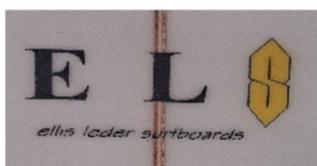
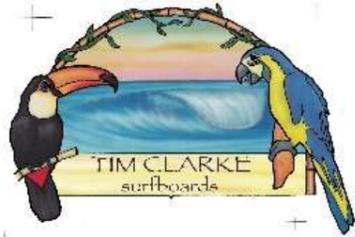


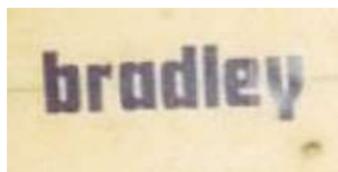
**SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA  
SURFING TASMANIA MUSEUM  
RED HERRING HOBART**



**Stranger Surfboards**



**bp**

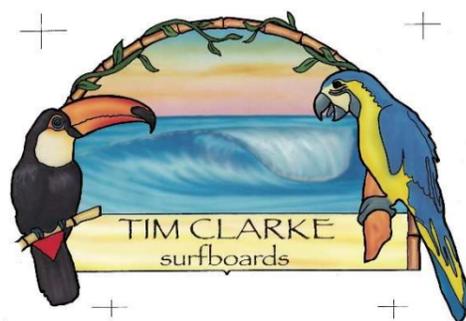


**HORTON AND STEVEN**

**DARKHOLLOW SURFBOARDS**



## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



Left: Me shaping at Kirra in 1995

Middle: 2 x World Champ Bonga Perkins on my board

Right: ASP Head Judge Renato Hickel on my board

### Tim Clarke Shapes - Tiki Island Surf Designs

MAKER'S NAME: Tim Clarke

timothyclarke1@bigpond.com

BRAND OWNER: Tim Clarke

LOCATION: Devonport (usually)

COMMENCED MAKING: 1976

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: Still going

The first board I made was a re-shape of an old log I bought for two dollars.

I began making myself a few boards each year and was able to sell them secondhand for enough money to pay for materials for my next board.

In 1988 I went to the Gold Coast and started polishing for Byrning Spears.

Allan Byrne was impressed with what I had achieved without any guidance and started to train me to a professional standard.

After three years I became a freelance shaper on the Gold Coast and at Byron Bay.

I focussed on longboards and mid-length boards then started doing retro shortboards as well.

I made my first rocket fish twin fin in 1997, then helped to re-boot the Michael Peterson label in about 2000.

I have been quietly making surfboards in Tasmania for the past two decades and am currently focussed on boardmaking with renewed energy.

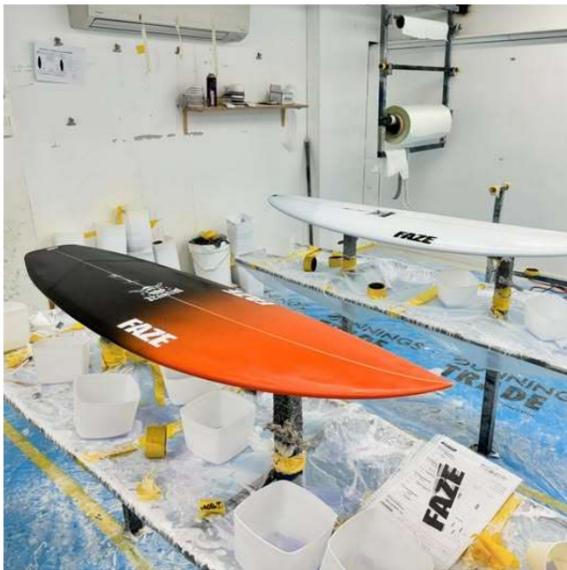
**Shortboards made for:**

Renato Hickel - ASP WCT head judge  
 Robbie Sherwell - former Top 16 WCT surfer  
 Glen Rawlings - former pro surfer  
 Wayan Gobleg - Balinese surfing legend  
 Made Lana - Balinese surfing legend  
 Sean Fanning (dec) - Mick Fanning's brother

**Longboards made for:**

Ray Gleave - multiple Australian longboard champion  
 Bonga Perkins - 2 x World pro longboard champion  
 Kanoa Dahlin - Hawaiian pro surfer

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### FAZE Surfboards - Tassie Rockets

MAKER'S NAME: Finnian Whitla

fazesurfboards@gmail.com

BRAND OWNER: Finnian Whitla

LOCATION: Gold Coast via Torquay (VIC), Seven Mile Beach (TAS)

COMMENCED MAKING: 2016

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: Still going

I started making surfboards in Torquay around 1998 for Maurice Cole. Beginning, like most did back then, sweeping floors and doing repairs. I then learnt filler-coats, glass-on fins, sprays, fin systems, and sanding. Later working as a full-time sander, I contracted out to various shapers around the coast, including Mark Phipps, Rousa and Strapper Surfboards, where I later worked as a full-time boardmaker. I worked at Strapper for over 5 years with Robbo and Mike D'Sas, building everything from kneeboards to longboards mainly for locals and also for pro surfers visiting during Easter.

Moving to Tasmania, I started FAZE Surfboards in the backyard of our Seven Mile Beach home. I have built over 200 boards, start to finish, mostly for local customers, as well as a healthy ding repair service.

I hand-shaped every board including my high-performance range for guys like Benny Richardson, Hamish Renwick, Matt Kennedy and Marti Paradisis. I love the challenge of making a high-performance surfboard but also the aesthetic rewards of an abstract resin tint on an alternative shape.

I am currently working on the Gold Coast as a full-time sander/shaper, continuing with my own brand but also building surfboards for Sharpeye, Simon Jones, Arakawa, Chilli, Acsod, Misfit, and Luke Daniels, among many others. I still like to hand-shape my alternative boards while leaning to machine shaping for high-performance thrusters.

Having sanded over 20,000 surfboards in my career, I still feel the joy of building a new board for a local grom or finishing off a 7'6" Simon Jones quad channel for Torren Martin. I just love making Surfboards.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Gale Force Tri's

MAKER'S NAME: Wayne Gale  
w\_gale23@hotmail.com

BRAND OWNER: Wayne Gale

LOCATION: Launceston, Grafton (NSW), Turners Beach

COMMENCED MAKING: 1991

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: 2001

In my last year of University, I heard on the grapevine that Ron Bugg was teaching the technology students how to make a surfboard. Even though I was not in that faculty, he let me join the class and I learnt the basics of surfboard shaping, glassing and sanding. From here I started making boards for myself - using them, then selling them to fund the next board. Over the next 10 years I made almost 40 boards for myself, friends and even a few custom orders. My last board (the one on display) was for my wife at the time.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



Images courtesy of Grant Mooney  
[www.surfingdownsouth.com.au](http://www.surfingdownsouth.com.au)



### Hardy Surfboards

MAKER'S NAME: Tony Hardy

[hardy\\_gene@yahoo.com](mailto:hardy_gene@yahoo.com)

BRAND OWNER: Tony Hardy

LOCATION: Burnie & Margaret River

COMMENCED MAKING: 1976

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: 2015

Tony was born in Burnie in 1950.

His father, Arch, was a good swimmer, surfboat rower, hockey player and a member of the Burnie Surf Life Saving Club. As a boy Tony followed his dad around the surf club and became a good surf swimmer and paddler just like dad.

When Tony was 11, he started standing up on a 5-foot Coolite, and as time went by he became very proficient and confident on this little board.

At 14 his father bought him a 10-foot homemade malibu. From then on nobody could get him off that malibu. When there was surf at West Beach in Burnie, Tony was out there from dawn to dusk in his T-shirt or footy jumper.

He developed into a dominant state surfer, winning the Tasmanian Junior State Championship in 1967, shifting to Queensland and then WA a few years later.

Tony Hardy was the WA State Men's Surfing Champion in 1970 & 1976. Tony placed second in the state titles to George Simpson in 1972 and Ian Cairns in 1973. In 1971 he won the Scarborough Board Club Annual Trigg Point competition and was also successful in other WA surfing competitions.

In his prime, Tony was arguably the best surfer riding Margaret River Main Break.

In the mid-1970s Tony and his family moved from Scarborough and settled on a rural property in Margaret River. In 1976 Tony built a shaping bay and started making Hardy Surfboards on the property. He became a significant manufacturer in WA.

The Hardys resided in Margaret River for several decades and Tony continued to surf Margarets on one of his own handcrafted, single fin surfboards into the 1990s.

Tony and Jacquie have four talented surfing sons - Josh, Gene, and twins Brett and Ryan. Gene's daughter, Willow, is now a champion surfer on the WSL Challenger Series.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### blade - Island Energy

**MAKERS' NAMES:** Leigh Steven & Nick Stranger

jill.glover@decyp.tas.gov.au

**BRAND OWNERS:** Greg & Sue Muir

**LOCATION:** YD Water Sports Hobart & Launceston

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 1987

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** 1990

The first board -

Jill was always looking at different ways to advertise/market our products at YD Water Sports. She thought it was a good idea (at that time) to send media people she knew letters (yep snail mail) saying: "Something is about to happen". Jill went to Bali but left letters to be sent every couple of days (over a few weeks) to the media. Some had photos of a razor blade. Progressively the second last letter had a real razor blade included. The final letter: "Something is about to happen - 'blade' Surfboards shaped by Stranger and Steven" - also an invite to the launch.

Subsequently – the YD owner had visits from lawyers. Jill had phone calls to advise her of the panic she had created. Some of the media changed their running schedule and route as they suspected they were being stalked and in danger.

"A good idea at the time," said Jill. "Oops!"

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### UPTON Surfboards

**MAKER'S NAME:** Dan Upton

[uptonsurfboards@gmail.com](mailto:uptonsurfboards@gmail.com)

**BRAND OWNER:** Dan Upton

**LOCATION:** NW Coast, Tasmania

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 2004

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** Still going

For the past 12 years, my family of four has called Shearwater home. It's here, on our local wave that runs along our she-oak lined shore, that I continue to refine my boards in the place we genuinely love to live.

The board on display is a model I have aptly named the "She-oak" - a custom hand-shaped log, inspired by the Involvement Era boards of 1967-69. The "She-oak" carries both a nod to history and a touch of today. Dialed in for modern performance, this board is built for effortless trim, seamless transitions, and timeless lines.

Featuring a single concave up front for locked-in nose rides, a modern rocker that'll take you anywhere, combined with a subtle rolled vee throughout for smooth rail-to-rail transitions, the "She-oak" is crafted for those who appreciate flow, style, and the perfect connection between rider and wave.

