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Media Contact: Kira Chong Tim
kira@candelastrategygroup.com
www.bwrags.com | @b.w.r.a.g

THE BIG WAVE RISK ASSESSMENT GROUP (BWRAG) HEADS TO AUSTRALIA THIS MONTH

Daniel Ross, Zeb Walsh, and Patagonia Australia will host two BWRAG Summits in Australia - Torquay (April 14-18) and Austinmer (April 27-28)

(Oahu, Hawaii - April 3, 2019) The Big Wave Risk Assessment Group (BWRAG) will bring its big-wave safety training program to two Australian cities this month - Torquay, Victoria (April 14-15) and Austinmer, New South Wales (April 27-28). The 2019 BWRAG Australian Safety Summits will be hosted by Dan Ross and Zeb Walsh, and sponsored by Patagonia Australia.

The first of two BWRAG Australian Safety Summits will kick off in Torquay, April 14-15, at the RACV Torquay Resort along Bass Strait in Victoria. The Torquay Summit will be led by BWRAG Chief Master Instructors Brian Keaulana and Pat Chong Tim, along with BWRAG Master Instructor Greg Long. Following the Torquay Summit, BWRAG Master Instructor Greg Long will conduct the Austinmer Summit, April 27-28, at the Austinmer Surf Life Saving Club Function Centre on the shores of Austinmer Beach.

Both Australian Summits (Torquay and Austinmer) will offer Level 1 and Level 2 BWRAG certification courses and are open to all surfers interested in gaining experience in waves of consequence. Day 1/Level 1 curriculum will include classroom training, while Day 2/Level 2 curriculum will include in-water training. Those interested in attending Day 2/Level 2 curriculum must attend Day 1/Level 1 or have previously completed a BWRAG Level 1 certification course.

Classroom training will include BWRAG'S Ocean Risk Management curriculum, CPR/AED, medical intervention training, floatation vest tutorial, and spot analysis. In-water curriculum will include jetski and surfboard water rescue training of conscious and unconscious victims, apnea theory, and dynamic breath hold training.

Patagonia Ambassadors Dan Ross and Zeb Walsh will be hosting both Australian Summits with support from Patagonia Australia. Ross and Walsh attended the 2018 BWRAG Hawaii Summit,

and were inspired to bring the BWRAG educational program to Australia to further share the ocean safety knowledge with ocean enthusiasts in their home country.

The first BWRAG summit was held in a barn on big-wave surfer Kohl Christensen's property on the North Shore of Oahu. That summit was organized by Christensen and Danilo Couto, following the tragic loss of fellow big-wave surfer Sion Milosky. From this gathering, the big-wave safety movement was born. Since then, summits have been held every December on the North Shore, where male and female big-wave surfers from around the world convene to refine their safety knowledge and discuss issues affecting safety in the big-wave arena. Summits have evolved into comprehensive trainings in high-risk management, including case scenario analysis, apnea training, safety product showcases, CPR/AED training, and open-ocean first-responder training.

In 2014, the members formally assembled as the Big Wave Risk Assessment Group (BWRAG) led by Christensen, Couto, along with ocean risk specialist Pat Chong Tim, and legendary waterman Brian Keaulana. With the help of global ambassadors like Greg Long, Gabriel Villaran, and Ramon Navarro, BWRAG is expanding its curriculum to reach surfers all over the world.

Today, BWRAG summits occur around the globe, in partnership with local organizations and government agencies and safety experts in locations like Northern and Southern California, Ireland, Portugal, Australia, Puerto Rico, Chile, and Peru. Most recently, BWRAG kicked off 2019 with a two-day summit in the Azores Islands hosted in partnership with the Ribeira Grande City Council.

For more information and to register for the 2019 BWRAG Torquay Summit and the 2019 BWRAG Austinmer Summit, please visit the [BWRAG website \(www.bwrags.com/register\)](http://www.bwrags.com/register). Stay up-to-date on upcoming BWRAG Summits by visiting www.bwrags.com and by following BWRAG on Instagram (@b.w.r.a.g) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bwrags).

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ABOUT BWRAG

The Big Wave Risk Assessment Group (BWRAG) exists to educate and train surfers in ocean risk management, safety protocols, equipment, technology, and skills training to maximize safe practices and to elevate the safety of those with whom they share the surf lineup. Led by Kohl Christensen, Danilo Couto, and Pat Chong Tim, under the mentorship and inspiration of elite water-safety technician and revered Hawaiian waterman Brian Keaulana, BWRAG's mission is to share progress and key learnings with members of the surf industry to continue to advance awareness, best practices, and technological advancement. The BWRAG Level 1 certification is a prerequisite for purchasing the Patagonia PSI Vest. A certificate of completion is given to each participant and can be presented to purchase the vest. www.bwrags.com