pop

Alex Kutaysov Buck 65 **Martin Paradisis** Steve Friedman **Jamie Hawley**
Blotto **Mike Dee** King of the Groms **Simon Lyddiard** Adam Melling **David Benedek**

3rd
FREE

Moments
that matter

These moments were brought to you by Jeff Curtes, Dean 'Blotto' Gray, Adam Moran, and Vincent Skoglund.

We know it's hard to believe that this is the last ad of the season—we had so much more we wanted to show ya. Here is a gallery of moments to hold you over until the next snowfall.

Keep the ride alive at burton.com

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Chris Eacott. Broken. Salt Lake City, Utah.
Photo: Marc Baker.

3rd

Features

30 Dean 'Blotto' Gray

On the recent Un..Inc tour down the east coast of Australia I was fortunate enough to spend a few weeks with Dean "Blotto" Gray. Blotto is no doubt one of the snowboard worlds most well known and respected photographers. When POP hit up Blotto for a portfolio, needless to say he was more than happy to help out...

42 Alex Kutaysov & 48 Mike Dee

Alex Kutaysov is from the easternmost part of Russia known as the Kamchatka Peninsula. Kamchatka lies on the southern tip of Siberia, above Japan. If that's not an interesting story then I don't know what is. Similarly, Mike Doleman (aka Mike Dee) has just as a unique background. He is a third generation Australian merchant seafarer. So it's surprising that they're both incredibly talented snowboarders.

52 Simon Lyddiard & 54 Jamie Hawley

Simon Lyddiard says that outside of skating, he's a pretty boring guy. Sure, he likes to box, but that's about it. Well that's all well and good if you ignore the fact that's he's an amazing skateboarder. If he's boring then I must be a billion playboy because we're living in opposite land. And if you're looking for someone to protect that opposite land then don't count on Jamie Hawley. Because he tried to join the Army and lasted three weeks until he realised that skating is way more fun than group showers and killing people.

58 Adam Melling & 62 Martin Paradisis

Adam Melling could have been a boogie boarder. But lucky for our eyeballs he gave the slick bottom boards the miss and stood up for himself otherwise we wouldn't get to watch one of the most exciting young surfers in the water right now. Talking about exciting, I'm sure you've heard of Shipsterns... Well that's Martin Paradisis' home break... Umm... Epic?! Yeah!

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I've just been handed an urgent and horrifying news story. I need all of you, to stop what you're doing and listen. Cannonball!

013 shop copy

Write that down.

014 party time

Excellent!

029 web based

I only wanted to list one website this issue but that wouldn't have been fair. So I'll just tell you here. TheSuperficial.com is the only website you need to read from now on.

Products

018 go go gear

Could no one enter for the Nokia/WESC travel kit please. It's so good and I'd rather just keep it if it's all the same to you.

Art

022 page for rent

Who else would you want with your needle?

024 film me

Super shaka on these flicks bra...

026 press record

POP + BitTorrent = Download : Happy!

Features

020 day in the life

Remember those Lomography Fisheye cameras I had to give out in the last issue? Well I gave them to the Burton Un..Inc to capture thier Australian tour madness.

064 grom king

Quiksilver crowned NSW youngster Dean Bowen King Of The Groms.

066 friedman part 2

Steve pick's up were we left off in Issue 2. Hawaii in the 70's...

068 funtastic

Australians love Japan. It's not hard to see why when you see this photo...

069 jelly time

The intelligence of this magazine officially peaked with this article. Its all downhill from here. Its been a good ride.

Enders

070 david benedek

Why are you still reading this page... That's an interview with David Benedek son!

Cover: Every human being on earth should experience this feeling at least once in there life. Chris Boadle gets his fill in Japan.
Photo: Paul Colby.

Paul Colby shot the cover using a Canon EOS 5 with a 28 –105 EF USM lens on Fuji Press 800 film.

POP Magazine is Rick Baker and David Keating.

Thanks to Chris Jepson, Mike Kearney, Emily Ravenda, Quintin, Steve Gourlay, Brad Stock, Stuart Gibson, Sheridan, JK, David Benedek, Sam Oz for the M&Ms and David Czech. Sorry Steele, I left your name off of the video reviews last time around.