My journey into shaping started over 20 years ago, while living in the quiet coastal town of Stanley. With a VHS tape called "Shaping 101", a new Makita planer, and the eager spirit of a builder's son, I set out to make my first board. It was an 8'6" longboard - far from perfect, a little nose-dive prone, but it floated, it rode, and it lit something deep within me that has never gone out.

Since then, my classroom has been the shaping bay itself. Trial and error, creative curiosity, conversations with other shapers, and the honest feedback of surfers have all shaped me as much as the boards I've built.

I never set out to become the "next big name" - my goal has always been simpler: To make boards that feel right underfoot, crafted with care and intention, for the waves and people of Tasmania.

At Upton Surfboards, there's only one pair of hands at work - mine.

Each board is shaped start to finish, with the dust, resin, and patience that only hand-shaping demands.

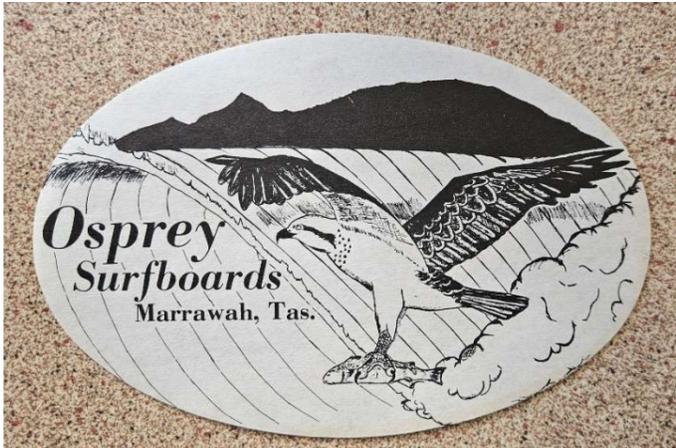
I've developed a love for longboards and alternative shapes, drawn to the way each board tells its own story - just like every surfer and every wave are unique.

For me, it's more than a hobby or side hustle - it's a passion that connects me to a place and people I love.

There's joy in seeing a board leave the bay as an idea turned reality, and even greater joy in hearing the stories of where it's ridden next.

Humbly, I'm just a local lad shaping local boards, grateful to contribute a small piece to Tasmania's surf story.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Osprey Surfboards

MAKER'S NAME: Kip Nunn

[kipnunn5@gmail.com](mailto:kipnunn5@gmail.com)

BRAND OWNER: Kip Nunn

LOCATION: Marawah

COMMENCED MAKING: 1978

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: 1987

I started making boards during 1977 when Ocka Bonney, Victor White, Pom Boylan and I moved into a house in Redpa. There were empty beaches and perfect waves around Marawah - we were living the dream!

However, winter was long, wild and waves scarce. To counter this, I thought making surfboards was the answer to complement the perfect lifestyle.

While going to school on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, I met my great friend "Phantom" Milne. Together we made a couple of surfboards. He had learnt the art of surfboard making from a few of the older pioneer surfers, like Rob Lippiatt. He later came over from Victoria.

Together we set up our factory at "Jigs" Edwards' old dairy on Comeback Road, Marawah. The Shortboard Revolution was in full swing, and all sorts of designs were appearing - exciting times!

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Turn Surfboards return to TERN MAKERS' NAMES: Terry Horton and Leigh Steven with

Ben Richardson

[info@ridgelinepottery.com](mailto:info@ridgelinepottery.com)

BRAND OWNERS: Ben Richardson & John Davis

LOCATION: Hobart & Clifton

COMMENCED MAKING: 1969

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: 1980

#### Phase 1 – 1972 Turn

John (Floppy) Davis and I were studying Economics together at the University of Tasmania from 1969-71, at some time during that period we started up a surf shop at 206 (I think ) Liverpool St. Surf Centre opened sometime in 1970 and continued there, opening part-time while we were studying - at some time we made the move to Planet Earth in Elizabeth St, just up from Bridges Bros, and coincidentally very close to the infamous surf shop run by Robbie Edwards in the mid-60s.

At the time (late 60s) Leigh and Terry Horton were making surfboards in a workshop behind Ellis Leder's family home in South Hobart. Around 1971 Floppy and I, after discussions with Terry, and I think Leigh, decided to see if we could create a boardmaking factory that would be a facility both for Turn Surfboards but, also at times, could be available for other boardmakers, like Tony Woods from Park Beach. We eventually found premises in Lefroy St in Nth Hobart and another era for Turn Surfboards began. After Floppy finished his degree in 1971 he left Tasmania to work for Ford in Geelong while I continued to manage and work doing repairs at Lefroy St, with Leigh and Terry making the boards.

In late 1973 or early 1974 we arranged for Terry Mahoney to take over the factory and Turn Surfboards continued (I think) mainly with Terry Horton doing the making. When I arrived home from travelling overseas in July 1975 the factory was making boards under the Fresh Juice label for Dave Roberts.

#### Phase 2 – 1976 TERN

This set-up came to an end sometime around late 1975 or early 1976 and I returned to managing the factory in Lefroy St, again with Leigh, and the brand was finally reinstated to TERN, as he had always intended. Sometime in late 1976 or early 1977 we moved the factory to a purpose-built workshop on property my wife, Jo, and I owned on the South Arm Peninsula, overlooking Clifton Beach, with Leigh shaping, sanding and finishing and me doing most of the production glassing.

We continued working together there until 1980 when I decided to pursue full-time studies in Ceramics at the School of Art in Hobart, while Leigh moved on to create his own label, Steven Surfboards.

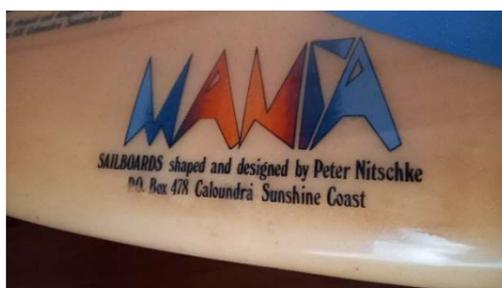
Unfortunately, Floppy died in a tragic avalanche at Mt Field, in August 1979. While he had not been an active part of Turn/TERN Surfboards he was there in the beginning as we tried to consolidate the making of custom local surfboards in a time when imported mainland boards had the dominant market share.

I regard my involvement with TERN Surfboards as an important time in my life as it brought me in contact with making objects that synthesized form and function - working on the long and complex curves in surfboards helped to develop my eye and sense of form. This in a way was a very fortunate grounding for my subsequent journey as a maker of vessels in clay that seek to also combine beauty and usefulness with an expression of place and purpose.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



First board – shaped in 1972



Surf to Waveboard trans.

### Seamist Surfboards

MAKER'S NAME: Peter Nitschke

nitschkep@gmail.com

BRAND OWNER: Peter Nitschke

LOCATION: Launceston & Caloundra

COMMENCED MAKING: 1970

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: Still going

I started getting interested in surfing in 1960, when the family moved from Bronte Park (nowhere to surf there) to Poatina - my father worked for the Hydro. We travelled a lot to Boat Harbour on holidays where I saw people surfing. I asked my dad to buy me a surfboard. As his trade was a cabinetmaker, he built me one out of timber, 10ft long. At the start I could not turn the board as it went straight in with the wave, such a heavy board. Once I got some money, and a car, I bought a Ron surfboard from America, which I used until 1965. I then bought my first custom 9' 7" from Hayden Kenny in Qld. I moved to Adelaide in 1965 where I surfed a lot. In late 1967 I went overseas to Europe and surfed in England, Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar. I returned to Australia in 1970 and found all the surfboards had shrunk down to 6ft, etc. I could not afford to buy one! While in Adelaide I befriended the owners of Burford Surfshop and learned a bit about making boards. So, after moving back to Tassie in 1971, I decided to make my own boards, with a few protos to start with. After a short while I was building boards for other people I surfed with under the Seamist label. We used to surf the East Coast, the North Coast and the North-West Coast as far as Marawah. In fact, anywhere there was surf!

In 1972 I opened Seamist Surfshop, in Charles Street, Launceston, opposite Princes Square, but soon moved to Powell's Arcade, in St John St, for more room. I don't know how many boards I built here in Tassie, as I was building boards under the Sunset label at that time also, which sold really well. In 1974 my brother, Michael, and I took on Windsurfer to promote Australi-wide, doing a lot of promotional trips to the mainland - Melbourne, Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle, Adelaide. We sold all the boards we imported from Europe.

Unfortunately, this came to an end. The European distributor was going to charge us an extra fee, as the Australian area belonged to the American sector. As a result, I started building my own type of "Windsurfer" which was 1' 6" shorter, marketing those for the next 2 years. A new agent was appointed for the original Windsurfer in Australia, and I was stopped from building further sailboards as I was infringing the patent. Later I became their first agent for Tasmania, selling Windsurfers from our shop. Unfortunately, this did not work too well as windsurfers had a stigma attached to them, therefore, surfers didn't frequent the surfshop. I sold my shop in 1976 to John van der Woude. I opened a sailboard shop in Wellington Street, opposite Ron Glenda's Car Yard, which my brother and I ran, building a few boards at the time. I wanted to become a qualified instructor in the sport, so when an opportunity arose in 1980 for a Windsurfing course in Sydney, and another in Airlie Beach, I took it and had a great time. On the way back home, in my trusty VW Kombi, I checked out all the places down the coast of Queensland and fell in love with Caloundra, not far from Brisbane. I stopped there, started a Windsurfing school the following year at a shop called Sunshine Coast Sailboards, which incidentally is still there under another name. Heavily involved in building sailboards (short, wave and flat-water boards) I also started a new surfboard label, Kinetic Energy Surfboards, which was in business until 2010, when I semi-retired. I am still active manufacturing a few sailboards to some good clients. The past 15 years I have been building boards in exotic materials like Carbon, Kevlar, bamboo, timber. I still enjoy the occasional surf on my mal and am active in sailboarding as much as possible at the age of nearly 81 years.

Approved for use in Surfboard Makers Museum

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Bradley Surfboards

**MAKER'S NAME:** Christiaan Bradley

christiaanbradley@hotmail.com

**BRAND OWNER:** Christiaan Bradley

**LOCATION:** Sisters Beach & France

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 2001

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** Still going

Christiaan Bradley - from Tasmania to the World Stage

From an early age, Christiaan Bradley was immersed in foam, fiberglass and resin. His father, Roger, had been shaping boards since the late 1960s and continued making personal boards well into Christiaan's teenage years. By the age of 15, Christiaan was already a skilled ding repairer, laying the foundation for his lifelong career in surfboard design.

