



Radical Times Gold Coast

A Boardriders Travelguide



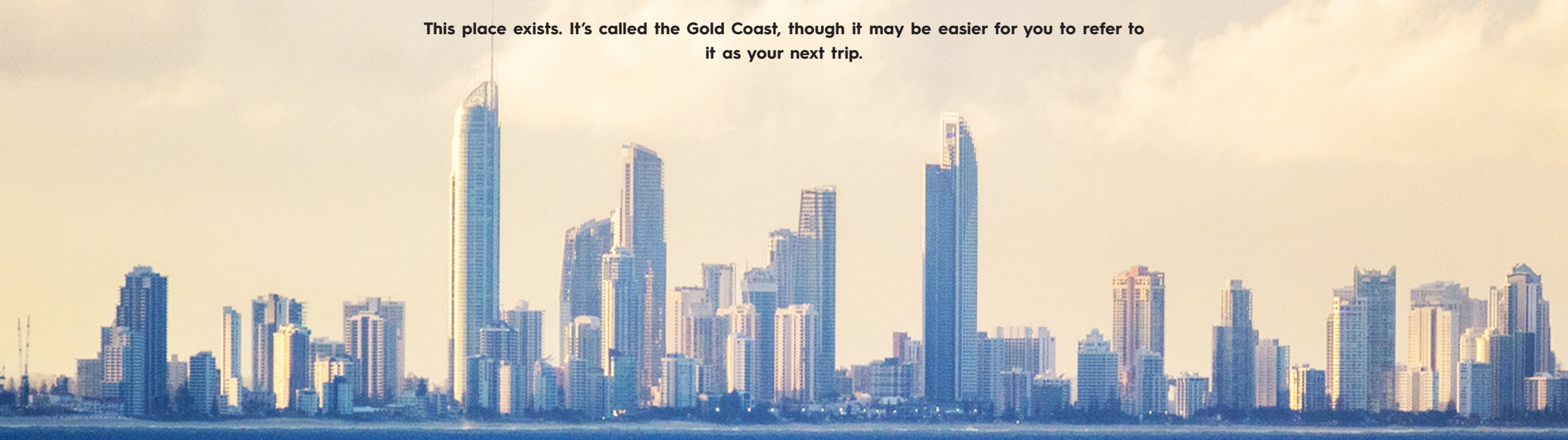
THE GOLD COAST

Imagine a place where the city shoots shadows into the sea. Where white sand beaches disappear into bright blue waters, and bright blue waters fold into some of the best waves on earth. Where the food is healthy and the people kind. Imagine songbirds singing and palm trees swaying in the breeze.

Now, imagine it ain't all cliché — there's a balance to everything we just brought up. Imagine this place has nightclubs and pies stuffed with meat and gravy. Imagine parties every night, imagine casinos. Imagine seeing the sunrise for all the wrong reasons.

Stop imagining now — too much of that will turn you into a deadbeat or John Lennon.

This place exists. It's called the Gold Coast, though it may be easier for you to refer to it as your next trip.



A BOARDRIDER'S TRAVEL GUIDE

Ever felt an itch to push around that next corner? Or the childlike wonder that urges you to climb a hill, just to see what life looks like on the other side? Or an undeniable desire to explore every crevice of the globe? Well then, you came to the right place.

Boardriding gives us a reason to satisfy that desire. It gives us somewhere to go and something to do when we arrive. And, best of all, it opens up doors around the world. Nothing breaks down barriers quite like boardriding.

That's what Radical Times is about. We want to inspire you to chase fun around the globe and we want to empower you with the information you need to do it. So, here it is: your Boardrider's Guide to Spain.

Now it's up to you to use it.

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Words: Brendan Buckley





G'DAY

**YOU ARE HERE.
OR AT LEAST YOU WILL BE SOON.**

For the sake of this guide, we're counting the area between Coolangatta and South Stradbroke Island as the Gold Coast.

To get here, you'll fly into either Brisbane or Coolangatta. Brisbane is bigger and typically cheaper, but is about an hour and change from the promised land. Cooly Airport, on the other hand, is right there in the hub. If you want to step straight off the plane and into some surf, then it's the airport for you.

SURFERS PARADISE

 **Gold Coast** 

STRADDIE

BROADBEACH

Mermaid Beach

miami

Burleigh Heads

PALM BEACH

CURRUMBIN

KIRRA

Coolangatta

SNAPPER ROCKS

GOLD COAST BY THE NUMBERS

8
Price for a 30-rack of
the local favourite beer,
XXXX (Call it "Four X")

23
AUD for an average dinner

137
People at Snapper on a
crowded day. Everybody could
use some new friends?

21
World Titles won by
Gold Coast surfers

05
Average amount of
barrels you can get
on one wave. We're
exaggerating. Maybe

8
Questionable decisions
you can potentially make
in Surfer's Paradise at any
given point in time

12
Public skateparks
on the Gold Coast

10
Australian Dollars for the
dinner special at Rainbow Bay
Surf Club overlooking Snapper

1977
Year of the Stubbies Pro at
Burleigh - the world's first
real professional surf event

BAD GRAMMER

Most travel guides load you up with helpful phrases to learn before you go on your trip. This isn't most travel guides. This is Radical Times. So, instead, we're going to give you a list of common words that have different meanings in Australia – but with the definitions you already know. It's on you to get over here and figure them out.

