



# Coast Confidential



with Steve Spinks

## Stoner speaks out on sand pumping and netting

## Kirra a shadow of former glory

**N**EW South Wales National Party Leader Andrew Stoner was itching to get in the surf when he visited the Tweed early last week.

Unfortunately, a howling northerly was blowing and the keen surfer was left stranded by a lack of swell.

However, it didn't stop the Member for Oxley having his say on some local issues, including the loss of Kirra Point to sand pumping and shark netting.

"The NSW Labor Government just doesn't care about the surfing fraternity – they just pump sand north without considering the timing, the quantity, or the impacts on surf breaks," he said.

"As a keen surfer on the Gold Coast during the '70s and '80s, big groyne Kirra at six to eight foot was the Holy Grail of waves – now it's just a shadow of its former self."

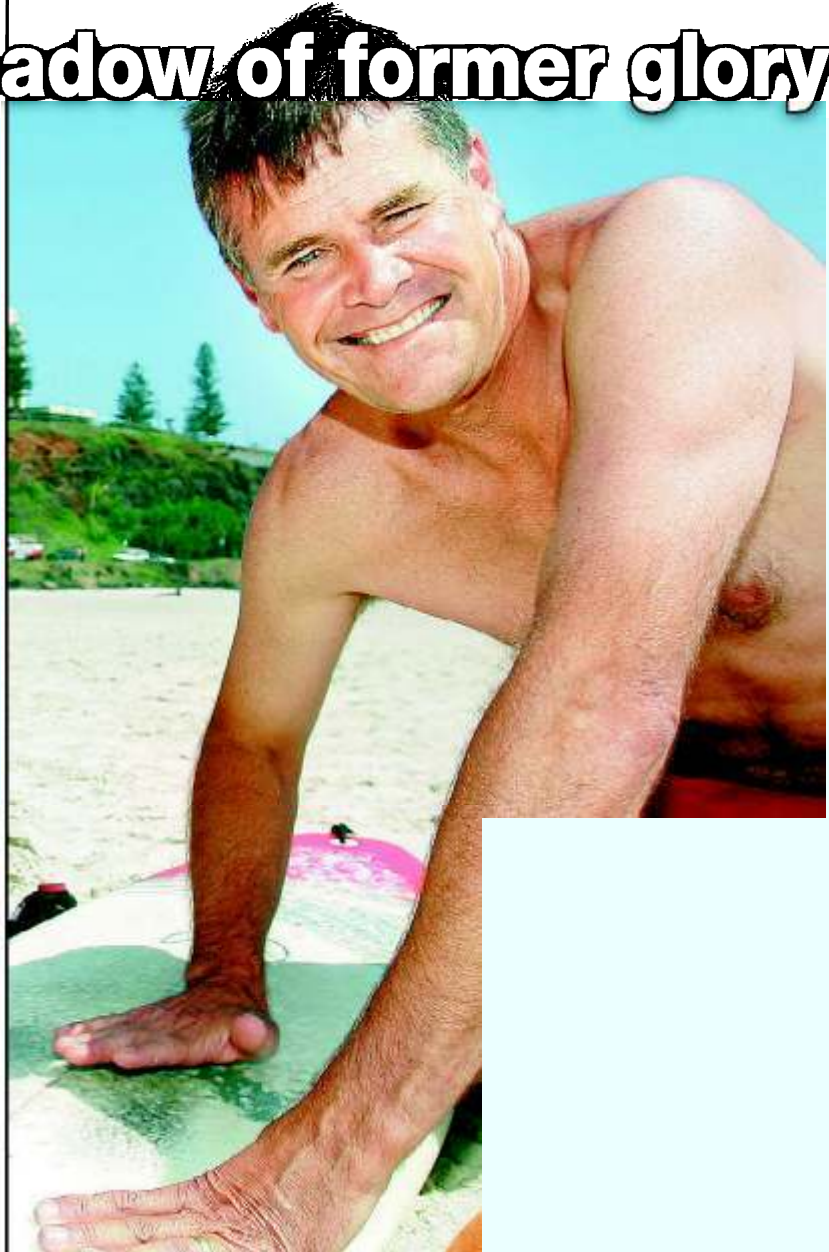
And he certainly would support today's huge Australia Day paddle out at Kirra to promote a campaign to restore the point-break to its former glory.

The Kirra Surfriders Club, Kirra Surf Lifesavers Club and the Surfrider Foundation have joined forces to organise the event.

Hundreds of paddlers will attempt to create a map of Australia off Kirra beach as they draw attention to the loss of the break, wiped out by the Tweed Sand Bypass System operation in 2002.

The paddle out begins at 10am.

Mr Stoner also said it was time the NSW Government investigated a seasonal meshing program for the more popular North Coast beaches.



Andrew Stoner . . . waxing down his board for another surf