



# Snapper point break is back

THE return of the Snapper Rocks point break has been greeted with smiles all around after six months of no banks.

The non-stop swell action from March through to July wiped out the Super Bank.

But thanks to the right amount of sand pumping from the main east outlet at Point Danger, there is ample sand behind the rocks at Froggies.

This has enabled Snapper to break with its traditional back-wash take-off and lining up into Little Marli – it's reminiscent of the old pre-sand pumping days.

"It's coming out of deep water and breaking on a shallow bank which makes it even better," said former ASP boss and well-known Snapper identity Wayne "Rabbit" Bartholomew.

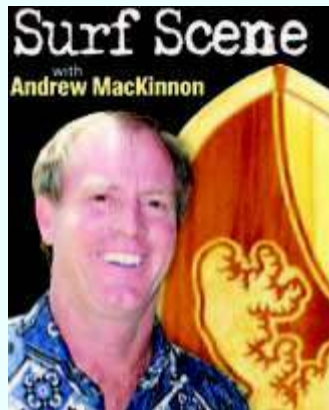
This is excellent news for local surfers – deprived of their home break – and especially good news for next year's Quiksilver/Roxy Pro in early March.

However, without sounding like a kill joy, Wave God Huey can "giveth and taketh away" at the drop of a cyclone storm swell.

This happened in 2004 after Shaun Gossmann won the trials in perfect condition at Snapper. That night a seven-metre easterly storm swell hit Point Danger and the bank got knocked for six.

Michael Lowe won the final from Andy Irons at Rainbow Bay, while Snapper was reduced to a deep hole. It took months for the bank to return.

It's only sand we are dealing with and, more importantly the



management of the sand flow, but some creative engineering could see Kirra Point come back.

The Super Bank, from Snapper to Coolangatta, might be a thing of the past, it really depends on how much sand gets pumped without overloading the system and swamping the outside reefs.

There's two things here that need to be done, one is to change the flow sand from the main outlet at Froggies.

Ideally you could have an L-shaped pipe which can point out to sea and alternately flow into Snapper, thus avoiding filling up Coolangatta bay.

The other more important consideration, which is now back on the agenda, is the Big Groyne.

In 1996 Gold Coast City Council removed 10-15 metres off the front of Big Groyne. In light of the current situation – no Super Bank and the outside bank where Joel Parkinson won this year's Quiksilver Pro – there is a real case of replacing those rock boulders

which would help recreate the Kirra Big Groyne Point break.

Interestingly TRESP (Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project) is doing a study on the three options:

- replace the rock boulders
- remove Big Groyne completely
- or leave it and match that against the sand flow.

Supposedly this study will be finished shortly and released by Christmas.

□ CURRUMBIN'S Luke Munro has qualified for next year's ASP World tour.

Prior to the last two six-star competitions in Hawaii – the Reef and O'Neil World Cup. Munro qualified for the Dream Tour in 2007 and it has taken him two years to get back on the world tour after losing his place. A semi-final result in the six-star at Steamer Lane, Santa Cruz, allowed Munnors to jump from 16th place to sixth on the WQS ratings.

□ TWO-TIME world women's champ and current ratings leader Steph Gilmore can wrap up her third world title by winning her next WCT event the Gidget Pro at Sunset Beach, Oahu from November 24-December 6.

If not, the Queen of Kingscliff will shoot it out in the final Hawaiian event, the Billabong Pro at Honolua Bay from December 8-20. Steph leads the women's world title race by 600 points from Brazil's Silvana Lima and Peru's Sofia Mulanovich.



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LOCAL surfing star Brittani Nicholl in action at Snapper Rocks, her favourite break, last week. Photo: DARREN SIMONDSON