

From the creative team behind the Australian rock n' roll series
Long Way to the Top
comes

BOMBORA

The Story of Australian Surfing

A definitive history of surfing in Australia as told by our surfing champions, writers, pioneers, entrepreneurs, mavericks, legends, drop-outs and drop-ins.

With music by The Atlantics, Jet, Jesus & Mary Chain, Rose Tattoo, Status Quo, Hunters and Collectors, The Cruel Sea and The Velvet Underground.

Narrated by Jack Thompson

TWO-PART SERIES PREMIERES THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2009, 8:30PM ON ABC1

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For images go to www.abc.net.au/tvpublicity.



SCREEN
AUSTRALIA



Credits

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Key Crew

Directors - PAUL CLARKE (Episode 1), GREG APPEL (Episode 2)
Producers - PAUL CLARKE, GREG APPEL
Writers - PAUL CLARKE (Episode 1 & 2), NICK CARROLL (Episode 1 & 2), GREG APPEL (Episode 2)
Editors - MARK MIDDIS, ANTOINETTE FORD
Directors of Photography - ANNA HOWARD A.C.S, HELEN BARROW
Researcher and Interviewer - NICK CARROLL
Original music - GREG WALKER, JAMES CRUICKSHANK, LUCKY OCEANS
Executive Producer for Screen Australia - PENNY ROBINS
Executive Producer for Bombora Film & Music Co. - PAUL CLARKE
Commissioning Editor for ABC - ALAN ERSON
Narrator - JACK THOMPSON
Duration – 2 x 55 minutes
Website - <http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/showcases/bombora>

Featuring interviews with

TIM WINTON - Surfer/Author
LAYNE BEACHLEY - World Surfing Champion 1998—2003, 2006
BERNARD “MIDGET” FARRELLY - Inaugural World Surfing Champion 1964
NAT YOUNG - World Surfing Champion 1966, 1970, Longboard Champion 1988-1990
WAYNE “RABBIT” BARTHOLOMEW - World Surfing Champion 1978
MARK RICHARDS - World Surfing Champion 1979 -1982
BARTON LYNCH - World Surfing Champion 1988
PAM BURRIDGE - World Surfing Champion 1990
MARK OCCHILUPO - World Surfing Champion 1999
WAYNE LYNCH - Surfing Champion
DOUG WARBRICK - Co-founder Rip Curl
ALAN GREEN - Co-founder Quiksilver
NICK CARROLL - Surfer/Writer
BRUCE CHANNON - Surfing Writer
RAY MORAN - Surfing Historian
KATHY LETTE, GABRIELLE CAREY - *Puberty Blues* authors
PROF. RICHARD WATERHOUSE - Historian
BOB MCTAVISH - Surfer/Boardmaker
GORDON WOODS - Surfboard Designer
JOHN WITZIG - *Tracks* Magazine Founder
PAUL PATERSON - Big Wave Rider

Series Premiere - Thursday 26 March 2009, 8:30pm on ABC1

Synopses

One line

A definitive history of surfing in Australia as told by our surfing champions, writers, pioneers, entrepreneurs, mavericks, legends, drop-outs and drop-ins.

One paragraph

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One page

A definitive history of surfing in Australia, *Bombora* tells the story of Australian beach culture through our surfing champions, writers, pioneers, entrepreneurs, mavericks, legends, drop-outs and drop-ins.

The two-part series follows the rise of surfing and its culture in Australia, using archival footage and classic Australian music to illustrate its growing importance in Australian society in the 20th century and beyond.

From the time we learnt to bodysurf, to our first attempts on boards, to Duke Kahanamoku's 1914 visit which kicked off surfing's roll to popularity, Australians have taken the surf and made it our own, spawning international legends such as Midget Farrelly, Nat Young and seven-time world champion Layne Beachley, along with global surfwear brands.

Set against a changing world, *Bombora* follows the history of surfing from its maverick early days, through three significant wars and a depression, the development of surf clubs and the ensuing battles between lifesavers and surfers, the sea-change seeking drug culture of the 1970s and its shift to a cleaner, more professional sport in the late 1980s.

Bombora interviews a rich seam of Australian characters, including our first surf champion Isabel Letham, author and surfer Tim Winton, legendary surfboard shaper Bob McTavish, accidental entrepreneur and Rip Curl founder Doug Warbrick and former world champion surfers Barton Lynch and Wayne "Rabbit" Bartholomew.

