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Wave warrior: Local bodyboarder David Lee is hoping to produce his best form during the International Surfing Association World Games in Portugal in October.

AT THE BACK LINE

SURFING WITH HEATHER

'FERGIE' CLARK

Ultra huge swells pound the coast

LUCIEN was the place to be last Monday, with waves pounding in at 8 to 10 feet. However, with the huge waves and the screaming rip, surfing was rather impossible.

The white water was so strong surfers were getting tossed around like rag dolls. However, bodyboarders, Derek Footit and Wayne Beekman managed to make it out.

Wayne got a massive wave in and looked small on this big wave, but it was awesome to watch. The next day the easterly was up and the surf was messy and rough.

Even though the swell dropped off a little bit, it was still big and powerful. The midweek surf at Saints was weird, with a three to four foot left and right breaking out the back.



It faded out fast and was not running all the way to the beach, so you either had to sit out at backline or right on the inside, which made for a rather frustrating surf.

Friday started the weekend off with some fun three foot waves at St Mike's, Southbroom and Margate.

It seemed everyone, everywhere was getting a few waves. Saturday was another day to get out the bigger boards and charge some waves!

There was a solid six foot swell, with some bigger sets rolling in now and then to clean everyone up and some surfers even broke boards.

If you got up early you would have been able to get some good four foot waves on Sunday before the easterly picked up.

Don't forget to come and watch the South KwaZulu-Natal team competing in the Reef Junior South African Championships at St Mike's from October 1 to 5.

For further info and surf lessons, as well as learn to swim lessons for all ages, contact me at 082 43 77 839.

David makes waves

Bodyboarder David Lee from Margate can hardly wait to compete in Portugal in mid October. GARETH WHITE REPORTS.

SOUTH Coast bodyboarder, David Lee, (23), looks set to make a name for himself internationally.

This follows his selection to form part of Team South Africa to compete in the International Surfing Association World Games in Portugal from October 11 to 19.

It is regarded as the surfing equivalent to the Olympic Games and covers various surf activities including surfing, bodyboarding and longboarding.

Lee, who is admittedly nervous leading up to the event, said that it is an

incredible honour to represent the nation.

He added that he is excited and eagerly awaiting his opportunity to shine on the world stage.

"It will be an experience of a lifetime to surf against the world's best and hopefully some of my childhood heroes. I will be hoping to get some good waves and not come back empty-handed even if it means coming back with more experience and good memories," he said.

Lee will be joined by current South African Bodyboarding Association (SABA) contest circuit, pro and dropknee champion,

Sacha Specker, 25, from Cape Town and current women's champion Pamela Bowren, 22, from Stellenbosch.

Before heading off to Portugal on October 7 Lee will be representing the Southern KwaZulu-Natal Bodyboarding Association at the 22nd Annual Science/Reef South African Bodyboarding Championships.

This is taking place at Alkantstrand in Richards Bay from September 29 to October 3.

Lee will be competing as the defending champion in the pro division, having claimed the title last year.

Palmboom flies the South Coast surfing flag

THE 2008 Reef South African Junior Surf Championships got underway at St Mike's yesterday (Wednesday).

Eight teams of surfers representing seven provinces, plus the South African Development Academy Team, are already in action.

This year will see the crowning of a new U18 boys' champion as 2007 winner Klee Strachan has moved out of the division.

Surfers who could challenge

for the title are Brendon Gibbens and Matthew Bromley of WP, Dale Staples of Southern Cape, Brett Palmboom of Southern KZN as well as Chad du Toit and Shawn Dennis of KZN.

The 2008 South African Junior Championships marks a significant milestone in South African surfing history.

In supporting the event, Reef SA will become the first sponsor in the history of South African surfing to be involved

in every single national team tournament in the same year.

In another first, Southern KZN Surfing Association, which was founded in 1971, will host the junior championships and the 200 or so surfers and eight teams for the first time.

Western Province make the long journey to Southern KZN as the holders of the Freedom Cup after winning the team title back from KZN in Port Elizabeth last year.

While all the surfers will be aiming to reach the finals and bag a medal, the SA Junior Championships is all about achieving team honours and winning the Freedom Cup.

Every surfer in the event contributes to the total team score even if they are eliminated early in the championships and the winning provincial team is decided right at the end of the event based on the highest aggregate score.

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