At 21, while on a surf trip to the Gold Coast, he landed a repair job at Brothers Nielsen Surfboards, working alongside his Tasmanian friend, Steve Subonj, a laminator there. Fixing dings and foiling fins quickly led him into sanding - an essential step in developing the "eye" for board shapes. This role connected him with some of the industry's most respected shapers, including DHD, Nev, Simon Anderson, Geoff Darby, Tony Dempsey, Phil Myers, Michael Cundith, and fellow Tasmanian Brendan Milch.

After four years on the Gold Coast, Bradley had built a reputation as a top sander. A move south to Lennox Head/Ballina brought him into the legendary Local Motion factory, working with Gunther Rohn, Tony Cerff, and Brian Ingham. Then came a trip to Europe, where he joined Pukas Surfboards, in Northern Spain, shaping boards alongside touring shaper Brian.

In early 2002, Stephen "Belly" Bell recruited Christiaan to Euroglass in Hossegor, France - a powerhouse surfboard factory hosting many of the world's best shapers. With shaping experience under his belt, Bradley was soon appointed head shaper for Channel Islands Surfboards Europe. Working closely with Al Merrick and CI's renowned ghost shapers, Christiaan spent time each year at the Santa Barbara factory, learning new models and refining his craft.

Hossegor's long ASP (now WSL) tour leg proved invaluable: For nearly two months each year, the world's best pros were in town, and Euroglass became a hub of design and testing. Bradley learned immensely from shapers like Simon Anderson (his all-time favorite) and shaped boards for both CI team riders and visiting pros.

His reputation grew quickly, particularly through his work with Kelly Slater. Together they developed groundbreaking designs that would become Channel Islands models. Slater notched seven wins on Bradley's shapes, while Taj Burrow and other pros also claimed multiple victories. A career highlight came in 2008, when Slater won Bells Beach on a revolutionary Bradley design - shorter and slightly wider than boards of the era - which Christiaan personally flew from France to deliver. Shortly after, Al Merrick called to congratulate him and even offered a design role in Santa Barbara as CI transitioned under Burton Snowboards.

But Hossegor had become home. With Quiksilver's Pierre Agnès and Euroglass' "Belly" keen to keep him in Europe, Bradley Surfboards was born.

Since then, Bradley Surfboards has earned global recognition. Christiaan has shaped boards for countless top pros, but his own brand allows him the freedom to innovate without constraint. Based at Bell/Euroglass in Hossegor, he also designs for Bell, Quiksilver, and Roxy - often creating entire models at the direct request of head offices. For him, the greatest satisfaction lies in design, especially tailoring equipment for the individual surfer.

Renowned for his computer-aided design skills, mastery of shaping machines, and hands-on craftsmanship, Christiaan is considered among the best in the world.

Today, he lives in Hossegor with his wife, Alix, and their three daughters, returning to Tasmania whenever he can. From humble beginnings fixing dings, to shaping world-title-winning boards, Christiaan Bradley's journey is one of passion, precision, and innovation - an enduring influence on modern surfboard design.

Approved for use in Surfboard Makers Museum

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### The Surfboard Surgeon - Zadda Creations

**MAKER'S NAME:** Jason Zawadzki

jasonzawadzki@hotmail.com

**BRAND OWNER:** Jason Zawadzki

**LOCATION:** St Helens, Launceston & Hobart

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 2013

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** Still going

Every surfboard is unique. Just feel what the board wants to do and enjoy the ride.

George Zawadzki, my uncle, surf mentor and all-round larrikin, had one of the first "surf shops" in Tasmania - George's Surf Shoppe. It was there, at 8 Risdon Road, Newtown, that my surfing and shaping journey began.

It's 1985 - me, hanging out in the "shop" with New Town High boys, brothers Bish, George (on a 12 string), Rich (on bass) and John (on a bone-white electric guitar, chewing his bottom lip). Each with an Alpine or Winnie Blue between their lips or resting in an abalone shell. The unforgettable scent filled the air, soaking into the blue and purple shag pile carpet. My vision impaired by the smoky haze as they jammed. Coloured lights, neon velvet posters, a black light and an oil painting on old timber panel (Latham, 1968) - a hideous painting of a surfer riding a wave - became the backdrop for these mentors to inspire an 8-year-old kid. In those moments they came together, it evoked feelings of freedom amongst the chaos and control. It felt right, we were all part of something, in tune. Pure - Raw - Free. I wanted to do what they did!

I began repairing and cleaning my uncle's boards for pocket money or a trip to the beach. Rewaxing them with "Green Stuff" Surf Wax. Any chance I got, I was at the beach and in the ocean. From wagging school, to travelling in the back of George's aqua-blue Holden Sandman, or Dad's white Datsun 180B.

I started playing around with resins and fibreglass and shaped a few boards through school. I was self-taught, there were no teachers for it. Then, I met Tony "Sloppo" Wood. I was like a sponge as I watched him work. Tony had soul, connected to what surfing was, and is. Watching him shape, telling stories of boards made, waves ridden and the surf sessions that would stick in the mind for all time. It was an honour to work alongside Sloppo to create some timeless surfboards. We learned from each other, sharing ideas and hiding a multitude of sins in our board shaping.

Bored with the 9-5 grind and searching for the freedom to surf whenever I could, I eventually went out on my own. I started repairing my beaten-up boards, then friends began approaching me for repairs. Paying with rum or trade goods.

It was 2013 when I traded in the rum for financial reward. My first \$5 profit from a customer repair. Word got around the surf community that I could repair to a high, passionate standard, so I got the gig. I opened "The Surgery" officially to keep Tassie surfers wet in 2014.

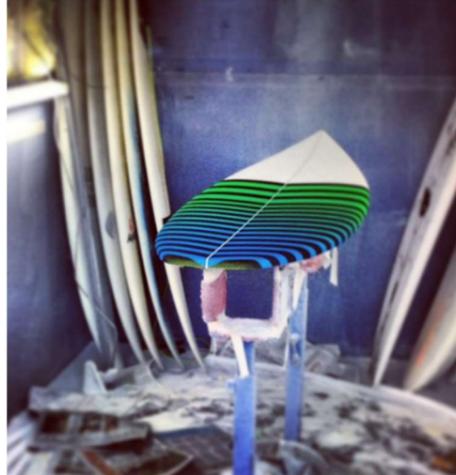
I now operate from two "surgeries" located in St Helens and Launceston, servicing the North & North-East crew, while still servicing my loyal Hobart Southern surfers. This is all made possible with the aid of my colleague, friend, surfer and fibreglasser, Nathan, my close Northern family & you - The Surfer.

Surfing and shaping are my passion, it's my escape. Shaping a board is a trip from start to finish; it aids to heal mental health and a distraction. I don't talk litres or volume; I don't blame rail shape or nose rocker or fin type. I take a blank and create something that will bring joy no matter the ability. Welcome to "The Surgery".

Approved for use in Surfboard Makers Museum

# SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA

bp



## bp Surfboards

MAKER'S NAME: Brad Peters

bradpeters62@hotmail.com

BRAND OWNER: Brad Peters

LOCATION: Sisters Beach

COMMENCED MAKING: 2005

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: 2018

I moved to the Gold Coast when I was 20 and landed a job at Brothers Neilson Surfboards, working alongside a couple of other Tassie boys - Steven Subonj and Christiaan Bradley. I started out doing fins, filler coats, legrope plugs and all the usual general jobs, but it was also where I shaped my first board. In 2003, I headed to France to stay with Christiaan, who by then was shaping for Channel Islands at the Euroglass factory. I picked up work there fixing dings and spent a couple of years in the thick of the European surf scene. It was around this time that the "fish" style boards started making a real comeback, and I rode a lot of them while I was in France. When I came back to Tassie, in 2005, I ordered a couple of blanks with the idea of shaping myself a pair of fish boards for the North Coast waves. That kicked off more than a decade of backyard shaping, and over the next 10 years I built around 200 boards for myself and many North-West Coast surfers.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Jack Hall Surfboards

MAKER'S NAME: Jack Hall

duncanhall@iprimus.com.au

BRAND OWNER: John "Jack" Hall (1952-2012)

LOCATION: Devonport

COMMENCED MAKING: 1975

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: 2011 (deceased 2012)

Jack got his first board at Christmas 1964 - a 9ft 6in Keyo 3 stringer with a reverse dorsal fin. It was meant to be a shared board with his two brothers but Jack, being the eldest and best surfer, commandeered it for 99% of the time, surfing Coles Beach, Devonport Bluff and the Mersey River.

Being super enthusiastic about all things surfing, Jack soon became the "go-to" person among the local surfers for repairs and modifications.

In 1971-1974 Jack attended the TCAE in Hobart to undertake teacher training as a Materials Design and Technology (Woodwork) Teacher. During his time in Hobart Jack spent time with Terry Horton at Turn Surfboards, undertaking sanding jobs as well as learning the shaping craft.

Jack's first posting was Smithton High School from 1975-79, where he started making boards in a back shed of his Education Dept rental property. Further postings were to Ulverstone from 1980-1982 and then to Devonport for the period 1983-2011.

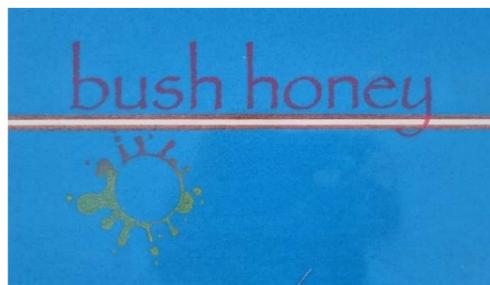
Jack continued to shape boards, not in commercial quantities but mainly for friends and the Coastal surfing fraternity, in a back shed at his home in East Devonport. Boards were getting smaller, and Jack was moving with the times often shaping or modifying longboards to the smaller designs.

When longboards started to make a comeback in the 80s, Jack upped his output and started making them again. At this time, he also began compiling an album of his output. This album is attached, which shows some eighty boards that he produced in the period from 1986 until 2011.

This album gives an excellent illustration of the skill and craftsmanship that Jack brought to his shaping.

Jack died in 2012 after a 12-month battle with Pancreatic Cancer.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Sane, bush honey & STUFF... Surfboards

**MAKER'S NAME:** Bruce Galbraith

prichardson57@outlook.com.au

**BRAND OWNER:** Bruce Galbraith

**LOCATION:** St Helens

**COMMENCED MAKING:** Age 17

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** Deceased

Bruce, originally from Victoria, learnt his surfboard skills with Jamie Gair, at Shearwater Surfboards, first glassing and then shaping at about 17-18 years of age.

