



### **Kirra protest**

Australia's top surfers, past and present, hit the waves at Queensland's iconic Kirra Point beach yesterday to protest its transformation from popular surf spot to lifeless desert. Protesters hope the symbolic paddle-out involving more than 1500 people will convince the

government to return Kirra to its former glory as one of the world's best breaks. Surfing champions Stephanie Gilmore and Mick Fanning joined legend Wayne "Rabbit" Bartholomew, who was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia and hundreds of others to form a 100m-wide human map of Australia to raise the profile of their cause. Hundreds more watched the spectacle from the shore, providing flashes of Kirra in its heyday.

- AAP



**SANDS OF CHANGE: Kirra in 1963, top, and in 2009.**