

Kangaroo Island Pro Frequently Asked Questions.
Updated, Friday 19 August 2011.

Who are Surfing South Australia and what do you do?

Surfing South Australia is the peak sporting organisation for surfing in the state. Surfing South Australia is a not for profit organisation who are actively involved in a wide range of community activities, some of which include junior surfing development programs, indigenous surfing programs, surfing programs for persons with disabilities, elite surfing programs, accreditation of coaches, judges, officials and surf schools, plus management of surfing events.

How many professional surfers can compete in the Kangaroo Island surfing event?

The likely scenario is that we will have between 96 and 150 of the world's best surfers at the event.

How big is this event compared with other events around the world?

The event is the highest rated event that South Australia can currently attract on the world tour, we would like to believe that it has the potential to become one of the most iconic surfing events in the world, this is the vision of Surfing South Australia.

Does this mean Kelly Slater could compete?

In the future it is possible we may attract Kelly Slater, however this event is for people trying to make it into the top 32 surfers in the world, of which Kelly is number 6. Kelly will not compete in this event in 2011 but we won't rule out attracting him to South Australia in the future.

How do I register for information and updates?

You can register online at the website below
www.kangarooislandpro.com.au/

How many people do you expect will attend this event?

We are hoping to grow this event into an iconic Australian surfing event, of which it can be something that South Australian's can be proud of, we would love to think that the event will attract over 3000 people to Kangaroo Island.

Do people have to pay to attend the surfing event? If so, how much?

There will be no fee to come to watch the surfing event.

Can I come for a day?

Yes there will be adequate day parking on the festival site for all spectators who would like to come down to the event.

How many people can camp at the event?

Potentially we can accommodate at least three to five thousand people at the current site. If you register on the event website we will send out the information as soon as it's announced.

Am I able to be involved?

Surfing South Australia will have various roles available both volunteer, and paid skilled work. Some roles are specialised and require previous experience. If you would like to be involved please register your interest to info@surfingsouthaustralia.com.au.

I am a local surfer, how can I go into the competition?

For a 6 star event you need a serious number of qualifying points to gain entry into the draw – however we will be holding wild card trials prior to the main event where the winner of the trials will gain a wildcard.

Event trials are scheduled from the Saturday October 30th - to Wednesday November 3rd (depending on entry numbers). Entries will be available on the Surfing South Australia website from September 1 and close October 25th.

Apparently surfers at other breaks on the Island were asked if they would like such an event held at their locations? Why were the surfers at Vivonne Bay not afforded the same opportunity to comment?

Surfers with knowledge of KI were asked about a number of breaks – we concluded that the majority surfers would support Vivonne as it was less likely to expose the more established popular local breaks, so these were ruled out. Vivonne was considered the best fit for surfing, music and attracting and managing spectators on site.

I am a local food and produce provider. How can I get involved?

If you are a current supplier of food beverage and services and would like to be involved in the event, please register your interest through info@surfingsouthaustralia.com.au.

Quite a few expressions of interest applications have been received, however local businesses and community groups may still lodge an expression of interest (available on www.surfingsouthaustralia.com.au website). We may be able to accommodate other parties where service gaps remain.

I am a local musician/artist how can I be involved?

There are still opportunities available for local musicians and artists. Please register your interest to info@surfingsouthaustralia.com.au

What about the local environment?

Surfing South Australia is committed to environmental protection and improvement; in fact Surfing South Australia was the first State Sporting body in Australia to commit to offsetting all its carbon generation. We were also the first Pro Junior event to offset its carbon footprint – in the world.

We have an excellent relationship with Department of Environment and Natural Resources as a result of proactive work and cleanup of other people's rubbish in conservation parks such as Waitpinga /Newland Head Conversation Park. Our delivery plan includes leaving any site in better condition than we found it. Part of our preparation includes how we can manage large groups to ensure that the impacts on the environment are low and that we offer opportunities for people at events to get involved in and make an improvement to the region.

For the last few months Surfing South Australia has been consulting with the relevant authorities and experts to develop our plans in line with their advice and guidance.

One of the key elements in the plan is to have event goers diverted away from the main township of Vivonne Bay which lacks the necessary infrastructure and services to support large influxes of people.