It looks at the rise of women surfers and the explosion of Australian labels including Billabong, Rip Curl and Quiksilver, which helped to cement Australia's position as a global force in international surfing.

Episode 1 – Thursday 26 March 2009, 8:30pm on ABC1

Synopses

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From the time we first took on the waves in the late 19th century, Australians were hooked on surfing.

Episode one of *Bombora* looks at the early years of Australian surf history from 1830 to 1964. It charts our first encounters with the surf when swimming in the sea was banned and shows how we were seduced by the freedom of the waves and the beaches. The series takes us into the lives of the larrikins who invented everything from surf skis to shark nets, and also looks at the tensions that arose between 'duty and pleasure', between the growing surf life-saving clubs and those who just wanted to surf.

Using archival footage, it follows the first Australian surfers as they head to Hawaii – the spiritual home of the sport – and introduces the wild men who made it their own, surf legends such as Midget Farrelly, Bob Pike and Nat Young.

Bombora charts the history of surfing in Australia – the bodies, the boards, the music, the drugs, the fights, the freedom – and shows the cultural phenomenon it is today.

Episode 2 - Thursday 2 April 2009, 8:30pm on ABC1

Synopses

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In the early days of Australia's surf history, young people found a place to live out their dreams of innocence and freedom in the surf, but it wasn't to last. With the Vietnam War came an influx of drugs and surfers led a rebellious counter-culture as they dropped out of society to escape to country towns along the coast, while elsewhere a group of entrepreneurial surfers began backyard businesses making wetsuits and board shorts. Episode two of *Bombora* looks at the later years of Australian surf history from 1967 to the present.

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Episode two of *Bombora* looks at the later years of Australian surf history from 1967 to the present. Using archival footage and interviews, it charts the rise of the surf and drug culture, the start of a hippie trail north to Indonesia, the launch of surfing films and dedicated surf magazines and introduces the hard men of the 1970s, including Michael Peterson and Wayne "Rabbit" Bartholomew.

But the 1980s brought another cultural change and the success of surfers such as Mark Richards and Tom Carroll helped to clean up its image. As surfers formed boardriding clubs, the sport grew more professional and women were not only welcomed back, they started to win world titles.

Bombora charts the history of surfing in Australia – the bodies, the boards, the music, the drugs, the fights, the freedom – and shows the cultural phenomenon it is today.

Production Story

Nick Carroll believes he has a pretty good job. An Australian surf champion who has carved out a career as one of the world's top surf writers while continuing to surf "way more than is strictly necessary", Carroll has spent the past year interviewing legends of the surf for the two-part documentary series *Bombora*. It was a humbling experience.

"A lot of these people I've known for a long time and some of them I regarded as my elders," Carroll says. "They're great surfers who've come before me. I got a deep sense that I was just part of a bigger thing with all these people who've been part of it."

Bombora was born following a 10-year gestation after first being put to ABC Television by writer and director Paul Clarke in 1997. Clarke also had proposed a six-hour history of rock and roll, *Long Way to the Top*, which the ABC commissioned first. He followed it up with a five-hour history of pop music, *Love is in the Air*, before creating the ongoing music-quiz show *Spicks and Specks*.

"All that time I had just been collecting photographs and stories," Clarke says. "I knew it was too good a story not to tell and that it would happen at some point."

Filmed over six months from June 2008, *Bombora* includes archival footage, interviews, dramatic re-enactments and surf vision shot by some of the world's leading water cinematographers.

Carroll has been seduced by surf culture from his days as a grommet growing up on Sydney's northern beaches. He has won numerous surfing titles, including two Australian championships, written several books on the subject and edited leading surf magazines *Tracks* and *Surfing*. But he knew little about the sport's history and was fascinated by what he learnt while researching *Bombora*.

"Surfing is all about living in the moment," he says. "When you walk out on the Sydney Cricket Ground to play cricket you're intensely aware of the history of the sport; you're playing on this historic ground surrounded by pictures of the legends. With surfing, you just dive into the water and paddle out and catch waves."

Carroll spent months wading through archives to trace the development of surfing from its Polynesian birthplace to its arrival in Australia at the turn of the 20th century. He found issues of the 1917 Sydney newspaper *Surf* and learnt about extraordinary characters such as Port Macquarie teenager Harry McLaren, who invented the world's first surf ski, then roof-racks on which to carry it.

