



# SurfStock to spread the word

## It's all about love, peace and ... bringing back Kirra

DEIRDRE SMITH

IF you have ever ridden a surfboard somewhere between Currumbin and Kirra, there is a chance surfing commentator Andrew McKinnon knows you.

That applies equally to junior champs, weathered seniors, surfboard collectors and even people who have written songs or books about surfing.

At a gathering on Tuesday to release the program for the Kirra SurfStock festival, to be held over the first weekend in November, Mr McKinnon, who writes the surfing column for the Gold Coast Mail, had assembled an eclectic bunch of amazing surfers and surfing followers.

Jamie Mitchell, who recently won the Molokai to Oahu 50km paddle race for the eighth time in a row, was there, as were state junior surfing cham-

pions, twins Brodie and Amiya Doyle.

Songwriter and performer Isaac Paddon of Tweed Heads arrived late, delayed by an early surf session at South Straddy. His new CD is called *Where We Once Stood*.

Author Sandra Rogers was clad in rather more than the bikini she wears in her new novel, *Waves of Torment*, based on her teenage surfing days at Dee Why in the 1960s.

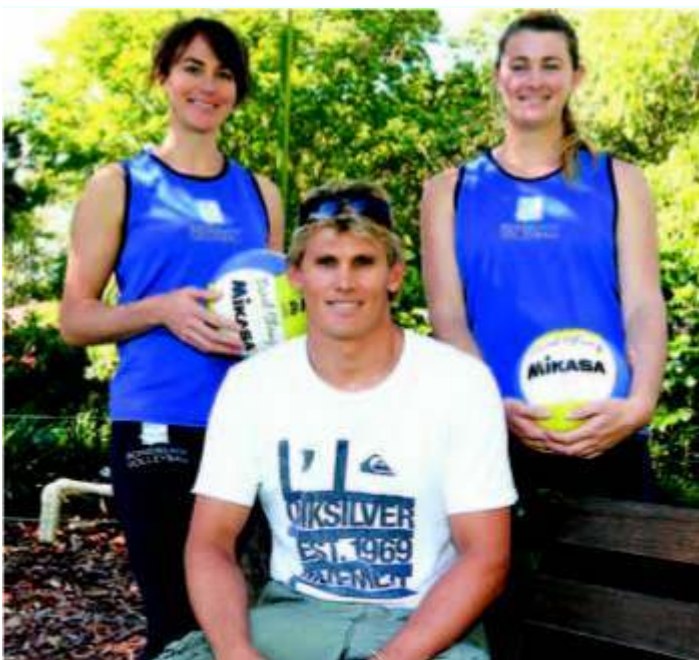
Kirra SurfStock has been designed as a festival of all things surfing, but it also has a serious purpose.

It grew out of the Bring Back Kirra campaign, which has been fighting to remove a sand build-up from the Tweed River bypass pumping system, blamed for destroying Kirra's famous waves.

SurfStock will raise money for the Surfrider Foundation, Kirra SLSC and the Kirra Surfriders club as well as Kirra Point Inc, the group now running the campaign to save Kirra.

Mr McKinnon pointed out that the SurfStock launch coincided with the 40th anniversary of the Woodstock festival, "but it isn't expected to be as big. It will spread the same message of love and peace and continue to create awareness of our beach, surf and reef amenity".

The main event includes a 7km beach walk from Currumbin to Kirra dedicated to "surfing saint" Denis Callinan and the grand opening of the Gold Coast Surf World museum at Currumbin.



**Kirra SurfStock supporters Jamie Mitchell with beach volleyball champs Candice McCarthy and Nicole Solomon.**

SCOTT POWICK