



January 2006 Issue

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And now for the news...

Mambo 2005 was plenty of fun as always, with the NSWWA top guns taking it to the likes of **Scott McKercher** and putting in a good showing on the podium. See this issue's '**NSW Sailing Stars**' interview with **Jon Redmond** for what really went on. Some footage of the event made it onto **Channel 10** on Christmas Eve where it was presented as though it happened the day before. The clip featured **Rohan Cudmore, Dan Berry** and the prez **Jason Juretic** waxing lyrical about the fun to be had.



Pics from wind mecca, WA.

Young gun **Luke Johnson** and **Thomas 'the Hoff' Hofmann** made their way to **West Oz** late in 2005 to tear it up for a **photo shoot**. According to **the Hoff**, Luke went for a massive shovet that was looking impressive until he started thinking about chicks while 5 m off the water. This resulted in him coming down in an unceremonious heap and corking his thigh rather badly - so much so that he missed the Wanda comp a week later. No official wavesailing results were posted at the **Wanda event**, but plenty of fun was had trying new moves, watching some good stacks and having the lovely girls from TripleM and Red Bull seduce us with their products. December kicked off with a styley new website, **www.ozwindsurf.com** courtesy of Queensland's **Tony Marsh** and friends. It looks very sharp and gives us all the low-down on new moves, places, recipes and wheels. Well worth checking out. **2006** is looking busy. Early February sees the **final comp** of the NSW state series - with top spots still up for grabs. NSWWA looks set to host a **teams event** over the **4th & 5th of March at Gerroa**, where we can sort out just which NSW spot has the best sailors! The **Australian Wavesailing Champs** are coming up in the last week of February at the NSW windfactory of **Gerroa**, so get your accommodation booked early. To wrap up the season **WindsurfingNSW** are laying on '**A celebration of Windsurfing day**' on the **18th & 19th of March 2006**, staging mini comps including formula, windsurfer races and a freestyle comp (**BIG prize money rumoured**) followed by a HUGE party and prizegiving to cap it off. This sounds like it's a '**must do**' event.

NSW Sailing Stars - Jon Redmond on Mambo, Merimbula and McKercher...

This month we get into the nitty-gritty of what really happened at Mambo 2005 with ladies-man and all round Sydney playboy, Jon Redmond.

So Jon, it's been a big season for you mate, how is the increased time in the spotlight feeling for you?

Yeah, yeah, well it's been OK, it's been alright. I've had to push myself you know, as a... as a beacon I see it, as a shining light to the younger guys coming through. I mean, I have to be there



y'know, to like shine ... or glow, even. I know I've been a bit reserved in the past couple of years, but now I'm excited and I'm really getting up and trying to show the way forward, leading by example and I'm gonna give 110% both on and off the water, so the kids out there have someone to look up to.

So the 2005 Mambo – maaaaate, we were all surprised to not see you walk away with one of the top prizes - what's your take?

Well, mate, what can ya say - I mean I think AJ said it best really... (*words too colourful to print here*). But, ya know, I've had my share of time on top there as it were, so I'm cool with it. There are other years, and it's good for some of the other guys like Scott McKercher to feel like they're improving.

What about Scott McKercher (2005 Mambo winner) - you were unlucky not to take him down really. Talk us through it mate.

Yeah maaate, more than a few people have said that, more than a few. But he's a good bloke you know, a good bloke and I think he knows where it's really at - where we're really at. Just quietly: he came up to me after the prezzo and said, 'You know, Jon mate, you know it and I know it, and I know that you know that I know - it should have been you up there, so you know, thanks for getting me through it all and not makin' me look

silly on the water.' So you know, we've got an understanding.

You guys became pretty good pals over a few beers...

Well, he's a lost soul, you know? I thought I'd take him under my wing as it were - Mambo's a tough event and Merimbula's a tough town. Being the poster boy he is, and what with me havin' been through that whole period of intense adulation before him, you know, I didn't want him to get hurt. It's like I said earlier - the beacon of light. It's important to help these guys through and give them a leg up when it's all new and I'm happy to take on that mentor role. When, like, Scotty said to me that he felt like he was walking through a dark room, you know, like at night or with no lights on, so he can't see where he's going, well mate, I know that dark room like the back of me hand, I don't know where I'm goin' either, but I was happy to be there glowing for him, shining and glowing mate and leading the way.

Jon Redmond (left) shows style and grace, while Scott McKercher (below) uses camera tricks to look good.