ROOT

The part of a plant that attaches it to the ground and conveys nutrients and water from the soil up into the plant.

DART

Small pointed missile. Typically thrown at a corkboard in a popular pub game.

THONG

Skimpy bathing garment.

PISS

Watery, typically yellowish fluid stored in the bladder and discharged through the urethra. It is one of the body's chief means of eliminating excess water and salt, and also contains nitrogen compounds such as urea and other waste substances removed from the blood by the kidneys.

MAGGOT

Soft-bodied legless larva of a fly or other insect, often found in decaying matter.



WHEN YOU'LL GO

DEC - APRIL

Cyclone swells. Summer parties. Much sun, very fun. You might score a few uncrowded windows around Christmas and New Year's, as a result of most traveling surfers being home for the holidays. But other than that, this is when the crowd is at its peak. And if you want to get a few waves with the world's best surfers, check out the Quiksilver Pro held every March.

APRIL - AUGUST

This is groundswell season, otherwise known as winter. Don't let the W word scare you though – the water rarely drops below 65 degrees fahrenheit. This season is best if you're looking to dodge the crowds.

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

Winds can be weird. Swell can be weird. This is definitely not the best time to go. But, hey, if you're feeling lucky...



WHAT YOU'LL EAT

The Gold Coast is home to people from anywhere and everywhere. As a result, it's home to cuisine from anywhere and everywhere. You'll find it all here. But if you want to eat your way through an authentic Gold Coast experience, we not so humbly suggest the following.

PIES

Meat, potatoes, veggies, gravy and deliciousness all tucked into a warm crust? Now that's something. Pies are offered at pretty much every bakery on the Goldy and they come in a variety of flavors. All of them, however, taste like Australia.

Try: Foster's Bakery in Miami Beach

Because: Their lamb and rosemary pie might just expand your consciousness.

PARMYS

Chicken, cheese, sauce and chips. The Italians may have invented the chicken parmigian, but no place does 'em quite like here. It's the quintessential pub feed.

Try: Rainbow Bay Surf Club in Coolangatta

Because: The hot chips, cold beers and great stories? Yeah, you'll find em all here. Plus, you can watch Snapper while you eat and mindsurf your way through each bite.



WHAT YOU'LL EAT CONT...

A LITTLE SOMETHING HEALTHY

Acai bowls? Check. Smoothies? Sure. Salads? Mhmm. Organic, gluten-free, vegan? Yes, yeah and probably. If you're into eating right, the Goldy won't disappoint – there are tons of options.

Try: Raw Energy in Coolangatta

Because: Sounds wild, but maybe you eat right before paddling back out for your seventh surf in three days.

A LITTLE SOMETHING WITH ATMOSPHERE

Let us guess: you dig places that feel like renovated warehouses with simplistic, sort of vintage decor and maybe some cacti hanging out in the corner? Yeah, yeah. Plenty of that here.

Try: The Collective in Palm Beach

Because: It offers cuisine from five different micro-restaurants, and the cocktails are nearly as fine as the crew you'll be sharing them with.

A LITTLE SOMETHING WITH (SURF) ATMOSPHERE

Fake spoiler alert: The Gold Coast is obsessed with surfing. So, there are a lot of restaurants that cater to that. They might have old posters on the wall. They might have a few new edits on loop. They definitely have some good food.

Try: Boardriders in Coolangatta

Because: You can literally buy your new favorite surfboard while your food is being prepared – wash your hands before putting the tail pad on though, you slob.





WHERE YOU'LL STAY

You want seedy? Or sophisticated? The Goldy has both.

If you want to do it right (hint: you do), stay in Coolangatta. You can rent a tiny flat with five friends and make use of the gigantic bed known as the floor, or you can rent a penthouse, dress in all white and pretend you're in some sort of a Hollywood film about finance. It's up to you. Well, you and your budget.

REFLECTIONS

Because: It's remarkably swanky

RAINBOW BAY FLATS

Because: It has a lot of...of...let's just call it character.

KOMUNE

Because: You like to party. This place has a bar that'll suck you (and 100 other people) right in nearly every night.

COOLANGATTA SANDS BACKPACKERS

Because: Traveling alone and don't have the luxury of splitting the cost of an apartment? This is your cheapest bet, friend.

THE CAROOL

Because: Snapper's out front and D-Bah's out back — this is the Gold Coast equivalent to staying at a house on the beach at Pipe.







WHAT YOU'LL DO

(WHEN YOU'RE NOT BOARDRIDING)

Maybe you're surfed out. Or maybe you're coming with a very significant other Or maybe you realized that you're in a new and exciting part of the world and hey maybe it'd be alright to experience more than seven turns on one wave? Bizarre concept, we know.

