

the laybacker



Chris Anderson, Surfboard Graveyard - Kiama-2011

comp news

November Pointscore

Sunday 3rd November meet
Bellambi car park 6:15am

November Talliers

Dave Clements & Glen Sant

ALIEN COMPS:

Woopi Challenge -

Arrawarra Area
November 2nd and 3rd

Palm Beach Old Mal Rally

Palm Beach
November 9th

Tradies Surfmasters

Cronulla TBA

Check out

australianlongboarding.com
for entry forms...

Greetings Members and Guests!

November is upon us, and Christmas barrelling towards us. The water is warming, the spring onshores are with us, along with occasional offshore days and swell

of juice and substance... Not a bad life eh?

See Bill's summary of last month's pointscore on the next page, I missed it, and from the sound of the waves you scored at Easties, I really missed it! Doesn't that make a sweet change, to surf some fast beachies, despite them mostly being lefts?! I mean, hey, if you are a goofy foot, you can't help it, can you?? According to Bill's comment, and what I heard from others, the goofies had a rather nice time, RTLing from Mal (see him making a pig of himself in the longest lefts in the world later in this newsletter), Hughsie, Bill, Scottie, and all our similarly afflicted club members who put their right foot forward...

Summertime coming, might be time to try another stick and stretch your boundaries a bit! Watch the amazing talent we have in our club, see how easy they make it look, and have a go! I've seen some great new boards at Finbox, and I was at Byrnes this week, and man, they have plans! Fairy Meadow shop to become a BIG board store with their shorties, lots of mals, sups (sorry), no more dominance of the surf boutique. But that's not all, from what I hear they will be opening another big store for mainly boards in the north, so stay tuned...

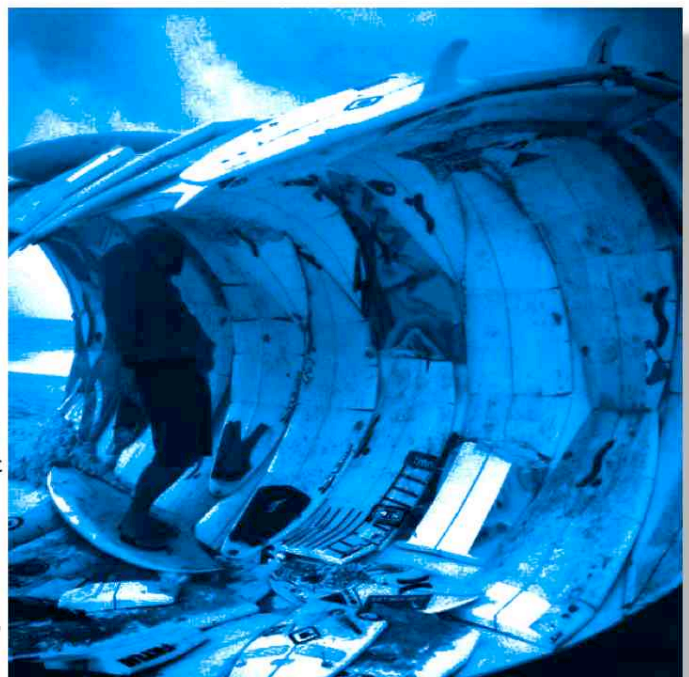
Speaking of boards, take the time to check out our home grown talent and their beautifully crafted boards - Jarret and Corey's, Scott D, Chris Hughes, well done lads, very impressed. John Young told me about the olden days when he and George used to make boards....he paused when he was telling me.... as they used to strip 'old' boards (mals from the mid 60s...

imagine how good some of them would have been?) and make 'new' ones, of fairly dubious function and appearance apparently. George K in particular used to 'push the design envelope' and establish design principles that have never been repeated....

