INSPIRING SURF TRAVEL TALES, INTERNATIONALLY & LOCALLY: MENTAWAIS | SUMATRA | BALI | WEST OZ | SNOWBOARDING JAPAN

# SMORGASBOARDER

№ 30 | -TRAVEL- 2015 | FREE SURF MAGAZINE

#30 TRAVEL 2015 EA $0.00 TOTALLY PRICELESS

TOTALLY IMMERSED



AUS 30 NZ SB

Stoked surfer, home board builder, passionfruit farmer, Troy Smith
Photo: Richard Kotch

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Pic: Stix

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***SIZES:*** *6'6, 7'0, 7'6* | ***FITS:*** *1-4 BOARDS*

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***SIZES:*** *6'0, 6'4, 6'8, 7'2* | ***FITS:*** *1-2 BOARDS*

*Fitted design | 20mm moulded protective side wall | Expandable gusset for fins*

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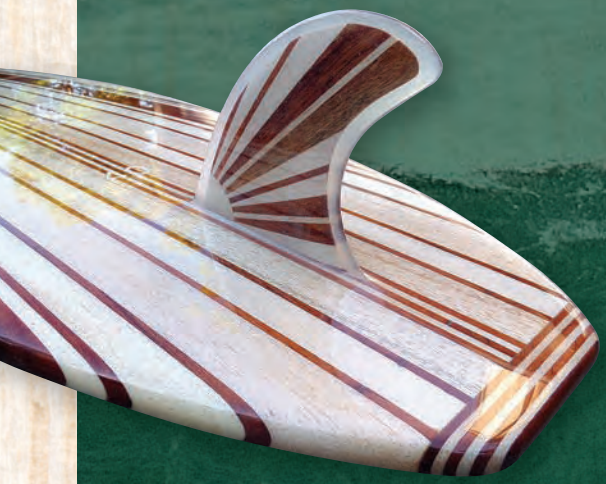
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The quintessential 'wish you were here' moment.
*Photo: Waterline Photography, courtesy of Offshore Surfers Surf Charters*

# GO FORTH

The Surf Trip, it is something we as surfers hold so dear. It embodies that very spirit of adventure, the promise of good times, whether it be with family or friends, numerous in number or just a few, overseas or just along the coast, with the surf going off its chops or next to non-existent where you have to grovel to slide along a minute face. It's always special no matter what the circumstance. There is almost something magical about it, particularly how surf trips seem to soothe our souls and reinvigorate us.

The surf trip is often where we find time to reflect on our lives, what we have achieved, what we have lost and what opportunities the future holds. It's here we develop ideas and forge plans, the next big chapter in our lives. This very magazine was conceived on a surf trip. Its distribution network developed on another. Indeed many businesses within the surf industry owe their very existence to the surf trip.

And so it is with this edition, we celebrate the surf trip through the eyes of our many readers and contributors – your tales, your experiences, your surf trips. Enjoy.

*Cheers!*
*the Smorgasboarders*






# QUALITY, PROVEN & INNOVATIVE

PUKA PATCH

## The ONLY instant Ding Repair that will get you in the water in seconds !









"With the rising interest in SUP & the rapid development of boards for surfing, there comes a whole new set of lessons in care & maintenance of that equipment. Dings have always been a big part of any watercraft. Especially with many boards now constructed out of EPS foam, the danger of piercing the thin fiberglass skin is one that can never be overlooked.

The reason is that Styrofoam cores on watercraft will soak water quickly & it becomes impossible to drain all the water back out resulting in added weight & the possibility of that water coming between the core & skin causing delamination. There is nothing worse, however, than having a great day of surfing cut short because one's board is taking on water. There is a quick solution called Puka Patches that can be applied while out in the surf to seal the ding & prevent any more water getting in. Another great product from the same company is their Rail Saver tape.

This is a clear, easy to apply plastic strip that preserves the paint job on the rails of the board. On the molded SUP boards, the paint finish is like car doors & every time the paddle hits that rail, it's like someone opening their door into yours. After a few sessions, your rails look beat & battered. The Rail Saver saves the board from all that. There have been other brands in the past but putting them on was a nightmare of wrinkles and bubbles.

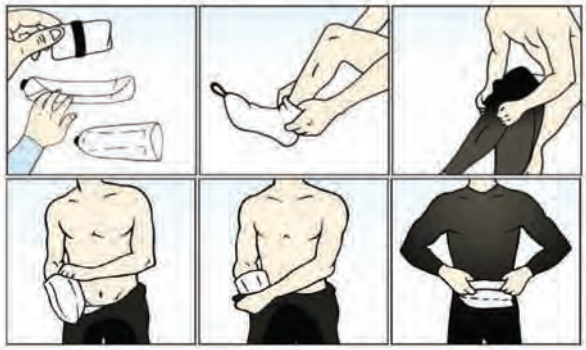
Rail Saver is so easy to apply it make's one feel like a pro. Once on, its barely noticeable but your rails look brand new forever. Both these products are must have & get in the habit of carrying several Puka Patches in your wax pocket, the board you save from sinking may not even be your own but your karma will thank you later."

Aloha & Keep Paddling ..... Gerry Lopez

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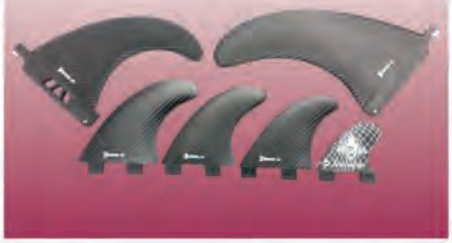
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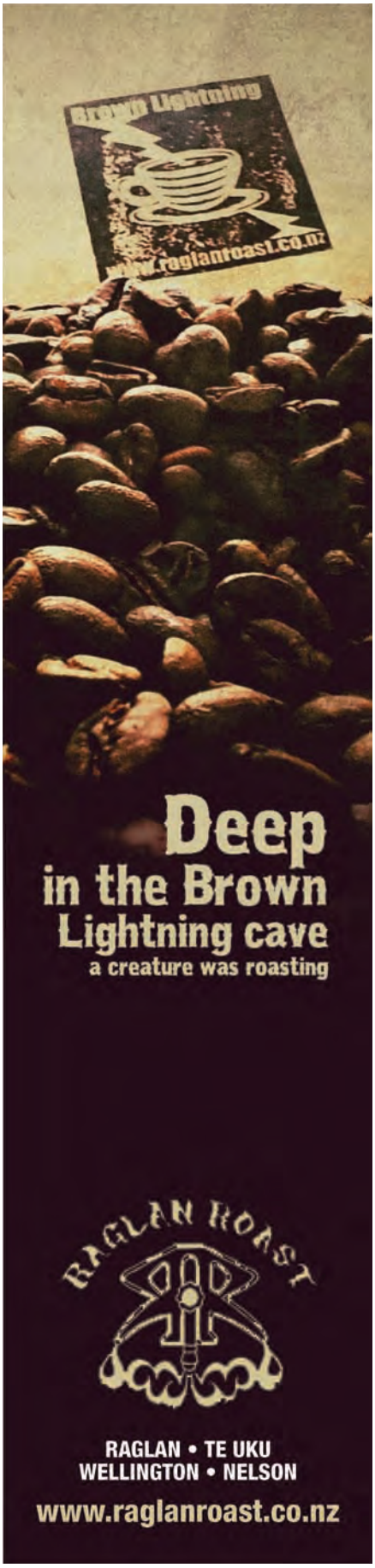
VestPac
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Beachwheels




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As always, plenty of awesome surfboards!
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## DETAILS, CREDITS & STUFF

Grab **SMORGASBOARDER FREE** at quality surf stores, shapers and cool cafés on the coast of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and New Zealand... Be nice and buy something while you're there. Or read it online.

## SUBSCRIBE FOR MAGAZINE HOME DELIVERY

If you can't get to a store or other venue to pick the mag up in person, you can also choose to have **SMORGASBOARDER** delivered to your door. See **www.smorgasboarder.com.au**. A few back issues are also available for $5 a piece, plus t-shirts & more!

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## THE COVER SHOT



*Troy Smith is a true Smorgasboarder - a mad keen surfer, home board builder and addicted wave-chasing world traveller. World Surfaris surf guide and photographer Richard Kotch nailed some great snaps of Troy on his recent overseas jaunt, including the one that graces the cover.*

*For more, see the story on page 14*

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## CONTRIBUTING...

This is *YOUR* mag. It's here for you to tell your stories, show your pictures and share your thoughts - and score some free stuff on the way too, to boot.

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There's only a few of us here, so please be patient when you get in touch - we'll try our best to get back to you as soon as humanly possible. Get in touch to discuss any ideas you'd like to be considered for a future edition or online.

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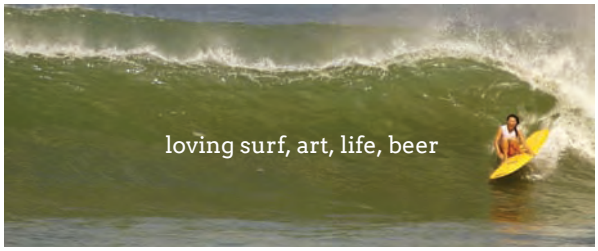
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# The Noticeboard

**AKA: THE NEWS... COMMUNITY WHAT'S HAPPENINGS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

letters@smorgasboarder.com.au smorgasboarder



## SAME WAVELENGTH

The good folks at *World Surfaris* are in agreement with us, New Zealand has immense appeal from both a surfing and snowboarding perspective.

With this in mind they have teamed up with *New Zealand Surf Adventures* and put together some great Surf & Snow packages.

For more info email *info@worldsurfaris.com* or go to *www.worldsurfaris.com/blog/surf-and-snowboard-nz-2*

## UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT

While going to print *Underground Surf* were in the midst of moving from their home on Noosa Hill to their new digs at the northern end of Hastings Street.

With quality customers like this bloke to the right, we are sure the new store will be a huge success.

*www.undergroundsurf.com.au*



## SHOPPING AROUND

And speaking of moving, Coolum's best little grocery store and newsagent *The Shop* has moved a couple of doors to the left. Stop in and grab your *Smorgasboarder* and a coffee.

For more of the happenings, see *facebook.com/theshopcoolum*





# LISTEN UP IN THE WET

Also as we were going to print, Rob Cribb of *Watershack*, an Australian distribution company dedicated to all things to do with action watersports announced they had secured the Australian and New Zealand distribution rights for **ECOXGear Speakers.** So why is this such big news? When you see and indeed hear these speakers they will absolutely blow your mind!

Where do we start? Well basically if you like listening to music and happen to go to the beach or snow or perhaps paddleboarding, boating, skating and even mountain bike riding, you are going to immediately want these speakers, without a doubt. You can basically take them anywhere, without a care.

**So what's so special? Well they are:**

- Completely waterproof and snow, surf, sand and dirt proof
- Completely submersible and even float!
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- A weight range from 0.2 to 1.6kg means they're incredibly light
- Start from RRP $89 through to $229



All we can say is, "Yes, yes, yes. We can't wait to test one." The surf shops in the groove will already have these babies in-store by the time you are finished reading this.

To see them in action go to *vimeo.com/69800196* and *vimeo.com/62292197* and visit *www.watershack.com.au* for more info.







# TOTALLY



**LEFT:** Homemade boards from Troy Smith's quiver.
**RIGHT:** Making them work in the Mentawais. *Photo: Richard Kotch*

# IMMERSED

It's one thing to love your surfing and surf travel. It's another to try your hand at shaping your own boards. It's a completely different thing however to travel the world with your own homemade quiver! Passionfruit farmer Troy Smith – permanently more stoked than most kids catching their first wave – has done just that. He shares his experiences, from bungling through his first board, to putting them through their paces in the Mentawais.

WORDS: TROY SMITH | PHOTOS: RICHARD KOTCH & TROY SMITH



## THE DAY DAWNS

**warm and still, the air hazy from the ever-present small fires on the islands. The sweet smell of clove cigarettes wafts past from the Indonesian crew. I am sitting on the top deck of the *Moon Palikir,* preparing my surfboards and watching a new and exciting land slide by, heading to a wave that makes it onto every Top 10 list I've ever seen, with overhead swell and light winds forecast.**

I started learning to surf in 2006, after moving to the Sunny Coast from North West NSW to become a passionfruit farmer. I grew up farming on the black soil plains of Mungindi, on the edge of the outback. My childhood hobbies were all water based, from water skiing and windsurfing on our large farm dams, to fishing in the local rivers and in Hervey Bay on our annual visit to see my grandparents.

When I thought of the ocean as a kid, it was the calm waters of Hervey Bay that sprang to mind. Occasionally we would get a solid Northerly blow that would whip up waves big enough for a skinny bush kid to get a small body surf, which was unreal.

These days I really enjoy the surf on the Sunshine Coast, and it gets plenty big enough for me, but with all the talk you hear of how gutless it is compared to these mythical places like Indonesia and Hawaii, I had a few butterflies in my stomach. It wasn't my first overseas surf trip, having put a few trips in to PNG and the Maldives since meeting Shaun Levings - founder of *World Surfaris* - in 2010, but in my head this was the big league: a place I had learned to fear… And here I was, approaching Macaronis on a Mentawais boat trip with a decent swell running. To add to my nerves, the only boards I had brought I had shaped for myself earlier in the year.

