



KITEBOARDING
AUSTRALIA

11 April 2017

The 2016/2017 Season at Kiteboarding Australia

It was a busy summer for Kiteboarding Australia. We enjoyed the opportunity to come to WA during the hugely successful Hydrofoil Pro Tour, Australian Racing National Titles and the NKL.

Firstly, we want to say a massive thank you to WAKSA and your committee. The last 12 months has been a big growing experience for KA and all the state associations. The WAKSA committee's dedication, tenacity and determination are of incredible benefit to the local WA community of kiteboarders. Without WAKSA, KA would be left "leg-less" and unable to provide quality benefits to each and every member.

We work to develop quality leadership for the sport of kiteboarding. Our four pillars of work are around insurance, community, events, and discounts. This year has seen a big progression in the type of online presence KA has and our connection with industry, particularly through kiteboarding schools.

In 2016 we saw a change in the KA board which has increased representation across the country.

Kiteboarding Australia Curriculum

The KA Curriculum has now been in place for 2 years. We have seen the number of recognised schools grow across the country and particularly in WA. In WA, we have had 7 schools recognised and are currently working with some new smaller operators about getting them accredited.

What does this mean?

- New kites can look for the KA Badge to determine which school is a good choice
- Schools can access cheaper insurance and the good operators will be rewarded
- We can expect greater council support at busy beaches with schools coming together under one curriculum
- More standards training, coaching clinics and options for career progression in kiting

We have also started piloting an online learning course for kiteboarders to be safer around the water. We encourage all members and friends to have a look, give us your feedback and join the learning community at <https://www.openlearning.com/kiteboarding-australia/courses/become-an-independent-kiteboarder> with the code "SAFEKITING".

Supporting events and community building

We are supporting a new direction for events focusing on boosting the profile and professionalism around state title events and having a standalone national title event. The National Kiteboarding League was run by Kiteboarding Queensland Northern Territory around the country again in 2016/2017. While it was a success in many respects, we are keen to see greater local community involvement across all events. We want to work better with our state associations to support them in providing the best quality events possible.

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We recently initiated the National Freestyle Committee and will look to do so for other disciplines where appropriate.

We are also supporting youth development events run in conjunction with Australian Sailing to allow under 19's the opportunity to try twin tip racing in preparation for Youth Olympic Game selection. We are looking to have at least 1 event, in conjunction with the WA Youth Championship Sailing Regatta, this year.

KA has worked with our insurer to allow us to sanction various events and provide third part organisers with insurance coverage. This will allow more ground roots development of events and better insurance coverage for you when you are kiting in these events organised outside of the KA or WAKSA committees. If anyone is interested in running an event, whether it is somewhere outside of Perth or a new style of event (eg a rails event), we are keen to hear about it and see if we can support you in that endeavour!

Through this extended cover, KA has sanctioned Lancelin Ocean Classic, Lighthouse to Leighton and numerous other events around the country. We work with WAKSA to ensure local events are putting in place adequate safety measures. KA sanctioning is of benefit to members directly as it means you have insurance coverage while participating in these events.

Working with local councils and our state associations

We help state associations deal with local councils. In WA, we have been working with councils around kiteboarding school instructor standards, keeping locations open for members to continue kiteboarding at and schools to operate at. In NSW, we had a major win around over-regulation of kiteboarders to require them to wear lifejackets whenever in open waters. Stopping creep of these regulations is important to keep the dialogue sensible across the country.

Providing greater benefits to our members

We launched the SportsPass discount program which was taken up by several members. We are re-launching it in the next 2 months to encourage greater numbers of members to make the most of these discount packages.

We want to be able to provide you with what you want and need from your KA membership. We are currently conducting a membership survey and encourage all members of the kiteboarding community to complete it here: <https://alex1720.typeform.com/to/ioaffD?>

Increased transparency

We now publish abridged minutes from the KA Board Meetings on the website at <https://kiteboardingaus.com.au/about/board-meeting-minutes/>. This is the best location to keep up to date on the decisions made in the board room that affect our sport.

Good winds and safe kiteboarding



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