He moved from Victoria to Tassie to work with a mate, Phil Pollard, in the fishing industry.

After moving to Tasmania Bruce continued to make boards for himself and Phil, while honing his shaping skills. Through the early 80s period he also opened a surf shop, East Lines, in St Helens with his wife, Anna.

Once they moved on from the shop Bruce upped the ante with the shaping and started to produce boards under the "Sane" label. Being involved in the fishing industry myself, I imagine the label would have come from a need for self-preservation. The boards quickly formed a following on the East Coast, particularly with the fisherman that were constantly pushing the boundaries on Tasmania's West Coast.

Through the late Nineties Bruce started shaping boards for Benn Richardson, a relationship that lasted till Bruce's passing in 2024.

During the last twenty or so years Benn was getting boards from some of Australia's better shapers but was also surfing Bruce's boards by choice. This relationship worked both ways with continual feedback to Bruce for his performance boards.

Through the 40 plus years I had known him, shaping was a passion that Bruce had a love-hate relationship with; because of the severity of the chemicals involved throughout the whole boardmaking process. This would see him down tools for long periods of time until either the want for a new board for himself, Phil or Bonnie came around, or he had an idea on how to improve his boards.

Bruce shaped firstly under the "Sane" label then "bush honey" and his later performance boards under the "STUFF ..." label.

One of his better qualities was the ability to work with the guys/girls he was shaping for and be quite prepared to work through ideas to accommodate their needs into a new board. Hence the "twinnie" as well as some beautiful three stringer mals that had also come out of the shaping bay.

As an aside, an inhouse "Brucester" story was the ordering of a "How to Shape" VHS. As a few older shapers probably know, this came with everything from setting up a shaping bay, shaping and glassing. What it didn't give you was the shapers' "Holy Grail" - any ideas about bottom curves and profiles. So, Bruce being Bruce, found some footage of Occy that was clearly showing how water was being displaced/moved by his surfboard through turns. So, with his appetite for constant improvement, a lesson on fluid dynamics came from a VHS tape, an enquiring mind and the comfort of a couch.

To say Bruce was a master craftsman was better understood by the people that not only knew him well but all that were the recipients of his handmade furniture, as well as the acoustic guitars he was crafting for his other favourite pastime, music. After the paddle out for Bruce, Pete Cornelius was asked about the guitar of Bruce's he was playing, started to go into detail, and realising it was wasted on the person asking, he said: "You know Home Brew?" "Yeah!" was the answer - "Well this ain't no Home Brew!"

Bruce is survived by his daughter, Bonnie. A talented, gentle soul taken way too soon. Vale Bruce.

Approved for use in Surfboard Makers Museum

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### SEYMONSTER

**MAKER'S NAME:** Seymour Turnbull-Biggs

**BRAND OWNER:** Seymour Turnbull-Biggs

**LOCATION:** Carlton Beach

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 2000

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** Still going

Seymour has been making boards for most of his life.

His father, Guy Turnbull, was a good surfer in Bondi in the 60s. He was surf buddies with some legendary characters from the mid-60s longboard era, in particular Kev "Head" Brennan and Chris Brock. He was a test pilot for experimental boards made by Robert Conneeley.

Needless to say, classic surf culture was part of Seymour's upbringing.

He shaped his first surfboard at Eaglehawk Neck in 2000 when he was 13.

"I can distinctly remember the thought process behind that board. I was just a kid, and didn't know what a Lazor Zap was, but that's essentially what I was trying to make. I'd been struggling to ride a crusty old cutdown single fin that I'd found under the house - I could feel the narrow tail sinking and bogging, and the serious lack of curvature in the tail end of the board getting stuck on a track. I wanted to make a board that was the complete opposite, with a wide, curvy tail and narrow nose. This just made sense to my young mind. I was unaware that it was unusual for a 13-year-old kid to be thinking so deeply about surfboard design. I was kind of out on my own down there at Eaglehawk Neck, with nothing but a stack of old 90s Waves magazines to feed my curiosity"

Over the next few years, he made a bunch of boards, and they were fairly unusual shapes for that era. "When I started out almost everyone rode narrow thrusters. Anything different, like twinnies and single fins, were looked down upon at that time. Oh, how the tables have turned, haha."

In 2014 Seymour moved up to Byron Bay to find work in the surfboard industry. He started out in a ding shop, and soon after began sanding boards professionally, notably spending a short but profoundly valuable stint at the McTavish factory, and also North Coast Surfboards.

He then started working at Sam Parsons' factory in Burleigh Heads, in all aspects of surfboard production, building boards for Dick van Straalan and a whole host of underground shapers, and more commercial brands like DHD and Channel Islands, and then more recently a chapter glassing for Maurice Cole.

"I've learned so much from every place I worked in, but it was the years I spent with Sam Parsons and Dick van Straalen where I really honed the craft."

For the last 6 years Seymour has been making boards out of his workshop in Carlton. His boards are inspired by the designs of the various "Golden Ages" in surfing, but he still loves to incorporate modern design elements into his boards, creating shapes that are fast and responsive, and that move through the water with flow and style, all with meticulous glassing and attention to detail.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Amazing Grace Surfboards

**MAKER'S NAME:** Andrew Barnard

southerly.clifton@gmail.com

**BRAND OWNER:** Andrew Barnard

**LOCATION:** Lauderdale

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 1982

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** Retired

I started making surfboards in 1982 under the brand name "Amazing Grace" from the canal in Lauderdale.

Within 2 years I was getting orders from Seaworld (Red Herring) via Scott Leitch, who was a tremendous help to me. Business was good but I had an itch to travel. I ended up getting a job with Rodney Dahlberg, at Angourie. He taught me a lot and offered me full-time work but again I wanted to travel more, so I headed for the bigger waves of Torquay, Victoria.

I was offered a full-time position as head shaper at the Edge factory, and I took it.

Kym Thompson, from Water Cooled, was next door and so I started shaping for him as well. We made boards for MCD and Billabong.

After 7 years of shaping in Torquay I returned home, as my mother was unwell. Nick Stranger was kind enough to offer me work glassing, and also a bit of shaping for him. This was an awesome time, as Matt Dayton and Leigh Steven were working there also.

After a few years I went out on my own again and made boards at Clifton Beach for a lot of great surfers.

I've had the privilege of shaping boards for over ten state champions.

It's been a great ride and I'm very thankful to have been part of the surf industry in Tasmania.

Cheers and God Bless.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Avalon Designs

MAKER'S NAME: Avalon Starick

avalon@xococosurf.com

BRAND OWNER: Avalon Starick

LOCATION: Sisters Beach & Tweed Heads

COMMENCED MAKING: 2021

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: Still going

Once upon a time, Avalon Starick worked at the Album Surfboards Showroom Cafe, which was surrounded by numerous surfboard factories. Regularly exposed to shapers and board talk, she developed an interest in surfboard design and construction. After some nagging on her part, Starick convinced Gavin Upson of 1-DA Surfboards to take her under his wing.

These days, Starick has a lot on her plate. She has her own brand, Avalon Designs, through which she works on creating some of her own shapes and designs. But mainly, she works in production board building for Mitchell Surman, Album Surfboards, and XO COCO.

“The idea is to try and create an inclusive surf brand that gives everyone equal opportunity throughout the design and construction process into surfing of the boards,” says Starick of the XO COCO line.

“Coco [Ho] is so much fun to be around and to work with and I think the boards really reflect that.

The idea is to try and create an inclusive surf brand that gives everyone equal opportunity.”

Starick draws inspiration for her creations from her upbringing in the remote beachside town of Sisters Beach, in Tasmania, where she was surrounded by artistic, innovative, and supportive friends and family. Through them, she developed an appreciation for hand-building skills and creating functional, yet beautiful, designs. Because there are so few women doing what Starick is doing, she takes great pride in her work.

“It’s a complex, challenging, rewarding, and multifaceted experience being a woman in the surf industry,” says Starick. “Being a woman in a male-dominated industry comes with its challenges: A constant feeling of having to prove I belong, that I can work just as hard as any guy to navigating an all-male workplace, and often all-male line up. However, with challenge comes great reward, and I love pushing the boundaries and surprising people.”

[www.surfer.com/news/women](http://www.surfer.com/news/women)

June 21, 2024

These Women are Reshaping  
the Surfboard Industry by Rebecca Parsons.

“Avalon Starick-The Production Pro”

Approved for use in Surfboard Makers Museum

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Little Island Surfboards

**MAKER'S NAME:** Bryan Hughes

[bryan@littleislandsurfboards.com](mailto:bryan@littleislandsurfboards.com)

[www.littleislandsurfboards.com](http://www.littleislandsurfboards.com)

**BRAND OWNER:** Bryan Hughes

**LOCATION:** Bicheno

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 1965

**STOPPED BOADMAKING:** Not yet

Starting in 1965, at Scott Dillon Surfboards in Brookvale (Sydney), I spent the next few years at various factories learning my trade.

I was very lucky to work with some of Australia's first surfboard builders in some of the first factories. Keyo, Nipper Williams, Bennett, Shane, McGrigor, Hot Buttered, Aloha to name a few.

I had learnt at an early stage the real heart of the industry was to be able to be competent at all aspects of board building, resulting in learning different skills at three or four factories at the one time.

The industry back then was very summer related, so it was important to make your money during that time and surf and travel in the winter. This led me to Hawaii and California, working during their summer, our winter.

I worked at several factories over the next few years. Gordon and Smith, Nectar and Steve Seebold (contract glassing for smaller manufacturers), in San Diego, California, as well as Honolulu, Hawaii, with Wilson Foam, Fibreglass Hawaii and some other private contracts and selected clients. I would then return to work in Australia for our summer. Good work standards and reliability was essential for this type of seasonal exchange.

Returning to Australia in the mid-1980s I came to live in Tasmania, working with Nick Stranger at Greg Muir's Island Energy and again with Nick at his Pure Surf factory in Rokeby.

Bicheno became home in 1990, and Little Island Surfboards began. Longboards were a speciality back then, but times have changed and now it's nice to step back and try some different things with shapes and materials.

A lifetime of foam, fibreglass and dust is hard to escape.

## Re-used - re-cycled

Little Island 12' x 24" x 3½"

This 12-foot Little Island board started life as an early stand-up paddleboard I made at Russell Graham's (Rip Curl) factory in Torquay in 2008. The blank came from Burford Foam in Currumbin, Qld (they had the only 12' blank mould in Australia).