# MAKING IT WORK

The shaping seed was sown for me spending one morning with Bob McTavish, getting a single fin mid-length custom made. As Bob explained the steps, the use of the tools, and the different design features, I began to get a sense the shaping process was for me. Fear of failure kept me from seriously thinking about it though, until October 2013. Meeting Nick Bawden in the Maldives got me over the line when he told me it's just such a thrill riding a board that you have made, even if it's not technically perfect. That night - with perhaps a little bottled optimism - I resolved to make a board for myself.

Upon returning home I set about re-reading Simon Anderson's *Thrust,* sat up late into the night looking at every shaper's web site I could find, and pored over the board section in the back of my *Smorgasboarder* collection. Slowly a design started to form in my head. I built a set of shaping stands from scrap metal I had and bolted them down in an unused corner of the farm shed. I then carefully measured my collection of six shortboards - rocker at nose and tail, and the width 12" from each end. Next I made cardboard templates from the nose and tail of boards that I liked. Once complete it was time to get supplies so I headed for *Burford Blanks* in Currumbin.

Darren and Mal *(Burford)* were so patient with me, explaining every part of the process, particularly glassing and supplying me with the good gear. It was pretty funny really, with the conversation going something like: "Do you want wax in styrene monomer for the hot coat?" and I would say "Ummmmm, should I?" They would say "Yep, this much will do for a couple of boards, put 20ml in a litre of resin." To which I would reply "Okay… What's a hot coat?." It makes me laugh now but they didn't treat me like an idiot. Thanks guys.

## WHAT TO SHAPE

I learned to surf on a longboard and only got onto shortboards a few years ago. I struggled with shortboards for years, trying all sorts of performance shortboards and hybrids. The closest I came to what I was looking for was a 7'2 *Simon* - a step-up board. I reckoned it was about the right volume, just a bit limited for performance because of how "gunny" it was.

The smallest board I tried was a full blown performance shortboard, 6'6" long and 33.6l. I did get the best wave of my Sunny Coast career on it, threading three-barrel sections on a beautiful day at the Coolum bays, but in general I was disappointed more often than not after a surf. It just didn't suit my aims in the water.



Board selection is an interesting exercise in psychology: I find my ego wants to go smaller, my memory forgets the trajectory my age and weight are on, my brain thinks I am not so different to the pro surfers, and the optimist in me plots an ever increasing skill set. The two big things to consider are shape and size. For size, I had to be uncomfortably honest with myself. I am not a natural athlete, and I am reminded of the difference between myself and career surfers of the world when I occasionally share the local line-up with blokes like Mark Visser, Julian Wilson and surf guide Andy Schwartz. They move through the water like tuna. This, combined with their far superior wave sense, means they don't need much board under them. As a result, they're free to do all sorts of amazing things when up and riding.

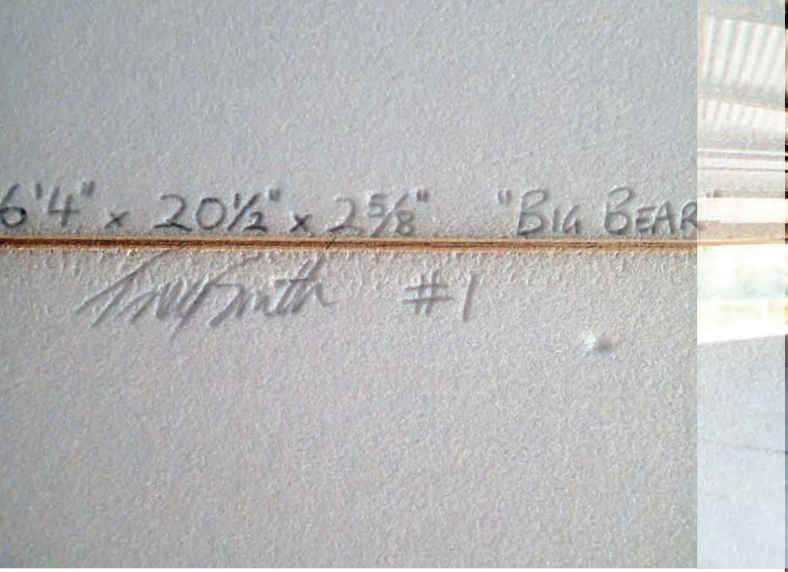
I don't aim to do so much with a wave - just catch plenty, weave around, get a few barrels when on offer. I'm 40 years old, 6'2" tall and 85kg. My age is not an issue as I am younger than Kelly, and there are plenty of surfers bigger than me on littler boards, but I guess it really comes down to your level of athleticism and your aims. For me, this all means I want a lot of foam, and I am happy with the restrictions that puts on performance surfing.

For working out board shape I decided to concentrate on the three main weaknesses of my style. They are: paddle power; a wide, front-foot-heavy stance; and creating speed on the wave. For paddling I wanted lowish nose rocker, plenty of width under my chest and heaps of foam. For my wide stance I wanted it to be pretty long, with the wide point forward of centre and a tail that makes it easier to turn from further forward on the board. Thus I wanted vee-double concave out the tail for going rail to rail easier, and substantial tail rocker to shorten the turning arc. I also wanted to try moving the fin cluster forward half an inch to loosen things up a bit. To create effortless speed I wanted a decent single concave up front and quad fins from what I could find in my research.

My first board was to be a big blokes shortboard for medium to good waves, to surf good beachies and points at home, and to be the smaller of two travel boards. I came reasonably close, but not quite long enough in hindsight. There seems to be a bit of a chest-beating contest about how short a board you can ride. Even though the main factors determining volume are plan shape and thickness, length is most commonly talked about. The dimensions I settled on were 6'4" by 20 ½" by 2 ⅝". I called it the *Big Bear.*

**I ENJOYED DESIGNING THE BOARD SO MUCH AND FOUND IT FASCINATING HOW YOU COULD COME UP WITH A UNIQUE PLAN SHAPE BY COMBINING PARTS OF MANY DIFFERENT TEMPLATES.**

I started by marking the blank 13 ¼" wide a foot from the nose, 20 ½" at the wide point which was 2" forward of centre, and






14 ¾" wide a foot from the tail. There is an art to linking those points in a continuous curve, and I loved the challenge. After sawing around the outline and tidying it up with a sanding block, I was ready to rip into the planing.

The whole shaping process went quite well and I was super happy with my rocker and bottom contours. A common piece of advice I had read for first time shapers is to do less rather than more if you are in doubt. I didn't want to make the whole board too fine so I ended up with a pretty thick nose and fairly chunky rails but I was stoked with the tail end.

To fit the fins I measured the fin positions of all my other boards and found the thruster pattern, then moved the cluster ½" forward to accommodate my front foot stance. To work out how to position modern quads I printed a picture of Kelly's 2014 *Quiky Pro* boards and measured them relative to the other three fins. I made a rough router jig in the workshop and fitted my futures fin boxes and leash plug.

Things were progressing smoothly and I was starting to think I was killing it. I couldn't wait to get glassing. I spent a lot of time on *YouTube,* and *Hawaiian Fibreglass* became my instructor.

The glassing process brought me back to Earth with a thud. I must have made every mistake you could make. My resin mix went off way quicker than I expected and caught me out before I had lapped the rails. With what I now know, I could have saved it quite well by mixing some more resin up as the pot sets way quicker than the thin layer on the board. Nonetheless, after grinding out and repairing all my mistakes, the board looked more like a ding repair than a new shooter and I was seriously questioning the whole endeavour. I eventually finished the glassing and sanding and with that complete, I bought a pair of quad trailers, made a small keel fin for the fifth box from an old fin I had. I was ready to wet it.

Finally it was time for a test run, the moment of truth. I was quite anxious. I knew if it was a dog, I would take it pretty hard. I had some time on a Tuesday afternoon so I made my way to Alex *(Alexandra Headland).*

Conditions were pretty poor, about 10 knots of onshore wind with waist-high crumblers. Normally I would have taken my single fin or a longboard. No-one else could be bothered with it, but I was desperate to know... Later on, I wrote in my journal "My initial sense was very good and I had quite a fun surf. Very happy with paddling and manoeuvrability, but not the best test."

Two days later we got a nice point swell and I got to test it in some head-high to slightly overhead, walled-up waves. I had to push a bit harder through my bottom turn but quickly got used to that. "My first cutback





Troy's board building setup, and below, the crowning glory - a quiver of various breeds of bear.





There's a bear out there... With stories to tell. *Photo: Richard Kotch*

# TOTALLY IMMER



SED

blew my mind! It was insane how I could smash it around."

From that moment I was hooked. After a few more tests in beach breaks, it was going pretty well, but I found I was struggling a bit in more sucky take-offs. I knew I had achieved what I wanted in the tail, and I was overall quite happy for a first effort, but knew I hadn't created that elusive "magic board" you hear and read about.

Following on from my first attempt, I made a shortboard for each of my two sons and a big log for me, honing my skills each time. The next project was to be a step-up board for me, for really good, solid conditions at home and overseas.

I called in to see what *Burfords* had in the way of blanks. Darren looked a bit worried when I told him the dimensions of the board I wanted to make. He grabbed a blank that was supposed to be in a container on its way to Hawaii, but couldn't fit. It was a little finer than I was hoping for, and very rockered, but at the time it was my only real option.

I got a chance to thank Darren the other day as this board has become my first ever magic board. What I ended up with was a 6'10 x 20 1/8" by 2 5/8". I called it the *Grizzly* as it's for big, hairy, ugly buggers like me!

This board really matches my stance well, handles the suckier conditions my first board struggled in, but with that board's magic tail shape, it has great turning ability for such a long board. I only rode it six or eight times before Indo but I thought it showed it could be my "go to" board over there when conditions stepped it up a bit. I wanted to take three boards to Indonesia, and take the opportunity to really accelerate my learning by testing different boards in good waves, so I made another board - a shorter, fatter one just before the trip. It's 6'3 x 20 7/8" x 2 3/4" called the *Bintang Bear.*

## THE TRIP

We picked up the mooring at *Macaronis* at 7.45am, 6th November 2014. It was a perfect three foot and we got straight out there. I decided to take the 6'3" *Bintang Bear* out first. I got some really fun waves, and spent some good time in barrels but didn't quite make it out of any proper ones. I blew plenty of take-offs, feeling a little under-gunned on the sets that were certainly overhead.

I decided to grab a quick brekky and get back out there on the 6'10" *Grizzly.* I really appreciated the extra length and got lots of good waves. I was very happy with the board. Over the next few days we loitered around the Southern end of the Ments, spending plenty of time at Maccas, also scoring really good Greenbush, and one of my favourite surfs of the trip on my forehand at the super fun right-hander Roxy's. This was an early morning super session. It had a bit of morning sickness but I was keen to try it on the 6'3". Only four of us went out and had a really good hour before a storm blew through and shut us down. My board felt great in the peaky little right, which was about head high. This was the best surf for me on the *Bintang Bear.*

With the weather no good for surfing we decided to make a lumpy passage for the central region and it's gems of Lance's Left and HT's. We arrived at the Lefts to see the swell had built to the biggest of the trip. I went out on my 6'10" with the few people who wanted to try it on at that size. It was a thing of beauty to see this reef firing, and it was right at the top end of my experience. I was quite nervous and sat wide watching for a while.

Levo *(Shaun of World Surfaris)* got stuck into it, with a smile from ear to ear. Another surfer with us, big Mick Pinney charged it that arvo, and I saw him take one of the heaviest wipeouts I've ever witnessed. He dropped into a good six-footer, not quite getting his feet right. He wobbled on the bottom turn but pulled up deep into a

Photos: Richard Kotch




throaty barrel. His balance still wasn't quite right and he went over the front of the board. Mick did the full cartwheel inside the barrel before being sucked over the falls. He didn't get a scratch though. In fact, the only skin he lost for the whole trip was when he kicked his shin on the nose of a SUP that was stored on the top deck! Mick is a competitive long boarder from Vicco but only travels with short boards, and a great surfer *(Small world – See Smorgasboarder issue 8, Nov 2011, for an interview with Mick).*

He gave me some valuable feedback on my boards, and had a ride one small afternoon on my 6'3", which was fun to see. Mick said he shaped some boards for himself years ago, and warned me to be careful not to harm my progression in the water by single mindedly sticking to self-shaped craft, which I have taken on board.

I didn't quite get my head together that afternoon, I eventually took a mid-sized wave but blew it and lost my board. It turned out I had a faulty leash with bad velcro on the ankle cuff that kept coming undone. Shaun kindly retrieved my board from down the reef but I was pretty rattled so contented myself with just watching the show. I was glad to see a proper swell in Indo, with sets touching on eight foot.

The next morning it had dropped enough for me to get into it and I had a blast playing on the long fast walls of Lance's Left. It was still a challenging size for me but I really enjoyed myself, having one of the most fun surfs of my life. We scored HT's really nice that afternoon and more Lefts the next day, before heading to the Playgrounds region in the north for the smaller swell of the trip.

On arrival, we got glassy Nipussi, still well overhead for a very memorable couple of hours, before a bit of a party night with great music, cold *Bintang* and a seemingly endless BBQ cook up.

The next day we got fun Burger World - shoulder to head high, mellow crew and smiles all around. I took the chance to have a play on my green 6'4", the *Big Bear.* It went well for me, but the conditions suited more of a grovel board. I would have loved my single fin or a performance mal for the smaller stuff.

