



Neil 'deckers' them all in Durban surf



SKI HIGH ... Neil Decker won gold at the recent World Masters Waveski Championship in Durban, but says Currumbin still has the world's best surf.

King of the ski returns in glory

KING of the waves, Neil Decker, has scooped top honours at the World Masters Waveski Championship in South Africa.

Mr Decker returned home from Durban to a hero's welcome from his colleagues.

Riding a waveski of his own design, he defended the title he won last year.

Mr Decker came within 0.003 points of winning the open title as well – a feat he achieved in New Zealand in 1994 and again in Brazil in 2004.

While competing and winning

By LAURA NELSON

at an individual level, he also captained the Australian team to a title win at the World Championships.

Mr Decker took up waveskiing in 1983 and entered his first contest just three weeks after he first sat on a board.

He entered his first world championship in Hawaii in 1986 where he finished in ninth place.

"The power of the waves there is incredible," he said.

"We were competing at a beach next to the infamous Pipeline.

"I actually surfed that break which is frightening and thrilling."

Mr Decker's favourite surf, however, is closer to home.

"Currumbin Alley has the best surf in the world," he said.

"It barrels and it's heavy all day, every day."

Mr Decker works for Riviera boat builders as a supplier relationship co-ordinator and said it was great to have the company's support at the world championship.

"It's a major commitment of time to compete in these events and you need support.

"Our South African dealer joined me for most of the tournament and provided terrific support as well," he said.