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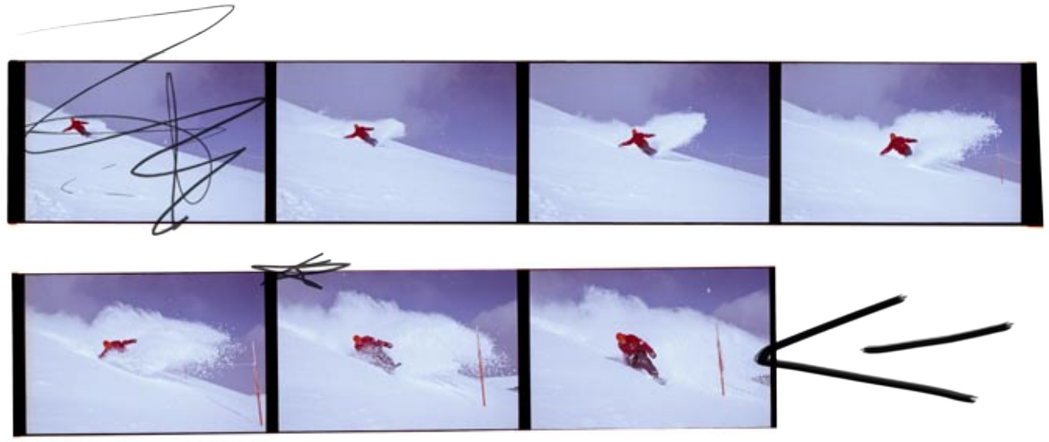


The hardest decision an editor has to make.
Photo: Paul Colby.

New Full-Length Video
featuring the Forum Team:

Peter Line
JP Walker
Devun Walsh
Joni Malmi
Lauri Heiskari
Travis Kennedy
Pat Moore
Jake Blauvelt
Cheryl Maas
Stevie Bell
Eddie Wall
Iikka Backstrom
Jake Welch

WWW.FORUM-SNOWBOARDS.COM

Thredbo Park

For those regularly on **popmag.com.au** you'll already know that **Charles Beckinsale** and his boys at **JC Jibs** have been building some amazing features for **Thredbo's** multiple terrain parks. These include a 12 metre box, 8 metre picnic table and a 6.5 metre down bar which are all set up and perfectly maintained by the **JC Jibs** crew. Good work guys, lets hope we see some similar action from the other mountains.

World Industries down sizes

Skateboard Daily reports **World Industries** has taken the bold step of sacking its entire am and pro roster. Information is a little scarce at this point and I can only assume that this some new corporate strategy; a new direction where skateboard companies no longer actually require skateboarders. It's a progressive vision, one that I think most in the board sports community will find a little baffling... But I'm sure it's based on some new research or management theory that our small consumer minds can not comprehend.

Rusty Gromfest

In a sea of 'grommet comps' **Rusty's** Gromfest at **Lennox Head** is certainly one of the most established. The Rusty Grommfest, which started in 1996, will run from the 7th to the 11th July. This is the first year that event co-founder **David Sandercock** will not be present after passing away last year. The Gromfest is being promoted as a showcase of young talent and the co-founder **Max Perrot** is working hard to build its reputation as the best grom comp in Australia.

Burton Rail Event

This years only rail event in the Village Square at **Mt Buller** will go down on the 22nd of July. I'm telling you right now, this will be **massive**. As we go to print the rider's names are being kept hidden but word is Australia's top talent will be in attendance. If you can't make it to **Buller** for the event dont worry because POP will be doing a **live webcast** of the event provided the Government censors and Christian groups are convinced there won't be any Big Brother style tea-bagging/turkey slapping action. So make sure you're **online** on July 22nd to catch it all.

Smoking Ban at Belles

Not exactly surfing news but interesting nonetheless. The local council at **Bells Beach**, Victoria is considering a proposal to ban smoking on the beach due to **3000 cigarette butts** being collected after the **Rip Curl Pro**. It would not be the first beach to introduce the ban with three beaches in NSW and five beaches in the US all smoke free. We tried contacting **Laramie Cigarettes** spokesmen **Menthol Moose** for comment but we are informed he recently passed away due to lung cancer which we are assured was completely unconnected with his 90-a-day habit.

New Snow Shop

Melbourne's third major snowboard store, **Altitude**, has opened on **Elizabeth Street** in Melbourne. The **Mt Buller** owned retail outlet covers ski on the base level, so close your eyes and head for the stairs where you will find all the snowboarding gear your wallet can handle. The range includes **Option, Smith, Anon, Libtech, GNU, DC** and **Lola**. My mate **Nick Grollo** tells me this is just the first of a few of these stores opening between the cities and the hills. Apparently they're going to be selling lift tickets in store which would be such a convenience it's funny the mountains haven't let anybody do it yet.

