



SURF ETIQUETTE

Keep your cool and learn the rules

Respect goes a long way on the surf

SURFING is a very popular activity here on the Sunshine Coast. Often the water can be a great place with a variety of craft users competing for the same waves. Like traffic laws on the road, rules need to be followed by surfers along with some courtesy to ensure the water is a safe fun environment. By following these basic rules, you'll save yourself from injury or hurting others: **Don't drop in** Technically, this means the surfer closest to the peak of the breaking wave has the right to ride it. **Wait your turn in the line-up.** (As a beginner, avoid line-up until you are confident you can do rolled take-offs). And **Don't catch a wave and then go straight back around** to catch another straight away. **Paddle wide** Don't paddle out to the line-up through the impact zone (where the waves are breaking and people are lining up) or where others are lining up to catch a wave. **When paddling out,** a surfer taking the wave always has the right of way. **Communicate** When catching a wave, let others know which way you



GIVE RIGHT OF WAY: Surf rage can result from surfers not giving way. PHOTO: BRETT WORTMAN

are going. Refrain from verbally abusing other surfers.
4. Don't throw your board HANG on to your board. Learn to duck dive to get

under waves. Make sure your leg rope is intact. Never throw your board – it could seriously injure someone.
5. Respect the beach, the ocean and others

RESPECT the beach locals, don't be a wave hog and respect more experienced surfers than yourself. Do your bit to keep the beach and ocean clean.



The surf etiquette sign at Alexandra Headland provides surfers with a rundown of the basic code of respect.

TOMORROW: Paddling and the eskimo roll