After a few days in the Playgrounds we worked our way back to Macaroni's to drop off Richard and Amy Kotch, had a last surf there and began the passage back to Padang in the afternoon. Not far North of Macaronis we checked a wave called Batcaves. We weren't really expecting it to be working but it was the most stunning thing we saw all trip, from a picture perfect, small palm fringed island, to amazing cave formations in the rocks and cliffs. It was an amazing end to our Mentawai Islands trip, and a little teaser for what we might just score next time.

Late season Mentawais certainly turned it on for us. I am a confirmed crowd dodger and we had no real crowding issues to speak of. The two busiest waves were Macaronis and HT's but that is to be expected, and they weren't bad compared to the points at home. It is a great feature of the Ments that you could have an amazing trip without even visiting the most popular waves, such is the variety and number of great set-ups. November really suits my farm program most years, and is also when the waves at home are often pretty average, so I am already talking to *World Surfaris* planning my next mission.

## BACK HOME

Surf travel is certainly a nice treat but I really do enjoy surfing the Sunshine Coast. I still manage to have a lot of fun surfs in pretty average conditions. I find it a bit of a mind game though. You are going to be often disappointed if you want waves like Indonesia every time you surf, but if your choice of board matches the conditions and your intentions, then real magic can happen. It could be knee high winter beachies on a log, unruly cross shore points in a cyclone swell on your step-up, or messy beachies on a fun board after a morning of work where you stick a nice late backhand drop or a neat closeout re-entry. Those surfs are really your bread and butter and have to keep your stoke tank full between trips. I have a Sunny coast fun board on the stands right now for just that purpose, 6'6 x 22 ¼" x 2 ¾", but that's another story…

Since returning I am using the 6'10" *Grizzly* as my normal short board and just loving it. I will grovel on my new fun board or my log. I am planning a step-up *Grizzly,* probably 7'3" for a re-match with solid Lance's Left or the best days at home.

I am really enjoying my shaping journey, it has certainly accelerated my learning and increased the depth of my enjoyment of surfing. I don't plan any commercial future for me in the industry, other than ding repairs for beer, steak or other barter items.

After I have finished my next two boards I plan to go to some of the masters of the art over the next few years and see what they can create for me with different materials. First call will be Mitchell Rae from *Outer Island Surfboards* for a full-blown *Zen Blade Flextail.* I really can't wait to see what his boards can do for my enjoyment of surfing. This process has really increased my respect and admiration for the core board makers of the industry, and shown me how committed they are to their art. I am sure many of them are working for less money than an apprentice plumber, and I want to support them into the future.

Good surfboards are so amazingly cheap in comparison to any other hobby so check the back of your *Smorgasboarder,* choose one of the shapers you click with and go see them for a chat. S



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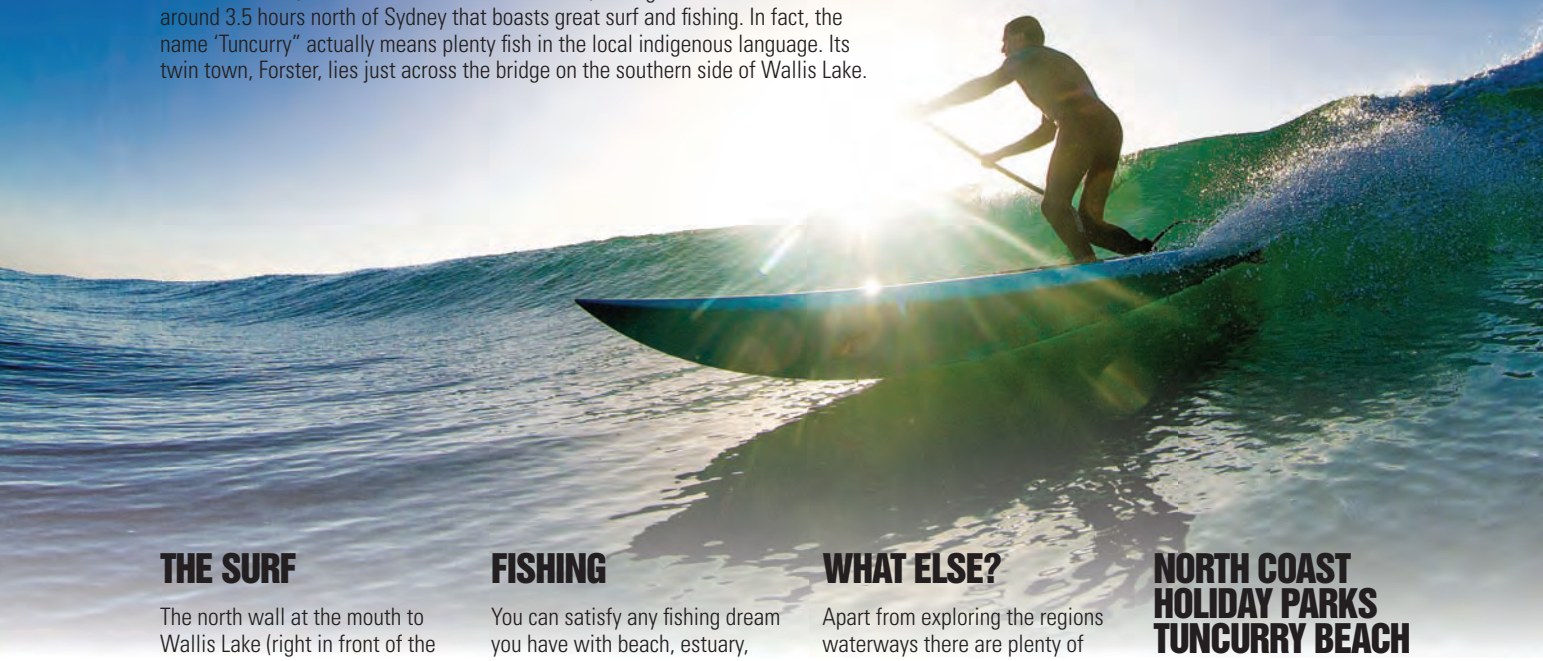
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# TUN OF FUN

GREAT FAMILY SURF ESCAPES

Photos: North Coast Holiday Parks, Tom Woods

**TUNCURRY** is the northern gateway to the Great Lakes. Bounded by the Wallamba River, Wallis Lake and the Tasman Sea, it's a great little coastal town around 3.5 hours north of Sydney that boasts great surf and fishing. In fact, the name 'Tuncurry" actually means plenty fish in the local indigenous language. Its twin town, Forster, lies just across the bridge on the southern side of Wallis Lake.



## THE SURF

The north wall at the mouth to Wallis Lake (right in front of the park) works in all tides but in big NE swells delivers really nice long rides over a sandy bottom. Along Nine Mile Beach there are also plenty of A-Frames delivering endless lefts and rights. Just across Wallis Lake lies Forster with a heap more options extending all the way down to Boomerang and Bluey's Beach, Seal Rocks and Treachery just under 50km away.

## FISHING

You can satisfy any fishing dream you have with beach, estuary, river and deep sea fishing all right in front of you. If you don't catch fish here you probably won't catch any anywhere. The 99 sq km Wallis Lake with an average depth of just 5ft is Flathead heaven.

## WHAT ELSE?

Apart from exploring the regions waterways there are plenty of coastal walks and if you are still looking for things to do we suggest indulging in a few local oysters, which are just sensational washed down with a bit of amber nectar, which you could do after letting the kids exhaust themselves in the calm, protected waters at the nearby Rockpool area.

## NORTH COAST HOLIDAY PARKS TUNCURRY BEACH

A check of *Trip Advisor* and you will see this park has received rave reviews due to its facilities, cleanliness and proximity to the beach, Rockpools, shops and restaurants. There are numerous sites for tents, campervans and a range of cabins sleeping up to six people. There are even dog-friendly sites within the park backing onto bushland with direct access to the off-leash, dog-friendly beach. There's even a dog bath area as well! If that's not enough, the park also has a tennis court, large children's playground and BBQ areas.

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# A TALE OF EASY WAVES IN BALI.

WORDS: ALYX BURGES | PHOTOS: BROWN SUGAR SURF CAMP

A hazy cloud of salt mist hangs over the glassy water. No hint of wind leaves the swell rising and falling like freshly thrown sheets over a lover's bed. A strong diesel note hangs heavy in the air around me, playing havoc with an empty stomach. This early in the morning I can hear brakes straining under impatient feet as truck drivers move their wares from coast to coast.

**A FAT CRUMBLING FACE ALLOWS PLENTY OF TIME TO SCRAMBLE TO YOUR FEET, SLIP, FACEPLANT YOUR BOARD, AND THEN HAVE ANOTHER CRACK AT IT.**

Pulling my rash vest on and smearing thick, pasty zinc over exposed areas of my body, I carry my board across warm, black sand dodging a foray of rubbish and sharp rocks. I count fifteen or so surfers already taking advantage of the early morning conditions - clean, four foot faces.

An hour and a half from Bali's capital, halfway to the port that receives goods from Java that are destined for the hands of Westerners, I've come to Medewi (Meh-dare-wee) on the promise of easy waves. Tucked in behind a vast rice paddy and fronting a beach lined with deep grey sand is *Brown Sugar,* a surf camp designed for those a little less hard core. The brainchild of a German born lover of all things surf and skate, *Brown Sugar* appeals to those that prefer a relaxed surfing experience.

Though smaller in reputation compared to its renowned Bukit Peninsula cousin, Medewi is famed for its 400m lefthand point break. Holding anything up to ten foot the Medewi point break, though over reef, can deliver a neat ride for those that need a little more time to make the magic happen. A fat crumbling face allows plenty of time to scramble to your feet, slip, faceplant your board, and then have another crack at it.

If you are a dedicated right footer then there are other breaks in Medewi to satisfy. East of the point is Right Handers, an entirely different character to its famous neighbor and a little more aggressive in nature. In peak conditions Right Handers bares some resemblance to the better known breaks of Bali. Padang Padang and Dreamland, all tucked neatly down on the Bukit Peninsula, induce the same sphincter-tightening sensation after staring down a four foot drop. It is quite the step up from the point and best tackled on smaller days, you know, to build the nerves.





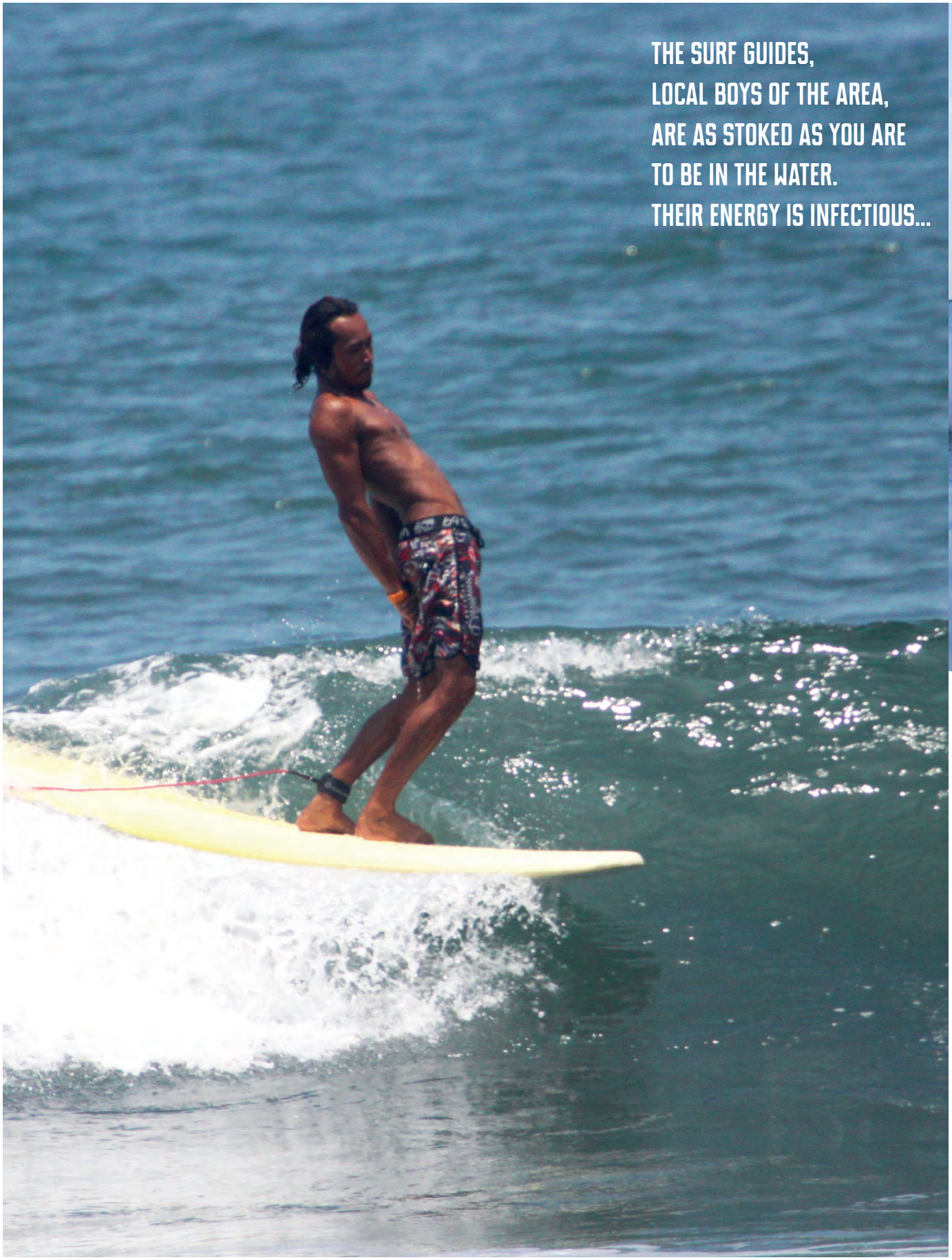
*Brown Sugar's* facilities

Photo: Chris Immler





Alyx, enjoying the waves



THE SURF GUIDES,
LOCAL BOYS OF THE AREA,
ARE AS STOKED AS YOU ARE
TO BE IN THE WATER.
THEIR ENERGY IS INFECTIOUS...