"It was fascinating. Surfing came to us from a place that was totally out of sync with any of Australia's other cultural wellsprings, it came straight from the middle of the Pacific Ocean. This is a history of something we've got that's not European. It allowed Australians to become unique and not tied up with the apron strings of the Empire," he says. "The hardest thing was trying to cram everything in to two hours. As we began to gather the material, all of us began to freak out at how rich it was and how much there was and how we were going to have to be really ruthless."

For the directors, the biggest challenge was to make the story appealing to the broadest possible audience while illustrating how much the world has changed.

“It’s not just about waves; what we’re describing is something more interesting about the way Australian culture has developed,” Clarke says.

“We’re telling a surfing story to a broader audience in a way that really shows that these people just wanted to be liberated by surfing as a way of escaping and ignoring the stupid rules of society. Surfers didn’t want to be normal; they wanted to be outlaws.

“And years later, a lot of those people are still exactly the same. Take Bob McTavish, he must be 60 but there’s so much excitement in meeting him, he’s like a kid with an over-active pituitary gland. The man is just on fire still!

“They’ve encountered some wild times and some of them have gone a bit mad and for some there’s no sense of responsibility. There is something very Australian about that, just the level of freedom in their lives. Maybe it’s because I’m locked into a mortgage, but I think it’s very attractive to see.”

Producer and co-director Greg Appel, who has worked with Clarke for more than 20 years, including on *Long Way to the Top* and *Love is in the Air*, says the musical montage against which the action is set plays a huge role in the film.

“Unfortunately we couldn’t use all the music we wanted because it costs too much, but we didn’t go for just the well-known surf songs,” Appel says. “There’s a tedious, twangy guitar thing that you can get with surf music so we chose pieces we liked that fitted the time and we’ve had a lot of composed music too.”

Appel says the biggest challenge for the filmmakers was to form a narrative from 100 years of random events in a way that engaged the broadest possible audience.

“To make a story out of random events that occurred historically isn’t that easy, there are so many different incidents. But there are a lot of people like Paul and I who just like surfing and don’t really follow the whole competitive thing. We wanted to reach them. Beach culture is huge in Australia and I think we’ve done what we set out to do.”

Screen Australia executive producer Penny Robins says *Bombora* is a perfect fit for the National Interest Program, which creates a “legacy collection” of documentary films about Australian life.

“It doesn’t have to be formal history; it’s a broad sweep of life in Australia, anything that provides an insight into the lifestyle and influences that make up our culture,” Robins says.

“*Bombora* ticked all the right boxes. It uses the evolution of surfing to reflect the broader Australian history and culture in a way that has never been done before. It is fresh and vibrant and reflects the energy of the people who have been part of making that history.”

Clarke says the filmmakers had no trouble getting interviews for *Bombora* because everyone they approached saw the value of an independent and definitive history. Most surf films are financed by the big surf companies to showcase their sponsored surfers.

But while the surfing community gave the filmmakers “enormous spirit and generosity”, that wasn’t always the case in the water. During six months of filming, Clarke says he managed to surf only twice.

“We had a day off in Angourie, on the north coast of NSW. I hit the reef badly and Nat Young almost ran over Greg Appel! The other time was in the water at Snapper Rock, which is the most competitive place to surf in Australia. I was the oldest in the water by 30 years and I got four waves in about two hours! I didn’t stand a chance!”

Timeline of key surfing moments in Australia

1830s Laws are introduced to ban beach swimming during daylight hours.

1903 Beach bathing is legalised. Life saving clubs begin to form after numerous accidental drownings.

1914 Champion Hawaiian swimmer Duke Kahanamoku visits Australia and triggers a surfboard riding boom.

1924 Claude West wins the first Australian board-riding championship.

1936 Shark meshing is introduced to Australian beaches.

1939 A team of 28 Australian surfers attends the Pacific Games in Hawaii.

1956 The US Lifeguard team visits Australia to demonstrate new smaller surfboards, which allow surfers to turn and manoeuvre.

1961 Dave Jackman successfully surfs the heaviest wave then known, the Queenscliff Bombora.

1962 Midget Farrelly wins the Makaha International, a first for a non-Hawaiian.

1964 Midget Farrelly wins the inaugural World Surfing Championship at Sydney's Manly Beach.

1966 Nat Young wins the World Surfing Championship in San Diego then quits competition, joining an exodus of people dropping out of city life.

