



Darren's Dad at rest at Kirra Point

by Steve Spinks

KIRRA Point is so special to Darren Nolan that he released his father's ashes there.

The surfer combined what is usually a sombre, intensely private ceremony with the very public paddle-out held on Australia Day to protest against the loss of the famous wave.

Mr Nolan, whose father Ian died in 2002, thought it was the ideal time to set his Dad free at a place they both loved.

"I learnt everything off my Dad . . . I took him down to Green Island . . . and the rest of him I will let go here," he said.

"I grew up here and surfed this break with my Dad and in the old days sometimes you could catch a wave to Bilinga. It's great to see all the people turn up here to support the campaign."

More than 1500 surfers united on the day to paddle out off Kirra and form up in the shape of Aus-



Darren Nolan with his dad's ashes

● **Picture: Scott Fletcher**

tralia to let the NSW and Queensland Governments know the surfing community wanted change.

Kirra Point has not broken as it should since 2002 – the year Ian Nolan died and one year after the start of the Tweed River sand bypass pumping operation, which transfers sand from

Fingal beach to Point Danger.

Millions of cubic metres of sand have clogged Kirra Point and buried Kirra reef, with the area now resembling a desert.

Mr Nolan paddled out on his father's board for the occasion on Monday and was visibly moved by the event.