



# Sand on move as hope rises for an April break

by Matthew Killoran

IF conditions are just right, surfers could be catching waves at Kirra close to the quality of the glory days as early as next April.

As works started on stage two of the Kirra restoration yesterday morning, surfing experts predicted the famous point break could start to return if there was a big storm season between February and March.

Coolangatta brothers Joao Quintao-Marcolla, 13, and Hugo de Meira Quintao, 12, are too young to remember the golden days of Kirra, but have heard of the legend and are keen to experience it first-hand.

“We’ve been around here in Coolangatta for a while, we’ve heard about it,” said Joao. “It would be better to get more people and better waves down here.”

For the next 10 days excavators and dump trucks will move 75,000 cubic metres of sand from the tidal zone inland.

Half the beach has been closed while the works are undertaken.

Swellnet.com.au chief swell forecaster Ben Matson said if the works were successful and conditions were just right, the return of Kirra could begin as early as April.

“From the end of March we’ll really start to see if the project’s been a success,” he said.

Kirra Point Inc spokesman and

recently appointed Surfrider Foundation Australia director Andrew McKinnon said while there would be some difference in the surf noticeable in the new year, it would take years for Kirra to return to its former glory, if at all.

“I reckon there’s a really good chance that it will,” he said.

Yesterday there were two excavators, six dump trucks, a Bobcat and a grader moving sand in a closed off section of beach.

New dunes will eventually extend from west of the Miles Street groyne to 50m east of the Coolangatta Creek outlet and will sit about 1.5m above the existing back beach levels.



Joao Quintao-Marcolla, 13, faces a ball bowled by his brother Hugo on Kirra beach as sand removal works go on behind him.  
 ● Picture: David Clark