The event requires approvals from the Kangaroo Island Council (KIC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and we will ensure that the everything is done so that the event meets and exceeds all best environmental practices.

Surfing South Australia/SeaLink have proposed the following work which will assist in the rehabilitation of the area that currently has many unmarked and damaged tracks through the sandhills:

- A 10 x 4m judging platform on the SeaLink Vivonne Bay property, over an area of sand dune which has been degraded. This includes planting out areas that are windblown
- Close all existing minor tracks and harden the current main sign posted track so as to restrict access to one main track only
- Put in a set of stairs over an existing track, which has been heavily eroded which will enable access to the surf break.
- Monitor and restrict the number of people able to gain beach access, depending on the changing tidal conditions. The Event will be streamed live and can be beamed back to the festival/music site area.

The SeaLink property and its access to Vivonne Bay Beach is already a high volume traffic area and Surfing South Australia believes that by the addition of a well defined track, this will in fact lead to a reduced number of people accessing sand dunes, regardless of the surf and music event.

Surfing South Australia staff has and will undergo specific Hooded Plover warden training and received advice from Birds Australia in developing management plans

Will I get to see the environmental management plan?

It is not the practice or requirement for organisations to share this information with the public, any enquiries may be directed to info@surfingsouthaustralia.com.au. Currently we are finalising our management plans which will need to be approved by the KIC , DENR and other relevant authorities. Experts in each specific field have or will provide ongoing input into the proper management of the event

Local artists were recently commissioned to create educational signs to raise public awareness of hooded plovers in the area? KI has 1/3 of the population of hooded plovers. There are six pairs recorded as living at Vivonne Bay. Why is this endangered species not considered significant in this instance?

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We have an excellent relationship with Department of Environment and Natural Resources as a result of proactive work and cleanup of other people's rubbish in conservation parks such as Waitpinga /Newland Head Conversation Park. Our delivery plan includes leaving any site in better condition than we found it.

Surfing South Australia is working with DENR and Birds Australia around a number of issues including the proper management of the Hooded Plovers.

Training for staff and volunteers to implement the Hooded Plover management plan has already commenced and there is opportunity for local people to be trained and volunteer at the event

Surfing SA is keen to utilise the educational signs made by the local artists subject to permission by the artists to use their work

Surfing South Australia sees the event as an opportunity to further raise awareness of the Hooded Plover.

Serious concerns about helicopter traffic and impacts on sea eagles and other wildlife. The recent drownings at Vivonne Bay, resulted in several media helicopters flying over the area throughout the day of the fatalities. An event of this magnitude would create similar media interest over many days. How can this be avoided or controlled?

Surfing South Australia shares the concerns of locals regarding the impact of helicopters on the environment and wildlife.

Surfing South Australia has discussed its concerns with DENR.

Surfing South Australia will request media helicopters not attend the event because of the impact on the environment and wildlife and will provide daily footage to avoid the use of media helicopters.

Surfing South Australia will take direction from the emergency services if a helicopter is required in the case of an emergency in the local area.

Will ratepayers have to foot the bill to have the rubbish generated from the event removed from the Island, or will this cost be borne by the event organisers? i.e. if there is an extra truckload of rubbish sent off the island during this week due to the event, who pays for it?

Surfing South Australia is responsible for the collection and removal of all rubbish and recycling generated at the event site and any associated costs.

Surfing South Australia will be guided by Council to ensure rubbish and recycling is managed according to local and/or State guidelines.

What measures will be taken regarding road/traffic safety, given such a large influx of traffic to the area? Who will be responsible for controlling parking in the area, especially in the town?

Surfing South Australia is working with all the relevant authorities to develop a comprehensive risk management plan which will contain the traffic management plan we anticipate that most parking will be on the event site minimizing the need for public parking in the township SSA will work with authorities to ensure the plan addresses road safety and parking.

What about Law and Order issues? Who will provide extra security for those in the area during this event? Will there be an increased police presence? Who will be liable for community safety during the event?

As mentioned previously, Surfing South Australia is working with emergency services to develop an Event Management Plan, which includes a Risk Management Plan and an Emergency Response Plan.