BUY A BOARD

The Gold Coast is a mecca for foam and fiberglass and is home to generations of world-renowned shapers. It starts from scratch – even the biggest blank manufacturer in Australia, Burford Blanks, is right here. There's a lot of heart and soul in the surfboard industry here, and you'll feel it in the final product.

HUG A KOALA

Want to pet a kangaroo, feed a rainbow lorikeet, hold a python and hug a koala all in one day? Visit the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. You'll be glad you did – so will your followers on the Gram.

DO SOME NATURE

Hike through a rainforest. Swim in a waterfall. Breathe in. Breathe out. Ahh. You'll leave feeling all zen – maybe even ready to forgive that portly bald dude who burned you at Snapper earlier.

AFL GAME

You got the Gold Coast Suns and the Brisbane Lions nearby. Just pick a team and start yelling.





BURFORD BLANKS FACTORY



DARREN HANDLEY (DHD) & STEPH GILMORE



TAJ LINDBLAD / NOA DUPOUY / JACKSON BUNCH







WHERE YOU'LL SURF

You do wanna surf, right? Right. Rights are what you'll be surfing. Some of the rights here are a rite of passage, which gives you the right to write about it later. Sorry, overboard. It's just that, seriously, there are so many good rights here.

And, don't worry — there are a few lefts too

SNAPPER

The most consistent. The most competitive. The most entertaining. The most everything. There's a tube behind the rock, then a tearable wall, then more tubes and more room to tear. It's sometimes hard to get a wave. It's always worth it.

KIRRA

Does Kirra need an introduction? It does? Fine: iconic. Introduction over. Kirra has lost some of its hype since the birth of the Superbank, but it's still one of the best waves in the world. Hit it when the swell is oversized or swinging wide at Snapper. Or whenever — it's one of those waves you simply need to check off the list.

CURRUMBIN

It might look like a myriad of stand up paddle boards, kayaks, twin-fins, longboards and long-finned stand-up paddle kayaks on an average day — but you gotta look beyond all that. When there's swell, The Alley is one of the heaviest waves on the Gold Coast. Battle the current, make it behind the rock, pack a backless one, come out, then keep on going and spray a goat boater.



WHERE YOU'LL SURF CONT...

BURLEIGH

Historic? Sure. It's the birthplace of professional surf contests. But this wave is more than just an unprovoked history lesson from some drunk dude at the bar — it's legit.

BEACHBREAKS

Tired of rights? Tired of the crowds? Tired, as in, your legs are literally tired from catching so many waves at point breaks? Try the beachies. From Duranbah to Surfer's Paradise, the beachies here always has a few peaks on tap. Just pick a bank and go.

SOUTH STRADBROKE ISLAND

This, right here, is the dream. A wide open beach break with kilometers upon kilometers of peaks. Wait for the winds to shift north and hit it. There are no cars on the island, so you'll have to arrange a boat ride over or take a Ski. Or, paddle across the inlet. It can be sharky, but you'll be fine...probably.



WHERE YOU'LL SKATE

PIZZEY PARK

Pizzey is the centerpiece in the Gold Coast park scene. It's close to Burleigh and just around the corner from Darkside skate shop. It boasts a pretty new bowl and a shreddable transition set up. And then you've got the crown jewel: The Old Bowl. This thing's got a legacy of all things awesome. Tony Hawk put down a 540 in it. Alan Petersen ollied the hip. What do you have?