The reason I have included this curious photo on the left is to promote the 'Green Cathedral Contemporary Surf Art' exhibition that will run from 30 November to 16 February 2014 at the Wollongong Art Gallery. Among many themes it will highlight the history of surfing in the Illawarra with board collections, art, film, a swap meet. There were films last Thursday including the local big wave film RAW, and footage and photos from Dave Milnes. See the links on the next page. The other point that is pretty obvious with this one and the one below is how our beloved sport makes some pretty unnatural waste, makes the whole seed to sea idea of wooden boards interesting doesn't it?

That's about it for me, I hope you are all happy, peaceful, and able to control your blinding rage as the summer crowds descend.....

Hoo Roo for now
Andy





Bill's Babble

October point score!

Well our October point score was anything but straight forward, greeted with big onshore conditions and north-east swell, the options being East Corrimal, Towradgi or postpone until next Sunday.

We finished up taking a vote, the north end of East Corrimal the venue, a large number of guys went home thinking the carry up the beach plus the ordinary waves seemed uninviting, to me I tended to agree also.

As the day panned out with the incoming tide, the wind going more west, the waves and outlook changed for the better big time, with some very clean and contestable peaks during the day, I thought Mal Robbo was a standout on the lefts, great surfing mate!

Thank you to Dennis and Andrew Wilson for doing the heat draws and progressions during the day, as always Andrew Farrow brings the gear trailer along each month, a big thank you to our two talliers this month, Nathan and Lachlan, great job guys, you were there all day without a break in the very hot conditions and certainly gained a lot of respect from myself and many others for taking great ownership of your designated tally duties for the day, well done and thank you for your great efforts boys!

Donny Jefferies kindly donated two boxes of muffins for us to enjoy during the day, thank you very much Donny, you are always a great contributor.

The 0/55s division I thought was a great success, time will tell obviously, and the guys in that division will ultimately tell us if it's actually successful, and do they want it to continue next year, it's up to them, as outlined you must surf in that division all year otherwise it would be unrealistic to tally for Gary each month.

Even though some guys chose to go home and not compete, they still contributed in carrying

The all new 1965 range of 'Midget Farrelly' design Surf-skates :

A pre Mo' Midget, thanks to Bill!

some gear up the beach for us, thank you very much to those guys indeed, and at the end of the day some of those guys even returned to help carry gear back to the trailer, a big difference in commitment to those guys who just surfed either one round or both rounds and went home leaving the few remaining guys to bring all the gear back down the beach, with the exception of Andrew, Cameron and Baz who were getting the barby ready, thank you to Cameron for getting the food for us this month after taking over the catering duties.

Great to see Brett Cartwright come and join the laybacks, for you guys who already know Brett, you know the quality club person he has always been, a very high contributor in every regard, and does so for the very best reasons and intentions, a big step for Brett to join us, I know from experience the feeling, so please make him feel very welcome, I would appreciate that personally, thank you!

A big thank you to Andy for doing such a wonderful job with the newsletter, really first class mate, great interesting content and photos, the newsletter really compliments the fabulous web site Dave Edwards created and manages for our club.

We only had two ladies surf this month Mel and Georgia, so let's hope we can get a few more to join and surf with us in November, I know Skye was busy studying for her HSC exams, so we all hope you do well Skye and achieve the goals you set yourself! Look forward to seeing you all Sunday the 3rd of November, 6.30am, happy surfing, kind regards,

Bill.

news

Green Cathedral - Contemporary Surf Art in the Illawarra

30 November to 16 February 2014, Wollongong City Gallery
www.wollongongcitygallery.com

SURFEST 2014

'Australia's largest festival of surfing, an enticing mix of grassroots, amateur and professional events' In its 29th year at Merewether Beach Newcastle.

12 - 23rd February 2014
www.surfest.com

Techie Tips Dished by Dave:

For all your music needs:
www.mp3va.com
cheap albums and all legal.

Music Streaming

www.radioparadise.com
www.sky.fm
one from Andy -
www.pandora.com

[Music streaming means you can connect with these websites, put in what you like band or music wise, and they play it and very similar genres endlessly...for free! I have Pandora on a lot..]



