



Banking on Snapper's surf survival



Campaigner Andy McKinnon pictured at Snapper Rocks where he says the beach is returning to its past glory after three months of restoration.

Picture: DAVID CLARK

By ED EARL

WHILE it's doubtful Snapper's sets will ever return to their past glory, surf campaigners are banking on a revitalised break to bring back its surf mecca reputation.

Last week's swell has brought back renewed hopes of Snapper's Superbank survival.

After more than three months of restoration work, the renowned surf spot is starting to show some consistent swell, according to Kirra Point Inc. spokesman Andrew McKinnon.

After the Quiksilver

Pro in March, the Superbank got knocked about, he said.

"It got big holes in it, so the wave from Snapper to Coolangatta started breaking up," he said.

"We started copping all these swells ... we had a major swell in May, then a major one in June-July.

"After those two huge swells, which created massive erosion, it completely knocked the sand out, so the bank didn't exist at all and Snapper was reduced to a deep lagoon."

Mr McKinnon said from July to October, Snapper largely remained a 'deep hole'

where surfers had little hope of catching a wave.

However, thanks to the Tweed Sand Bypass Project, sand pumped to Froggy's Beach has finally found its way to Snapper.

"It was only a matter of time before that sand came around the corner and produced the traditional bank," he said.

"At the moment, it's breaking like old-school Snapper. It's breaking like the old days before the sand pumping.

"Right at the moment it could handle a good 6ft (1.8m) swell. Once it gets to eight (2.4m) to 10ft (3m), it will be for experienced surfers only.

"You get this backwash off the rocks, the traditional backwash, which gives it a really exciting take-off and then you get this beautiful open-faced wave, with a nice tube on it.

"It's just getting better and better."

While the Superbank created worldwide recognition, said Mr McKinnon, it also brought a spike in surf rage with increased numbers of surfers.

Although optimistic about Snapper's rejuvenation, Mr McKinnon said it would never return to its past glory.