It's a celerbration!

Four Star celebrates 10 years of operation in July. The company had a celebration at the Frodengallery in L.A on July 8th where they had works by celebrated artists **Rob Abeyta Jr, Evan Hecox, Andy Jenkins, Tony Larson, Michael Leon, Kevin Lyons, Geoff McFetridge, Andy Mueller, Andrew Pommier.** Also on site was a collaborative mural by **Mark Gonzales** and **Brian Anderson**, a photo essay by **Spike Jonze** and A**ndy Mueller**, a Fourstar Video Archive and Max's motorcycle. Hopefully we'll have photos from the event soon.

Speaking of Spike

At what may be POP's first tabloid news piece, **Spike Jonze** is rumoured to be living in Melbourne's suburb of **Elwood** for the next 6 months. Apparently he's down here working on his new film **'Where the Wild Things Are'**. Now all I have to do is find out where he's living and ambush him with an interview! I hope he doesn't know **karate**...

POP News

POP will start offering a news-in-brief service to email subscribers. This is not an excuse to hit you with spam but we will provide an email on Monday mornings outlining relevant news for kids, riders, buyers, reps and CEO's. We will be covering everything from team signings and changes, new clothing lines, company developments and stock prices. The service will be widely available in mid **August**. Keep an eye on **popmag.com.au** for the subscription page.

BozWreck

This August brings the release of **POP's** first sponsored film

BozWreck. **BozWreck** marks the return of the infamous **Nate Bozung** and **Matty Ryan** to our snowboarding world. I spoke to **BozNuts** early this year and it seems as if he's got a new outlook on life and is riding better than ever so you just know Matty and him are going to be keeping it real with **BozWreck**. Check out **bozwreck.com** for trailers.

Not MIFF'ed just yet..

The Melbourne International Film Festival has introduced a new category this year called 'Super Sk8mm'. Now whilst that could possibly the worst name ever I'm determined not to write the whole sha-bang-a-bang off just yet. Aparently **Rick Charnoski** and **Coan Nichols** bowl dog film **'Fruit of the Vine'** is actually pretty good. So I'll give it a view and let you know.

75 Liverpool St, Hobart, TAS. Ph: (03) 6231 9001

Red Herring Surf is **Tassie's** (That's the little island at the bottom of the map) original and number one chain of surf stores operating in **Burnie**, **Launceston**, **Glenorchy**, **Hobart** and **Rosny**. Red Herring Surf provides sponsorship to many young Tasmanian surfers and skaters.

As the weather gets colder, so does the water and this means many Tasmanian surfers will be out surfing doing their best impression of looking like a seal (aka shark bait)! Luckily, we have all the suits and accessories to help stop the hypothermia from kicking in.

For those of you whom live on the **North Island** don't forget that Tassie has surf on 4 different coasts, so if you're looking for a surf trip and are willing to drive, then Tassie is the destination.

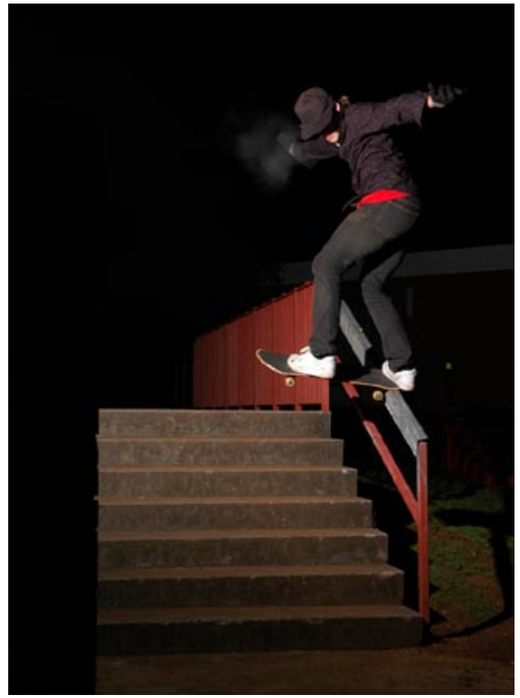
James Holmer Cross is Tassie's best free surfer and has received long term support from Red Herring Surf to help him achieve his goals of surfing crazy, cold slabs **BIGGER** than your house!

If you're in the search for more of the Concrete Jungle action then Tassie is the place to come and wreck yourself while skating! There is a little bit of everything...