A Peruvian Surf Adventure

by Mal Robbo



Thatched reed island



Pacasmayo - Mal

"Have knife" the bandit said as he pointed his 12inch knife at me from 12inches away."

"Have money" I replied, after just wrestling with his 4 mates who were trying to put me on the ground.

So we lost our bag with cash and good camera, to the local cause. Lima is a huge city full of very poor, desperate people. I would have preferred to choose how to make a donation to the welfare of the Peruvians, but at least we didn't get stabbed. So I only had an old SLR to photograph our surf trip. It turned out to be faulty and took bad photos. So I apologise for the surf visuals, but they give you an idea how unreal this coast is. I was lucky I suppose that this happened after we'd been to the Amazon, Macchu piccu and Lake Titicaca.

Peru - Cold water, hot air, dry dust, perfect left hand point breaks, and Chicama..... the longest left in the known world.

It was quite a few years ago. Probably last century. We still were riding short boards. After surfing Chicama I now wish I'd been a longboarder then as well.

The way to surf Peru and blend in, is to travel with a local in an old beat up Camry wagon, don't change your clothes and learn to say *Hola senior, cmon estat* (Hi mister, how are you), before you say *una cerveca portforbort, pronto* (one beer please, now).

After one week of the dryness and sand you fit in with the Peruvian surfers in a relaxed dusty way. There wasn't a lot of them up north then and they were very accepting. They all knew our mate Louis and he knew all the good spots.



Chicama headhigh



So I set off from Lima with my mates, Steve from Thirroul and Peruvian Louis. 5 weeks later After 2500 kilometres up and down the west coast and an incredibly large number of uncrowded, excellent lefthanders, we returned to Lima three very happy surfers.

The reason I keep talking about lefthanders and cold water comes down to the Humboldt current. It is a cold ocean current that runs up the west coast of South America. It brings consistent, strong ground swell from way down south. It's probably been doing it so long that it has formed all these perfect left hand points. Just to add a bit more geography to that. All west coasts in the world, except our own West Oz, have cold ocean currents dominating them.

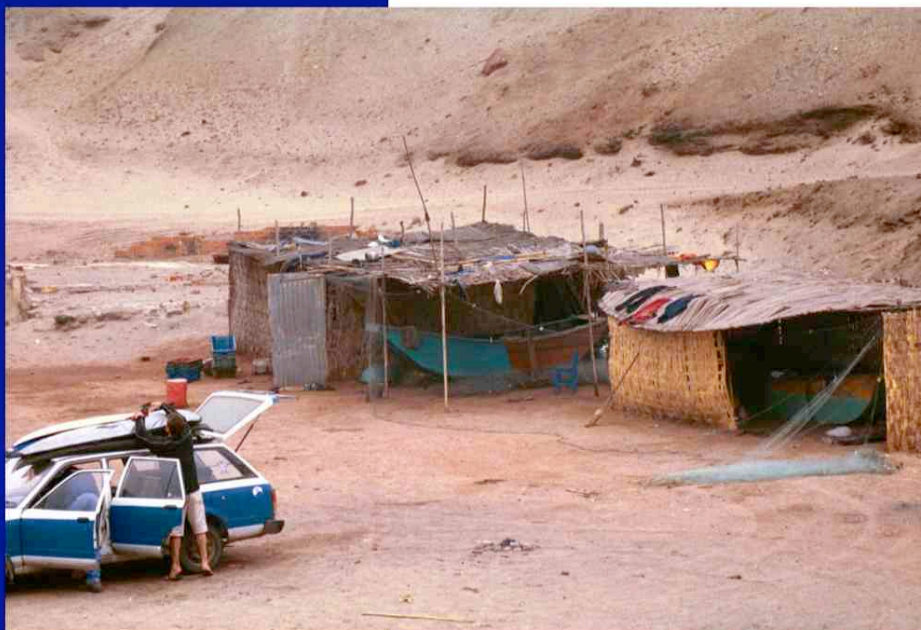
So we followed a ground swell north, surfing some classic lefts, all the way to Chicama. I'll share a few spots with you that Louis showed us.

