



# THE Advertiser

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Part-time Emerald Beach local and current Australian wave ski champion Melissa Hardy gets in some early morning training before the Wave Ski Surfing World Titles, which start next week. Melissa was the World Tour Champion last year and will be taking on her nemesis Caroline Angina from France. Turn to page four to find out all about the World Titles. *Photo: TREVOR VEALE*



Current World Champion masters kayaker Steve Farthing takes to the air at Emerald Beach.

*Photo courtesy of Penior Photography.com*

# Ski stars set for surf comp

By **LINDA GLEESON**

THINGS are hotting up at Emerald Beach and it is not just the temperature.

More than 100 of the world's best wave ski surfers have started to set up camp at the seaside village in a bid to claim the world championship title.

The Wave Ski Surfing World Titles will start this Saturday and run to the following Saturday.

The top event on the wave ski calendar will be a hotly contested event between Emerald

Beach resident and current world champion Rees Duncan and the man he pipped for the crown, Frenchman Mathieu Babarit.

Not to be overlooked is Rees' brother and hopeful champion, Khane, who will be among the many hot new talents trying to win the world champion crown and break into the top 16 to make it onto the World Circuit.

Seven-time women's world champion and current title holder Caroline Angibaud from France will be attempting to win an eighth title in one of the most contested women's divisions seen in the sport in years.

While the contestants will be focused on their performance Duncan will also be keeping an eye over the whole event.

As president of the Australian Wave Ski Surfing Association he is also the co-ordinator of the event and has been organising it for the past 18 months, and almost full-time for the past three.

"I am more nervous trying to pull the event off rather than competing in it," he said.

If all else fails, his sons Rees Jr, 13 and Kye, 11 will be in the junior event and hoping that one of the family will be bringing home a title.