*Photo: Chris Immler*

If the thought of your impending death is a slight deterrent then head West to Diva's. Best on a mid to rising high tide, Diva's can produce two to three foot pearlers off a sandy bottom. Though it can hold much larger surf, Diva's on smaller days can be a much needed ego boost for those that are still not keen on reef breaks. Paddling out is a non-event. Carried on the surface by rips either side of the break you have time to breathe and reflect whilst staring back at an island overshadowed by green mountains, the tips hidden in heavy clouds that threaten rain but never deliver.

Medewi time is divided up into eating, sleeping or surfing. Morning sessions are sustained by a quick kopi susu (coffee with milk) thrown down as boards are loaded onto the top of minivans but followed by mountainous plates of mi-goreng in a tangy, moorish sauce. Fruit is plentiful and generally organic. A day cannot pass without gorging on the soft flesh of paw paws so ripe that the smell of their yellow green skin escapes the kitchen and kisses your nose delicately, a squeeze of lime juice to balance the sweetness. All pleasure and no guilt.

The second session of the day comes after a midday nap. Guilty at first for wasting precious daylight hours you soon come to realise that napping sustains your activity levels and is much needed, said everyone with a cheer. Refreshed and ready to redeem yourself after a possible sluggish or hesitant first session the surf guides blare out American rap music to pump the crew up, everyone staring off into the distance and daydreaming about nailing huge, sluicing bottom turns as we rattle down dirt roads past doe-eyed cows.

The surf guides, local boys of the area, are as stoked as you are to be in the water. Their energy is infectious and you find yourself taking off on waves you normally would baulk at. They have you covered on the shoreline too - someone is constantly taking pictures of you, and two days a week you're videoed for technique analysis, a fantastic tool for those looking to understand the finer points of surfing.








# GO WEST

Salt-encrusted faces gather at the local warung (cafe) which sits smack bang on the edge of the water looking out over the point. The smell of salt and zinc mingles with peanut sauce and stale *Bintang* breath. Bloodshot eyes look out over the water as crew tell tales of big drops and close calls. As relaxed in the water as I am out, my name now etched into the Balinese surfing Hall of Fame, I take a slug of my *Bintang* and dream of tomorrow's easy waves.

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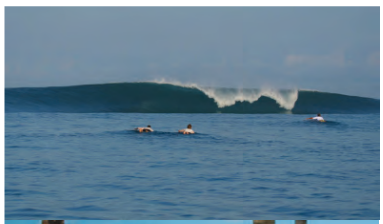
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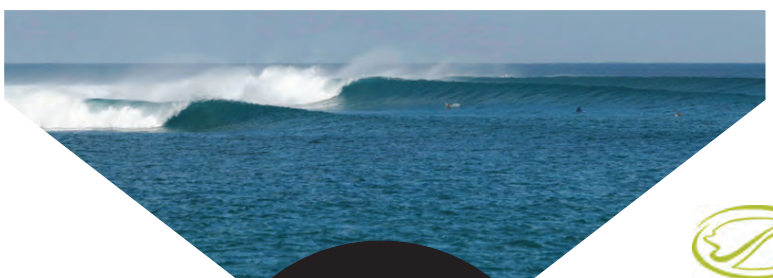
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# HOT SPOTS, HOT SHOTS

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"Surfing, like water itself is able to trickle through the greatest of divides"

Before I began my venture, which took me to the tropics of Central America, the deep blue of the Pacific and the crazy unknown delights of Asia, I called myself a surfer albeit a very selfish and sheltered one. My home was the vast array of waves on the south east coast of Australia and the historic surf site of Torquay/ Bells Beach, I thought that I had it all.

The once free spirited, adventurous, all-inclusive, stylish artform of surfing has been so cleverly packaged into a sellable product that we have cheap, machine-made boards at our fingertips, and cutting edge wetsuits and surf attire available at every surf shop. Watching young girls strut down to the shoreline with everything hanging out was common occurrence, as was drop-ins, surf rage, conflicts between riders of different surf crafts, and parents getting banned from their children's contests. I did not once stop to question what is now commonplace in our modern day western surf society.

# MEXICO

It was at my first destination - *Mision Mexico,* a children's refuge set up in Southern Mexico that shares its passion of the ocean with the children. There I experienced the full meaning of surf stoke, watching young boys' and girls' lives transform from abused and timid children to enthusiastic, empowered individuals as they submerged themselves in the waves.

About the time that I arrived at *Mision Mexico,* so did a young girl.

I almost couldn't look into her big brown eyes as I saw so much pain and despair welled up inside. In her twelve short years she had been subject to so much more than most of us will experience in our lifetime. I watched her inaugural venture to the ocean, her little face in awe of all those around her surfing, body boarding and swimming. In that first trip to the beach, she took a few hesitant steps towards the water and was content at that.

Over the coming weeks she would progress one step further each time until one day I looked up and she was dragging a surfboard over to me, ready for a lesson.

The waves were perfect little peelers and as she stood up for her first time, her face transformed into a beaming smile, with a flush in her cheeks and light in her eyes. Language was not even a barrier.

# INDIA

Surfing, like water itself is able to trickle through the greatest of divides - ethnicity, religion, age, language, gender, and class… The list could go on. I discovered this when I found myself on the west coast of India, walking amongst palm trees and vibrantly coloured houses en route to *The Shaka Club.*

Talking to Tushar - one of the co-founders of the surfing club and an extremely charismatic and driven individual - his love and passion for sharing surfing is obvious.

Within the small fishing village he calls home there is a diverse collection of people, he explained. Hindus, Muslims and Christians live amongst each other, as do people of different levels of the caste system. This can at times bring strain on the community but since Tushar and his girlfriend Ishita (the first female surfer of India) bought surfing to the village, people that wouldn't usually acknowledge each other are now out surfing, skating and enjoying each other's company.

# DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

WORDS & PHOTOS:
SAM SUENDERMANN

"The moment I escaped the real world, journeyed to unchartered waters, made friends with salt encrusted surf enthusiasts and rode dinged-up foamies and third, fourth, even fifth hand surfboards was the point in time I truly discovered surfing. "

Sam Suendermann shares a tale of not only travel, but self-discovery and a shining insight into the most positive side of surfing.



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*Native Hawaiian surfer with alaia board, circa 1911*



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"surfers are better people"



Leo, one of the older boys from Mission Mexico showing his brothers and sisters how it is done.

# THE SHAKA CLUB

Tushar's simple explanation of why he and Ishita are encouraging local Indians to get involved in the sport is just because "surfers are better people".

India has a big problem with drowning and environmental degradation as well as an array of social issues that stem from a vastly diverse and highly populated country. Surfers at *The Shaka Club* must know how to swim before they are given surf lessons and members regularly pace the white sandy beaches garbage bag in hand to pick up and safely dispose of the rubbish washed along the shoreline.

As pioneers of surfing in India, Tushar and Ishita are inspiring role models who maintain a good name for surfing within the community. They can see how the past negative stereotype and image of 'the surfer' in western society still harms present day perception of surfing so they are creating their own positive surf culture. With exciting plans in the works The *Shaka Club* is working hard to use surfing as a platform to unleash the untapped potential of village children and the men and women of India.

## PACIFIC

I pause here to think about the positive changes that surfing can bring about, and my mind is taken back in time to when I spent a good portion of last year in the Pacific. It was when I walking along the white sandy shoreline, through little coastal villages that I realised just how self-centred we could be - how surfing could make us. For surfing can be a selfish sport. We are on the constant hunt to catch that perfect wave, to jostle a fellow paddler out of position, to compete amongst a throng of people for what is most often a one-foot close out.

If you were to imagine a perfect peeling wall coming straight towards you, would you turn and take it, or sit there and leave it for the fellow sitting beside you? Truthful answers, please!

Whilst I lived in the Pacific I began to notice that material possessions, time and money did not matter. There was no such concept as me, myself and I. What mattered was being warm and caring, sharing what little you owned and being true to yourselves, others and your feelings.

There were some stand-out surfs in the Pacific but the most memorable was a day spent at one beach break in Fiji. It was a magical morning with clear sunny skies, sparkling blue water and little waves reeling off the sand bank.

I was paddling back out after a long ride to the shore when all of a sudden the quiet surf I was having alone was taken over by a group of young boys and girls from the local village. Instant crowds are not always so favourable, but this one in particular made it unforgettable.

Youth always seem to have an abundance of energy and a zest for



Surf session complete somewhere in Central America



The crystal blue waters of Fiji are perfect for beginner surfers, such as Tyler (pictured) to learn on.

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life and these kids were no different using snapped, finless and dinged boards to glide on the waves.

In an act I am certain my previous self would not have performed, I volunteered my fluorescent pink board to be used by the four girls taking turns on their battered and waterlogged foamie. I found myself happier towing them around, and pushing them into waves than I would have been surfing myself. We spent the rest of the day riding the ocean's swells until the sky turned black and we were interrupted with violent streaks of lightning.

So many days were spent sharing my love of surfing with the children of the Pacific; standing in the polluted and muddy wave-less waters of Fiji's capital Suva pushing boards as hard as I could, cheering for the rider to stand up and glide into shore, moderating between enthusiastic grommets having to share the limited supply of surfboards available and organising learn-to-surf days.

It's easy to get caught up in the trivial pursuits, consumerism and competitiveness of modern-day surfing, to lose sight of the very reason we took it up. It wasn't until I experienced surfing from a different viewpoint that I re-discovered what surfing was.

Whether is places like China where I watched old men in their too-tight bathers bob in the surf with bright orange lifejackets, or the small village of Pango in Vanuatu where all the village children have caught the stoke of wave-riding, it was joining in with the young and the old in these new surf cultures, riding snapped-in-half longboards and waterlogged foamies with only one side fin that I chanced upon the true epitome of surfing. S




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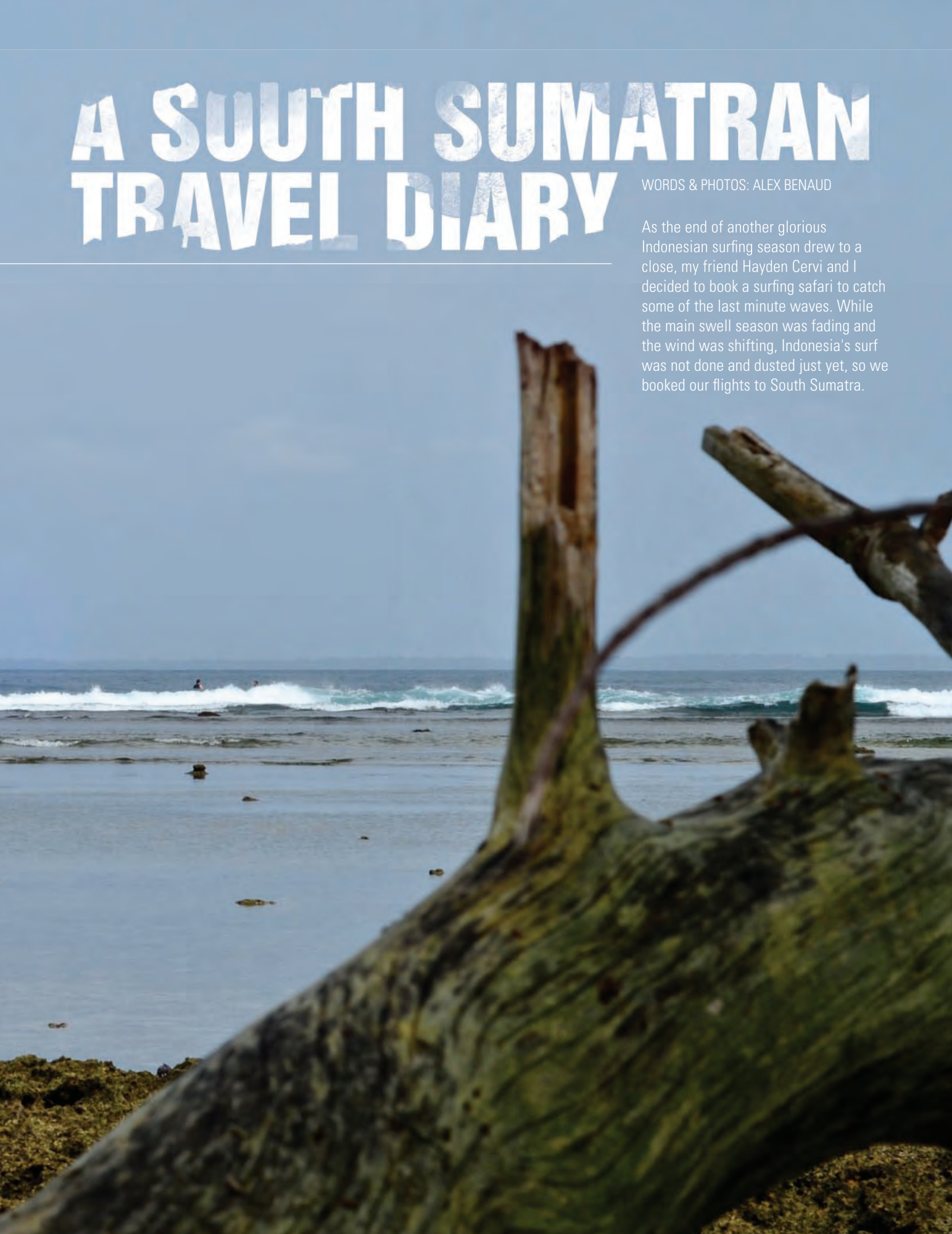
left-hand reef break that runs for over half a kilometre.



