



BOARD MEMBERS: Surfers hang loose for the Board Meeting Charity Surf Event at Kawana Beach.

PHOTO: BRETT WORTMAN/BW161237T

Visser donates signed board

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HE will ride tomorrow at some stage – either in a heat or in the expression session, as will Julian whose Coolum family every year jump right into this event.

Mark has donated his board – snapped by a Teahupoo monster mash of a wave and signed by him – for the event's charity auction to be held at the Kawana Hotel after a full-on day of fun riding. The funds raised will help other young kids in desperate need.

Caloundra's Sean and Caitlin Jeffries battle mentally and physically with Mowatt Wilson Syndrome ever day of their lives, but it will be remarkable the difference a pair of McLaren push strollers will make to their

EVENTS

Tomorrow
6.30am – start.
Noon – expression session
2pm – event wraps up
5.30pm – trophy presentation
6pm – charity auction.

quality of life.

Another beneficiary will be burns victim, Tom Moore. The ten-year-old is in desperate need of a special saddle chair for school so he can sit in comfort and concentrate on his work.

This incredible day, where local business people swap their work wear for rash shirts and their surfing pals, was started in 2003 by Mike Belnap to help raise funds for disabled swimmers, like his son Ty, to compete

at major events.

Since then it has raised more \$30,000 and helped the likes of Jose Morales, whose active life was cut down by a hear attack that left him brain damaged.

Guy's right hand man Josh Griffiths said these kids are about the only thing that the surfers take seriously on the day as those whose best surfing days are behind them, use skulduggery to get the better of the younger legs.

For a few hours "graft and corruption" is allowed as long as the bribes to officials for special favours out on the water are donated to the cause.

There will also be a special welcome tonight starting at 6.30pm and the raffle of a NaPa-pa Mini-mal.

Caravan and boat combo now a reality

By JANE GARDNER

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THIS is every grey nomad's dream.

A caravan and boat in one. The Burleigh-made South-beach Vacationer has a mechanised top that raises in 23 seconds, to convert it in to a secure caravan.

When it's not parked on land, its 140HP four-stroke motor can reach 35 miles per hour carrying eight adults.

And it's designed at 2.48m width to be legally towed at any time.

Designers Ken and Lesley Blacklock have patented the vessel, which retails for \$87,500 to \$105,000, so no one can ever build anything like it.

They have sold seven this year, and will no doubt increase that number after this weekend's North Coast International Boat Show.

"We decided to build something practical, because we couldn't compete with the Americans so had to do something different," Lesley said.

"This is really good for your more active baby boomer retirees who want to travel Australia and really good for families as well, because it's open, with plenty of shade, air vents and fly screens."

The boat is one of over 130 on display this Saturday and Sunday at Quad Park in Kawana.

Event organiser Bob Carroll said retailers who set up at the boat show last year said it was better than the Brisbane Boat Show.

"This area attracts so many people who come here purely for leisure," he said.

"We had over 320 boats at last count, so our point of difference is the enormous variety."

Water craft, boating accessories, electronics, and in fact anything that goes on, in, or under boats will go on show be on display at the



TRANSFORMER: Ken Blacklock with his boat that converts to a caravan.

DETAILS

The event runs from 10am to 5pm today, 9am to 5pm Saturday and 9am to 4pm Sunday at Quad Park in Kawana.

For event information and exhibitor listings see

www.boatshowinfo.com.au or freecall 1800 671 588 during business hours.

largest regional boating event in Queensland.

The new range of high performance tournament angler boats that are designed to get the angler quickly and efficiently from one fishing spot to another will be released at the show as well.

There will be the reef science fishing super tank, fishing talks and presentations, salt water fly casting demonstrations and an extensive range of boating gear.

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