



Occy stars at sports day lunch

FORMER world surfing champion Mark Occhilupo will headline the Wollongong Vikings' National Sports Day Luncheon at the Towradgi Beach Hotel tomorrow.

Also appearing at the event will be former world-ranked surfer Michael Lowe, Australian Commonwealth Games team member Robert Hurley, former NSW Waratahs hooker Adam Freier and Australian Wallaroos winger Nicole Beck.

An initiative of the Sports Rewards Foundation, National Sports Day is designed to raise money for sporting equipment for Australian "grass-roots" sporting clubs, as well as individuals.

"Local clubs are fundamental to the Australian way of life and it's important that we acknowledge the role they play in providing our children with sporting opportunities and life skills," National Sports Day founder Jacob Gough said.

Vikings player Andrew Barrett organised the luncheon.

"Vikings' involvement in National Sports Day provides us with the perfect opportunity to raise funds for our club, as well as budding athletes all around Australia who don't have the support network of a club like we do," Barrett said.

"National Sports Day is a great initiative which helps the progression of Australian sport at its very roots.

"I would encourage sporting clubs all across Australia to get involved."

The luncheon gets underway at 12.30pm and guests are encouraged to come dressed in their favourite team's sporting colours.