of Angourie are legally protected as a reserve for surfing - the first such reserve in NSW. The Department of Lands worked in partnership with the local community and the National Surfing Reserves Committee to create the reserve under the Crown Lands Act. The dedication of the Angourie surfing reserve is recognition by government of the contribution surfing makes to the Australian lifestyle and of the iconic status of Angourie to the surfing community. Surfrider Foundation looks forward to more nominations around the country.



Economic Value of Recreational Surfing Survey

Surfrider Foundation Australia is working with researchers from the Australian National University and Griffith University to collect benchmark data on the market and non-market value of recreational surfing. The information will be used to advocate for the improvement of surfing amenity for the benefit of both surfers and the natural environment. Please visit www.goodfortheplanet.com and complete a survey for your local area.

Kirra Surf Amenity Study

On Tuesday 30 January, researchers from the Griffith Centre for Coastal Management held a public meeting to report on findings from the investigation of community suggested options to improve wave quality - with a specific focus on Kirra.

The range of options that were investigated included:

- Modifications to Big Groyne.
- Supplementary outlet to the north.
- Extend the 'grid system' for dredged sand to be placed further to the north.
- Realign the beach profile at Kirra.
- TRESBP to operate according to current management plans.

As well as these options, a series of models was also undertaken that investigate combinations of options. The Study made 3 recommendations:

- The grid system for dredge spoil locations be extended to the west and the dredge no longer deposit sand in Coolangatta Bay.

- An investigation into the feasibility of constructing a supplementary sand bypass outlet and booster station should be undertaken.
- Kirra Point Groyne needs to be addressed. As part of this investigation, the value of cleaning up the end of the groyne or in time removing the groyne altogether should be considered.



Photo by Joli from www.coastalwatch.com.au

There was a strong agreement on recommendations 1 & 2. The community consensus was that recommendation 3 be modified to specifically call for Big Groyne to be extended to its pre-1996 length (+30m). A fourth recommendation from the community was that Gold Coast City Council commission the Griffith Centre for Coastal Management to continue its investigations. For further information, contact: Greg Stuart, Gold Coast City Council at GSTUART@goldcoast.qld.gov.au or call 07 5581 6962.

2006 Annual General Meeting

For a full report, please check www.surfrider.org.au Surfrider Foundation Australia's Annual General Meeting was held at Valla Beach, just south of Coffs Harbour. It was a productive gathering, and everyone left with the knowledge 2007 was going to be a great year. The key results areas for 2007 are continuing support for branches and beach representatives, improved membership relations and a focus on grass roots activism and advocacy.

We were honoured to have Victor "Bull" Buchanan; from the Gumbayngirr people give an Indigenous welcome to the delegates. Victor, introduced by Lachie Boddam-Whetham, a long time supporter and coastal advocate, is from twelve generations of indigenous people who have lived in the area.

Bull discussed how Traditional Law associates his people with the sea, and they view the sea as a resource in food gathering and a spiritual place for gatherings. Bull explained that the sea has been handed down from generation to generation right back to Dreamtime, and further, to the beginning of time. Locally he said there are over 15,000 relics from the traditional past. He added that they have much respect for the land.

"We welcome our brothers to the tribal land" he said. He has many in his family clan and they reside in the area. He told us tribes who live on different rivers have different languages, but the culture still exists – it is a subject for local Year Twelve students. The Chair, Geoff Withycombe thanked Bull, and presented him with a small gift as appreciation for his welcome.

The Annual General Meeting was opened by the Chair of the Board of Directors asking ... "Why are we here? And why are we part of Surfrider Foundation?" Feedback included that we share ideals and have a bond to each other and of the course the coast. We celebrate informed concerns whilst laughing in the face of adversity, and sneaking off for a surf when ever possible. The Chair then gave an Official Welcome Address and then moved into the formalities including:

- General Manager's and National Office report
- Directors Reports
- National Branches reports
- Financial report including Auditors Reports

Summary of the Chair's Report

- It is an honour and privilege to oversee another year of growth and 4th term of Chairman.
- Thanks to fellow Directors and Staff (paid and volunteer) at the National Office.
- The Chair noted the focus of 05/06 was to build better branches.
- Significant efforts in communication, support and accountability achieved.
- Proposed continued focus on branches through 2007.
- Several high pressure and stressful incidents over the year, particularly the dissolution of the Gold Coast branch.
- Thanks to Steve Titus for his outstanding and ongoing legal support through this period.