We have a rad crew of skaters that travel the state destroying anything. **Brendon 'Hill Billy' Hill** (left) and **Laif 'The Damager' Johannesen** are just two of the team members.

On the website front, we are currently running a '**Pic of the Month**' comp, by where people can submit their surf, skate or lifestyle pictures in order to **win a gift voucher** and ya mug on the WWW. Visit **redherringsurf.com.au** for details and Yes, Big Island entries are welcome.

And we are **STOKED** to be **Tasmanian Since 71!**



Red Herring's Number 1 Team Guy Brendon 'Hillbilly' Hill with a chilly Backside Tail slide. **Photo:** Peewee.

RIDER+

Shop B1A, 385 Bourke Street, Melbourne. Ph: (03) 9670 2855

Warning! Warning! The real **Rider +** is no longer in Hardware Street Melbourne so watch out for imposters.

After **12 years**, the real **Rider +** has re located to **The Galleria** at **385 Bourke Street**, corner Elizabeth Street. Why? Because we wanted to build the best riding store in Australia – chock-a-block **FULL** of the gear that we believe in. Only the real Rider + has the full range of **Option Snowboards** and every model of **NFA** outerwear and streetwear, together with all the other top brands. The real Rider + has a dedicated experienced Team of sales people, boot fitters and technicians who know their shit – because we ride it. And we haven't forgotten the girls – with just as much gear and space dedicated to the ladies. Discounts are available all year to VIP members who can join up on our web site **www.riderplus.com.au**

Beans & Honey

Beans & Honey

Beans & Honey is Australia's newest head topping company.

The love child of designers Bec Zwier and Roxy Green, Beans & Honey is set to keep your head warm AND good looking with a range of beanies to suit all your cold weather/head warming requirements. Pom-pom's tickle your fancy? Beans & Honey have got your fetish sorted. Reservoir tips more your style? Well Beans & Honey have got you covered. And if you're one of those kind of people that like all of the above, then guess what? Beans & Honey have it.

They recently had a lunch party for their new range in St Kilda, Melbourne. You can find Beans & Honey in all good snowboard shops this winter.

From top left to right:
Row 1: Roxy & Bec.
Row 2: Sirianni; Eacott; Jan.
Row 3: Skeletor; Boadle.
Row 4: El Bob Vio & friends.

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robio

Robio.com.au has been my one-stop-website for toys and collectable's for quite awhile now. However they just opened a retail store. Whilst Robio stocks all the vinyl and plush toys you'd expect from such a store, what really sets them apart is their living goods selection. Certainly among one of the most useful products I've seen targeted towards lazy people like myself, Robio sell an ice tray that mold's 4 fully formed ice shot glasses! So not only is your alcohol injection kept cold but when your done you can eat your shot glass and impress everyone in the room who didn't see you pull it out of the freezer. You glass eating mother-fucker! Or you could scream out the mandatory 'it tastes so good when it hits your lips!' and then throw your ice shot glass at the nearest wall or person. Alright I'm getting a bit carried away but I'm sure you see the good times available at the Robio store.

Here's some photos from Robio's recent store opening at 79 Gerturde Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne. Thanks to Ben Collinson for the images.

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Nokia 3250/WESC Phone Limited Edition Travel Kit.

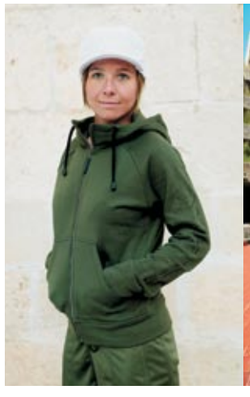
Worldwide there are only 500 individually numbered handsets like this one. In Australia, there is only one – and we have it to give to one lucky POP reader! Nokia and WESC hooked up to put together a great travel pack with all kinds of gadgets including an MP3 player with expandable memory, 2MP camera, travel guide, Sennheiser noise reduction headphones and a spare skate wheel. So, in keeping with the theme we want you to submit to us your favourite travel snap. General craziness is the main criteria for the photos. And for the first two losers we have a guys and a girls WESC clothing pack. Email your photos to us at **nokiawesc@popmag.com.au** or send them to:

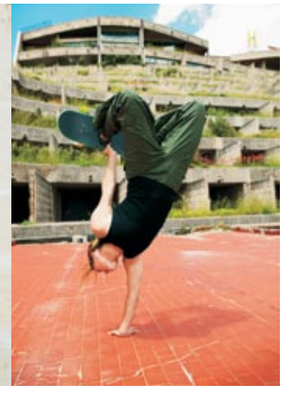
Nokia/WESC Comp
POP Magazine
P.O. Box 83
Balnarring, VIC, 3926.