1970 The first issue of *Tracks* is published in Australia.

1972 *Morning of the Earth* breaks through as the first surf film depicting the nomadic life of Australian surfers and Bali takes off as a surf destination.

1974 Mike Peterson wins every major Australian surfing contest.

Late 1970s – early 1980s Mark Richards and Tom Carroll lead the charge towards professionalism, establishing boardrider clubs and shunning drugs.

1982 *Puberty Blues* puts the suburban surf scene on to the big screen.

1990 Pam Burridge wins a World Surfing Championship.

2006 Layne Beachley wins her seventh World Surfing Championship.

Quotes from *Bombora*

Nick Carroll on young surfers: “There’s an awesome word that Australia has actually given the surfing world which has been adopted worldwide by every surfing nation now and that word is ‘grommet’. It means a young surfer, a potentially annoying young surfer, certainly an energetic kid, stoked on life.”

Isabel Letham on her first experience of surfing with Duke Kahanamoku: “When we got on to the crest of the wave and I looked down into the trough I thought I was going over a cliff I said, ‘Oh no, no, no’. I was scared stiff and he pulled back on the wave. I did this two or three times and he got sick of that and the next time I did it he said, ‘Oh yes, yes, yes’. We got on this big wave and went right in and after that I was right. I was sold on surfboard riding.”

Snowy McAlister on his first championship win: “I was thinking I was a little behind in the judging because I’d missed a few good waves and the other fellas had got them and I thought ‘well I’ve got to do something different this time’. And this big wave came along and I got up on my head, the wave receded and left me standing on my head. I could hear the cheering and the clapping for this marvellous ride that I did.”

Dick Evans on surfing during World War II: “Because we were all desperate to get to the surf the soldiers created a tunnel for us so we could crawl through the barbed wire to get to the surf. I remember one day there we were all out in the surf having a wave and there was this great big burst of fire next to us. They had a target out in the ocean and they were opening up with machine guns about fifteen yards from us. It was a fairly intimidating surfing environment!”

Professor Richard Waterhouse on changes to surf life saving clubs after World War II: “I think the notion of mateship among that World War II generation was very, very strong and it found expression in places like surf life saving clubs.”

Gordon Woods on changes to surf life saving clubs after World War II: “We were boardriders; when there was surf we wanted to be on the board and that’s all. We were somewhat ostracised from the main body of the club ... they’d regard us somewhat as a lot of bums!”

Midget Farrelly on his love of surfing: “Pretty much from the first time I jumped on a surfboard, I always thought that something special was going to happen to me. I didn’t know what it was but I always thought there was going to be something special around each corner.”

Midget Farrelly on the introduction of the short board: “It was a bit like a spaceship had landed and these guys had jumped out of it and they were riding waves in ways that we just could not have imagined.”

John Witzig on Midget Farrelly: “He put the whole thing together in a way that you could not but be impressed. He was the best Australian surfer I’d ever seen. It was a no-brainer.”

Bob McTavish: “No one surfed Sunset until 3 o’clock in the afternoon when the teachers and fire brigade guys came down, there was no one there, so Dave and I used to surf Sunset by ourselves endlessly. Man, it was a piece of cake!”

Tim Winton: “Surfing really did offer us kind of a poetic dimension. It was a different way of looking at the world, it was a different way of being Australian. For me that was a really important revelation as a young man to stand on the beach and to see men do

things that were beautiful because everything else that men had to do was hard and practical and wordless and tough and silent.”

Lynne Holmes: “I knew I wanted to go and surf because I just loved it. I just loved it the minute I saw it. And I liked the look of the guys who surfed! They were so strong.”

Midget Farrelly: “As a kid I learnt ballet with my sister. Ballet teaches you structure and so I structured my surfing.”

Layne Beachley: “I was never tempted to be a surfer chick, lie on the beach, hold the keys. I was always the one to drop the keys and the skateboard and the bike off at the local surf shop and say ‘I’m going surfing’.”

Wayne Lynch: “You grow up on a wild coast and you end up being a wild man and we were pretty wild back then. We did a lot of things I think weren’t that sensible. Lorne was such a perfect place. You’ve got a little right-hand point, a beautiful bay, unfortunately the school looked out right across it and they could all see when I was out there, which happened all the time.”