- Confirmation of strong position of Surfrider Foundation Australia brand, logo and reputation.
- Encourage all to promote outcomes in order to maintain Surfrider Foundation Australia important position in coastal advocacy
- Organisation must always consider sustainability, use the structure and be professional.
- Achievements: Tassie Pulp Mill - 50 page submission completed and success made in drawing international support, Cruise Ship Terminal Campaign in association with Save Our Spit Alliance, Surf Aid (where Surfrider Foundation Australia facilitated approx \$700,000 in donations for tsunami relief) and many ongoing issues.
- Hurdles: financial constraints - it was discussed that Surfrider Foundation Australia must not be dependant on the surfing industry.
- Board and Office must prepare a regular and relevant budget
- Administration in the National Office is continually improving
- We need branches and beach representatives to be operating at their full potential
- Some internal and external threats need risk management
- Human resources: Thanks to Stuart Ball, three years of great service as General Manager. New corporate systems being implemented. A period of transition? More support available with better accountants and corporate governance. New Surfrider Foundation Australia HQ, main street of Coolangatta, due to a donation from Queensland Government.
- International: Five international affiliates and four chapters. Expected to soon receive a professional media package from Brazil. The Chair noted Surfrider Foundation Australia's complete confidence in newly appointed International Coordinator, Lia Cobello. USA contributes \$200,000 for operation of international facility.
- Goals for 2007: share, improve, compliance, reduce risk, efficiency and professionalism, reduce administration costs, provide internal accounting to track costs of tasks.

Election of Directors:

We welcomed back Geoff Withycombe, Matt Butel, Charlie Hewitt and Chris Tola, and are stoked to now have Claire Lock from South Australia on the Board. We welcome and congratulate Claire on her new role as a Director.

National Awards

Surfrider Foundation Australia presented the annual Board of Directors Awards during the meeting in Valla. These awards are presented to activists, volunteers, companies and organisations who demonstrate exceptional support in helping us achieve our mission.

- Supporter of the Year:** Coastcare
- Campaign of the Year:** Save Our Spit Alliance/ Rottnest Island
- Branch of the Year:** Surf Coast
- Volunteer of the Year:** Tom Alletson
- Appreciation Certificates:** David Hansen, David Johns, Alan Stirling, Maria Kodzoman, Sharon Shegog, Maya Simonovski, Craig Jarret, Dave Riek, Denis Williams, Tracey Woolsey, Nadine Gapps, Jan Guest, Frank Gaschk, Isaac Aarkeveld, Peter Llydorf, Greg Tannock, Rob Anker, Neil Lazarow

We congratulate and thank these people for their dedication to protecting our cherished coastline, and we recognise the fact more people need to be involved. In addition, we also acknowledge the effort all Branches make as well.

Out the Back, and On the Horizon ...

After three years as General Manager for Surfrider Foundation Australia, our much loved and cherished Stuart Ball has announced he will soon be stepping back from his current role. Stu has put in the hard yards for so long, and has truly been the backbone of Surfrider Foundation Australia. Thankfully, Stuart will remain actively involved. We've agreed that Stu will step back from the General Manager's role on July 31st, with the new person being employed on August 1st. We are interested in hearing from high achievers who wish to take Surfrider Foundation Australia to a new level. For more info contact info@surfrider.org.au

Sponsorships

As a not for profit, we are always seeking sponsorship and beneficial relationships. We need your support, and the support of our existing and new partners. If you know of any person or group who may wish to establish a

relationship with Australia's premiere organisation that represents all Coastal users, please contact us at info@surfrider.org.au as soon as possible!

Surfrider Foundation Australia wishes to acknowledge the support we receive from our existing sponsor and support partners.

Sponsor:

Billabong

Supporters:

Adrift Surf School; Halcyon; Offshore Surf Tours; WestSuits; Moana Cruising ~ Boat Charter

In Kind Sponsors:

Australia's Surfing Life Magazine; Graffiti Stickers & Signs; Havasak Calico Bags; Indo Surf and Travel; On The Net; Snap Off The Lip; Surfing World Magazine; Tracks Magazine; www.surfcalders.com

RECENT COMPETITION WINNERS

Some of the great Membership Incentives prizes

- \$1000 Oakley Surf Pack
- 2 * \$200 Aussie Fit Sport Science Pulse Watch - UV Master
- 2 * \$75 'Blue Heaven' by Murray Walding from Harding Grant Books
- 10 * Bra Boys movie Tickets
- International Surf Day Promo Pack
- Surfrider Aust Merchandise

There's a regular lucky winner, so renew or sign up now. Also, if you have changed your contact details, make sure you let us know. Check out our new *organic cotton* T-shirts (\$35 each) navy, black, white & natural at <https://www.surfrider.org.au/secure/merchandise.htm>

Roll of Honour – we salute you...