We can't return the photos so make them copies. Get your entries to us by September 10th 2006 and with some luck (and perhaps a small bribe) you'll be yelling into the only WESC Nokia 3250 in Australia.

Nikita Clothing.

Now although the Australian distributor seemed to know very little about Nikita, I'd seen enough to know that is was worth looking into. In an industry awash with cheesy surfer-chick companies it's refreshing to see a women's specific company that is legitimately out to make clothes and outerwear for girls that ride. Icelandic owner/rider/designer Heida Birgisdottir seems to have noticed that being a girl doesn't necessary mean that you want short pink jackets with furry collars, but you still might want to wear something different than your boyfriend and brother. This year Nikita launched it's first outerwear range and features taped seems as standard plus there's all the cuts, colors and details to make everything look far better then your average snowboarding fit. Plus it's designed by a girl who rides, so it's all street legal as well.





Bottle-Opener Keyring by Girl.

Fancy a drink of the old fire water? Impress over-and-under age drinkers alike with this Girl Keyring. I don't know about you, but I for one find it handy that the tool used to open my alcoholic beverage is also connected to the tool that operates my high speed death machine (aka car). What a brilliant invention!

Chocolate Radio.

When we gave away 10 iPod cases over myspace in the last issue I assumed everybody actually owned an iPod. Well I was wrong. Almost every person who won said that the only thing better than their iPod case would be an iPod to put in it. So until you can save enough money for an iPod you're stuck with regular arse radio so you might as well get this mini cube sized AM/FM radio from Chocolate. What else are you going to listen to? Not your iPod. Remember how we talked about that...

Fisheye 2 by Lomography.

Did you hear that noise? Camera geeks around Australia just spunted in their pants (yes, girls spunt too!). Not only does this include all the radness of the original but it has a mount for strobes or pocket wizards. Combine this with the ability to take multiple and long exposures and we're back to spunt time again...

Phenom Goggle by Smith.

For the last few years it looked as if goggle design was never going to warp speed it's way out of the Klingon universe. Leave it to the genius' at Smith to bring us back into good-looking-ness.

Nuske World Cup Deck by Cliche.

I know absolutely nothing about soccer... Sorry... Football, but I know a popular bandwagon when I see one. Last week I had the face paint on, jersey and a great monologue about how we were robbed by the Italians. But that was last week, now I'm on the 'naked pregnant photo' bandwagon that Britney is trying out. Anyway, now that soccer is old news I'll actually be riding my limited edition Cale Nuske World Cup Deck... To the naked pregnant photo shoot! Boo-ya!

Toothbrush by Tek.

I try to keep this product page pretty light hearted. However when it comes to dental hygiene, I don't joke around. Tek's have good weight, great minimal design, come in a plethora of colours and 3 different stiffness's... Oh and they're $2...

Ti Headphones by Skull Candy.

We received a flyer in the inbox a while ago for some crazy thing called a "Skull Candy". I added the sender to my block list then mail bombed them. Later that morning, after an angry phone call, it turns out Skull Candy is a new headphone label out of Park City, Utah! Who would have known?! Shaun White, Aaron Bittner and Mark Frank Montoya that's who! Yes, you heard me correct. MFM wears these. That's all you need to know! The Ti's have an amazing sound, come in 3 colour ways and have studs for your pleasure. They also come with a spare set of ear padding so you don't have to worry about the leather going bad.

We've been lucky enough to receive two pairs of these to give to POP readers who add us on MySpace. Same deal as last issue, just become our friend and leave us a comment before the end of August and we'll pick one lucky guy and girl to get nodding with a pair of Ti's.

DH by Ride Snowboards.

In my opinion Ride's boards have been going from strength to strength the last few seasons. From a features stand-point the DH, which is slightly more aggressive than the Kink, has all of Ride's tech sweetness in it. This includes Ride's new Slimewall technology which takes the Urethane used in your skate wheels and wraps it around your edge to make sliding rails smoother and more forgiving. Whilst not a dedicated hand rail destroyer, the DH also comes with 50% more steel in it's edges. This is cleverly called Cleave Edge. Although this adds a little to the weight of the board, it give's you more room to de-tune and blunten your edges for some extra comfort when trying that kink rail. However I think it's Ride's artistic direction that has really set them apart this year. With a hand painted black top sheet that I swear looks like grip tape and early skateboard inspired artwork, the DH already looks amazing. Yet it's the smorgasbord of die cut coloured goodness on the base that seals the deal for me.