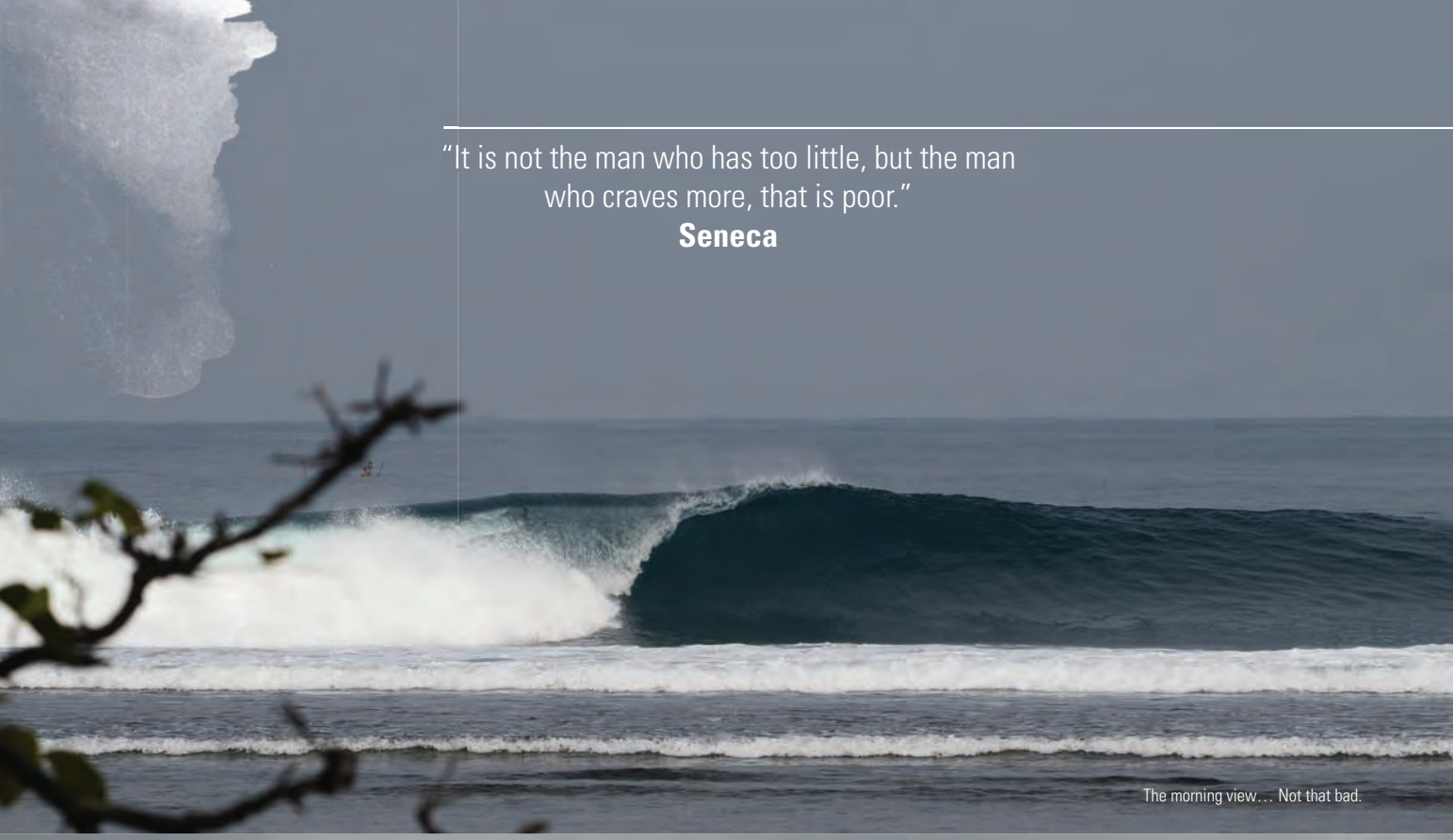
# A SOUTH SUMATRAN TRAVEL DIARY

WORDS & PHOTOS: ALEX BENAUD

As the end of another glorious Indonesian surfing season drew to a close, my friend Hayden Cervi and I decided to book a surfing safari to catch some of the last minute waves. While the main swell season was fading and the wind was shifting, Indonesia's surf was not done and dusted just yet, so we booked our flights to South Sumatra.



"It is not the man who has too little, but the man who craves more, that is poor."
**Seneca**



The morning view… Not that bad.

## ARRIVAL.

Arriving in Sumatra was very confronting and intimidating at first, it was around 8pm. Hayden and I were the only westerners in a very crammed and small airport. As we muscled our way past the swarms of pleading taxi drivers we began our 6-hour, mosquito-riddled drive towards *Family Losmen*, our surf lodge for the next 10 days.

With barely any sleep after our grueling drive, we awoke to the sight of perfect 4-5 foot Ujung Bocur, a left-hand reef break that ran for over half a kilometre. We had finally made it to our destination and the waves could not have been more perfect.

We stayed with a beautiful family who cooked for us three times a day. Hayden and I would often watch the mother and daughter catch our meals in the shallows of the reef. It was a great experience to eat such fresh food that was being prepared in the true traditional Indonesian way.

## LIFESTYLE.

South Sumatra had plenty of set ups on offer that were only a short scooter drive away. Each morning we would jump on and set off in search of something new. From beach-breaks to heavy slabs we always managed to find completely un-crowded waves with Hayden often the only surfer in the water, which made for some of the most memorable sessions for both of us.

The roads were severely pot-holed and all over the place which made for some near accidents, but the scenery was breathtaking. Rice fields and palm trees intertwined amongst the occasional makeshift soccer pitch/cow paddock. It was a real contrast compared to the hustle and bustle of the now westernised Bali - in my eyes it was a 'real' taste of authentic Indonesian culture.

Hayden Cervi making his way through a countless number of turns… A beautiful contrast to crowded right hand points of East Coast Australia



## LOCALS.

The towns were small but plentiful, with kids lining the roads each morning and afternoon as they made their way to and from school. The locals were extremely friendly, always waving and screaming "hello mister!" It really blew me out just how friendly and giving the locals were regardless of how little they owned.

One afternoon Hayden and I had made the one-hour trip up the coast to a break that we had heard of. After having an all time session, we found ourselves in the middle of a late afternoon thunderstorm. We jumped on our bike and set off for home, with the rain teeming down and our vision severely impaired, we were yet to experience the worst: our tyre popped.

In the middle of nowhere we were stranded with a bike that had no back tyre in a rapidly worsening thunderstorm. After riding on with a completely torn up tyre, we made it to the next town where some locals directed us to where we could get our problem solved.

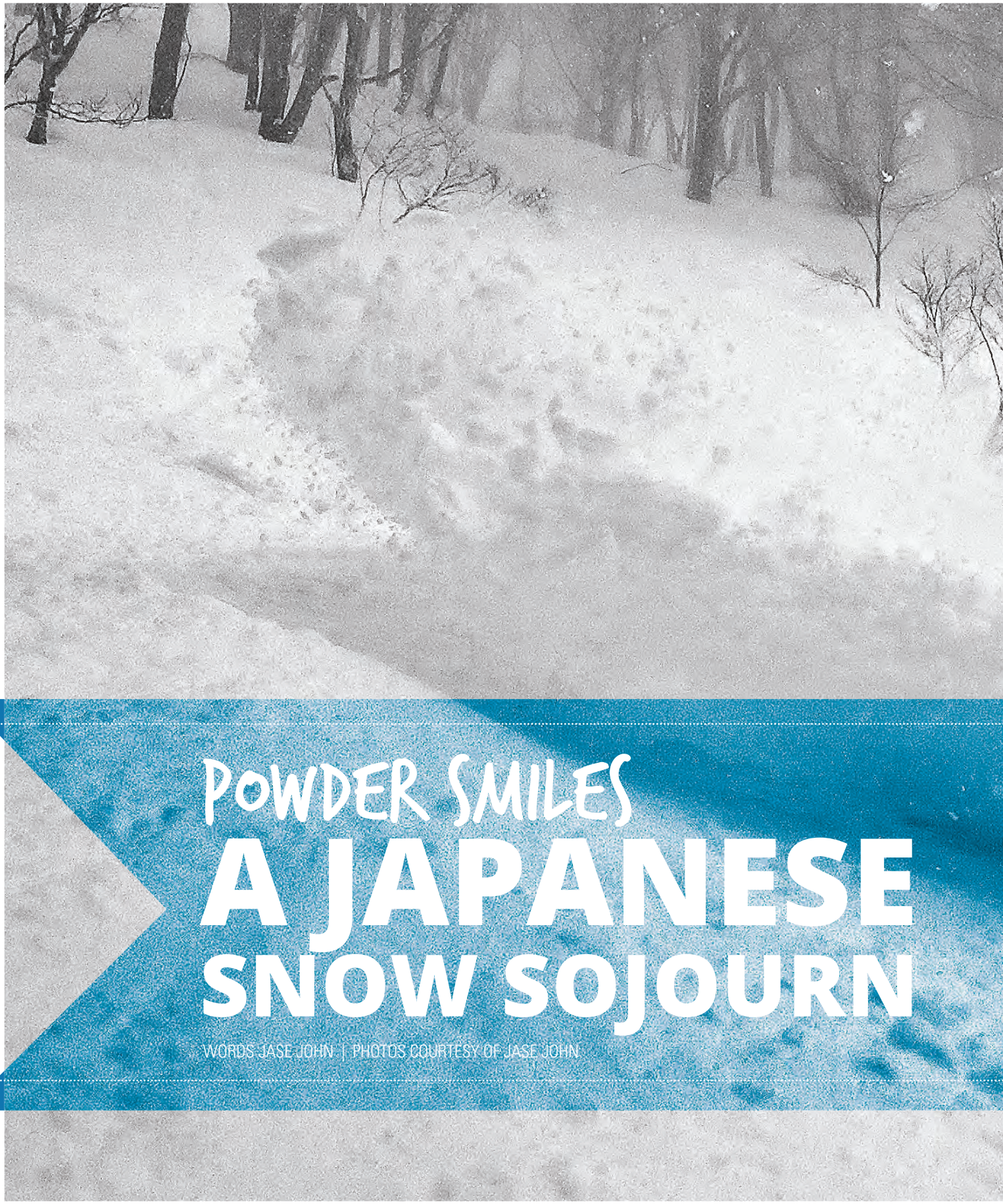
No longer than five minutes in the shop and our new best friends had our bike up and running with a brand new tyre, ready to go. The mechanic refused to take our money at first but we were so thankful we couldn't possibly leave without paying him the total price of $3.50. Incredibly friendly and humble humans.

I would often be the only person on the beaches when I was photographing. Locals would always come down and sit with me, we would not speak much as the language barrier was tough but I knew they appreciated my smile and company as much I did theirs.

Sumatra was an eye opening experience for both Hayden and I. We were lucky enough to experience the lifestyle and culture of traditional Indonesians whilst surfing perfect, un-crowded waves for hours on end. I will always remember the people of Sumatra and the places we visited. We learnt some valuable life lessons during our time in Indonesia.







# POWDER SMILES
# A JAPANESE SNOW SOJOURN

WORDS JASE JOHN | PHOTOS COURTESY OF JASE JOHN



It was never my intention to become a 'Tour Guide', and to be honest, that's really not what's eventuated – it's just been crews of like-minded folks that are keen to get out and enjoy life, to taste the different, to experience the foreign… to do the same as I am doing!

As with most folks I end up playing with these days, we first meet when they wander into our snow/surf store *NZSHRED*, in Queenstown, New Zealand, while on one of their own little adventures. We start chatting, we play together – now we're mates and catch up several times a year.

The rendezvous are always based around an activity, and this time is no different... **SNOWBOARDING!!!**

Japan has become a staple for me, over the last few years - my powder-topia, a snow filled nirvana in the North. There is always that attraction of travelling in your own off-season, and the 'Land of the Rising Sun' certainly offers everything in that regard. The eclectic mix of randomness and uniformity, mixed up with humility and regimentation.