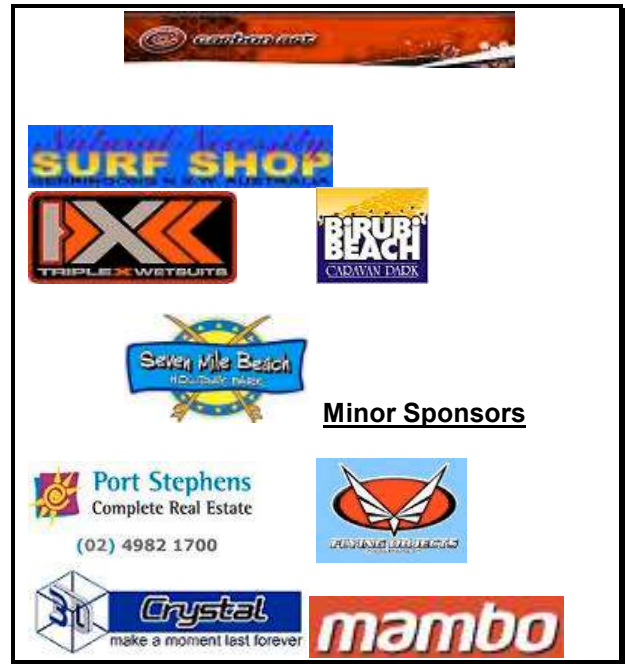


Well you certainly did that. We also hear you got up close with the Merimbula media - a revealing encounter? Certainly was, certainly was. I don't usually have much time for reporters, but down Merimbula way, well they're alright. And what, with the pressure of the next day's sailing looming and looking after Scotty at 4 am - it's tough being a celebrity and a role model. But like Kylie and Robbie, I'm 'doin' it for the kids'.

There was a lot of pressure on you mate. What was going through your mind when you came up against McKercher in the arena? Talk us through it mate, talk us through it.

Yeah, it was a big ask against a pro sailor and ex-world champ. I felt for him, I really did. There was the crowd, the atmosphere, and like you said, my reputation preceding me. But it was a fair competition at the end of the day and when all's said and done, everyone knows I drank twenty-eight beers while out the night before and he only had three.

(Note: any resemblance to reality is purely coincidental. No professional sailors were harmed during this interview.)



Dirty Dog Eyewear Classic, 4-5 February 2006

This is the final event in the series and we're all hoping that Gerroa will turn on the great conditions we know it can. Registration is in the Seven Mile Beach carpark from 10-11 am if the north-easter is looking likely, or at the Windang surfclub carpark in the event of a southerly. As per usual we will be holding the prize giving/bbq in the Seven Mile Beach Caravan Park, with a 'disco' theme to be carried onto the Gerroa Fisho's club at the top of the hill. We are hoping to have karaoke there for your vocal (but probably not listening) pleasure.

The NSWWA AGM will also be held during a windless time over the course of the weekend. With any luck this will mean we have to hold it at the Fisho's on the Saturday night. Details on accommodation can be found on the NSW website at http://www.nswwavesailing.org/news_story.asp?newsID=87

We need NSWWA newsletter and web content! If you have a good story to tell or some news that you think everyone should hear, then email your scribbling and/or pics to craigboy@surf.co.nz. Or you can just call 0422 069 617 and vent your spleen.

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Postcard from Ireland – Tim Wyers’ Xmas Celebrations

As we sweltered in the forty-plus degree heat Timmy was living it up in the wilds of Ireland. Tim decided against sailing the 50-knot, mast high, freezing conditions, but it looks like there was enough beer to keep him otherwise occupied.

Tim struggling to make it to the Christmas Day church service...



Beers at 10 am...



...Tim and beers at 10 pm.





RS:X



Neil Pryde Australian National Wavesailing Championships

Sponsored by Neil Pryde, this year the national event is in NSW! February 19-25 2006 in Wazza's backyard - Gerroa. It promises to be huge, and because it's Gerroa we can almost promise it'll be windy. But we won't. Download the entry form from our website and get down there for it!

Mambo 2005

The usual NSW crew made their way to Merimbula in late November for the annual Mambo event. It was quite a bit cooler than in recent years thanks to healthy cloud cover, but the waves didn't disappoint over the first two days, with enough of a nor-east breeze and plenty of decent sets making for excellent wave riding. Reigning Australian champ Scott McKercher stood out with some great tweaked aerials, while NSW top guns Shane Finnegan, Dan Berry and Dean Hendrie were in hot pursuit, pulling out numerous standout moves and fighting their way into the top six. Ben Fawkes took out the juniors and Logan Haggerston won best up & comer with some great sailing. The local pub was going off as usual, and the local lads managed to pull off the usual comedy of errors, farce and fun at the presentation night.