Rob Conneeley on surfing remote breaks along the coast: “It was just so wild and so alone out there, just the packs of sharks, mindful that this was all before leg ropes. There were certain breaks where my wife would be sitting with flippers and a surfer plane blown up and a powerhead with a 12-gauge shotgun in it. Surfing was just terror.”

Phil Jarratt on drugs in surfing: “I think most of us tried a few of those things around that period and found them a texture overlay, if you like, on top of the surfing experience. It was cool to be a surfer-druggie.”

Nat Young on Bali: We went there in ‘71. There were probably 20 people, 20 hippies, in Kuta Beach. Surfers created that place.

Alan Green: “We did Quiksilver cos we were bored. You can go surfin’ for a little while, but I mean, what can you do all day?”

Doug Warbrick on Rip Curl: “In the beginning we just wanted to not have a real or regular job, to have flexi time and to surf when the surf was good.”

Mark Richards: “All of a sudden we started winning events and getting cheques and I thought well this is better than shaping surfboards, standing in a dusty room all day walking around a white piece of foam.”

Pam Burrige: “I was 10 years old and I was a tomboy, I was actually dressed in board shorts and a t-shirt or a little wetsuit and I got ‘Get a haircut mate’. So I didn’t get any sexism, I just got grommet-ism!”

About the Filmmakers

Paul Clarke — writer/director/executive producer

Since starting his career as a cadet journalist in 1983, Paul Clarke has worked across the print and screen media. A passionate musician and music-lover, Paul's early career including a stint in Paris writing for *NME* and *Melody Maker*, while making film clips for friends' bands. When he returned to Australia in 1988, he presented and produced programs for ABC Television including *The Factory* and *Review*, before starting to create his own shows in 1994. His credits at the ABC include the acclaimed history of rock and roll *Long Way to the Top*, as well as *Love is in the Air*, *Recovery*, *One Night The Moon* and *Spicks and Specks*. After 20 years at the ABC, during which he also made film clips for bands such as The Cruel Sea, Midnight Oil, Silverchair and You Am I, Paul left to set up his own company, Bombora Film and Music Company.

Greg Appel — writer/director/producer

Greg Appel is a TV and radio producer, writer and director. Along with *Bombora – The Story of Australian Surfing*, he directed *Bossa Nova – The Sound That Seduced the World* and is producing a similar documentary on French music. In Australia he is best known as producer of *Long Way to the Top* the successful Australian series documenting the history of Australian rock music. His diverse career has included working as series producer for *Dig TV*, writer and co-composer for the musical comedy *Van Park* and a radio producer for series including Radio National program *Swingers*. He has produced comedy segments and documentaries, including *King Street*, *Newtown* (1994) and *Recovery*, a youth series that screened on ABC Television between 1995 and 2000. A film he made with *Bombora's* co-director Paul Clarke was a finalist in Australia's leading short film festival, Tropfest. Greg is an accomplished musician and songwriter for Australian bands including The Lighthouse Keepers and Widdershins.

Nick Carroll — writer

Nick Carroll is one of the world's best-known writers on the subject of surfing. He grew up on Sydney's northern beaches, surfed from his pre-teens, and just kept going, winning numerous surf championships including two Australian Open titles and travelling worldwide, before taking a job at Sydney-based *Tracks* surf magazine. He edited *Tracks* from 1983 to 1986, then freelanced for a range of publications and worked as a feature and sports writer for the *National Times* and *Sydney Morning Herald*. From 1990 to 1997 he lived in California where he was editor-in-chief of *Surfing* magazine, the world's biggest selling surf magazine, and its associated publications. Since then he's lived in Newport Beach in Sydney, surfed way more than is strictly necessary, and written many articles and several books, including *The Next Wave*, *A Complete Guide to Surfing Your Best*, and *Fearlessness*, a biography of legendary American girl's surfing pioneer Lisa Andersen.

Penny Robins — executive producer

Penny Robins has been an executive producer with Screen Australia (formerly Film Australia) since mid-2003 and works with production teams across the country to deliver a slate of productions. Penny was formerly an independent producer and has extensive experience in documentary and factual programme making.

