

Worlds best surfer loves Geography



Joel Parkinson surfing in the Mentawai Islands, West Sumatra, Indonesia. Photo: Billabong SurfAid

When the 2012 World surfing champion Joel Parkinson visited Barrenjoey High School recently he attended a Geography class that was studying the work of SurfAid. Joel was at the school to announce his role as the lead ambassador for the SurfAid Schools Program. The class was working on a series of group activities and Joel settled in with the students who were doing an atlas-based activity. 'Parko' was the first at his table to find Bali on the map. "I used to love geography, it was my favourite subject," he said.

Professional surfers travel the world every year. They also go on special trips to different surfing locations so they experience many different cultures and living conditions. Joel has visited the Mentawai Islands, West Sumatra, Indonesia many times and he is acutely aware of the challenges facing the people there. His support for SurfAid and the Schools Program is his way of using his global profile to assist the communities there. Parkinson said he was stoked when SurfAid asked him to be an ambassador. "It's a huge honour, especially for something that does so much good.

It was a no-brainer for me to jump on board. I want to raise awareness around the world as much as I can and show the world what SurfAid do."

About the SurfAid Schools Program

www.surfaidschools.org

'To develop global citizens using the humanitarian challenges and achievements of SurfAid as an educational example for action.'

The SurfAid Schools Program is a global education program based around surfing and the surfing lifestyle.

The program was developed by teachers who made the connection between the humanitarian activities of SurfAid, the engaging appeal of the surfing lifestyle and the growing need for young students to develop a relevant global perspective for the future. This means building an informed approach to inter-cultural understanding, global social responsibility and global sustainability.

Thanks to support from Billabong, free teaching programs and other resources are available on our website. These resources allow teachers to show that "There's more to surfing" than just riding waves.

About SurfAid

www.SurfAid.org

SurfAid is a non-profit humanitarian organization whose aim is to improve the health, wellbeing and self-reliance of people living in isolated regions connected to us through surfing.

SurfAid views its mission to improve health and wellbeing as an invaluable investment in the future of the Mentawai and Nias people. Key stakeholders are our communities and individuals, regional government and partner non-governmental organisations. Our programs represent an integrated approach to improving health and wellbeing and we seek lasting improvement through cost-effective, high-impact interventions.

Quick trip – Mapping the tour

Association of Surfing Professionals Mens and Womens World tour. 2013

Mens World Tour

Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, Quiksilver Pro
Bells Beach, Victoria, Australia Rip Curl Pro
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Billabong Rio Pro
Tavarua/Namotu, Fiji Volcom Fiji Pro
Keramas, Bali, Indonesia Oakley Pro Bali
Teahupoo, Tairapu, French Polynesia Billabong Pro
Trestles, California, United States of America Hurley Pro

South West Coast, France, Quiksilver Pro France

Peniche/Cascais, Portugal Rip Curl Pro
Banzai Pipeline, Oahu, Hawaii Billabong Pipe Masters
Margaret River, Australia, Drug Aware Margaret River Pro

Womens World Tour

Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, Roxy Pro
Bells Beach, Victoria, Australia, Rip Curl Women's Pro presented by Ford
Fitzroy Beach, Taranaki, New Zealand, TSB Bank NZ Surf Festival featuring the Dow AgroSciences Pro
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Colgate Plax Girls Rio Pro
Biarritz, France, Roxy Pro
Huntington Beach, California, United States of America, Vans US Open of Surfing

Source: <http://www.aspworldtour.com/schedule/asp-womens-world-championship-tour-schedule/>



Below: Barrenjoey teacher Mikala Yakich and 2012 ASP World Surfing champion Joel Parkinson. Photo: Willcox SurfAid

An event for your diary –

GTA NSW Regional Conference

Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley

Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 September 2013



Details of this event will be posted on the GTA NSW website as they become available go to – www.gtansw.org.au