Bermejo, and Centinella are two good lefthanders a few hours apart and within a half day drive from Lima. Then an easy drive off the main highway. They're good stop off places to surf on the long trip north. Then if the swell is big enough you get to Chicama.

Chicama is a machine.

It breaks the same at 1 ft or 6 ft. It takes a good swell for it to break overhead or bigger. Luckily these swells happen regularly in August/September, when we were there. We scored it, not big, but nicely overhead.

You walk 20 minutes out to the point, paddle round the back of the small island, hold yourself as long as you can, in the strongest rip I've ever been in, then get ready for the longest wave of your life. I'm talking kilometres.



Surf camp Bermejo



Locals heading into town - at 4300m the air is a bit thin!



The New York hipsters pay a lot of money for this famous Amazon medicine man's potions. We got a couple for free!

We were surfing 3 hours the first day. There were only 8 people in the water. I think I got 6 waves. I was surfing or walking back out the whole time. It takes 20 minutes to walk back after a wave. Louis, Steve and I hardly got to talk to each other because we were never in the same spot on that 3 kilometre circuit. All 8 of us in the water were either riding a wave or walking back the whole time in different spots.

A longboard would be perfect for Chicama. At 1 ft or 6ft it is a perfect wave and a longboard would handle all sizes. Today I'd just hang at Chicama and ride all sizes.

But back then we were running with the ground swell, so north again it was to Pacasmayo. El Faro - The freight train. What a mighty wave. It pushed out of deep water onto a long rock shelf. It was big, intimidating, but bloody good.

Chicama and Pacasmayo are fishing towns so the seafood is great. Along the Peruvian coast you get this fabulous meal called Cervice. It is basically raw fish or shellfish marinated in lime juice and spices. Delicious with a salad. They also like to fry fresh cut potato chips and mix into a spicy salad. Pretty yummy too with a beer.

The furthestest spot north we surfed was called Lobitos. It was like a Lennox Point that broke left, but for twice as long. There were only three other guys out. One of them was an up and coming teenager surfing without a wettie. He was stoked when I gave him my spare wetsuit to keep. Lobitos was a secret 15 years ago. Today it could be on Magic Seaweed and might be visited by every travelling surfer.

Chicama update 2013 - I just Googled Chicama and it looks like things have



Coming into Macchu Piccu



Mal in more familiar ocean...

changed. Crowds and drop off skis seem to be the norm. Oh well. It's worth checking it on the net. You'll be impressed. There'd still be plenty of uncrowded waves on the west coast of South America if you wanted to search them out, and most of them are lefts. You other goofy foots would know how i felt like a kid in a lolly shop over there, or in Indo.

Of course South America wasn't just a surf trip. We'd flown over from Argentina, gone to the upper Amazon Basin etc. But that's another story. Luckily I'd had my camera then.

On the way back down the coast to Lima, before flying home, we stopped at a village. The guy running the little motel saw our boards on the roof and told us he used to surf in the 70s. He showed us his board. It was a 70s lightning bolt single fin. The real deal.

Shaped by Randy Rarick (who started the professional world tour), with the big bolt on the deck, in great condition. One of the most collectable boards in the world. A travelling Hawaiian sold it to him in 76. He asked me if I wanted to buy it, so I offered him enough money to buy two new boards in Peru. He decided he wanted to keep it. I could have kept offering him more money, but I was really happy he wanted to hang onto it. It was full of all his memories. He just wanted to know that what he had was valuable.

I've still got the thruster that Louis made me in Peru. It's nothing compared to that Lightning Bolt, but every time I walk in my shed and look at that board up in the rafters, I think of all the great waves it rode for me in the land of the Incas. I wouldn't sell that board either (not that anyone would buy it).