ELANORA

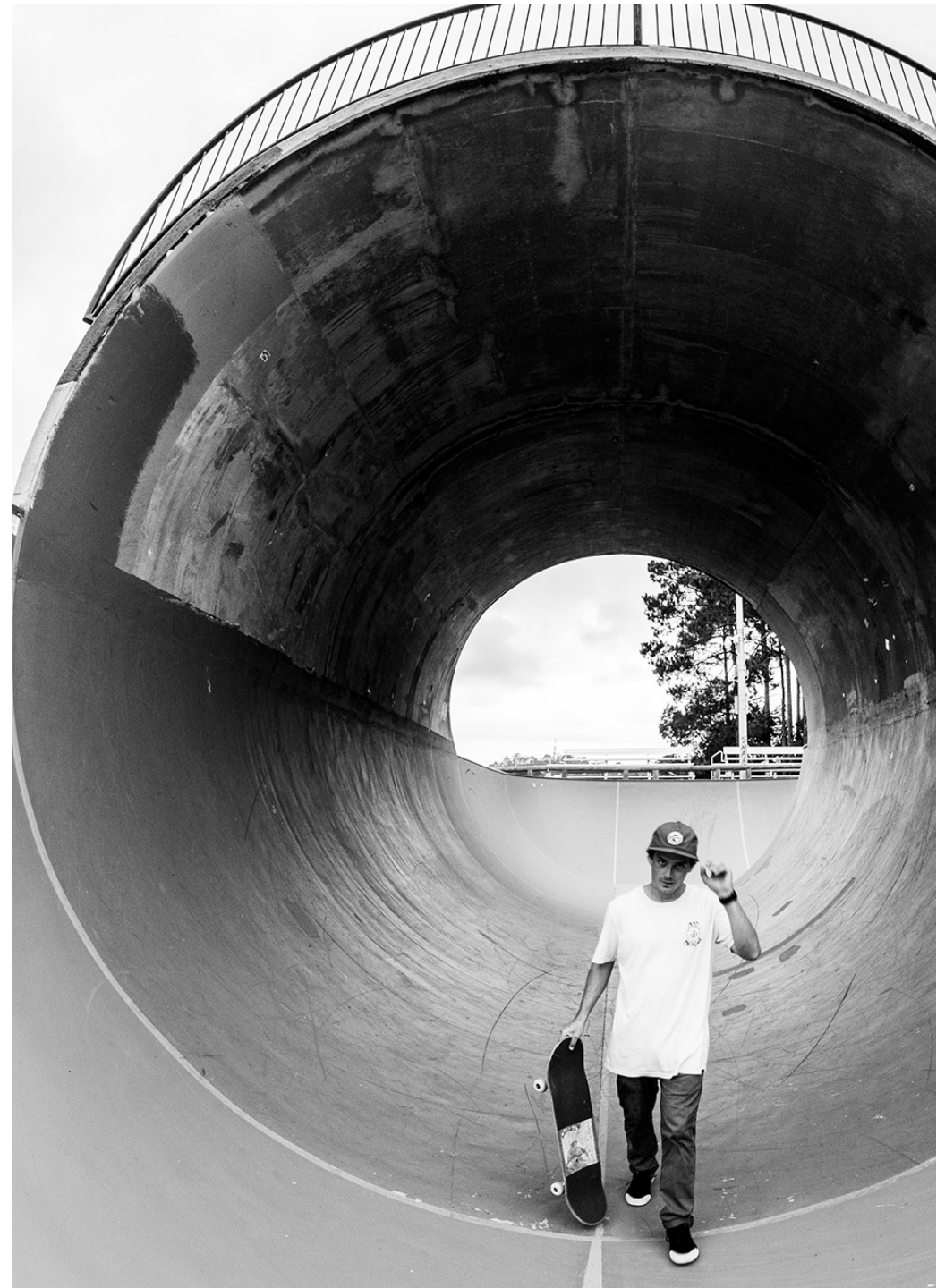
Apparently, the full pipe is 25-foot and there's no reason to doubt that. The lines are super easy to find, the transitions are forgiving and it's edged with smooth and grindable pool coping. The bowl is a quick skate/bike ride from the beach breaks of Palm Beach. Bonus: there are plenty of bottle shops nearby.

TUGAN

Woah! This place is right under the flight path out of Coolangatta airport. Planes fly barely an arm's reach overhead. The park is made up of a brand new street course and concrete pool linked into the old set up. It is incredibly fun and lined with hips, flat-bars, manual pads and Euro gaps. Oh, and the bank to jersey barrier is just as fun as it sounds.