The wonderful world of *Facebook* allows an opportunity for Friends to live your activities and actions vicariously. However, sometimes that's just not enough, sometimes that's merely the bait – they need to be part of it themselves. Our great friends from Darwin and Perth (Tom, Heidi & Briony, and Steph, Stu, Chris & Cara) did just that. Having previously snowboarded Hokkaido (North Island), I convinced them to hang, as *'Team NZSHRED',* in the upper Chubu District of Honshu (South Island). It was there, that we lucked into some always epic Japan powder.

## A MIX OF NEW & OLD

I've always been a nervous traveller. Not in the sense of paranoia that I would be hurt or get in trouble - my nervousness relates to how I feel after the trip. The sitting back at home, not being happy, feeling like I'd missed out. So, I've long subscribed to the concept of mixing up my trips with some new and fresh components, as well as a safety aspect of something I've enjoyed before.

Breezing through Narita Airport and onto the Shinkansen from Tokyo, taking me northwest, to the city of Nagano, the decision was made to first visit a slightly less commercial, more traditional snow area – Nozawa Onsen. A short trip in an old two carriage diesel train, saw us climb up the valley to the smallish village in the Shimotakai District of Nagano Prefecture – a township of some 5,000 people, known for the huge apples produced in the warmer months. The village itself is a quaint mix of old traditional buildings in small, narrow streets, married with contemporary hotels, convenience stores and cafes. The town is also known for the numerous natural public onsens *(hot springs),* appearing sporadically throughout the backstreets. From the summit of Kenashi-yama Mountain, a massive ski area of some 730 acres and a vertical descent of 1,085m leads back down to the village. With over 70 years of snow history, the ski area also boasts a single run of over 10,000m, while also having two gondolas and 18 other chairlifts.

After a brief 3 days stay in the village, where the accommodation was a nicely appointed modern hotel, with traditional futon beds, bamboo floor mats and rice paper window shutters, I left for Nagano and boarded a bus to the next base.

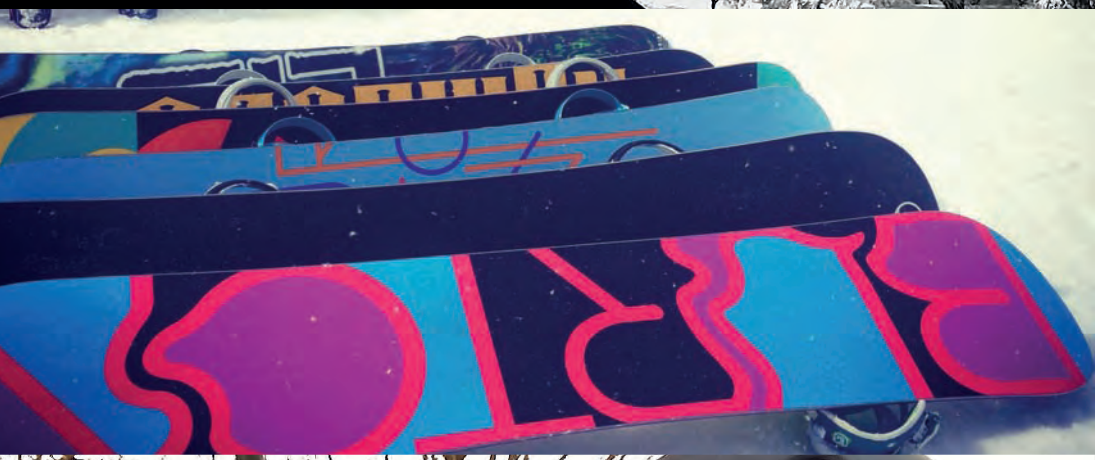
I chose to return to the well-known snow town of Hakuba. As with nearly anywhere you travel in the world, you usually run into someone that you know, and this was no different. Being dropped off at the central Information Centre, I was then picked up by our hotel Host and shuttled up to the accommodation in Wadano-no-mori. As I walked into the foyer I immediately recognised Dan, a fellow snowboarder from Queenstown. On his millionth trip to Japan, he had just a couple of days left in Hakuba, before heading to another smaller place to explore. I jumped at the chance to ride with him at Iwatake the next day – I had a day before the Aussie crew were arriving anyway.

I'd organised to meet the Aussie crew at "The Pub", an icon in the Wadano district. Next day we saddled up, as the weather started to turn, and chalked up an easy day on the slopes of Tsugaike Kogen. As the wind was set to increase, we chose to stay close to the town and next went to *Hakuba47*. Snow was in the forecast, so the executive decision was made to take full advantage of it and get over to *Cortina* - a 45 minute bus trip, but well worth the trip for the tree-protected powder lines. And... We scored it. Day after day. I think we collected five or six *Cortina* days, with one late bail back to Tsugaike, due to avalanche closures.

> JAPAN HAS BECOME A STAPLE FOR ME, OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS... MY POWDER-TOPIA, A SNOW FILLED NIRVANA IN THE NORTH.









Everyone in the extended group was riding well, and the pile of gear attributed to *NZSHRED,* at the foot of the majestic *Cortina* ski area, stood testament to each massively enjoyable days riding. There's a lavish buffet, which comes courtesy of you purchasing your day pass, or you can fully relax the weary bones in the infamous "best positioned Onsen in the World". Either leads to what must be close to anyone's most rounded snow day.

After 11 days riding and some truly unforgettable powder, we jumped the bus and then the train, back to spend a day or so, seeing the sights of old Narita town. On the way, another visit to the legendary snow monkeys was squeezed in. It's a super easy excursion where you can leave all your snow gear in the security lockers of Nagano Train Station, while you take a 40 minute bus ride followed by a 30 minute walk through the forest, to where these comedic little primates congregate.

That saw the end of the *NZSHRED* Japan Tour, as the shop again beckoned my presence and the credit card needed a well-earned break. The Aussie crew however continued their assault, jumping a plane to Hokkaido and hitting the slopes of Niseko. Another two weeks saw them filled with snow stories and quality memories.

> THEY'LL BE BACK AGAIN NEXT YEAR, JUST LIKE I WILL.

For more on Jase's shop, NZ Shred, check out : **WWW.NZSHRED.CO.NZ**

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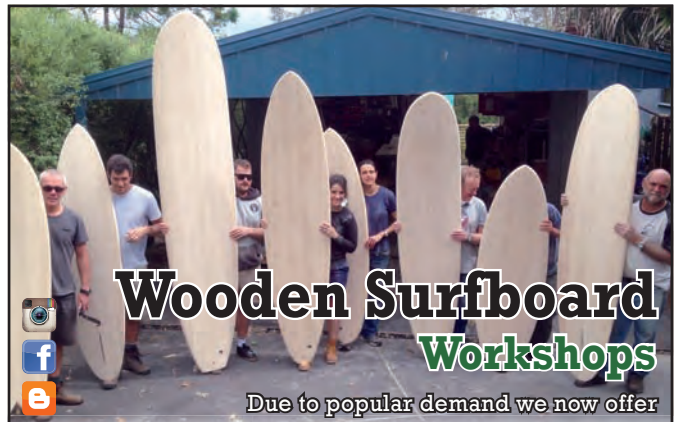
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WORDS: TOM DEMPERS
& RILEY DE CAMPE.

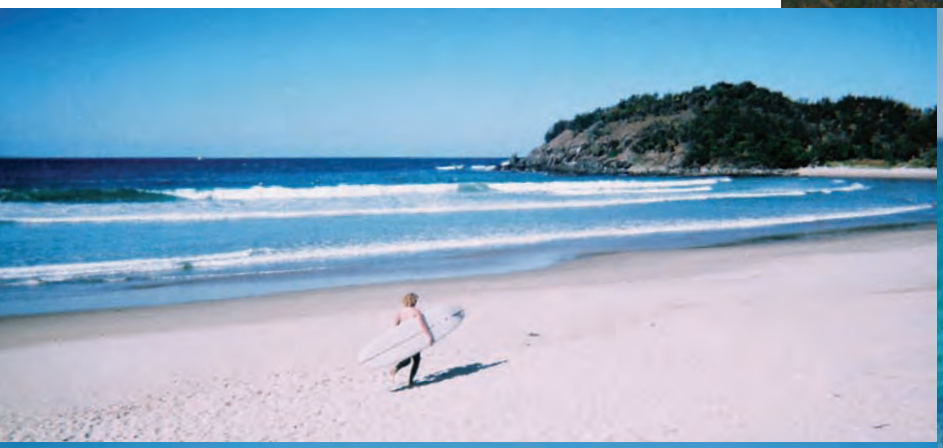
Sometimes a great surf trip doesn't have to be far from home. The *Salty Shoes* crew recently went wave hunting on a classic Aussie weekend surfing road trip. While they reckon they didn't score too many epic waves, they scored a pretty fun weekend with mates, which is what the best memories are made of anyway.
Ironically, the weekend trip worked out exactly like the idea behind *Salty Shoes*… "Not perfect but real." Let's tag along…


- not perfect but real -

# DAY 01

A mish-mash of people going on a surf trip! This little collection of people was the ***Salty Shoes*** **crew**, for this weekend anyway. Main thing on the agenda was getting waves! And believe it or not, we didn't really score. The whole "down South" coast was at our disposal, which consisted of the region some might know as Margaret River. From the go it was pretty clear that the swell was not going to co-operate, but we went anyway, in the hope of finding something. It's just one of those things. We arrived at our first surf place nice and early - a great little sand bottom peak with rights for life, and some lefts too. Peeling little barrels, clear water. What more could you want. Head dips? Yep, we got a few of them. Also there was no one else out, just us! After what seemed like ages, the clouds came and the wind started blowing, so we bailed. Perfect surf for day one. We set up camp at a little spot, had some beers and laughs and presto - the day was done! Success!














# DAY AFTER

The next day went looking for waves and found nothing. We ended up hanging out on some rocks for ages. It was such a nice day, so all was good.

After that we had and headed up to Yalls! Siiick! "Got to pick your way down here pretty good, all that there is reef! So you got to stay on these bits here okay?" said a bloke out in the water who we will name R-ley.

Cool, done. Made it through that bit, missed some sucking up, dry-reef boilers, back out the back and done. Another one. The surf was a real fun size and everybody was foaming at the mouth on the waves. If we could have somehow paddled out upside down and seen ourselves from under the water, it would have been a cool sight. You would just see four nice single fins cruising through the lagoon, heading out the back.

Want an ice cream? Yep. After the surf, we had some cool ice-cream, watching others get waves at the spot we were just surfing. A good after-wave activity.

After all that you get quite thirsty, so drinking water and other liquids was a must. Evenings were a suitable time for us to do this. Overlooking the Indian Ocean as the sun goes down was a pretty good spot!






And we were off. We went wave riding again! We did some sick surfing (in our eyes.. probably and most likely wasn't though). And that is that. A success. And yep, we did score. Got ya. This was just another surf trip that we went on.

To be honest, when writing this little piece and thinking of all the cool things we could write, it came to us that you have probably all experienced this countless times and enjoy it every bit as much as us.

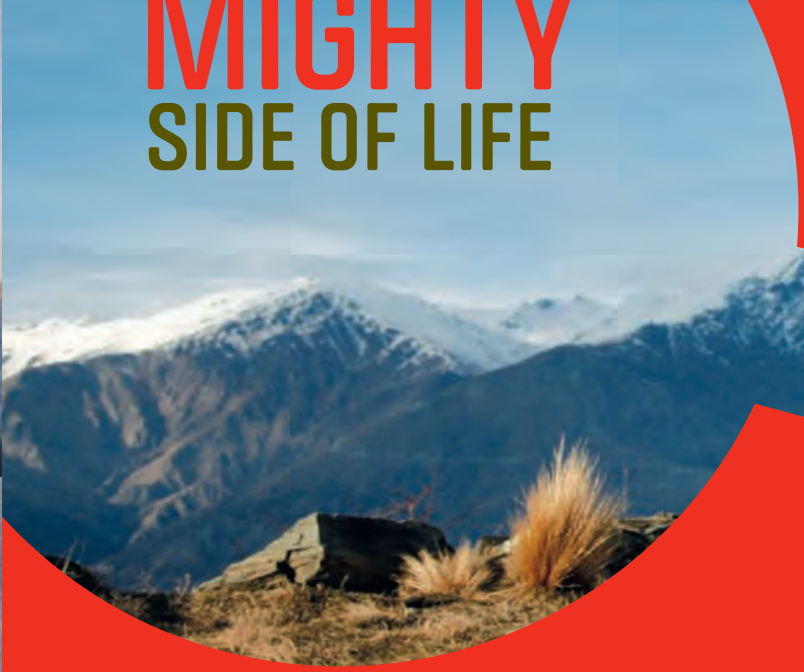
So yeah, at the end of it all, it just comes down to the basics: a board under your feet, gliding on a wave, with you and your mates! We had fun and we hope you guys do too. S

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# GEAR

## SURFBOARDS



Photo: Brad Evans @bradophoto



Photos: Will Smith @shuttapunk





## "CHEERS AND HAPPY SURFING"

*Black Apache* team rider Maya Simonovski looks as relaxed as can be.



**11'1" X 24" X 3 ¼"**

## THE MAYA MAVIS EXPERIENCE

by Jesse Watson

"A bigger board's inertia and glide is amplified incredibly over a standard longboard.Everything kinda moves in slow motion - like standing on the back of a whale... Available in multi, wide and custom stringers, heavy weight foam, tail and nose blocks and volan."