She has been executive producer of a varied production slate, including science, history and contemporary programming. Her credits as executive producer include: the six-part Australian series *Who Do You Think You Are?* for SBS; the Logie-nominated cross-platform longitudinal *Life Series*; *Nerves of Steel* (winner Mention D'Honneur Olympic Spirit category at the Sport Movies & TV 22nd International Festival 2006); *Troubled Minds – the Lithium Revolution* (winner Main Prize Vega Science Awards for Excellence in Scientific Broadcasting); the Logie-nominated series *Divorce Stories* (winner of the *Sydney Morning Herald* Couch Potato Awards); the four-part series *Policing The Pacific* and *Mr Patterns* (winner Hawaii International film festival Golden Maile Award, Best Documentary Film Critics Circle of Australia Awards).

About some of the Key Interviewees

TIM WINTON - Surfer/Author (Episode 1 & 2)

Born in Perth in 1960, Tim Winton grew up in the suburbs close to the Indian Ocean and decided to become a writer after moving to the Western Australian town of Albany at age 12. He had his first short stories published national magazines when he was 18 and at 19 he wrote his first adult novel, *An Open Swimmer*, which won the 1981 Australian/Vogel Award. In 1984 he published *Shallows*, which won the Miles Franklin Award, Australia's most prestigious literary prize. Winton has since won numerous awards (including the Miles Franklin Award three times) for adult and children's books, which include *Cloudstreet*, *Lockie Leonard*, *The Riders*, and *Dirt Music*. His most recent novel, *Breath*, is about the addictive and risk-taking nature of surfing. He is a keen surfer.

BERNARD "MIDGET" FARRELLY – Inaugural World Surfing Champion 1964 (Episode 1)

One of the great surfers of the post-war era, Bernard "Midget" Farrelly had his first surf experiences at Sydney's North Bondi beach in the early 1950s, and by 1961 he was the Australian surfing champion. Nicknamed Midget for his short stature, in 1962, Farrelly went to Hawaii and won the Makaha International championship in six-foot surf, using a quick, light-footed surfing style. In 1964, he won the first World Surfing Championship, held at Manly Beach, and remained one of the world's most successful competitors throughout the 1960s. At the 1999 Noosa Festival of Surfing, Farrelly again beat Hawaiian Joey Cabell in a rematch of the final heat of the 1964 world championship.

BOB MCTAVISH - Surfer/Boardmaker (Episode 1)

A surfer for 50 years, Bob McTavish is a legend in the sport, best known as the head shaper and designer of the McTavish board company since 1969. McTavish has pioneered surfboard technology that is now commonplace in board design and construction, including vee bottoms, concaves and rocker profiles. He was a catalyst in the development of the short board, and pioneered epoxy construction with Pro Circuit Board (PCB), a forerunner to modern Surftech board construction.

LAYNE BEACHLEY – World Surfing Champion 1998-2003, 2006 (Episode 2)

A seven-time world championship winner, Layne Beachley is the greatest woman surfer in history. Beachley has thrived in the competitive field of women's surfing since joining the pro-surfing ranks at the age of 16. In 1998 her determination paid off when she won her first world title, then five more in consecutive years. She won her seventh title in 2006 after 17 years on the professional tour. When she retired in 2008, Beachley was still among the world's best, ranked third in the world. Beachley has her own charity, Aim for the Stars Foundation, and a signature event, Manly's Beachley Classic.

BARTON LYNCH - World Surfing Champion 1988 (Episode 2)

Raised in Sydney's northern beaches, Barton Lynch was determined to be a world champion surfer from a young age. At 16, he quit school to turn professional and soon won the world's most prestigious junior contest, the 1983 Pro Junior. After a couple of years near the top of the world pro-surfing ranks Lynch broke through with a stunning finale in the Billabong Pro and went on to win the 1988 World Title. Lynch remained competitive well into his 30s and remained near the top of the rankings through 1995. He retired from competition in 1998.

WAYNE "RABBIT" BARTHOLOMEW - World Surfing Champion 1978 (Episode 2)

One of the colourful characters in Australian surfing history, Wayne "Rabbit" Bartholomew is a master surfer and a stalwart of the industry, a pioneer of the professional sport, a wily competitor and promoter, an environmentalist and president of the Association of Surfing Professionals (ASP). Raised on the coast on the NSW-Queensland border, Bartholomew burst onto the international scene in the winter of 1975, was world champion in 1978, remained in the top five for seven consecutive years and came close to regaining the title in 1984. By the mid 1990s, Bartholomew had established himself as a global surfing ambassador and mentor to professional surfers. He became head of the ASP in 1999, moving the association's headquarters to Australia.

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