

## Historical New Zealand Surfing Film / Event.

Along time ago back in **October 2005**,

New Zealand played host to the **Vodafone New Zealand Surf Sessions at Raglan and Piha Beach.**



Straight off the **WCT** International Surfers Andy Irons, Mark Occhilupo , Sunny Garcia, and Joel Parkinson competed against Maz Quinn, Daniel Kereopa, Bobby Hansen and Morehu Roberts from Aotearoa.

Surfers will compete for a trophy board designed by DK's brother **Aaron Kereopa**.



The trophy is carved from a Surfboard blank and features a God like figure representing **Tawhirimatea – Maori God of the elements**, the winds, storms

and tempest. **Without Tawhirimatea manipulating the Ocean, there would be no Waves.**

The day drew an estimated crowd of 15,000 people to the West Coast's Piha beach to witness the action 🙌

On the day, they had to close the Piha road as the crowd from Auckland continued to grow.

3 x defending World Champion, Hawaiian Andy Irons says he is looking forward to helping put something back into the sport.

"I'm also really Amped to be visiting New Zealand for this first time, I've heard it's an awesome place to Surf," says Andy.

### Ben Wellington

'I was there in a raincoat and binoculars ha, can still feel the air Andy did, just one pump then double grab air. I thought airs only happened at the end of the wave back then.

Not only will it lift competitive Surfing locally, it will boost our top Kiwi Surfers' profiles worldwide," says Greg Townsend, Executive Officer, Surfing NZ.

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One of the locals is Raglan Surfer Daniel Kereopa (aka DK) who has been the overall winner of the Surfing New Zealand Pro Series three times in the last four years.





“It’s amazing to have the chance to compete against these international guys, some of whom I’ve looked up to since I was a kid. Having this opportunity is mind-blowing,” says DK.

DK’s teammate is Gisborne born Maz Quinn, New Zealand’s most successful Surfer ever and the only Kiwi to have made it on the World Championship Tour (WCT in 2002). Also from Gisborne is Bobby Hansen, an up and coming Surfer who at the age of 16 became the only Surfer ever to win three titles at one event.

Brendon O’Connor, Vodafone NZ’s Head of Sponsorship, says Vodafone and Surfing New Zealand are committed to helping raise the profile of our local surfers internationally. Content via Surfing New Zealand.

