



Mapping out Kirra keg protest

HUNDREDS of surfers will form a human map of Australia in the water off Kirra on Australia Day.

The stunt has been designed to draw attention to the loss of the once world-famous Kirra Point break, which has been wiped out by sand pumping.

The paddle-out has been organised by the Kirra Surfriders Club, Kirra Surf Life Saving Club and the Surfrider Foundation.

Stuart Bell, president of Kirra Surfriders, said surfers badly missed the Kirra swells.

"We would like to see something done to restore the famous Kirra kegs and 20-second tube rides," Mr Bell said.

"We're homesick for Kirra and

have to use Duranbah Beach for our club competitions."

Kirra SLSC manager Sheldon Steele said the now heavily sandy beach was turning people off the area and membership was down at the club.

"We've had it tough compared to other surf clubs, and numbers are down because most people avoid Kirra for a more family-friendly and close-knit beach like Burleigh," Mr Steel said.

"We support the rally and hope to see our historical beach returned to its former glory."

The sand pumping, officially the NSW's Government's Tweed Sand Bypass, has seen 10 million cubic metres of sand pumped off

Point Danger and lodged at Coolangatta Beach and now Kirra.

The Australia Day Paddle Out has received overwhelming support from the professional surfers such as 2007 ASP world champ and Kirra Surfrider club life member Mick Fanning who will speak on the day, as well as surfing legends Michael Peterson and Wayne Deane.

Other top pros expected to take part in the paddle include Stephanie Gilmore, Bede Durbidge, Joel Parkinson, Josh Kerr and Mark "Occy" Occhilupo.

The Kirra Paddle Out will begin at 10am (Qld time), with the map of Australia being created in the water from 11am.



□ **WORLD surf champ Mick Fanning will join with others to form a living map of Australia.**