West OZ Tour Nov 05
Pics by www.mindfactory.com



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Luke busts out a forward at Coronation Beach, WA.

WA Report: Kevin Berichon (words) & Thomas ‘the Hoff’ Hofmann (pics)

Locked in the back of a truck surrounded by sixty-grand or so of windsurfing kit and a keg on wheels... Pure bliss? You betcha.

Rewind a bit: The temperature in the jeep is climbing alarmingly as the needle creeps ever closer to the red line. It's a tricky situation... to keep the foot down for the next 150 or so clicks into Gero where the wind is howling and the Millennium Falcon (Jeep Cherokee) will get a well earned rest and chance to cool down, **or** back off now and coast into town at around 80 km an hour, keeping the needle away from the red and the prospect of a boiled motor at bay. As the km's tick by the anticipation inside the vehicle is climbing at a rate faster than the temp in the radiator. It's anyone's guess, which one is going to climb off the dial first!

Fast forward: It's taken about five minutes to pull into the villas where we will be staying in Gero and unload two kegs, eighteen cartons of beer, luggage and enough cooking gear to feed a small army of twenty-six. A well-oiled machine running with military-like precision? Not a chance. It's that simple phenomenon of how so much can get done in so little time, when there is the promise of sailing at the end. The sooner

the job's done, the sooner we'll be in the waves. Geraldton's Coronation Beach is calling with a solid 4-metre swell and 25 knots blowing. It is **game on**. In reality it's a matter of necessity or as Mad Dog puts it: 'We need to piss all that shit off so we can get to our kit'.

Luke checks the horizon... yep, still there.



Background: The guys behind the Wind Warrior label have been organising a yearly tour to Gero for the best part of twelve years. Accommodation, food, transport (including a 3.5 tonne truck with purpose built rack system), team shirts, and enough beer to half fill a small truck - it's all part of the package. This year the guys stepped up a gear and developed a portable keg system. Not that there was anything wrong with the old esky system... the guys just thought beer on tap was the natural evolutionary step.



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Fast forward: Luke Johnson is like a kid in a candy store. Beer on tap, his girlfriend by his side and epic WA conditions right in front of him... what a choice for a young man to be faced with. Luckily there're enough old sailors on tour to help in the decision making process with kindly words and sage advice: 'Luke ya kook, what are ya doing? Rig up and get on the water ya tool'. What follows is an explosive display of power moves and super tweaked trickery from the young New South Welshman. Launching into tabletop forwards, vulcans and push loops, 'Luke the Kook' digs into his seemingly bottomless bag of tricks. His end over, planning forwards are a sight to behold... and a fully tweaked shovet over our floating cameraman is one of the most impressive and insane bits of footage we've seen on tour. This fearless display had most members of the tour breaking off the shackles of self-doubt and launching into moves never before attempted. Stu Innes threw himself into countless forward attempts, his battered and bruised body testament to his endless determination to stick an elusive loop.

Lights, camera... action: A bullet proof helmet cam was unveiled this year. Any aerial antics take on a new dimension when captured by someone sailing right next to you. Some of the best footage is of guys next to, above, or sometimes below the guy wearing the helmet cam unit. Not to be out done, Willy Williams (cameraman and mobile keg inventor) paddles out into the break on a boogie board with his mini trusty DV camera rolling. He is immediately set upon by all the 'glory hounds', wanting their big moves captured on tape. It's like feeding time at the zoo as tour riders jump, bump, loop and explode over him. With fins flying within inches of his face Willy doesn't miss a beat. Most people would be diving for cover and producing a brown stain but Willy locks in on the shot from start to finish. Fearless...? Foolish...? Probably... but there is no doubting the end result, fantastic footage that is watched by all back home at the end of each day's sailing.