**7'10" X 21 ½" X 2 ¾**

## THE SHEWOLF

by Jesse Watson

*"The She Wolf* is based on the involvement-era boards from Australia in the late sixties. Think *Mctavish Involvement* through to *Wayne Lynch Evolution...* That period in surfing was great but because the boards changed so quickly there wasn't adequate time put into each design. I wanted to recreate a board style that I loved in the past and try to continue its progression as if it never went out of fashion but just continued to progress.

"Rolled entry vee out the back and a flex fin keep it critical."

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**6'0" x 20 ¾"x 14" x 14" x 2 ¾"**

## PERFORMANCE EGG

by Jordie Brown

2+1

With a bit of everything, this is an extremely versatile stick for the surfer after an alternative to a standard thruster short-board in progressive waves.

This design's got meat where you need it and it's refined where you need it, so it paddles great, yet surfs!

With a light 6oz/4oz trimmed lap glass-job, tint and a full gloss coat, wet rubbed finish and 2+1 box and *FCS*, this is the perfect board for drawing nice lines on an clean open face!



**6'4" x 19 ¼" x 12 ½" x 13 ¾" x 2 ⅝"**

## '90S STYLE THRUSTER

by Jordie Brown

3

This board is based on '90s-style thrusters with low rocker and plenty of volume. A great alternative to your standard thruster short-board in progressive waves and anything with a bit of juice.

Light 6oz/4oz trimmed lap glass-job, full gloss coat and wet rubbed finish with handmade glass on thrusters.

This is one of the most exciting sticks in my quiver when the waves are on!

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**5'9" - 6'10"**

## DAGGER

3

by Luke McKill

The *Dagger* should be ridden one to two inches shorter than your standard board.

A low entry rocker and low tail rocker combines with a fuller outline to allow the *Dagger* to glide over those full sections.

The bottom has a mild single concave with a slight double concave in the tail for lift and acceleration. The combination of rocker and concave makes this board fast and loose.



**5'9" - 6'10"**

## THE C4

3

by Luke McKill

Designed for high performance surfing in all-round conditions.

The rocker starts with a medium entry to a straighter curve between the feet for flying across flat sections with a flip out the tail to fit in the pocket .

When the waves are pumping the this model is your go-to board.

"Luke is kept inspired by surfing the local NSW South Coast breaks and getting direct feedback from his customers using his unique custom shapes, plus regular trips with mates to Indonesia to recharge."

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**6'0" x 19 ½" x 2 ½"**

## MOON RAKER V2FLEX

Custom handshape by Mitchell Rae

4

Liquid lightning! Incredibly fast, easy wave entry, small wave glide and run. Low rocker with a fully turbo'd up concave bottom.

Fitted with 4 *SwitchBladeFins* this design holds traction and drive into solid double overhead waves, giving it a very broad wave range.

The *V2Flex* delivers a variable curve, tighter arc, response and reflex / pop out of the turns... In short, they are alive to ride.

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**DIMENSIONS TO SUIT**

## CUSTOM LONGBOARD

by Jason Oliver

1+2

For cruising and tons of fun. This one is recycled pine pallets/Western red cedar and Paulownia. Hollow construction. All my boards are fully sealed/ glassed inside and super strong. This one's glassed in 3oz cloth. 10" box + sides.

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**6'0" x 19 ½" x 2 ¾"**

## THE SPEED FREAK MACHINE

1

by Chris Garrett

"Inspired by the Campbell Brothers Bonzer, a client asked me to make my interpretation of that timeless design. A great single fin with a low entry rocker and venturie concaves to accelerate the water flow to and around the set side keel fins, this machine flies!!

"Down-foiled rails, plenty of float for the easy paddle in and down the line speed.... It's a real section killer. Custom made to fit your life.

"Glassing is 4 x 4 x 4, set keelettes and 10" finbox

"Handshaped and fine-tuned."

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**6'0" x 19 ¾" x 2 ¾"**

## ROCKET TWIN FISH

by Chris Garrett

2+½

"The classic twin fin design that I developed while working with Rasta.... Fast and loose, plenty of drive and with the small stabiliser removing the bad behaviour, a real performer.

"Flat deck, lower entry and deep double concaves in the tail exiting through a vee at the swallow puts plenty of spark in the board and the fun back into the session....

"Glassing is 4 x 4 x 4, with a 2 + ½ fin setup.

"Typically ridden reasonably shorter than you are to help you surf better."



6'0" x 21" x 2 ¾"

## DIAMOND TAIL SINGLE FIN

by Mark Rabbidge

1

It's part of the fish family and is designed to be ridden in similar small wave conditions. The channels in the tail are quite deep and act like flutes or fins in effect. The design complements the wider tail and the big single fin delivers the drive and makes the board less skatey.

This is Pam's latest board and she is loving it.



FROM 5'6" - 6'6"

## THE FISH

by Mark Rabbidge

4

This Fish is not some stubby, chunky thing just for summr crap. It's a high performance board that can handle up to 8ft.

I have been refining them since 1992. I can custom shape to your requirements and add extra thickness if required. I like to use channels in the rails for the tri-fin and quad configurations becasue they go unreal.




CUSTOM FROM 5'10' - 610"

## STEP TAIL

by the Knight Family

2+1

"The bottom shape has a step tail vee that runs on an angle out through a flyer just behind the extra fin plugs. This gives the board more acceleration while also stepping the foam away allowing the tail to sit lower in the water creating a livelier feel under the back foot."




CUSTOM FROM 5'5" - 6'2"

## MUSHROOM VILLAGE

by the Knight Family

5

"Shorter styled board with 3 or 4 fins, lower down rails throughout most of board with release towards the nose, this gives the board more surface area creating a faster down the line feel. For anyone who wants a shorter fun board for anything 1-3+ foot."

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**6'2" x 21 ¼" x 2 5/8"**

## MURAL SINGLE

by Rory Oke

1

A curvy, wider single fin that is user friendly in a variety of conditions.

**CONSTRUCTION**
Handshaped *Ocean Foam* PU blank, 6oz cloth polished finish, and a glassed-on 8" single fin.

**SHAPER'S COMMENT**
Murals are available on all our custom orders.



**6'6" x 21 ½" x 2 ¾"**

## THE ELLIPSE

by Rory Oke

3

A pulled in nose and tail with the increased tail lift makes this model ultra responsive but still a wave magnet with the forward outline.

**CONSTRUCTION**
Handshaped *Ocean Foam* PU blank, 6 oz cloth polished finish with a 3 x *Speeedfins Fibreglass s120* setup.

**SHAPER'S COMMENT**
Still by far the most popular of our midlength models. Available up to 8'0".



**6'11" x 21 ¾" x 2 ¾"**

## FUNBOARD

by Rory Oke

3

Easy to use for beginners. Still great fun in small stuff for better surfers.

**CONSTRUCTION**
Handshaped *Ocean Foam* PU blank, 6 oz cloth, polished finish. 3 x *Speeedfins Fibreglass s120* setup.

**SHAPER'S COMMENT**
This one was custom made with a ½" chunky cedar stringer.



**5'9" x 19 ¼" x 2 3/8"**

## ELEVATOR SWALLOW

by Rory Oke

3

Performance shortboard for small to medium waves.

**CONSTRUCTION**
*Ocean Foam* PU blank, 4oz cloth, wetrub finish and 3 x *Futures* fin setup.

**SHAPER'S COMMENT**
Slightly wider tail area than the standard *Elevator.*

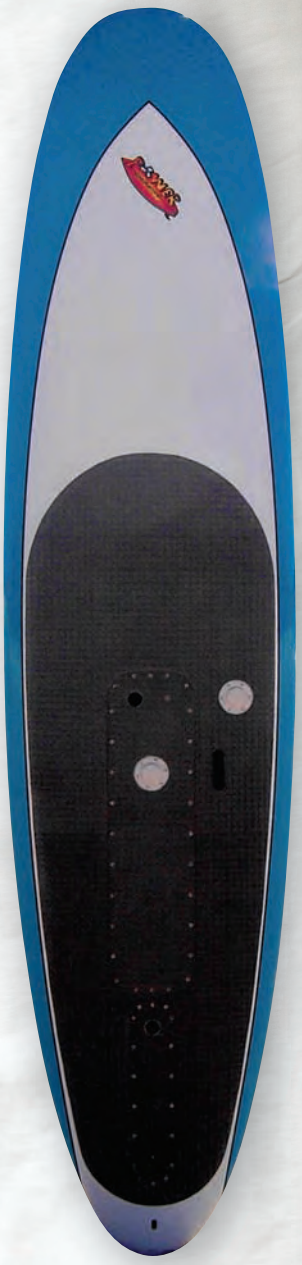
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**7'4, 9'0 and 9'6 available**

## SURFBOARD

by Chris Preston

1 or 3

Paddle assist motorised surfboard. Single fin or thruster for 9'0".

Epoxy with two layers of glass - 6 oz top and bottom with four layers on the rails. Two carbon fibre t-stringers. Single concave into a double concave. Prices start at $4,200 *(inc GST).*

"All round fun board in all conditions".

**10'0, 10'6, 11'0 or 11'6**

## THE SUP

by Chris Preston

1 or 3

Paddle assist motorised SUP. The 10'0" is shown above.

Epoxy with two layers of glass - 6 oz top and bottom with four layers on the rails. Single concave into a double concave. Prices start at $4,500 *(inc GST).*

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**8' x 22" x 3"**

## THE BIG BOY

Shaped by Al Colk

3

"Great paddler, really comfortable board, fast and carves nice turns. My personal favourite."



**9' to 9'6"x 23"**

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1

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**5'8" X 19 ½" X 2 ⅜"**

## 5'8 TIE DYE

by Robin Green

3

The Tie dye is made from a stringerless polyurethane blank, glassed with double 4oz deck and single 4oz bottom and fitted out with *Futures* fin system as a thruster.

Using high quality resin tints, the glass job is unique, with the pattern impregnated into the glass. This is not a digitally printed inlay.

A relaxed rocker will ensure down the line speed, whilst the curvy outline promotes maneuverability.

ROBIN



**9'1" x 22 ½" x 2 ¾"**

## TRAD LOG

by Leighton Clark

1

Mexican blanket resin tint, rail wrapped cut lap.




**6'4" x 19 ½" x 2 ½"**

## CHANNEL BOTTOM

Shaped by Bean

5

Modern channel bottom. Great for Indo, coral reefs. Surfs unreal as a 4-finner.



Check out the carbon fibre pinlines




**7'7" x 21"x 3"**

## 7'7 FOR G-LAND

Shaped by Bean

5

Channel bottom for G-Land. When the going gets tough,the tough get going!

Big waves, big balls, and one of these should do the job. Features a 5-fin setup.

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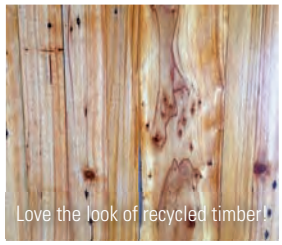


Amazing timber board by Jason Oliver ... *jasonoliverwoodensurfboards.com.au.*

# ONE LITTLE SCREW

## PART II: A TALE OF BEING SMARTER

WORDS: MARK CHAPMAN



Love the look of recycled timber!

Regular readers would have seen the story in last edition of how, in a act of pure lunacy, I forgot to put in the bung screw on my brand new birthday gift - an absolutely amazing recycled pallet timber board by my personal favourite wooden board builder, Jason Oliver.

That meant, I almost sunk it. Yep, I filled it up with salt water and enjoyed weeks of panic trying to drain it and dry it, all the while hiding my shame and silly mistake from Jason and Dave (my generous friend).

The thing I've learned through this process (and yes, every silly mistake is simply a lesson to make us incrementally smarter in life) is that my actual mistake was not sinking the board, but was rather not reading the care instructions, and then trying to 'cover it up'. This epiphany happened upon reading the email I received from Jason, after publicly confessing my sins last edition...

*"Hi Mark, had a little chuckle when I read the latest mag. There was no need to panic, you will see in the care instructions that the interior is fully sealed (in epoxy) for this very reason, water inside the board isn't a problem at all. I have done the same thing myself several times believe it or not!"*

Um. Sealed inside? Of course it is... I knew that, somewhere in the back of my mind... So, I had no need to panic? Nope. None at all.

So what are the lessons here?

**NUMBER ONE:** Always read the care instructions. Seriously. We're modern humans, we can read maps, instructions, guides... I am suitably chastised.

**NUMBER TWO:** Never think covering up and fixing mistakes yourself is the way to go! No matter how sheepish you feel, chat to the expert! It would have saved me a whole lot of stress, and earned me a much earlier sigh of relief.

Either way, it's brilliant to know that my *Battered Mullet* is 100% good to go, but I promise: I'll never forget that bung screw ever again!

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# TRAVEL IS A GOOD EDUCATOR

Which pair of leg warmers and which fluorescent top to wear were the main concerns in my life growing up in the '80s. Rollerskating, Madonna concerts and recording cassette tapes straight from the radio are memories of a childhood where our generation enjoyed a relatively carefree existence – the rise of *Disneyland, McDonalds,* and overseas travel for more than just the rich and famous.