Surfing South Australia is currently working with SAPOL and a security company with experience in outdoor events regarding a range of issues including security.

Why not use the existing infrastructure to access the beach from the Sealink property, rather than creating more infrastructure over the dunes at Vivonne Bay?

Part of the event preparation includes how Surfing South Australia can manage spectators to ensure that the impacts on the environment are low and that we offer opportunities for people at events to get involved and make an improvement to the region.

For the last few months Surfing South Australia has been consulting with the relevant authorities and experts to develop our plans in line with their advice and guidance.

One of the key elements in the plan is to have event goers diverted away from the main township of Vivonne Bay which lacks the necessary infrastructure and services to support large influxes of people SSA offered to utilize the local campground if that was preferred by council however it is not a requirement for us to run the event.

The event requires approvals from the Kangaroo Island Council (KIC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and we will ensure that the everything is done so that the event meets and exceeds all best environmental practices.

Surfing South Australia has also proposed the work, which will assist in the rehabilitation of the area that currently has many unmarked and damaged tracks through the sandhills.

Will the Department of Health Guidelines regarding toilets/showers/camping for an event of this size be met? Concerns raised that the airstrip is not big enough to accommodate 3-5,000 people for a camping/music event if these guidelines are followed.

Surfing South Australia is aware of the many guidelines that relate to staging an event in South Australia, including the provision and management of ablution blocks. Surfing South Australia will work with Council and other relevant Government bodies to deliver the event in line with all guidelines.

What happens in the event of a fire? Serious concerns about the possibility of 3-5,000 people panicking in the event of a fire, especially if alcohol is involved. What about other visitors to the area who are staying in private accommodation and attending the event?

Surfing South Australia is developing an Event Management Plan, which includes a Risk Management Plan and an Emergency Response Plan. These plans take into consideration local input from the experts around risks associated with hosting an event and how they can be managed pre and during an event, and how Surfing South Australia and Emergency services review these plans and how they plan to respond to an incident.

These plans will be developed in consultation with emergency services such as SA Police, SA Ambulance, St John's and CFS.

For visitors in private accommodation we would be using the normal communication channels utilised by emergency services.

Vivonne Bay and Districts Progress Association is currently under litigation for an injury someone sustained on the "duck boards" over the dune to the beach at Vivonne Bay. Although done through an approved Coastcare grant, the association is liable because they built it. Concerns raised about liability issues from increased visitation.

SSA cannot advise the progress association on their liability issues VPA would need to consult a lawyer as per any community organization

Surfing South Australia will have its own the risk management plan for the event and works performed on site will be of standard set by the Australian and/or South Australian Government.

The event will have the recommended amount of public liability and other insurances required. Also, that the events contractors and service providers must have the required insurances before operating on the event site.

Given all the concerns raised, is Vivonne Bay an appropriate location for this event?

Considering all the elements that go into a surf music festival, yes it was considered a good all round option. Accommodation, transport, food and beach access and local activities for youth that generates income and employment are positive opportunities for the township and KI as a whole. For organisers these are key to a smooth running event. So far no environmental issues have been seen as unmanageable and that alternative sites could have equal numbers of challenges.

We want community input and an ability to influence the direction of the event. People come to KI for the beauty and unspoilt nature of our natural environment- stop the destruction of more of our pristine coastline.

Surfing South Australia has taken the time to meet with the peak bodies, spoken with individual islanders and Vivonne Bay locals and we have formed the view that the majority of people are in support of a properly managed event.

We want locals to be involved and benefit financially socially and environmentally

SSA welcomes positive input and assistance, this is a large undertaking and represents a huge investment in time effort and money on behalf of the Surfing pathway in South Australia.

Elements of the plan serve to reduce the ongoing destruction, increase the current level of revegetation and public awareness of the threatened species in the region.

How do I stay at the event?

Event accommodation and travel packages will be released on the SeaLink website soon. Register your interest on the www.kangarooislandpro.com.au event website and we will advise you when they are released.

Camping only accommodation is planned for on private property away from the main township with access to the beach through private property on a hardened track designed and built to handle the higher volumes of people at the event. There are also many shack owners and commercial rentals available on line.

