

# MEDIA RELEASE

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### BALLINA ISLAND PADDLE CHALLENGE

It has been many years since The Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Surf Life Saving Club has hosted a Paddle Challenge event. On Saturday November 20, 2010 the Surf Club will be hosting what it hopes to become an annual event. **Andrew Dougherty**, Club Captain of the Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Surf Life Saving Club said "The Paddle Challenge is seen as a major fundraiser for the Life Saving Club and will also be benefiting The Ballina Jet Boat Service. The event is open to any participant with a paddle Craft, whether it be an Ocean or Racing ski, Kayak or stand up paddle board".

There will be a number of great prizes with an open craft event as well as Surf Ski. Pre-registration is available and registration forms will be available at [www.ballinasurfclub.com.au](http://www.ballinasurfclub.com.au) or by picking them up from : The Ballina Visitor Information Centre ( River St ) or local radio station, Paradise FM ( Cherry St ).

The first to head around the Island will be larger craft ( Surf Boats / Outriggers ) at 10.00am. Along with those wanting to go at a more leisurely pace. With the more competitive 'Paddle Challenge', taking off at 10.30am. Registration confirmation will be at the location of the Ballina Farmers Market , near Missingham Bridge Amphitheatre with craft launched at the northern end of the Sand-Spit.

There will be a number of prizes on the day, the major prize that will be up for grabs can be won by any participant at the conclusion of the event. ( Lucky Draw ). The day will start at 10.00 am and the morning will finish with the Westlawn Property dash for cash, open to any participant. ( There will be a cash prize for this event and will involve a deep water start and beach finish, providing some spectacular action around the turning buoys). All participants in the Paddle Challenge will receive a welcome registration kit comprising ; Aerial photograph of Ballina, drink bottle, visor and energy supplement. The Ballina on Richmond Rotary Club will be manning the BBQ for the day.

"The inspiration for the event is to provide a community activity celebrating the world class waterway that we have at our disposal in Ballina. As you paddle around the Island you encounter abundant marine and bird life as well as the changing landscape of estuary, mangrove and open ocean" said Andrew. The day has also been made possible by major supporters of the event ; Southern Cross University and Ballina Shire Council.

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**For further information, and photo opportunity please contact ;**

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