It was paddle-surfed for some time in Bicheno before travelling north on a surfing holiday. I decided on a make-over and so it was un-made at Bob Kennerson's shed at Crescent Head. I then re-shaped it and re-glassed it at Terry Beathe's bush factory near Kempsey, then to Ed Maloney's sheds on the Crescent Head Road for sanding, finish coat and polish. First surfed at Crescent Head then back home in the water at Bicheno where it now resides.

All the collaboration decals made their way on to the board, including Barry Bennett who supplied the glass and resin and the "Little Island Surfgirls" from a special style I shaped for girl surfers in the mid-1990s. Also, a small, sentimental decal for inspiration paying tribute to my friend Dan "Skydog" Highland (great board shaper, California, Hawaii, Australia).

So, the next time you buy a board or pick up an old one think about its journey, and look around this room, all these boards are made by Tasmanian workers with local knowledge. Any one of them could make you a nice board. The materials may come from all over the world, but nothing beats a home-made product.



## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### 42 South Surfboards

MAKER'S NAME: Nic van Dongen

[nic@exonic.com.au](mailto:nic@exonic.com.au)

BRAND OWNER: Nic van Dongen

LOCATION: Hobart & Bicheno

COMMENCED MAKING: 1988

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: Still going

I am a cabinetmaker by trade and after finishing my apprenticeship I worked in the commercial surfboard industry in Tasmania - both full-time and intermittently.

My first board was made at Andrew Barnard's Amazing Grace factory (South Terrace, Lauderdale) in early 1988. Later that year, I commenced working for Nick Stranger (Pure Surf, Rokeby) doing surfboard repairs, sanding for the Ocult brand, as well as my own boards. I worked with Nick until the mid-90s and then started working with Bryan Hughes (Little Island Surfboards) in Bicheno, making shortboards until 1998.

Since the late 1990s, I have shaped a few boards at Leigh Steven's shaping bay at Lauderdale Point and in 2010 I built my own shaping bay at my workshop at Cambridge.

I currently do the occasionally board repair and longboards for my own use.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Overgaauw Surfboards & Raven Resin Works

**MAKER'S NAME:** Josh Overgaauw

ravenresinworks@gmail.com

**BRAND OWNER:** Josh Overgaauw

**LOCATION:** Dodges Ferry

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 2005

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** When my hands stop working!

I've been hooked by foam and fiberglass since I was 12, when I stripped my Leigh Steven twinnie, reshaped it, glassed it and finished it - terribly. My dad used to do ding repairs in Torquay and taught me how to fix my own surfboards, which soon turned into fixing not only my own but my friends' boards too. I stripped and reshaped my first ever board more than once and shaped my first board from a fresh blank when I was 16. I was lucky enough to get boards from some amazing shapers over my teens which helped me learn about surfboard design and what I liked. However, once I hit my twenties, I decided I would go down the rabbit hole and predominately ride my own boards.

Overgaauw Surfboards are hand-shaped, glassed and finished by me. I have a range of "models" that I have developed over the years which serve as jumping off platforms for my customers. My boards range from 4 ft to 12 ft and can be tweaked to suit the rider's level of proficiency and where they intend to surf the board. I like to ride a wide range of surfboards, and I think that my offerings reflect that. However, moving to Dodges Ferry and having a young family has me squeezing in surfs when I can at either end of the beach, predominately on a longboard, which is what I have been mostly making of late.

Raven Resin Works is the glassing and repairs component of my business, focussing mainly on surfcraft but also extending into other composite manufacturing and repair. I have been fortunate enough to help other local board builders such as Seymour Turnbull-Biggs, Tim Clarke, Bryan Hughes and Ant Johnson, as well as other local guys who are at varying depths of the surfboard rabbit hole, glass and finish their boards. As much as I encourage people to build their own boards start to finish, I also see the value in a "glass shop" style offering in our local community and have enjoyed being able to share some knowledge and build some great relationships along the way.

I have spent countless dollars and hours and made countless mistakes so far trying to learn the craft, but none of it's been a waste! I would like to thank all the boardbuilding elders, contemporaries and peers who have been kind enough to help me out along the way, by passing on knowledge or lending their eyes and hands to help me with something I'm having trouble with. Special thank you to Seymour for letting me into his space and mentoring me, Eddo for promoting my boards and anyone who has ordered a board or used my services over the years!

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### ZSD Surfboards - Zac Smith Designs

MAKER'S NAME: Zac Smith

Zac.rex@outlook.com

BRAND OWNER: Zac Smith

LOCATION: Swansea

COMMENCED MAKING: 2021

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: Still going

Just after Covid I decided to go on a van trip up the East Coast of Australia. I had the intention of working and learning in a shaping bay somewhere in Queensland. When I had difficulties with accommodation and finding a place to work, I decided to rush home and teach myself how to shape.

I watched videos and gathered a lot of great information from Josh Overgaauw and the team at the Fibreglass Shop. I made a couple boards that were pretty average, and I wasn't really happy with them. I then met a guy out in the surf; his name is Josh Brown. He needed a place to shape some boards, so I let him use my space, in return he taught me a lot of valuable lessons about shaping.

Since then, I've shaped, glassed and sanded approximately 15 boards with the most recent of the bunch having a quality standard I'm really happy with. I have had a lot of support from family and friends with the business and hope to continue bigger and better into the future!

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



Photos: Me Shaping at Cutloose 2005, Me surfing Scamander 1983, Don post office 1983, Dion Agius mid 2000, Jaybee surf shop 1976

### Indian Pacific Surfboards

**MAKER'S NAME:** Rodney Bedford (Weasel)

cutloose1@mac.com

**BRAND OWNER:** Rodney Bedford

**LOCATION:** Moana, South Australia

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 1967

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** 1983

I have a long career in building surfboards, predominately in South Australia. My father, Rod Bedford Senior, and my uncles, Bert and Jim Bedford, were the original board builders in South Australia in 1959-60.

They started making and repairing surf skis in 1957.

I started working at Jaybee Surfboards when I left school in 1967 and shaped my first surfboard in late 1968.

Jaybees had started moving away from surfboard building around this time and were moving toward more industrial fibreglass work.

I worked at Jaybees till 1974, but I still made surfboards during this period in the family shed at home.

In 1974 I started making boards for my friend, Peter Victorsen, whom I had originally started surfing with and had just opened a surf shop near Adelaide. Sunrise Surfboards was the brand name and was very successful, but the travel bug got to me and with my partner, Christine, and fellow Sunrise boardbuilder Dave Kelly ventured around Australia. We ended up in Byron Bay, working for Sky Surfboards. My friend Dave stayed in Byron when my partner and I moved back to South Australia and started Lipstix Surfboards in December, 1978. It was in January, 1983, that I quit Lipstix to move to Cactus on the West Coast of SA, but we had planned a trip to Tassie to catch up with friends, Brian and Sharron Hope, who lived at Don in Devonport.

It was during this trip that I built several boards for John van der Woude, who had surf shops in Devonport and Penguin, on the North-West Coast of Tassie. I cannot remember how many boards I made, maybe 20-30, it was a good experience. I could check the surf over the fence at the back of the Penguin shop where I was making the boards. I had a few ok to good surfs out on the left there.

We did a fair bit of travelling around Tassie during this time and scored some good waves on the East Coast, at Scamander, the river mouth at Devonport, and especially a left-hander next to the outlet of the Don River.

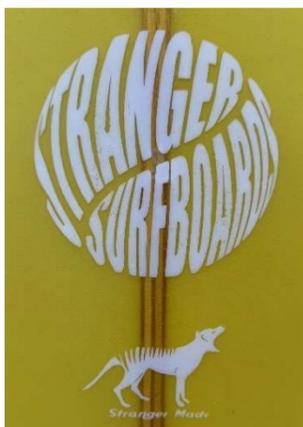
From Tassie we moved to Cactus and I made surfboards for Gravelle Surfboards in Penong for two years, then back to Adelaide, where Cutloose Surfboards started.

Cutloose lasted for 25 years. I started 100 Percent Surfboards in 2010.

I am still involved part time, but my son, Tom Bedford, is running it now as a rare third generation shaper.

Footnote: Cutloose sponsored Don Agius for boards in the 2000s

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Stranger Surfboards

**MAKER'S NAME:** Nicholas Stranger

nick@strangersurfboards.com.au

**BRAND OWNER:** Nicholas Stranger

**LOCATION:** Lauderdale

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 1970

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** Still going

It all began at the tender age of 12, in 1970, when I shaped my first board from an old plastic foam-filled mini-mal. I had broken the D style fin off, and in those days, they couldn't be repaired. So, I stripped the plastic off and shaped a little fish, it must have only been around 5'4". For my 13th birthday mum and dad bought me the fibreglass and resin to finish it off.

From that day on I just wanted to make better boards.

My brother, Mark, decided I needed to brand them and we came up with the name "New Wave" as I was getting requests for boards, single and twin fins. New Wave lasted until I realised Derek Hynd was making boards under the New Wave brand and I had not registered it.

During that time, I sponsored my first surfers, Mick Morehead and Ross Holloway, it must have been around 1975. In 1976 I travelled in an old split-screen Kombi to Noosa Heads where I walked into a job at Platt Surfboards with one of Australia's legendary early world surf explorers Peter Troy, and shaper Harpo - this was where I honed my skills.

With New Wave being an issue we moved on to "NIX". At this stage there weren't many places you could buy surfboard resins; I would often buy my resin in small honey jars from the legend Bill Thwaites, owner of the original "Seaworld".

In 1981 I was offered work in Torquay, Vic, at Watercooled Surfboards with Kim Thompson, Maurice Cole, Greg Brown and Michael Anthony. I was employed as their glasser, spraying the colour designs, doing the pin lines and gloss coats. At the same time, I was shaping and finishing my own boards.

After a year at Watercooled, Maurice Cole asked if I would go to France with him to help set up a board factory in the South-West at a place called Hossegor, with the promise of some of the best beach breaks in the world. Part of that was a reconnaissance for Rip Curl, as they were looking to set up their European base in Hossegor, which they did.

On returning from France, I caught up with Greg Muir, of YD Water Sports, in Sydney. Greg wanted me to come back to Tassie to make surfboards and windsurfers under his brand "Island Energy". There wasn't any work available in the middle of winter in Sydney, so we made the move back to Hobart in 1983 to work for Greg, working in make-shift chicken sheds at Kingston. We later moved to Pitt Street, North Hobart, and then on to Rokeby sometime in the mid-1990s, where most would remember.

