



Kalgoorlie Miner
Thursday 22/1/2009
Page: 6
Section: General News
Region: Kalgoorlie WA Circulation: 5,643
Type: Regional
Size: 51.95 sq.cms.
Published: MTWTFS-

Brief: MHUNT_NAT

Surfers join call to arms over break

GOLD COAST: Surfing champions Mick Fanning, Stephanie Gilmore and Joel Parkinson are set to head a protest hoping to breathe new life into one of Australia's most threatened surfing breaks.

The Gold Coast surfers, plus former world No1 Mark Occhilupo, are part of a star line-up that will launch a symbolic paddle-out at the world famous Kirra Point break.

They'll join hundreds of other activists expected on Australia Day, forming a 100m-wide map of Australia on their surfboards, to protest against the destruction of the surf spot many top riders used to consider among the world's best.

A 2001 sand pumping operation put in place by the NSW and Queensland governments has dumped millions of cubic metres of immovable sand at Kirra.

But the plan, originally designed to guard against erosion, has backfired.

Kirra's epic waves have since dwindled and a nearby marine reef has been destroyed.