Honorary Life Members – Bruce Thom, Greg Howell, Michael Legge Wilkinson, John Foss

Life Members - Robert Hughes, Tom Kirsop, Eddy Mercuri, David Oitmaa, Richard Finlay-Jones, Clayton James, Barneby Hurrell Paul Steinmann, Murray Turner.

If you are a Life Member and not listed here, please contact National Office.

Membership and Donation News

Memberships the best way to renew or sign up? <https://www.surfrider.org.au/secure/member.htm>

Surfrider Foundation Australia is currently encouraging Life Member promotion with a new life member T-Shirt, life member certificate & a "Delightful Rain" CD/DVD which is a celebrations of Aust surf music. This is a unique recording & film project dedicated to the rich history of Aust surf music.

New music sign up a friend promotion. New music "White Buffalo" is a new artist & we have sample CD to give away to your friends or you could choose a "Kylie Minogue" Greatest hits 87-99 (double CD). Contact National Office to find out more.

Donations Surfrider Foundation Australia has been fortunate to receive a couple of appreciated donations lately, and it is fantastic to see concerned coastal carers taking advantage of Surfrider Foundation Australia's tax deductibility status. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. For more information go to <https://www.surfrider.org.au/secure/donate.htm>



Help us Campaign to keep the oceans clean.

I want to help Surfrider Foundation Australia to protect the future of the coastlines and the oceans of Australia.

All gifts to the Surfrider Foundation Australia Fund are to be used for the following objectives:

- To promote the protection and enhancement of Australia's oceans, waves and beaches for the benefit of all people in
- The community through **C*A*R*E** Conservation, **A**ctivism, **R**esearch and **E**ducation.
- To educate the community as to the fragile nature and value of the Australian coastline.
- To promote the enhancement of coastal recreational opportunities in a manner that promotes the environmental health of this unique ecosystem for the benefit of the community.
- To lobby government instrumentalities in any decision making process that affects the Australian coastline.
- To assist Surfrider Foundation to act as a media spokes body on any issue pertinent to the Australian coastline.
- To mobilise supporters to rally behind Surfrider Foundation endorsed campaigns.
- To gather information and access scientific research to provide an authoritative voice on issues relevant to the Australian coastline.
- To finance any project or activity that lies within the Foundation's goals.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

Here is my tax deductible donation: \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send me information about becoming a member of *Surfrider Foundation Australia*

Enclosed is my cheque/money order or please debit the amount indicated to my: **Bankcard/MasterCard/Visa**

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: _____

Cheques and money orders should be made payable to 'Surfrider Foundation Australia Fund'.

Fill-in the above form and post to:

Surfrider Foundation Australia, PO Box 271, Coolangatta QLD 4225

Alternatively you can go online to our website

<https://www.surfrider.org.au/secure/donate.htm>

Phone 07 5536 1021 Fax 07 5536 6523

Email info@surfrider.org.au

THANK YOU KINDLY FOR YOUR SUPPORT

TO CATCH THE WAVE CHOOSE A MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY BELOW. YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS FOR 12 MONTHS AND INCLUDES A MEMBERSHIP CARD, STICKER, SURFRIDER NEWSLETTER TWICE A YEAR AND YOUR LOCAL BRANCH WILL ENSURE YOU ARE KEPT UP TO DATE WITH ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES HAPPENING IN YOUR LOCAL AREA. ALL DONATIONS OVER \$2 TO THE SURFRIDER FOUNDATION FUND ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. THE SURFRIDER FOUNDATION FUND IS A GIFT FUND LISTED ON THE REGISTER OF ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATIONS UNDER ITEM 6.11 OF SUBSECTION 30-55 (1) OF THE INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT ACT 1997. ALL DONATIONS TO THE FUND WILL BE DIRECTED TO SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS.



- \$15 Junior/Grom Membership
- \$25 Concession/Student Membership
- \$45 Individual Membership
- \$75 *Special Individual Membership
- \$70 Family Membership
- \$150 Non-Profit Membership
- \$200 Retail Membership
- \$1000 Life Membership
- \$ ___ Donation to the Surfrider Foundation Fund
- \$ ___ General Donation (non-Tax Deductible)

name:.....

street:.....

.....

suburb:.....

state:.....postcode:.....

phone:.....

email:.....

I would like to receive email from surfrider YES! (circle)

occupation:.....

date of birth:.....

I am willing to assist Surfrider Foundation with my expertise YES! (circle)

(circle)

VISA MASTERCARD MONEY ORD/CHQ \$.....