The children of this generation however are burdened with the consequences of these days. Whereas the only message of environmental responsibility we were taught growing up was to "Be a Tidy Kiwi" and "put it in the bin", today's youth are taught about environmental responsibility from the moment they start preschool. Recycling, tree planting, ocean conservation, the dire state of our rainforests, oceans and planet as a whole... The list goes on. Of course, while I advocate the importance of this education, there is some part of me that is uncomfortable with it. I feel bad for our children there is all this negativity about the state of our earth, through no fault of their own. So, I think we should try and get creative with our education. Of course there is a place for these messages in the classroom, however I also advocate the importance of travel in educating children and young adults. Travelling domestically or internationally allows them to not only appreciate different lifestyles and cultures but to also see for themselves the effect humans have on our planet.

Depending on the destination, a family beach or surf trip can show the natural beauty of the ocean, and why we should work to keep it that way - or show the evidence of our excessive use of plastic, and how it can pollute the waterways in overpopulated countries. So, I say we should repay our kids for our frizzy-haired transgressions in the '80s and '90s and let them have fun while learning about how to take care of this planet and all the beautiful destinations we are lucky enough to be able to visit.

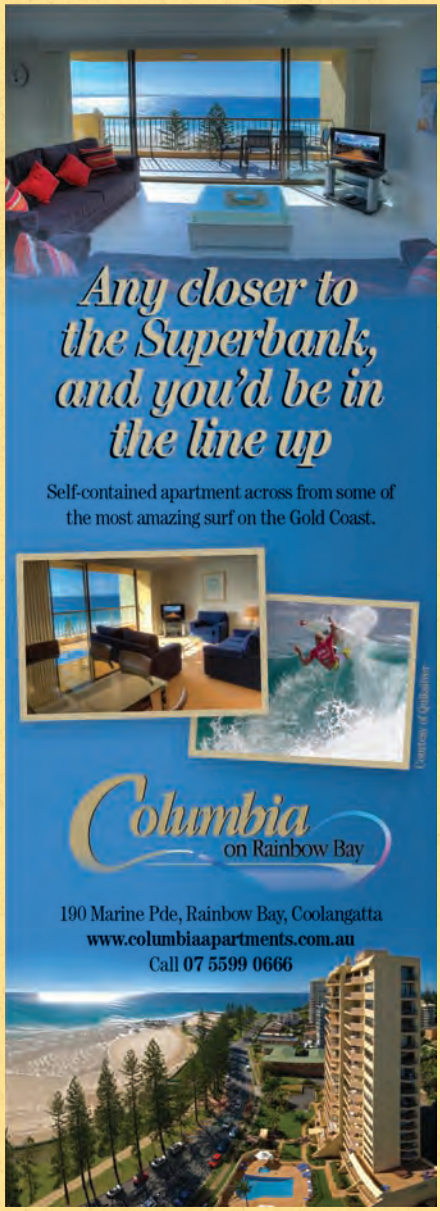
Nicola O'Reilly is the better half of the nice folks from *Surfing Green,* a couple passionate about sustainable surfing products.

**surfinggreen.com.au**




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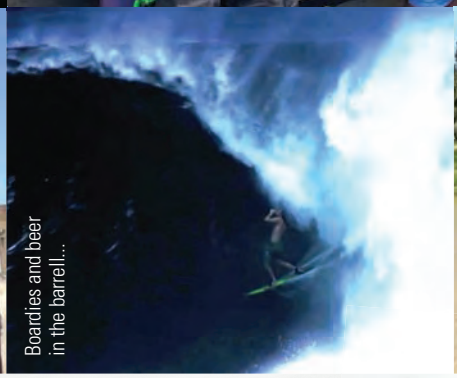


Hanging at ShedNine

MOVIE REVIEWS BY DAVE SWAN

# FILM





Boardies and beer in the barrell...



## SMASH 'N GRAB

### TAKE A ROLLER COASTER RIDE WITH THE SHEDNINE CREW

EDDIE WEARNE/SHEDNINE

★★★★½

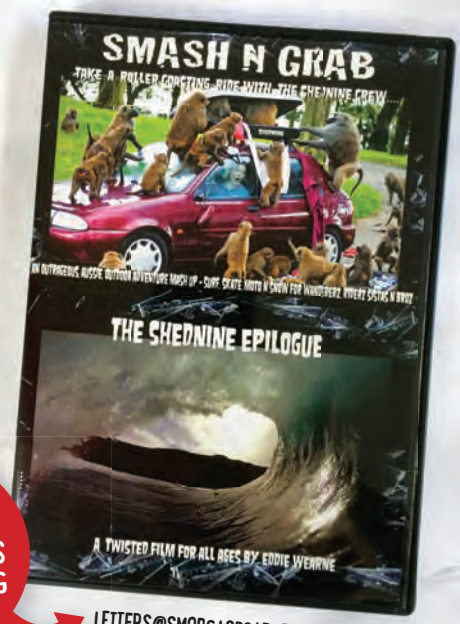
A lot of people comment on how they love the rawness and grassroots appeal of *Smorgasboarder*. Well if you like that aspect of our mag, there is a fair chance you will love "Smash 'n Grab."

Surfing, snowboarding, skateboarding, motocross, paddleboarding, bodyboarding, art, tattoos and just the pure insane antics of a bunch of lunatics is what features throughout this amalgamation of short films that runs for a hour and a half set to an original soundtrack.

The man behind the production is Eddie Wearne. When he is not pushing the limits and featuring in and producing these "twisted films", Eddie runs *ShedNine* - an amazing shop down in Rye on the Mornington Peninsula for anyone with an adrenalin addiction. In essence the film is Eddie and his mates, some unknown and some well known such as Martin Potter, Marti Paradisis and Kyron Rathbone to name a few, getting amongst it in any way they can.

The description on the back cover of the DVD case sums up "Smash 'n Grab" perfectly – "The film has no script, direction, storyline or budget. It's just a mashup of all these crazy parts." With all that said, it is an absolute cracker and crack-up of a DVD.

*shednine.com*




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## MT WARNING
### PETRIFIED HEART EP

INDEPENDENT

★★★★★

*Mt Warning* is a one-man project by Mikey Bee, originally from Shepparton in country Victoria who now calls Byron Bay home.

According to the press release, his new EP, "Petrified Heart" is a letter.

To the eardrums, it's well-written indie-rock, with Mikey showing off great songwriting, musicianship and impressive vocal range - a combination that's getting him noticed a fair bit around the Aussie music scene at the moment. A little José Gonzáles at times, a little Gotye, even a little Peter Gabriel, "Petrified Heart" is a mature release that's sure to add a few fans to the *Facebook* page.

*mtwarningmusic.com*




## DU BLONDE
### WELCOME BACK TO MILK

CREATE/CONTROL

★★★★★

*Du Blonde* is the current stage persona of English guitar-toting muso Beth Jeans Houghton. I must admit when I first saw the cover art - I expected some lame made-for-radio electro pop. I was wrong.

Not only does Beth plays instruments across the album, showing serious proficiency across a variety of styles, she also crowns it with vocal talent that covers as many styles - from tongue-in-cheek showtunes to husky, dirty indie-rock.

Not a pop release by any stretch, but there are plenty of hooks to hold even the most discerning listeners attention. Good stuff!

*www.dublonde.co.uk*

## TEX PERKINS & THE DARK HORSES
### TUNNEL AT THE END OF THE LIGHT

DARK HORSE RECORDS/ INERTIA

★★★★★

Tex Perkins - the man of many musical projects, a whole lot of talent, and talented musos to back it all up - is back again...

The new album by T*ex Perkins & The Dark Horses* "Tunnel at the End of the Light" sees him back once again, this time in a reflective and dark mood. The last time we were writing about Tex was on the release of the awesome debut album of *The Ape*. While that was pure rock fury, with plenty of power and distorted guitar glory, "Tunnel at the end of the light" is completely different - slowed down, introspective, but still heavy in its own way. Expect atmospheric, minimalist sounds throughout.

With a promo photo grumpy enough to rival a '90s death metal band and lyrics like "They shoot horses, don't they?" this is most certainly no feelgood album - not one to add to the Caribbean-themed birthday party playlist. But hey, everyone needs a good cry sometimes, they say.

If you already appreciate the many, many outputs of the talented Darwin-born singer/songwriter, you're already sold. Pour yourself a drink, turn down the lights and prepare to get moody.

*texperkins.com.au*

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# BETTER TOGETHER

The team at *Better Together Project* from the Mornington Peninsula have developed workshops in both schools and communities in which local students work alongside seniors to demonstrate how to use technology.

This unique approach brings these two generations closer together in the community, learning from one another.

The team recently partnered with Mt Eliza wooden surfboard builders and educators *Tree to Sea* to run workshops where seniors and school students get together to build beautiful boards. They now have workshops in which seniors from the local *Mens Shed* are partnering one-on-one with *Mount Eliza Secondary School* students building traditional wooden surfboards.
At the recent workshop held in May, six paipo bellyboards were completed by the students and their mentors. Robert and Gary from T*ree to Sea* oversaw the running of the workshop with part of the day including a brief history of the origins of wooden surfboards and their construction.

The *Better Together Project's* Merv Stewart explains: "There are endless opportunities to provide innovate solutions that enables all members of our communities to work, play and share wisdom and knowledge for mutual benefit. With the success of their recent initiatives the team at *Better Together Project* are determined to continue to drive the change that will make our communities better and stronger".

And if they can make some awesome surfboards in the process, that's just a fantastic extra.

*More information can be found about* ***The Better Together Project*** *www.bettertogetherproject.com.au or call Merv Stewart on 0413 162 252*

***Tree to Sea*** *www.treetosea.com.au Alternately, call Robert on 0409 211 751 or Gary on 0423 804 975*












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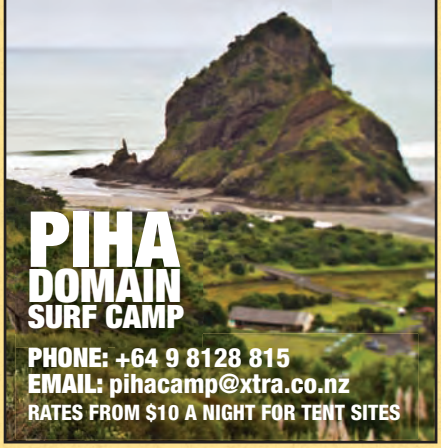
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# BEACH STREET WETTIE SHOW

WORDS: CHIP ANDREWS | PHOTOS: DAISY DAY

"We held a wetsuit show for the first time at the *New Plymouth Surf Riders Club* last Saturday night and showcased the wetsuits that we stock for men, women and kids. For the most part, we used the surfers who were sponsored by the brands to show them off, and we did a profile on each surfer. Was great!

"In between each brand we asked a surfing trivia question and gave away a $50 wetsuit voucher.

After the wetsuit show was finished it was followed by Comedy Hour.

"It was a successful night and fun was had by all. I will definitely do this again!!"

For more, drop in to the *Beachstreet Surf Shop* at 39 Beach Street, Fitzroy in New Plymouth.



# SWAPPING IN LENNOX

WORDS: JASON SHRIEVES

The first annual *Lennox Head Surfboard Swap Meet* took place on the 6th of June during the annual *Love Lennox Festival.* The event was presented by *Boat Channel Boardracks* in conjuction with *LE-BA Boardriders* and supported by all of the local surfrider clubs including the *Lennox Longboarders, All Girls Surfriders,* and *Ballina Malibu Club.*

Boards of all eras, shapes and sizes were entered into the event, with a Gold Coin donation per board and 10% of the sale as the condition of entry. All in all, including the retro board raffles, board entries, and board sales, $467.40 was raised for the *Disabled Surfers Association of Australia,* which will be presented at an upcoming meeting by the event organisers.

The "Best of" competitions were a crowd favorite, with prizes awarded to the owners of "Best board of event", "Best Single fin", "Best Twinny", "Best Thruster", "Best Longboard", and so on.

We are looking forward to a larger event next year so keep an ear out for the date announcement, likely the 1st or 2nd weekend of June.



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Some cracker shots by Fi Photographi from Point Lookout, North Stradbroke Island.

"Love to take pics both in and out of the water. My son Pieter is the colour photo and his friend Dion is the black and white."

Thanks Fiona! You score a cracking DVD - enjoy!




Got cool shots?
Send them to: letters@smorgasboarder.com.au



"At the age of four I was given my fathers old Pentax ME super 35mm film camera as a toy, 10 years on now I'm swimming slabs down in southern Victoria with cameras that I could only of dreamed of and taking photos of my mates to get them stoked."

Caigan Meade




A cracking shot by PI photographer Caigan Meade. See more on Instagram: @caiganmeade. Enjoy your DVD!

"Being a FIFO worker and family man I don't get a whole lot of time to make boards and surf, but I do keep pretty busy in my time off."

Paul O'Grady







# IN THE BACK YARD

Paul O'Grady has been making boards part-time for himself and his mates for over 30 years, driven by the stoke of surfing and inspired by the history of surfboard shaping. Here are some shots of his latest PU, hollow timber, paulownia and EPS creations.

Made a board yourself? Working on a project? Drop us a line on: letters@smorgasboarder.com.au




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The next time you see Barry it'll be for the Spring edition... Enjoy the last of the cold and the winter swells! Cheers!

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