Seabreeze switch: It's a little known fact that the seabreeze in Gero swings round further south as the sun begins to dip towards the horizon. Those last few hours are often when the best sailing of the day can be found. As the sun sets the water shimmers with a golden light, the southerly breeze turning cross-shore. The temptation to hit the water before lunch and sail till your arms feel eight feet long is often too great to resist. By 5 pm they're a spent force, cradling an ice-cold beer at the back of the truck. For the long-term campaigner, holding something back for those last few hours is the icing on the cake of a fantastic sailing trip. On his first trip to Gero it only took NSW wavesailor Thomas Hofmann a few days to work out his game plan. His fluid forwards and all round ability had the WA contingent talking and downplaying any possible East vs. West showdown. It was not uncommon for three NSW wavesailors (Thomas Hofmann, Stu Innes and myself) and one West Australian Mad Dog to be out on the water past 7:30pm as the skies darkened. Not so the young hotshot from Buttaba. The temptation of something cold to drink and warm to hold was too great for young Luke Johnson. The temptation of the flesh was too alluring for the teenager. No one tried explaining the concept of sailing during the day - shag at night (coz you can't sail at night... unless you're the Mad Dog), but we think he'll work it out on his own... eventually.

Fast Forward: It's 7:58 pm and I'm locked in the back of a truck surrounded by sixty-grand or so of windsurfing kit and a keg on wheels... Pure bliss? You betcha. After one of the best ever sessions at Coro that included some tasty logo high waves and a steady 25-knot cross shore, I find myself sharing a lift back to base in the back of the truck with Stu Innes. Perched on one of the equipment tubs I ask Stu what he thinks. He refills my tour mug from the keg (no mean feat in the back of a moving truck being driven at speed along Coro's infamous corrugations), puts his feet up and with an ear splitting smile says 'Mate, ya reckon it can get any better than this?'. In terms of windsurfing trips with a great bunch of mates... I seriously doubt it!



Prez Wrap – Jason Juretic

Can you believe how quickly this season has gone? Despite ending up on the flat stuff at the 'Windsurf and Snow' event at Kurnell, it was excellent to see a great turn out again and some closet freestylers amongst our members. Again, a **huge** thanks goes to Windsurf and Snow plus Starboard for throwing hard cash at the Saturday SLSC booking, in my opinion, it made the event. Speaking of thanks, the 'Dirty Dog' comp at Gerroa marks our AGM and last comp of the series and as I am standing down from my role within NSWWA, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have made this season great.

- **Liz Lueck** for ensuring our sponsors got so much value for their investment and single handedly pulling in such a huge haul of prizes plus she organised many other things (like the media, raffles and trophies).
- **Dan Berry** for organising the T- shirts and his many hours driving to pick up T-shirts, tents and prizes over and above his Head Judge role!
- **Craig Williams** for putting together some great newsletters, managing the website for the second half of the season (a lot of time goes into that stuff) and applying for council permission for each event.
- Personal thanks goes to the Vice-Prez, **Tim Knowles** for his effective beach management and professional/rational support and input throughout the season.
- **Tony Marsh** has done a sterling job as Treasurer, keeping everything up to date with nice clear reports and we're all happy with his new 'more efficient' registration process.
- **Josh Adams** was quiet yet effective as head judge early on in the season, we hope he finds the time to return to our events – is this guy a pleasure to watch waveride or what?
- **Thomas Hofmann** and **Rob Jacobs** provided some awesome photos of the action, thanks.
- Thanks also go to **Johnnie Paget** for carting the T-shirts to each event (despite a dodgy van this season) and **Deano** for bringing the pickets to each event.
- That DVD "teaser" by **Brenden Petersen** was excellent, we look forward to the one for this season.
- Again, **Dan, Waz, Josh** and **Luke** are thanked for taking time to deliver the 'Wavesailing Coaching' - a number of sailors have said they have found these sessions to be invaluable.
- **Liz** (again), **Pat Johnson** and **George Westra** for also helping with the media side of things.
- **Waz** again for stepping in to assist with the Head Judge roll – much appreciated.
- Plus special thanks must go to **Waz** and **Carl Doran** who have been diligently fighting with council to retain our 'Windang sailing spot' from the dreaded 'wall'.
- Thanks also to those others I have neglected to mention here – all the help has been awesome.

And then there are all the other members who have made this season run so smoothly by volunteering to do the BBQs, put up banners, set up the tent, score and all the other little things that add up to a lot! And **finally**, thanks for the 'wind widows' and families who give us the time on the water and patiently (well mostly patiently) let us scoot out of the door to head to the beach when we spot a zephyr of wind blowing in the trees or on the web!

Sincere thanks for the opportunity to be the president of a great association; may we go on to flourish for many years to come.

Cheers,
Jase