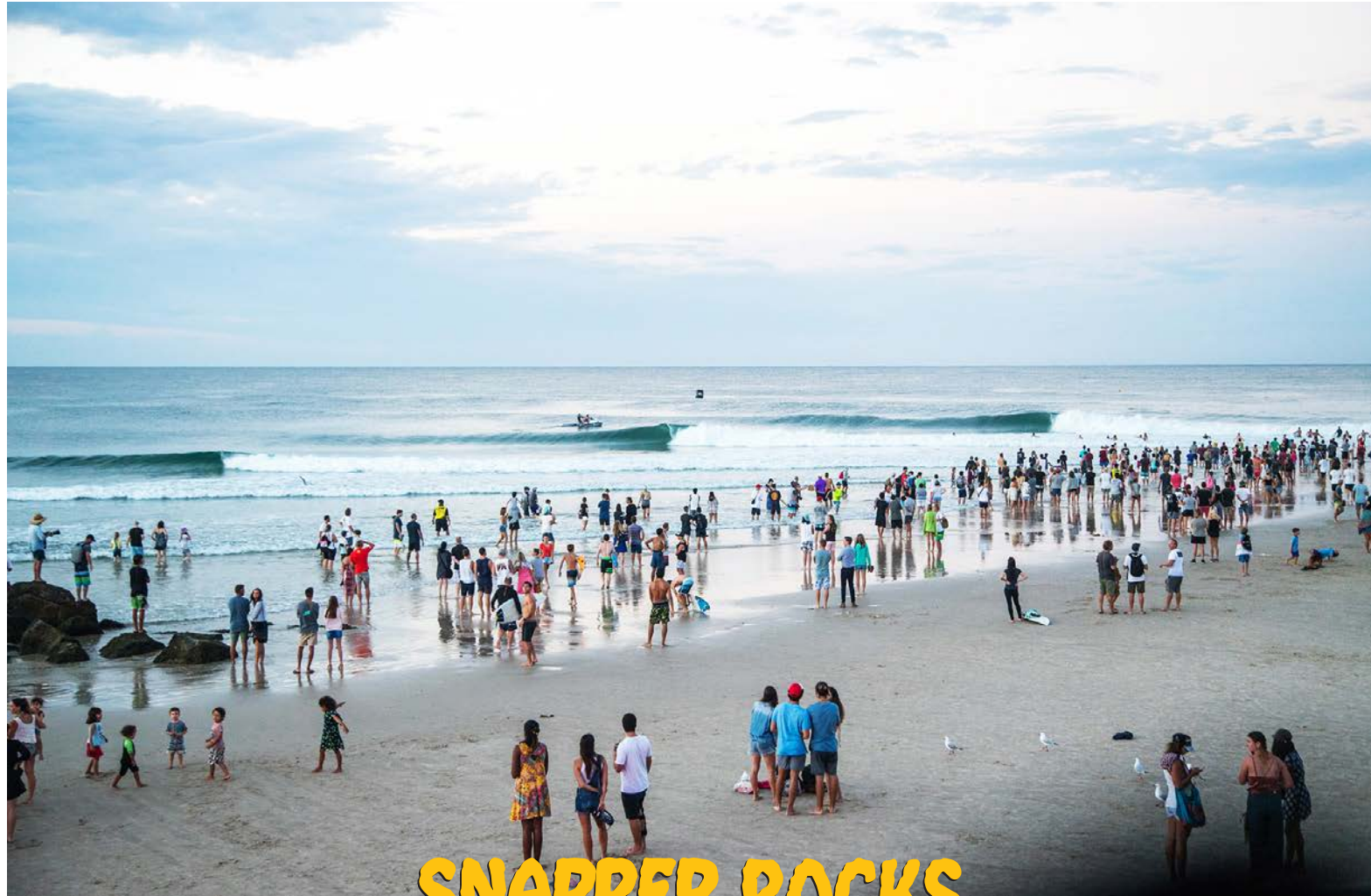
HUNT PARK

Hunt Park is a leftover from a time when amazing things were created, forgotten and then left behind. New machinery has grinded out the flat bottom to bring this place back to life. Bring some mosquito repellent and park the car nearby – it's really, really fun.