Towards 2000 Leigh Steven and myself teamed up and it was decided we would make our boards under the brand "blade", so we set to and made newly branded boards for all our team that were heading off to NSW for the national titles, only to find the team copped a verbal spraying from other teams, as blade was what they were calling the Gay Community. So, we abandoned that and went to our own brands "Stranger" and "Steven" Surfboards.

Then came Ocult, this was exclusive to Red Herring for a few short years.

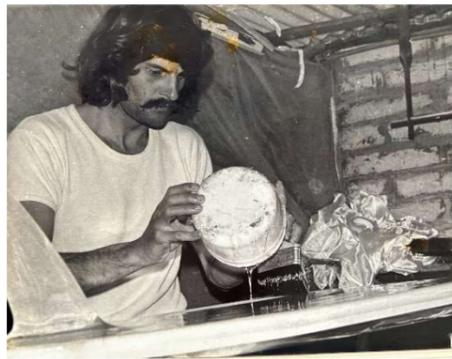
Around this time, 2005, I was contacted by one of my suppliers about making Lynden Surfboards (Gary Lynden), a Californian based brand, which at the time was rated as second only to Channel Island boards as one of the most sought after boards worldwide. We secured the licence for Linden Australia. With orders from all major stores in every state including Rip Curl, Good Times, Kirra Surf and Red Herring.

At the same time, we were sending boards around the world under the Stranger brand, mainly Japan and USA.

There is still a strong demand for my boards, and you'll find me shaping, glassing, or sanding, most days of the week.

Some sponsored surfers over the years were: Dara Penfold, Dustin Hollick, Jy Johannesen, Martin Kiel, Luke Johannesen, Matt Dayton, Luke Bugg, Chris Potter, Mark Simpson, Arturs Innes, Stuart Quirk, Simon McShane, Tod Holland (Linden Pro) and Kyron Rathbone. Many of these surfers won state titles on Stranger shapes and some went on to national or international success.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Eagle Surf Designz

MAKER'S NAME: Tony Wood

bigpossum14@gmail.com

BRAND OWNER: Tony Wood

LOCATION: Park Beach

COMMENCED MAKING: 1967

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: Still going

I started shaping out of necessity because I couldn't find a board around 7-8ft without round rails, which didn't feel right through turns.

My first attempt was with a Surform, taking 6-8 hours in my dad's shed. It had a super wide tail, 12-inch fin way up, with a distinct edge on the rails, from high at the nose to low at the tail. I had a most memorable session on it at big, perfect Swanport.

Years later, Hertz once commented as he took my board out of the van: "F@\$ck, I think I just cut my hand on the rail!"

I was also shaping boards with super rolled bottoms with not much rail lift for my good friend Steve Lovell, he wasn't afraid to push the envelope! "Rat" has a prosthetic leg! A version of this design, with the fin further back, became popular among the crew!

Channels became my passion, and I indulged in every conceivable type as boards evolved. My batwing, wide, thick tailed, channel boards were working well with 4 fins in the mix. I never looked back!

1984 - these quads, with the fins pushed up, complemented my channelled boards, with the ability to stay high in the wave, especially hollow ones, where the speed is!

I made these boards for less powerful waves but found they went up the scale really well - especially in down the line, fast waves!

Stewart Weatherill has taken these boards to the next stratosphere, riding waves of consequence that I could only imagine!

Shaping and designing boards has been my life's passion. Every time I shape a board for someone else, I give myself and them a gift! Every time I shape a board for me, I get a gift!

"That's as good as it gets!"

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Milch Surf Designs

**MAKER'S NAME:** Brendan Milch

brendan.milch8@gmail.com

**BRAND OWNER:** Brendan Milch

**LOCATION:** Penguin

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 1978

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** Still going

Inspiration came from Marrawah's Kipp Nunn in late 1978. I made two boards; one I glassed in the Osprey Factory at Marrawah and the other I made under my parents' house. In 1980 I started at Christie Surfboards in Nowra, NSW, working for Al Wilson doing anything I could.

In 1981 I moved to the Gold Coast and started polishing surfboards for Nev Hyman. In 1982 I started working at Surfmore Surfboards for Peter Moschogianis, where I started learning all aspects of surfboard manufacturing such as ding repairs, polishing, fin foiling, sanding, glassing and finally shaping, with a host of shapers to guide me, including Richard Harvey, Mike Perry and Dick Van Straalen. In 1984 I returned to Tasmania for a short visit and shaped and finished a few boards for Indian Pacific Surfboards in Penguin for John van der Woude.

In 1985 I worked for Geoff Doig's Islander Classic Surfboards during my surfing holiday in Bali, sanding and polishing - due to a lack of employees at the business. In 1987 I started working at the Resin Works, glassing, sanding and shaping my own boards. I also started shaping for Nev Hyman during this year. I shaped for Blue Hawaii Australia in 1988 on the Gold Coast. In 1989 I started shaping for Jim Banks Surfboards, Gold Coast, and moved into FunZone with Ed Hooper.

In 1991 I had my first trip to the North Shore of Hawaii and returned there in 1992 and 1993 to shape for Blue Hawaii. In 1994 I drove from the Gold Coast to WA via South Australia, surfing and selling my boards, before landing in Margaret River and taking a shaping job at Delta Surfboards with Martin Littlewood.

During 1995 I moved back to Tasmania, made a few boards on the East Coast before settling back in Marrawah at the old Osprey Factory, which I converted to my own factory, known as Milch Surf Designs, Comeback Road.

In 1998 I returned to the Gold Coast shaping boards for Brothers Neilsen and Milch Surf Designs. 1998 was also the year I started Passion 8 Surf Designs in Queensland.

2000 to 2009 found me shaping and manufacturing for Michael Peterson, HIC Australia and Gerry Lopez International. In 2009 I returned to the East Coast of Tasmania, settling in Stieglitz, St Helens, making Passion 8 Surfboards and servicing repairs.

In 2018 I returned to my roots on Tassie's North-West Coast, settling in Penguin, and established my workshop, where I still do repairs in my semi-retirement.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Oceans Surfboard Co

MAKER'S NAME: Stephen Cosgrove

BRAND OWNER: Stephen Cosgrove

LOCATION: Tasmania

COMMENCED MAKING: 1975

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: 1985 (deceased)

I started surfing in the summer of 1968-69, just as the first longboard era was coming to an end. Nat Young, Midget Farrelly and Bob McTavish were leading the Shortboard Revolution in Australia which turned out to be hugely influential in terms of board design and attack on the wave.

I really got caught up in all this and lived and breathed little else but surfing from 1969 through to 1974. Eventually, I thought I could make surfboards better than the those being produced in Tassie at the time. I also realised that, if I was any good at it, I might just be able to make some sort of living out of it and go surfing whenever I wanted to.

I started to make Clearline Surfboards in the garage at my parents' home in Lindisfarne in early 1975. Through trial and error and the support of my parents and friends, I quickly became good at shaping, glassing, sanding and all the other bits and pieces required to produce a good surfboard. At the time, I had a full-time job with the State Government and so had to make boards at night.

In early 1976, I decided to flip the day-job and concentrate on the surfboards, plus I started an Economics course at Uni to learn the stuff I would need to run the business. Well, the business (by now called Oceans/Flying Fish Design) really took off and I was making between 5-10 boards a week during spring and summer and bugger all during winter. I basically surfed and studied for my course during winter for the years 1976-1979 (I graduated from Uni with an Economics Degree in 1980).

During this period, I made maybe 200-250 surfboards per year and was also selling Rip Curl wetsuits and gear for Claw Warbrick around the state, supplying all the surf shops that existed then.

The problem was, I was making very little actual money. 200 surfboards sounds a lot but really, I was only clearing around \$10,000 per year after all costs and taxes were deducted.

After I finished my study, I ramped things up and took on some business partners and got more serious about marketing (trade fairs in Japan, selling boards into the mainland, etc) but really, we just ended up cutting the same cake into more pieces and the margins didn't increase. I even went and worked on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria for a few of the bigger surf operations for a couple of winters. I learned a lot of new shaping techniques and more efficient ways of making surfboards but the surf scene over there was "party centric", to the extent that I still wasn't making any money.

I was, however, surfing really well all through this period and I was able to satisfy my desire to surf great waves pretty much whenever I wanted.

By 1984-1985 I realised that there was no future in continuing the business and sold it to a couple of rich kids from the neighbourhood who wanted to live the surf lifestyle, exactly as I had. I made between 1,500 to 2,000 surfboards in all for my own company and for the Victorian guys. I had an absolute ball during those years, even though I really came out of it with no money and little more than a few surfboards and a beaten-up old car. But, boy, the memories of uncrowded surf, the great friends, and everything else. Magic days!!

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### power & Mars Surfboards

MAKERS' NAMES: MARIO AGIUS & STEVE JORY

maragius468@gmail.com

BRAND OWNER: Mario Agius & Steve Jory

LOCATION: Scamander

COMMENCED MAKING: 1970

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: 1983

Short story of "Surfboards from Mars" and "Power Surfboards", East Coast, Tasmania.

It all started early in 1970 when I was transferred from Adelaide, South Australia, to Tasmania with my job.

I had been dabbling with making a few of boards in Adelaide, and when I arrived in Launceston, I was asked to make a couple of boards for friends, so I started in our shed at St Leonards. These were the first "Surfboards from Mars" Tam O'Shanta was the place to go back then, as we had a great surf point to try out the boards. Obviously, these went ok as I started to get a few more orders.

Around the late 70s it was difficult to find any reasonable boards to buy in Launceston so I was asked to make more than I could handle, which was getting difficult as I was employed fulltime as state manager for the firm I was working for.

Around this time, whilst surfing at Shelly, I met a guy relocating to Tasmania from Queensland, who was surfing quite well. His name was Steve Jory.

I asked Steve if he was interested to help me out, so that's when we decided to go into production.

Initially we had set up in Launceston, but we received more orders, so we set up in Scamander where the Scamander Post Office shed is now.

We had a great shaping bay and clean glassing area and took it in turns shaping or glassing and decided to call these new boards "Power Surfboards"

Orders came in quickly and we also sent a couple to Hobart and Devonport surf shops, which was exciting.

Around the same period, I decided to set up "Pure Surf" Surf Shop in Launceston selling these boards but also selling "MCCoy" boards.

This took off and was getting so out of control I had to employ a staff member whilst I was busy working for the company.

