

26th Anniversary 2009 Cutloose Coopers Yorke's Classic

Lock regains title 20 years after his First Title! South Australia's surfing elite tested at Westcape

Last weekend (3rd – 5th October, 2009) the 26th Anniversary Cooper's Cutloose Yorke's Classic was held in testing waves at Westcape in Innes National Park on Southern Yorke Peninsula.

Officials and competitors were impressed at what greeted them for day one of the contest as clean 1.5 – 2 metre waves pounded the beach at Westcape with beautiful spring weather despite a weather forecast to the contrary.

The pinnacle of surfing in South Australia is the Yorke's Classic Trophy – the 'Keith Sugars' memorial cup and the surfing in the Rhino's Tavern Open Men's reflected the competitors desire to add this to their collection. In an enthralling weekend of experienced beach break surfing it was Josh Lock (Gold Coast, QLD) who took home the trophy. The win was described by Lock who was born and bred in South Australia as "...a real surprise, to overcome all the new talent and some experienced guys is a real buzz.." Lock had already made his name in event history being one of a handful of surfers to win the cup on multiple occasions taking the cup on six previous occasions, the first being in 1989 as a 17 year old. Now 20 years later and Lock, now in his late thirty's, looked as strong as ever schooling the rest of the field. "To win this cup again after 11 years is amazing, put your mind to it and you can achieve anything".

The surfing was amazing as wave after wave the competitors put their bodies and equipment on the line and displayed what the Yorke's Classic is all about; the best surfers tackling the biggest best waves available. Making up the final placings were youngsters and first time finalists Brett Edwards (Stonyfell), Alex Rix (Middleton) and Tom Cocks (Hyde Park).

The Local Traders Seniors supported by Marion Bay Store, Yorke's Surf and Marion Bay Tavern was taken out by long time competitor and former Keith Sugars cup holder Brian Taylor (Marion Bay) ahead of other former winners of the cup, Gary Haworth (Moana), and Luke Horlin Smith (Middleton). Fourth was state team development coach and Surf Culture glamour boy Mark Longhurst (Port Elliott).

The FLY BOARD RIDING Women's was an impressive final with all girls stepping up to tackle the challenging waves and Brinkley Davies (Hope Forest) ended up in front backing up her 2008 victory and a third in 2007. Davies is having a real

purple patch with victory in the Women's Classic earlier this year and also being selected in the South Australian Junior State team. Joining Brinkley in the final were Alice Gilbert (Goolwa) narrowly ahead of Min Cook (Mount Barker), and Grace McDonald (Goolwa).

The FLY BOARD RIDING Juniors put our states best 16 and under juniors to the test and in the end the title went to Max Longhurst (Port Elliott) who was one of the over all standouts also finishing 5th in the Open division. Mack Baddock (Port Willunga) was second ahead of Luke Mastroyannis (Aldinga Beach) and Reuben Adams (Port Noarlunga South). These youngsters again have proven the future of surfing in South Australia is in good hands.

In maintaining an Australian first for surfing competition the event organisers, Surf Culture Australia again purchased carbon credits to offset the greenhouse gases involved with coordinating and running the event. Event coordinator Mark Orr said 'As South Australia's premier surf event we saw fit to set an example for surf comps in the state and hopefully set a precedent for future events. We were audited by Balance Carbon on all power use, travel, waste production and also event staff vehicles travelling to and from the event. It was calculated that we produced around 5 tonnes of greenhouse gases and carbon credits were purchased accordingly. As surfers we should be at the forefront of environmental awareness and we were stoked that the extra \$5 charge to competitors helped cover this process.' Balance Carbon Managing Director, Matt Shorten, who took the cup home in 2003 was one of the surfers in the hunt for the trophy being eliminated in the Quarter Finals and finishing in equal 9th place.

In a special addition to the event this year there were 16 surfers who attacked the Coopers 'Punt for Pale'. After a 20 minute free for all on finals day it was David Steele (Seaford) who took out the best manouvre with a clean little air 360 in the tricky waves and Max Longhurst who took out best overall wave with one of the best forehand combinations of the weekend. Both received some of the sponsor's liquid gold for their efforts.

Nearly 500 spectators braved the challenging walk on the beach, and throughout the weekend witnessed some of the greatest surfing seen in our state in extremely challenging Yorke's Classic conditions. Over the weekend we saw a number of heavy wipeouts, a massive school of Salmon sharing the waves with competitors along with a mysterious predator and the whole feel of the event was incredible.

With the surfing completed, presentations of trophies, cash and product in excess of \$7,500 was presented to the finalists. Into the night there were many classic moments to wind down another classic Yorke's Classic.