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Advertiser Sport

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Published by Illawarra Newspapers Holdings Pty Ltd at 21 Auburn St, Wollongong, NSW.
Postal Address: PO Box 1215, Wollongong NSW 2500. Phone (02) 4221 2333. Fax (02) 4221 2337
Registered by Australia Post - Publication No PP255003/06749

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NO TIME TO REST

**Basil retires and takes
world title - page 63**





Figtree man Basil Repa couldn't take the smile off his face after winning a World Waveski Surfing Title in New Zealand recently.

Basil retires, then takes world title

By AGRON LATIFI

Some people take a bit of time off to relax after retiring from work.

Not former Port Kembla Primary School vice-principal Basil Repa.

A few days after retiring Repa headed to New Zealand and promptly won a world waveski surfing title.

The Figtree man, who has been competing in the sport for more than 30 years, won the Veterans division of the 2007 World Waveski Surfing Titles.

The 60-year-old, who is also a keen surfer and mountain bike rider, doesn't plan on slowing down any time soon.

"I'm fairly active and enjoy a number of activities," Repa said.

"But, while I enjoy competing in waveski events, this probably was the last one I'll compete in.

"I've never really entered many big waveski events in the past. The reason I enter usually is to improve my surfing.

"This was my first and last world title victory. What better way to leave the sport than on top."

More than 80 waveski surfers from Australia, South Africa, France, Ireland, Scotland, Peru, New Zealand and the United Kingdom competed for the crown at the biggest waveski surfing event of the year at Makarori Beach in Gisborne, on the east coast of New Zealand, from March 24-April 1.

The Australian team of 33 surfers from NSW, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia

dominated the event and brought home the Open, Seniors, Masters and Veterans titles.

Repa was amongst five Wollongong waveski surfers who reached the finals of four different divisions of the best waveski surfers in the world.

"They did some statistics after the event and apparently Wollongong had more people in the finals than any other country. That's an amazing feat," Repa said.

Lance Milnes from Fairy Meadow and Dale Randahl from Woonona both made it to the Open division final with Milnes finishing third and Randahl fourth in the world.

The Open title was won by two-time world and seven-time Australian champion, Rees Duncan Jnr from Coffs Harbour.

Former world veterans champion Kevin Marshall from Fairy Meadow finished second in the Grand Masters division.

Following the city's waveski surfers success at the world titles, the 28th Australian Waveski Surfing Titles will now be held in Wollongong from July 30 to August 4, drawing competitors, families and spectators from all around the country.

The contest will be mobile, utilising the beaches to the north of the city.

Contest director Lance Milnes said seven of the 10 best waveski surfers in the world were slated to attend the event.

Visit www.waveskisurfingaustr.com for more information.