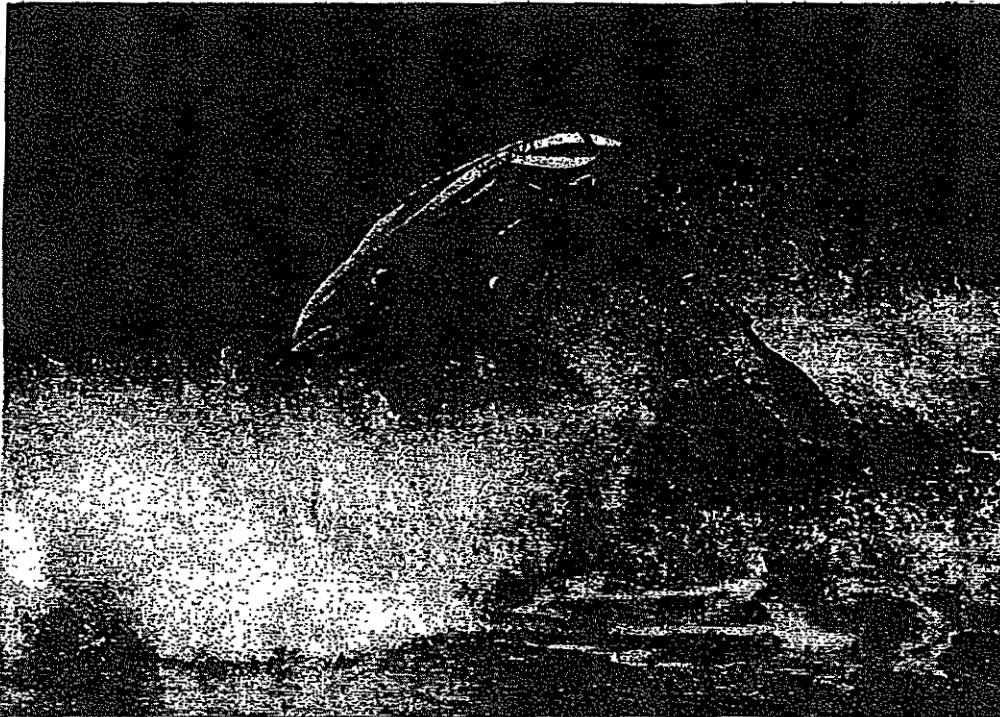


SPORT



Luke Herman competes in New Zealand, where he won his first world title. Picture: Penix Photography

Herman wins senior title

KINGSLEY man Luke Herman (34) is the senior world wave ski champion after the 2007 world titles in New Zealand.

He won ahead of Australian Rees Duncan (three times open world champion) and Frenchman Mathieu Băbarit.

"I am very happy to finally have won a world title after competing for many years and to do so against the best wave skiers around," he said.

"The waves ranged from two to three feet and on some days finding the better rides was diffi-

cult in a very mixed bag of weather."

Herman came 10th in the open division of the week-long competition on Makorora Beach, north of Gisborne on the North Island.

He has competed round the world, coming second in the open division of the world titles in Queensland in 2002 and fourth in England in 1998.

Herman has been wave skiing since he was 15, learning to surf on a stand-up board.

"I continue to ride both

(boards) but only wave ski competitively," he said.

"Wave ski contests run exactly the same as a stand-up surfers' contest, with the rider scored on wave choice and the manoeuvres performed on that wave."

Herman's favourite surf spots are Trigg Point, Gnarlob, near Carnarvon and North Point, near Gracetown.

"Wave skiing is a great recreational hobby, offers the buzz of surfing and there is also the travel," he said.

Margaret Price