Unfortunately, in 1980, I was transferred to Sydney, so I left the business to Steve to continue. Chris Stanley of Beaumaris helped him with making a few boards, but I believe after a short time he also left Tasmania, going back to Queensland - we lost touch.

I arrived back in Tas in 1983, got married to Kerry, had 2 great kids, Dion and Jenna, moved back to Adelaide for 2 years then back to Tas for another 5 years. Then moved to Queensland in 2000 for 18 years, working for Surfing Australia.

Now, 8 years later, back in this great state. Thanks, Tasmania, for making my life a real blast!!!

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Shayne Clark Surf Designs Indian Pacific Ocean Joy

**MAKER'S NAME:** Shayne Clark

skclarks@bigpond.net.au

**BRAND OWNER:** Shayne Clark

**LOCATION:** Penguin

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 1970

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** 1980

As kids growing up in Penguin, my young mates and I were quickly drawn to the surf and surf club where we begged and borrowed timber boards and skis to hit the waves in the bay and reef whenever we could. Soon we had our own fibreglass malibus and spent every possible day riding the slop in the bay and walls on our reef. Mine was a 9'6" Bill Wallace malibu, bought in 1967 from one of my Ulverstone High School teachers.

As boards crashed in length, and designs developed quickly, I became keen on the idea of making my own. The first boards were made in dad's garage in the very early 1970s, as boards dropped in length from 9'6" to 7' or thereabouts. Boards for my brother, his friends and others followed and led to a small part-time operation.

With the surf industry still booming I decided to open a weekend surf shop in an old butcher shop in Penguin. We called it Ocean Joy and retailed Sydney boards, wetsuits and clothing, etc. Soon after I took over the surf film state distributorship from Ben Richardson with the help of mate Phil O'Neill.

Business was growing and my shaping, glassing and finishing skills were improving so I was able to run my line of boards in store.

With the business growing, a partner, Jenny Frost, and I established another shop in Burnie to grow the business but a downturn in the surf industry led me to seek another career at Art School in Hobart. The shop struggled on until the late 1970s when I sold it. I continued making boards through this period.

In Hobart late 70s I was able to link up with the TERN crew (Leigh Steven, Terry Horton, Ben Richardson, etc) at the factory in Lefroy Street, North Hobart, where I got a part-time job sanding boards for \$5 to help pay my way through Art School. Watching these craftsmen at work enabled me to further develop and refine my skills and knowledge of making and designing surfboards.

During holidays I started making boards with mate John van der Woude at his Canoe and Surf factory in Penguin under the Shayne Clark Surf Design and later Indian Pacific brand.

Over about 10 years from the beginnings in the very early 1970s up until the early 1980s I made around a hundred boards.

Approved for use in Surfboard Makers Museum

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Steven & TERN Surfboards

**MAKER'S NAME:** Leigh Steven

joel.steven@ripcurl.com

**BRAND OWNER:** Leigh Steven

**LOCATION:** Hobart & Torquay

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 1964

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** Still going

Leigh started surfing and making boards in 1964. Horton and Steven were set up in 1967.

Turn and then TERN surfboards manufacturing business (with Ben Richardson & John Davis) ran from 1970 until 1980. Steven Surfboards has continued from then until now.

Leigh was a powerhouse in the industry over the decades, making some thousands of boards.

The latest "Surfing World" magazine features Leigh's career and claims that he made 15,000 boards. Leigh reckons that's an exaggeration!

Leigh's theoretical knowledge of aerodynamics, learned from his father's model planes hobby, emphasised the importance of foil. This carried over to an understanding of the fundamental role of foil in the hydrodynamics of surfboards.

This principle was further developed with a close engagement with the ideas of George Greenough and Bob McTavish: In an era when the design of surfboards was being revolutionised.

Leigh's contribution to surfboard design nationally is featured in the Australian Surfing Museum in Torquay, Victoria.

This level of expertise is also evident in the thousands of stoked customers that Leigh has had over the years! Leigh's boards are on display here tonight, but he has also recorded them in a book that is about to be released.

This is called "THE LAST GLIDE!"

It features design theory, surfing exploits, world travel, all kinds of adventures, and a section of testimonials - where surfers describe their experience of that relational "soul" that came with having one of his boards.

It is told in a style that flows like a foil, continuously moving across the page, and is illustrated with his significant graphical flair!

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### ELS - Fresh Juice Surfboards

MAKER'S NAME: Ellis Leder

ellisleder@gmail.com

BRAND OWNER: Ellis Leder

LOCATION: Hobart

COMMENCED MAKING: 1974

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: Still going

I will never know what prompted my dad to agree to letting a couple of "hairy" surfers make surfboards in perfectly good rental accommodation at the rear of our house at 344 Macquarie St, but he did and that was the start of my love of making surfboards.

The two surfers were Terry "Hortso" Horton & Leigh Steven, and the surfboards were Turn.

I was a teenager at school and never had anything to do with making surfboards, but their influence was indelibly stamped.

Forward to 1974, Lefroy St and Fresh Juice Surfboards.

The same two, Leigh & Hortso, but with the addition of Tony Wood (Slops) and Dave (Robbo) Roberts.

At the time the Federal Government were offering a NEAT retraining scheme, so I was in. With the government subsidy, Fresh Juice could afford an extra wage, and I was employed.

If I can remember, production was about 20 boards a week, which was a fair few for the time, I sanded, filled (hot coat) and finned 4 boards a day, 5 days a week, lunch was at the Queen's Head Hotel, beer and games of 8 ball, learnt bugger all about surfboard making, but I could play a mean game of pool.

I was living at Clifton Beach, surfing & making surfboards, I was living the dream, but all good things must come to an end, and they did, Fresh Juice with Robbo wound up, I found other employment, and a period in my life closed.

It wasn't until my daughter started surfing that ELS Surfboards happened.

Never a production run, only personal craft that followed - primarily the twin fin, the Mini Simmons and the concept of modern planing hull.

The attraction of surfboard making has offered something unique, allowing the satisfaction of making personal craft and a deeper connection to the surfing experience.

I thank everyone that has had an influence on my journey.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### bradley Surfboards

**MAKER'S NAME:** Roger Bradley

**BRAND OWNER:** Roger Bradley

**LOCATION:** Sisters Beach

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 1960

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** 1975

Roger travelled the world in the Merchant Navy before settling on the North-West Coast of Tasmania.

In 1966 there were pioneer surfers in the Burnie area and Roger made his first board from a balsa wood kit. He also went on to make boards for Brett Norton-Smith, Barry Paine and Shannon Davey later in the 1960s.

Roger developed a version of a shortboard with round tail and round nose that had high performance qualities because of its hard rails and short length. His skilled craftsmanship came through in the high quality of his boards.

In the late 60s Roger joined Terry Horton, Alan Blyth and Bruce Channon at Ellis Leder's house in Macquarie St, South Hobart, making boards and sleeping in his 1964 light green EH Holden panel van, with a green drag stripe painted over the top.

Roger later made boards upstairs at his father's commercial premises in Devonport in 1971. He estimates that he made about 2 to 3 hundred boards in total.

He made a board for his son, Christiaan, when Christiaan was 10 years old, thus planting a boardmaking seed that was to bloom internationally with Christiaan's boardmaking career.

Asked about this legacy's influence on Christiaan, Roger's reply was: "Every breath!"

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### SB Shapes

**MAKER'S NAME:** Sam Bakker

bakkersgardening@gmail.com

**BRAND OWNER:** Sam Bakker

**LOCATION:** North-West Coast, Tasmania

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 2008

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** Still going

My shaping started back in 2008 on the North-West Coast of Tassie. Will (my brother) was riding Stranger boards at the time and grabbed a blank from him as we were talking about having a go at shaping a board. We turned the old garden shed into a shaping bay and away I went. Also, at the time, I was getting a custom off Tim Clarke, so he let me watch him laminate my board and give me pointers on the glassing process. The board I made was a 6'0" thruster, with some extra width for the sloppy North-West Coast swells. The shape was a little funky, but over the next few years I made a bunch of boards for close mates and family and was able to sharpen up my shaping and glassing skills. I still remember the first surf we had at Preservation Point on that first board I made. It was a great feeling.

In 2012 I moved to the Far North Coast of NSW. I continued my shaping, hiring a space at Brett Munro's factory in Byron Bay. Here I would focus on the shaping part, passing on the boards to the glassing crew at the factory.

Over the years I have had a go at making all types of boards, starting with more standard thrusters, but was always interested in fishes, twins, quads, and alternative shapes, even asymmetrical boards. I have made a few longboards, that we all share in the family, and some mid-length gun hybrid style boards that are fun on the overhead days at the points.

Nowadays I use a space up at my mate's farm property in the hills behind Bangalow. I've shifted to using different materials, starting with EPS foam, wrapped in fibres like hemp, flax, basalt, with bio-based Epoxy resins. This construction is proving to be much stronger and longer lasting than PU/Polyester boards while holding that new-feeling flex years later. Most of my quiver is made like this now and I am still riding boards I made 6 years ago, they still feel great.

I am not shaping much these days but still do the odd one here and there for close friends or family. I lost count of how many I have done, but I would say around 350.

It's cool to see a board going the distance all these years later. That's how I would like to see the industry move - towards making longer lasting boards.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Peach Longboards

**MAKER'S NAME:** Ian (Gus) Harris

ianharris1951@hotmail.com

**BRAND OWNER:** Ian Harris

**LOCATION:** Cygnet and other

**COMMENCED MAKING:** 1985

**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** Still going

I have worked at Phillip Island Surf, Miami Longboards, Mooloolaba Longboards, and Noosa Surf Works. Peach Surfboards have been in Cygnet, Tasmania, for 8 years.

If you were lucky enough to start surfing in the early Sixties, you were about to ride the best wave ever.

Surfing had become a new sport. One of the simplest sports ever.  
Catch a wave and stand up, simple. It became a lifestyle.

Surf training was a bag of weed during the week, and a keg of beer on Sundays, while giving the finger to "The Man" who tried to send you to Vietnam.

60 years later, I have come to this conclusion . . .

If you fixed a ding, you're a shaper. If you paddled and stood up, you're a surfer.  
Don't believe the sales hype, it's just foam. Shapers are not clever like heart surgeons.

If you want to believe the hype, you enjoy it. Otherwise, just have fun.  
Maybe then, you will understand the boardmaker's joke,  
"Does anyone here own a tape measure?"

