

Tassie trip inspires women surfers

# Beachley leading the way



STAR TURN: Surfing legend Layne Beachley takes to the waves at Clifton Beach yesterday.

Pictures: NIKKI DAVIS-JONES

CHANEL KINNIBURGH

AUSSIE legend Layne Beachley has spoken of the pride she takes in the growth of women's surfing on a day she hit the waves with some of Tasmania's aspiring female athletes.

The seven-time women's pro tour world champion yesterday spent hours in the water at Clifton Beach, encouraging women and girls to jump on a board as part of Surf Tasmania's new Women in Waves program.

Beachley, the chair of Surfing Australia, said the day was all about having fun, making friends, building confidence and improving surfing skills.

"It was the perfect way to welcome summer," she said.

"It's been a fun day of sharing waves, knowledge and inspiration with 80 excited girls and women.

"The uptake of women in the sport brings me a tremendous amount of pride because I grew up at a time when there



SURF GIRLS: Layne Beachley, second from left, with Maya Chapman, 12, Mary Clingeffer, 14, and Zali Kingston, 14.

was no girls participating and it certainly wasn't encouraged."

Surfing student Mary Clingeffer, 14, said it was a day on the waves she would treasure forever.

"I've always looked up to Layne and I hope I can be just like her one day," she said.

"Having her here today has been a great experience. It's

really good to see heaps of girls out in the water trying new things and learning from each other."

Australian surfer Stephanie Gilmore last week matched Beachley's all-time women's pro record of seven titles, in what Beachley described as an "inspiring" performance at the Maui Pro.



surpasses her." The WSL in September announced all male and female surfers would be awarded the same prize money from 2019, a move Beachley said "overwhelmed her with emotion".

Beachley has been in Tasmania for more than a week trekking through the wilderness to raise money for her Aim for the Stars Foundation, which provides financial support and mentoring to young Australian women "with big dreams".

"The first week I did a whole lot of hiking, riding and paddling along the East Coast, including around the Bay of Fires, Coles Bay and Wineglass Bay," she said.

"I also conquered Cradle Mountain ... It was spectacular and really worth the effort."

After touring the world, Beachley said Tasmania remained one of her favourite places to visit.

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## Recruits, refugees happy campers

CHANEL KINNIBURGH

TASMANIA Police recruits stepped away from their training exercises to spend a weekend leading a fun-filled camp for kids from refugee families.

The overnight program based at the Tasmania Police Academy in Rokeby included 23 recruits and 28 children, aged between nine and 14.

Edmund Rice Camps executive officer Andrew Blackett said the holiday was jam-packed with activities and games, as well as a campfire.

"The children on this camp are from diverse nationalities, including various African countries, Myanmar, Vietnam, Egypt and Afghanistan," he said.

"On camp they are given the opportunity to develop self-confidence and support in a positive and uplifting environment."



BOND: Murwan, 13, of Hobart with Tasmania Police trainee Gareth Auker.

Police Youth Program coordinator Sergeant Rod Stacey said the police recruits had just as much to gain from the experience.

"The program provides a great opportunity for the recruits to engage and connect with kids of various backgrounds and cultures within the community and to act as positive role models for them," he said.

"The trust and connections developed over the two days of the program really fosters a long-term positive relationship between the kids and police officers."

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