What is SeaLink's involvement with the event?

This event is wholly owned and managed by Surfing South Australia and our commitment is to provide considerable economic benefit to the Kangaroo Island community and to the wider state of South Australia.

Surfing South Australia developed the concept plans for this event right from the start and through this we have gained the support of SeaLink.

SeaLink are a major sponsor and have been exemplary in providing both funding and resources to the event.

SeaLink will be providing their expertise in logistics and freight management and are committed to providing excellent value travel and event packages which will be announced shortly.

Surfing South Australia has committed to providing local traders with a free opportunity to showcase their products during the event festival; there are many

more opportunities available for Kangaroo Islanders and South Australians to be involved.

What has been happening over the past few months since the announcement of the event?

Surfing South Australia has been working with many people on Kangaroo Island, including KIC, DENR Department of Environment and Natural Resource, Emergency Service providers and environmental groups, including the conservation volunteer organisation, bird experts, local business people and Kangaroo Islanders and we will continue to work with them to ensure we stage a successful and sustainable event. We have received an overwhelming response from people, which has been very positive.

Surfing SA has also been working to secure a fantastic music line up, which we believe will be very exciting.

Where will people be camping? Will people be camping on the beach?

People will be camping on private property, camping on the beach is illegal; council will ensure that any applicable fines are enforced to people that breach this.

Kangaroo Island Pro Facebook page, why has my post been deleted?

Surfing South Australia respects peoples freedom of speech, however we will not tolerate threats, intimidation or the spreading of ambiguous claims.

The following user guidelines have been uploaded to ensure that people have an equal opportunity to have their say and express their views regarding the event:

Kangaroo Island Pro User Guidelines

The Kangaroo Island Pro Facebook Page is designed to be a place to share updates on this very exciting event.

Please note that The Kangaroo Island Pro Facebook Page cannot respond to all inquiries and feedback. If you have comments or good ideas, please get in touch via our office on 08 8384 1126 or email info@surfingsouthaustralia.com.au Surfing South Australia reserves the right to remove posts on its Facebook Page and report/block users to Facebook if those posts include any of the following:

- Content which is defamatory, libellous, discriminatory, threatening, spam, advertising, uses offensive or inappropriate language or is wildly irrelevant.
- Personal information about yourself or others (such as a private address or phone numbers).
- Content that infringes other people's intellectual property rights.
- Promotion of any commercial interests.
- An internet address.

- Posts exceeding 420 characters.
- Multiple versions of the same comment.

I have sent in some correspondence when will I receive an answer?

Surfing South Australia receives a large number of enquiries; we will do our best to respond to questions however we are not always able to get back to individual enquiries. For the latest information about the event visit our website, www.surfingsouthaustralia.com.au

When will more details be available on the music event, i.e. music acts, costs?

The music event will be held from November 3 – 6, 2011 and there will be a range of bands playing each evening starting at around 4pm daily. Camping will be available on site and will be inclusive for music festival ticket holders.

Surfing South Australia will be releasing the first line up of acts in August. Tickets and travel packages to the event will be on sale mid August.

SeaLink will be providing a range of great, affordable travel packages to the event, however if you would rather fly onto Kangaroo Island and hire a car you can certainly do this also.

Will Surfing SA consider moving the surfing event if the surf is no good?

Surfing South Australia is currently finalising approvals for the surf break, once this is complete we will talk to other groups about the possibility of using other surf breaks if necessary.

Why are you holding a surfing event in November?

There are several reasons. Firstly, Surfing South Australia needs to consider many factors when deciding when is the most appropriate time to run an event of this scale.

The event is actually a great time to allow Australian surfers an additional opportunity to qualify for the top 32 prior to the end of the year, it's also a great lead in to the Hawaii leg.

Surfing South Australia runs surfing events during every month, each event and timing brings in its own complexities, and this is the same for surfing events worldwide. Sometimes surfing events have great surf, sometimes it's terrible, and regardless of the time of year the weather is unpredictable.

Looking back at the event period for the past 2 years, the event would have had swell, nice weather and good winds for at least 50% of the event period.