



MEDIA RELEASE

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Surfrider Foundation Establishes Eurobodalla Branch

A group of local south coast surfers have established a branch of the Surfrider Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation which began in Malibu, California in 1984. Its mission is to protect waves and beaches. Surfrider has chapters and branches around Australia and the globe – wherever there are people enjoying the energy pulses of earth’s oceans.

The Surfrider Foundation is working to preserve, protect and restore coastal environments. There are no laws in Australia to protect surf breaks and the impacts of development on surf breaks are not considered in planning and infrastructure assessments. Several surf breaks have been identified as being under imminent threat across Australia and the Surfrider Foundation is running the Endangered Waves campaign to lobby decision-makers to take into account the value of these breaks to the surfing community and to the economy through tourism.

Allen Grimwood, founding president of the Eurobodalla Branch, acknowledges that ‘fortunately there are no threats to surf breaks along this special piece of coastline. The branch is looking to contribute to national Surfrider Foundation initiatives such as the Rise above Plastics campaign. Regular beach clean days will be organised and surfers are encouraged to collect and remove three pieces of waste from the beach every time they go for a surf’. The branch will also collaborate with other community groups and assist government initiatives to prevent beach pollution and beach conservation activities, such as the fishing tackle recovery program run by Eurobodalla Shire Council.

‘Establishing the branch here was easy’ says Allen, ‘as there are many like-minded surfers with a passion for the ocean and clean beaches’. The committee is made up of Tim Shepherd as secretary, Steve Doyle as treasurer, Bernadette Davis and Glenn Hall as community liaison, and Brendan Sheldon and Russell Fletcher as events co-ordinators, supported by Libby Dougherty, Lucas King, Ted Butler and Martin Callaghan.

To get involved in Surfrider Foundation activities check out www.surfrider.org.au or call Allen on 4474 4686. Notices of events and committee meetings will be made each month and all are welcome to attend.