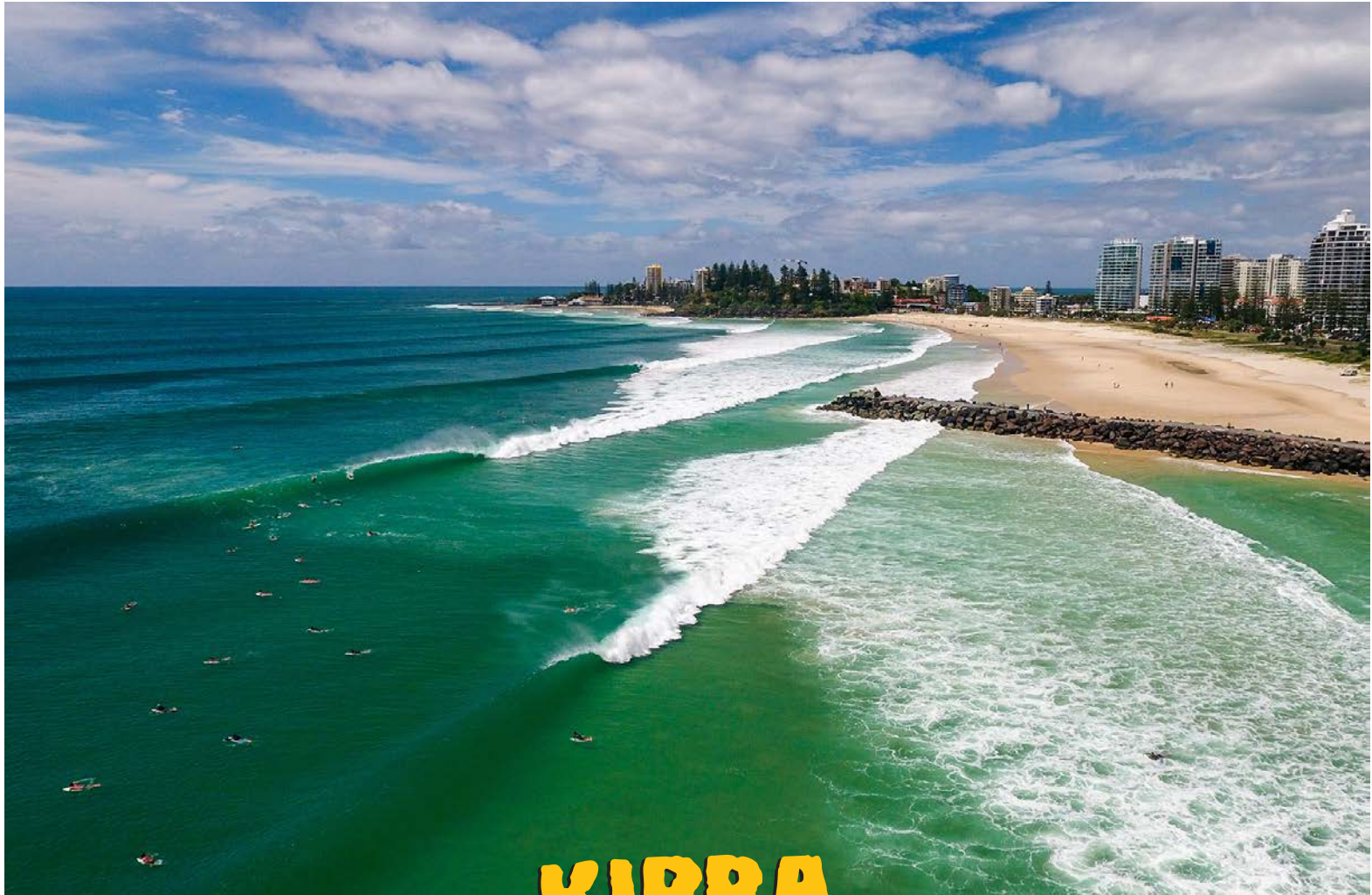








SNAPPER ROCKS



KIRRA



CONNOR O'LEARY - SNAPPER



JEREMY FLORES - SNAPPER



LEO FIORAVANTI - SNAPPER



MIKEY WRIGHT - SNAPPER



ZEKE LAU - SNAPPER



KANOA IGARASHI - KIRRA



ZEKE LAU - KIRRA









KANOA IGARASHI



JEREMY FLORES













CURRUMBIN







LEO FIORAVANTI



JEREMY FLORES



RAMZI BOUKHIAM



RAMZI BOUKHAM



ZEKE LAU



MIKEY WRIGHT



Burleigh Heads



THE BEACHIES





CONNOR O'LEARY



JEREMY FLORES