Name:.....

Signature:.....

Credit Card:.....

Expiry:.....

* Take advantage of the \$75 Special Individual Membership offer which includes a member t-shirt \$35 value for \$20 (+postage) – circle your size & colour below.

S M L XL XXL
Natural White Navy Black



Conservation * Activism * Research * Education

Surfrider Foundation LTD ABN 86 061 168 527 National Office PO Box 271 Coolangatta QLD 4225

Tels: (07) 5536 1021 Fax: (07) 5536 1021 www.surfrider.org.au info@surfrider.org.au

Name:											
Address:											Total
Phone: ()											
	Men's		S	M	L	XL	XXL		Quantity		
	Women's		10	12	14	16	N/A				
	Kid's	2	4	6	8	10	12		14		
Current Stock											
Kids Sandy Shirts											
Blue		N/A						N/A		\$	25.00
Kids T-Shirt Now 100% Organic Cotton											
White		N/A						N/A		\$	35.00
Natural		N/A						N/A		\$	35.00
Navy		N/A						N/A		\$	35.00
Black		N/A						N/A		\$	35.00
Kids Wet Shirts											
Long Sleeves											
Black		N/A						N/A		\$	50.00
Blue		N/A						N/A		\$	50.00
Short Sleeves											
Black		N/A						N/A		\$	40.00
Blue		N/A						N/A		\$	40.00
Adult T-Shirt Now 100% Organic Cotton											
White		N/A						N/A		\$	35.00
Natural		N/A						N/A		\$	35.00
Navy		N/A						N/A		\$	35.00
Black		N/A						N/A		\$	35.00
Adult Wet Shirts											
Long Sleeves											
Black		N/A						N/A		\$	50.00
Blue		N/A						N/A		\$	50.00
Short Sleeves											
Black		N/A						N/A		\$	40.00
Blue		N/A						N/A		\$	40.00
Woman's T-shirts-Fitted 100% Organic Cotton											
White Only		N/A						N/A	N/A	\$	35.00
Surfrider Jumper											
Navy Polar Fleece Jumper		N/A	N/A					N/A	N/A	\$	35.00
Black Polar Fleece Jumper		N/A	N/A					N/A	N/A	\$	35.00
Chocolate Brown Polar Fleece Jumper		N/A	N/A					N/A	N/A	\$	35.00
Bone Polar Fleece Jumper		N/A	N/A					N/A	N/A	\$	35.00
Beanies											
Navy 1 size fits all										\$	18.00
Black 1 size fits all										\$	18.00
Cap Natural 1 size fits all										\$	17.00
Stubby Holder Assorted Colours										\$	6.00
Surfboard Decals Pack of 3										\$	8.00
Respect the beach stickers										\$	2.00
Butt Out stickers										\$	2.00
HOTYB Portable Ashtray										\$	3.00
Calendar Seasonal Only											
										Sub Total	
Post & handling = \$PO										P&H:	\$ 7.00
EXP Date		Please circle credit card type									
Type	pls circle		BC	MC	VISA					Total inc GST:	
Name on Card:											
Signature:											
Credit Card Number											

Our Sponsors and Supporters

We'd like to acknowledge the assistance Surfrider Foundation Australia receives from a diversity of commercial organisations. Please support the companies that sponsor and support Surfrider Foundation Australia.

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Surfrider Foundation Australia is a not for profit organisation dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people, through CARE: Conservation, Activism, Research and Education.

(The views and comments detailed in the newsletter are not necessarily the opinion or policy of Surfrider Foundation Australia. If there are any issues of concern, please contact National Office or the author of the information). Ed



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Phone: 07 5536 1021 Fax: 07 5536 1021	Surfrider Foundation Australia Winter Newsletter 2007 ISSN 1832-2956	www.surfrider.org.au info@surfrider.org.au

Thanks for reading our newsletter.
Please feel free to forward this newsletter onto your friends, and please recycle appropriately when finished.

I'd like to apologise to all our faithful members and readers for the fact that our summer edition has now transitioned to being our winter edition. As an organisation reliant on volunteers, and as a volunteer myself, it is often difficult to facilitate deadlines and expectations, so I thank you for your patience and understanding. - Ed.

Feedback and Comments

As part of our drive to enhance and improve our organisation, we ask for your support in providing us with feedback and suggestions on how we are travelling. **ALL** feedback is good feedback, and your comments are invaluable. We need to hear how you feel. Please email your comments through to info@surfrider.org.au or send them to our address below.

Surfrider Foundation
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