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Turn Surfboards

MAKER'S NAME: Terry Horton

BRAND OWNER: Terry Horton

LOCATION: North-West Coast & Hobart

COMMENCED MAKING: 1966

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: 1980 (deceased)

It was in 1966 that Terry first stood on a board and rode it at the Phantom Coast's "Superbank". That year Terry began experimenting with cut-down surfboards in his grandparents' garage at Somerset, some 80 metres away from the beach.

In December that year, "I'm a Believer", by the Monkees, was the anthem on repeat transistor radio play from 3UZ - booming across Bass Strait.

With the heady fumes of Terry's hot mixes, wallpaper photos of impossibly perfect waves, his welcoming charisma and enthusiasm, and of course, the girls on the beach, Terry's eager gallery of onlooking grommets also became "believers" - for life!

Technically skilled as a Manual Arts teacher at Parklands High School, Terry had a "perfectionist streak" when it came to boardmaking, and even with ding repairs.

He cross-pollinated many board making ideas and had a vision for manufacturing in Tasmania after visiting with Leigh Steven when Leigh was making boards at his parents' house in Montrose

He travelled to Queensland in 1968 and sharpened his boardmaking and surfing skills no end, while also managing to fit in some Aussie Rules football.

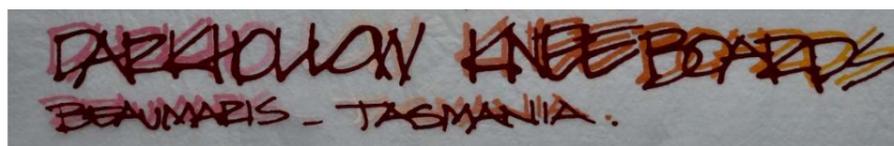
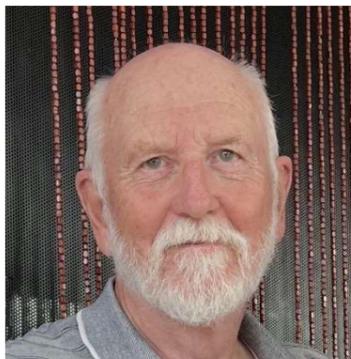
Terry had an unfortunate car accident at Port Sorell, which was to leave his foot badly damaged to the extent that he took up kneeboarding and a whole new era of high-quality surfing began!

He made boards in Hobart under the Horton and Steven brand and later Turn, and then TERN, over a 10-year period. Terry and Leigh became the dominant boardmakers in Tasmania, inspiring thousands of surfers with their board designs.

Terry sold cars, and was a professional fisherman among other jobs, and was an exceptional, near photographic, pencil artist, but maintained an interest in surfing and boardmaking.

Famous for his dry, laconic turn of phrase and ability to invent devastating "nick names", Terry was a larger-than-life figure revered in the surfing fraternity, who spent his last years giving a gracious "audience" to all and sundry, living in the heart of the surfing community at Dodges Ferry.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Dark Hollow Surfboards

MAKER'S NAME: Christopher Stanley

janneandchris@bigpond.com

BRAND OWNER: Christopher Stanley

LOCATION: Beaumaris

COMMENCED MAKING: 1974

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: 2005

I started surfing in 1972 on a bellyboard my friend, Shane Denman, made for me.

After that I rode various kneeboards that I had converted from stand-up boards. Then started riding an old Keyo mal that I got from a friend.

About 1974 I shaped my first board which was a 7'6" pintail and at the same time did one for a friend, same length but a diamond tail.

Probably did at least another 5 boards for myself. About 1980, along with Shane Denman, started Dark Hollow Surfboards. We actually pulled the iron off a disused shed where I worked at Cornwall Coal and built our little "Factory".

I did the shaping and Shane glassed.

Not sure how long we worked from there, but we made a fair few boards.

Shane was a kneeboarder so there were a few of those made for him and his brother. Most of the later kneeboards were not the traditional shape and had four fins.

Shane moved to Queensland, so I moved the gear to my house - building a shaping bay and glassing bay in my garage. I then did everything myself.

I continued making boards for a few people, two of which were kneeboards (Shane's design) for Bevan Ling, they were the last kneeboards I made.

I continued making boards for myself, usually one a year, until probably 2005.

The last board I made for myself was about five years ago and it's a 9'7" mal. Don't think I'll ever make any more, but you never know.

The boards I've sent down are a 9'3" malibu and a 7'8" pintail that was made for Panaitan Island in the Sunda Strait, South-West Java.

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



Thwaites with a surfboard.

### Plastic Fantastic Surfboards

**MAKER'S NAME:** Bill Thwaites  
**BRAND OWNER:** Bill Thwaites (deceased)  
**LOCATION:** Hobart  
**COMMENCED MAKING:** 1965  
**STOPPED BOARDMAKING:** 1975

Bill Thwaites was one of the original early 1960s surf pioneers in Southern Tasmania. The first to surf many spots popular today. Bill famously once arranged a light plane flight up the East Coast and discovered some of the great breaks like Swanport, Roaring and others we know today. He was also one of the early successful competitors of the Tasmanian Division of the Australian Surfriders' Association, which was established in the early 1960s.

Bill began importing and selling surfboard kits (blanks, resin and fibreglass) from Sydney and started shaping and glassing the first local longboards. As the longboard era came to an end Bill followed the trend down by experimenting with shaping shorter boards under his Plastic Fantastic label (like the board here) and also recycling old longboards, cutting the blanks down and shaping new boards at home in Sandy Bay. Local Park Beach surfer Tony "Sloppo" Woods briefly worked for Bill but resigned after a design disagreement involving a wooden broom handle to join a blank together!

Bill did not make a lot of boards but later began importing and selling boards from Sydney manufacturers. He became the Tasmanian agent for McDonough Surfboards and White Stag Wetsuits. Ever the experimenter, Bill also began making and selling board wax, successfully using beeswax to increase grip.

Eventually Bill and his mother, Cecilie, opened the first Seaworld Surf Shop in Melville Street, Hobart. Every winter Bill used to take a trip up the East Coast of Australia, surfing his way north to Queensland for warmer water and waves. He always used the opportunity to buy up second hand boards that he thought suitable for sale in Seaworld.

Bill and his mother, Cecilie, were regular surfers at many breaks around Southern Tasmania and later "windsurfers" as the activity became more popular.

Approved for use in Surfboard Makers Museum

## SURFBOARD MAKERS OF TASMANIA



### Design in Plastics - Hobart College

TUTOR: Ron Bugg

LOCATION: Hobart College

COMMENCED MAKING: 1983

STOPPED BOARDMAKING: 1989

In 1983, while teaching at Hobart College, I started a subject called “Design in Plastics” to run alongside “Design in Wood” and “Design in Metal”.

“Plastics” involved the study and use of thermoplastics and thermosetting plastics. The former involved plastics like acrylics (eg Perspex”) that soften when heated.

Thermoset plastics dealt with polyester and epoxy resins that require heat to harden, and what better project to involve these than to design and build a surfboard.

It captured the attention of many students who were spending portions of school time “at the beach”. So away we went, with up to 15 students in a class - most of whom wanted to shape a board.

I was fortunate enough to gain the part time services of legend shaper Leigh Steven who guided the students through the intricacies of boardmaking whilst at the same time instilling in them his “salt air philosophy”.

I gained a form of sponsorship from the Fibreglass Shop who supplied the resin, glass cloth and styrene, while the foam blanks were provided by Burfords in Currumbin, along with a lot of advice in the art.

We were given two old rooms outside of, and away from, the main college buildings and we set it up as a shaping and glassing shop.

Ventilation and extraction were rudimentary although an important aspect of the subject was safety. The students made the board stands and we constructed a fan driven oven to help the “curing” along in cold weather (and when a student had glassed the board and forgot to add the dreaded MEKP accelerator we used the oven). And, YES, heat will (eventually!) set polyester resin.

So, the students designed and shaped the boards in the traditional manner, then applied their designed graphics using brush, airbrush and/or spray gun using acrylic paints. We also used photocopied jewellers’ tissue with more precise graphics to further enhance the boards.

Then the glassing process followed by wet sanding and polishing. All good.

I often wondered why Leigh, who markets his own quite beautiful boards, would help students to build boards and thus reduce his market. His answer . . . “This will attract more young people into the sport, and they will at some time buy our boards, and hopefully they might enter the industry.”

I, and the majority of students, am indebted to Leigh for his help, insights and encouragement during his time at the College.

Many beautiful and unique boards were made during that time, but since those “heady” times government regulation regarding the use of potentially dangerous chemicals and exposure to fumes and particulates have made teaching the subject prohibitive (vaping has replaced that distinctive fibreglassing odour!!).

I still have a demonstration board (see attached photos) made during that time and now see my grandson experiencing for the first time the thrill of “cracking a wave” on that board. It’s onwards and upwards from now!



This Surfing Tasmania Surf Museum Exhibition showcases the story of fibreglass surfboard making in Tasmania from the early 1960s up to the present day.

Nearly 40 surfboard makers from the North-West, North-East, and South-East Surf Coasts are represented here by more than 60 surfboards in all their glory (some a bit the worst for wear) others restored, along with the occasional replica.

From the beginnings of fibreglass surfboard making in the Island State, in the early 1960s, and as the Longboard Era came to a rapid end, and performance surfing became the rage, enthusiasts began their surfboard making journeys. Most for fun as weekend warriors, others for life and business.

A fledgling commercial operation, Turn Surfboards, had already begun in 1969 in a shed at Ellis Leder's parents' home in Macquarie Street, South Hobart, when Sydney mates Bruce Channon and Alan Blyth arrived to team up with Terry Horton and Leigh Steven, bringing with them the latest trends in surfboard design.

From that beginning, and for over the next 50 years as surfing became a popular recreational sport, and addiction for some, enthusiasts from around Tasmania began their foam and resin adventures in sheds, mum and dad's garages and workshops. The quality of their designing, shaping, glassing, sanding and finishing varied greatly but they were all taken by the challenges and rewards of surfboard making.

Most were self-taught, learned from mates, magazines, etc (nowadays from YouTube) whilst others travelled to the Gold Coast, Sydney and Torquay, where famous factories were always looking for young guns keen to work for low pay and conditions, but where it was possible to learn the fine arts of surfboard making from the best. Some ventured overseas to fame and fortune. Wherever they are, surfers from around our Island State continue to take up the challenges with great passion.

This exhibition pays homage to all Tasmanian surfboard makers who have created a pathway which continues to inspire coming generations of young guns to mow foam and squeegee resin, sand "hotcoats", install fin boxes and finish surfboards.

Please enjoy!

Shayne Clark

Surf Museum Curator

Committee : Phil Douglas Ian Smith Shannon Davey Ross Gibson