JESSE MENDES



KANOA IGARASHI



WIGGOLLY DANTAS





LEO FIORAVANTI



MIKEY WRIGHT



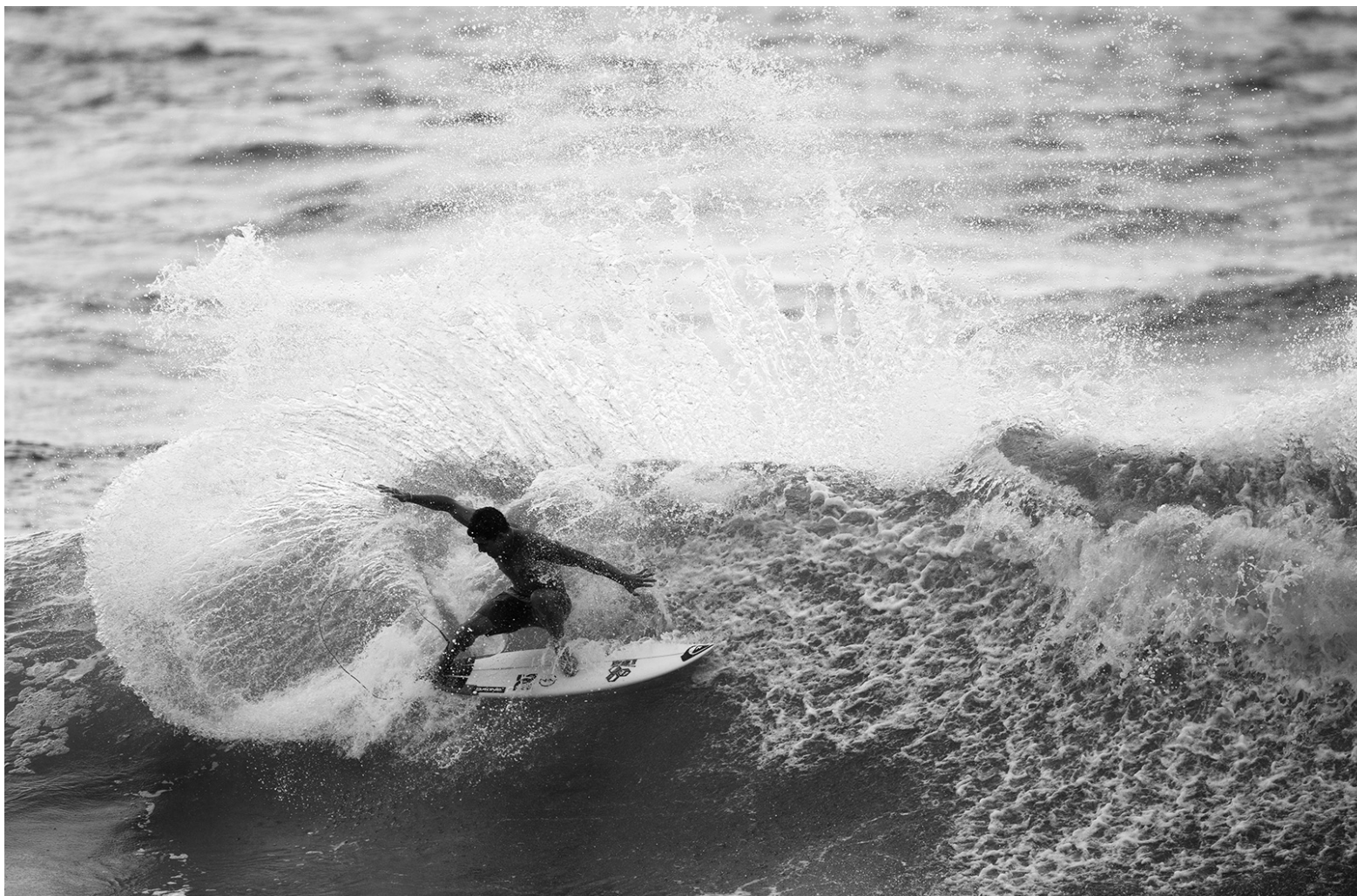
JEREMY FLORES



RIO WIADA



RIO WIADA / KEHU BUTLER / KADE MATSON



ZEKE LAU

SURFERS PARADISE









MICHAEL DUNPHY



SEB WILLIAMS



KEHU BUTLER



SEB WILLIAMS

SOUTH STRADDIE









MICHAEL DUNPHY



SEB WILLIAMS





JAVIER MENDIZABAL



JAVIER MENDIZABAL





YAGO DOMINGUEZ





YAGO DOMINGUEZ







ZACH MILLER



ZACH MILLER



ZACH MILLER



