

By Sally Williams

# Surf's up!

A host of Northern Beaches-based celebrities hit the surf at Manly beach in October to raise funds for their favourite charities. Six teams competed against each other in the Celebrity Surf Off, sponsored by Lifestyle Working Brookvale. Cheered on in chilly conditions by an appreciative crowd, the winners – John O'Neill, Debbie Watson, Jason Dundas and Layne Beachley – were presented with a \$5000 cheque for the charity of their choice, the Layne Beachley Aim for the Stars Foundation.

The other teams – Damian Hardman, Kerri Pottharst, Pat Rafter and Tim Harding; Barton Lynch, Guy Leech, Megan Gale and Michael Slater; Jamie Durie, Torah Bright, Ryan Girdler and Dayan Neve; Tom Carroll, Jane Saville, Dean Gardner and Jake Wall; Steve Menzies, Jodie Cooper, Dr. Chris Brown and Dustin Clare – took their loss in good spirit



John O'Neill, Debbie Watson, Jason Dundas and Layne Beachley show off their \$5000 winners cheque donated by Lifestyle Working Brookvale

and consoled themselves in the refreshment tent afterwards! Seven charities will be presented with a surfboard by Lifestyle Working Brookvale, each signed by all the celebrities on the day, to be used as an auction prize in future fundraisers.

The Celebrity Surf Off was the culmination of a week of surfing excitement along Manly and Queenscliff beaches, as part of the 2006 Haivainas Beachley Classic. The

Classic has heralded the return of world class women's surfing to Sydney after a ten year absence, with the richest prize money ever offered of \$150,000.

Organiser and runner-up in the Classic, Layne Beachley, said she was thrilled to see elite surfing return to the Northern Beaches. "With the sponsors help, we're determined to see it come back next year as an annual event on the world surfing calendar."

Below: The teams show off their signed boards



Damian Hardman signs a board

