



## World title rivals ride high at home break

MICK Fanning and Joel Parkinson secretly enjoyed some quality Gold Coast waves before their big showdown in Hawaii thanks to the return of their favourite surfing break.

Former world champion surfer Wayne "Rabbit" Bartholomew revealed the two champions, along with local surfers, were celebrating the return of the surf off Snapper Rocks which had disappeared in the past six months.

Storms in May and a heavy swell through to July had wiped

out the Super Bank from Snapper to Coolangatta.

But sand pumping from the Tweed sand bypass project on outer banks saw Parkinson and Fanning enjoy a take-off on some great waves before they left for this month's Billabong Pipeline Masters which will determine the world title.

"The waves are coming out of deep water and breaking on a shallow bank which makes it even better," Bartholomew said.

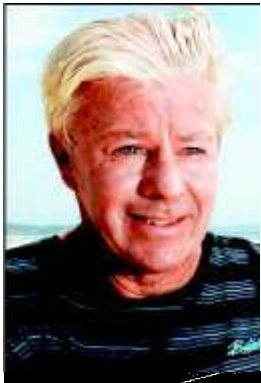
"This is excellent news for local surfers deprived of their

home bank."

Kirra Point Incorporate spokesman Andy McKinnon said Kirra was also welcoming the return of its natural wave after about 70,000 cubic metres of sand had been removed.

He said the second stage of works by the State Government would begin tomorrow and involve reshaping the beach and building dunes.

"This work is ready to go and could be complete before Australia Day, 12 months after our paddle out," Mr McKinnon said.



Wayne Bartholomew.