ZACH MILLER

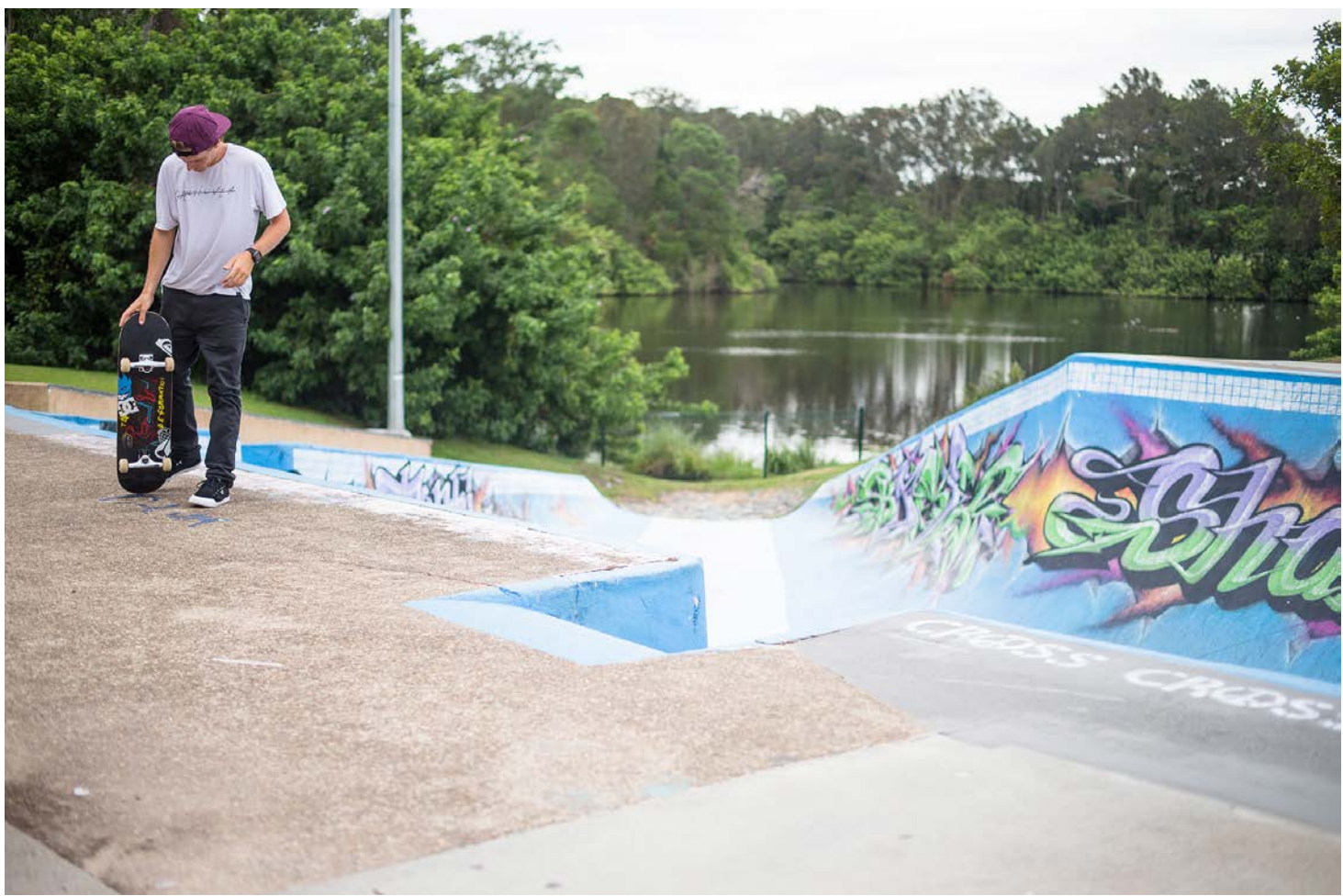








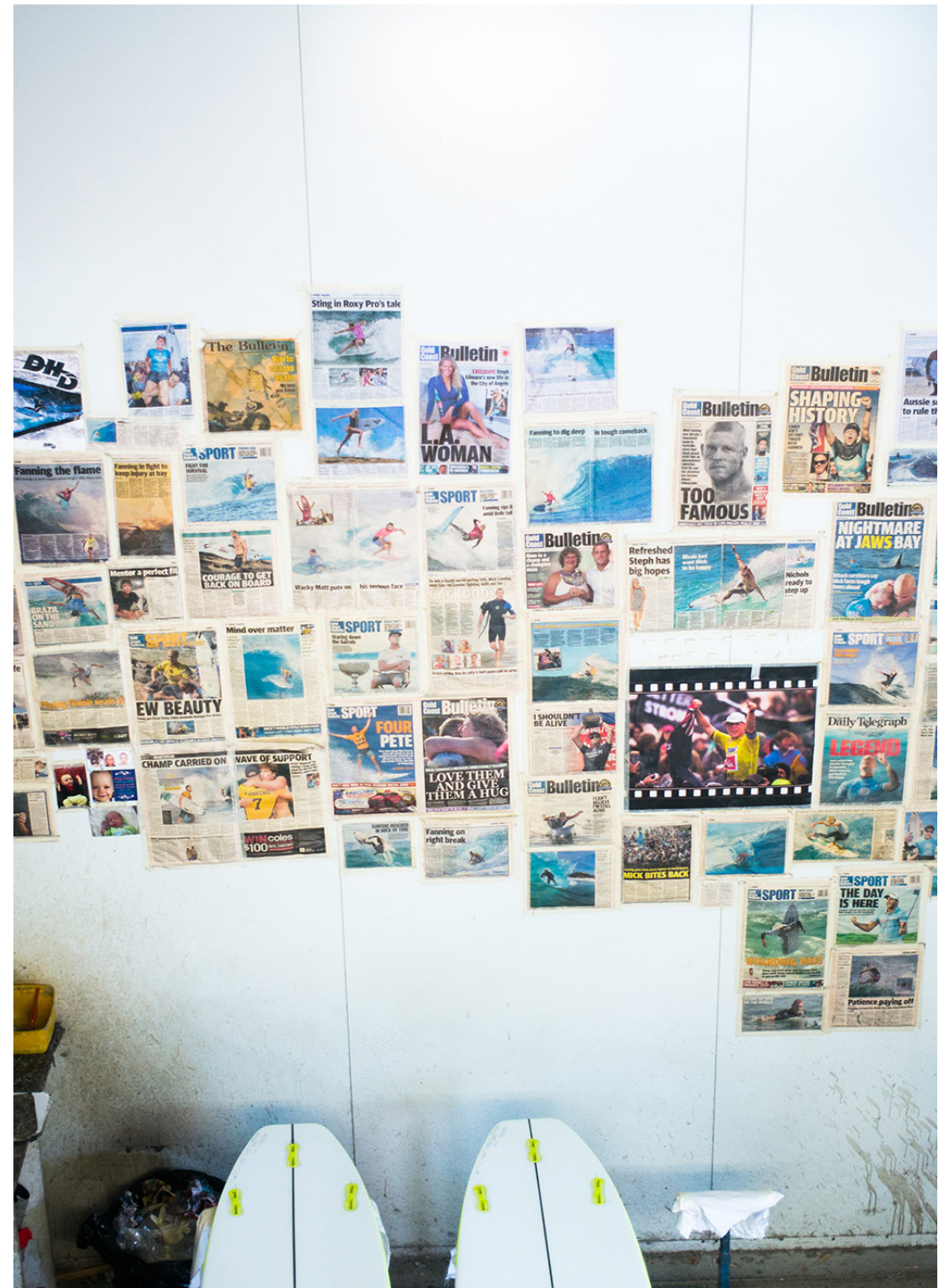




WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

There's a reason why so much surf history has stemmed from the Gold Coast. A reason why it's a hub for boardriders from all over the world. A reason why this guide was born and a reason why you just finished it. This place is hard to beat.

Definitely come here. Maybe stay forever.



NOW IT'S UP TO YOU

Quiksilver

