

Wave of talent to hit South Durras

SOUTH Durras Beach will be the wave ski capital of NSW this weekend when it hosts the 2006 LakeSea Classic.

Now in its 19th year, the LakeSea Classic is the longest continuous wave ski surfing event in Australia, incorporating the NSW Age Division Championships. Neil Decker, the current world open champion, confirmed he will enter this year's event. He has just returned from making the final at the Queensland Open.

Contestants from Queensland and Victoria will tackle entrants from up and down the NSW coast including a big local contingent.

Last year's runner-up and past Australian champion Khane Duncan, from Coffs Harbour, will be in attendance, as well as Bulli's Blaire Moore, winner of the Queensland Open two weeks ago and past victor of the LakeSea. Moore is no stranger to this area as he was a finalist in the first LakeSea Classic back in 1988.

Wollongong's Lance Milnes, last year's winner, will be back to defend his title.

He is in good form, evidenced by his recent second placing at the New Zealand Open.

Broulee wave skier Brandon Small will be here to take on the opposition in the first locally based competition of the year in the Open division.

A broad spectrum of age and experience will compete at the LakeSea, with 58-year-old Basil Repa the oldest competitor and 15-year-old Ben Buckley the youngest.

Age divisions will be divided into juniors (up to 21), open age (20-30), seniors (30-40), masters (40-50) and veterans (50+).

Some competitors who would otherwise have been travelling from interstate to compete at the LakeSea won't be doing so this year because they are saving and planning for the World Championships in South Africa in June. This event will be held in three stages at Cape Town, Jeffreys Bay and East London, making it an expensive proposition for competitors.

Despite this, organisers are expecting a talented and competitive field of at least 30 entrants to put on an entertaining display for spectators.



WORLD CHAMPION: Neil Decker, pictured here on his way to winning the Wave Ski World Championship title in Brazil last year, will be among the competitors at this weekend's LakeSea Classic at South Durras Beach.