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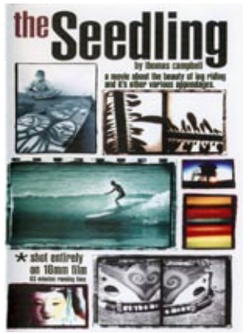


The Seedling

This is a movie about "log" riding as they call it in California. More a piece of art than a film, it documents a "small pod of Californian log riders", doing their thing all over the world. Made by Thomas Campbell in 1999, his artistic views are portrayed well. Shot entirely on 16mm film, they travel and surf Mexico, Hawaii, France, the Canary Islands and even New York.

The quality of surfing is world class with Tudor and Jimmy Gamboa leading the charge.

There is a small peek back in time, talking and surfing with legends Skip Frye and Donald Takayama. The Seedling takes you right inside the Californian "logging" scene and gives you a real feel for the slow paced cruisey lifestyle.

I must warn you though; this is only for the longboarding purists. Running for over an hour and narrated the whole way through by T-Moe in his slow monotone Californian drawl, it can get sleepy at times. I am guilty of reaching for the fast forward button more than once, the music doesn't help this either.

For me, the surfing was a bit lost in how artistic Campbell is in his interpretation of the lifestyle itself, and I found myself a bit bored with it at times.

However, because this film is such a clut classic, every serious longboarder should see at least once just to say they have.

Riding Waves

Now here is a movie with a fresh feel to it. Riding Waves is the debut film by promising young Californian film maker Cyrus Sutton.

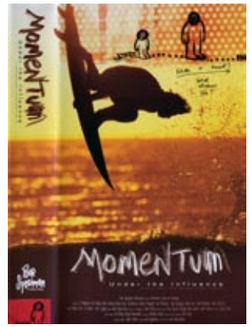
Filmed mainly around southern California, it features the surfing of Rob Machado, Joel Tudor, Donavon, Dane Reynolds and the great John Peck. As you can probably already tell by this diverse line up of surfers, this is not your average surf film.

It showcases the style of Machoado riding a small single fin in the hollow waves of Blacks beach, and Joel tudor's soulful dance on a traditional longboard in the mellow peeling waves of Caridff Reef. Then at the other end of the scale is Dane Reynolds with his new school flare and impressive aerial attack.

The bonus features include an interview with John Peck, and an insight as to what it was like living in Hawaii in the 60's. Surfing sunset on acid is only the start of it...

Riding Waves is a surfing experience. It takes a look into these five surfers lives and reminds how lucky we all are to be surfers, no matter how or what we choose to ride in the water. A must see for anyone with an open mind about what is possible on any surfcraft.

Editors Note: At the start of June, whilst out filming for his new project 'Under The Sun', Cyrus had $30,000 worth of filming equipment stolen from his car at Kingscliff, NSW. That's a nice way to treat a traveling surfer... Dickhead thieves!



Momentum (Under The Influence)

This movie would be about 5 years old now, but it is still one of the best amp up movies I know of. This is the second Momentum movie made by Poor Specimen Productions, the first of which featured the likes of Kelly Slater and the so called "New School" generation.

Under The Influence has the same idea as the first Momentum movie, in that it features the best surfers from around the world that are under the age of 23.

Some of the stand out sections star Taj Burrow and Andy and Bruce Irons. As well as some great surfing from aspiring young talents of the time such as, Mick Fanning, Joel Parkinson and CJ Hobgood. It's not only the surfing that gets you pumped, but the soundtrack is amazing too. At The Drive In, Refused, Jimmy Eat World and Pinback are just a few of the bands on a list that will see you running out into an onshore one foot shorey with the enthusiasm of a 14 year old grommet.

Not quite old enough to be a classic, but as we watch the careers of these young surfers reaching their prime today, I'm sure Under The Influence will be one of the movies that best showcased the pre WCT years for this generation.

Campaign 2

Taylor Steele has done it again; the god of modern day mainstream surf films has made his best movie yet. Similar to Campaign 1 with a rough story line and badly acted comical skits starring all your favourite surfers, but this time it is all bigger and better. Each year the standard of surfing by the world's best gets taken to new levels, and there are a few new faces in this movie that are helping to raise the bar. Young up and comers Dane Reynolds and Ry Craike are stand outs, both with amazing sections. The surfing gets really exciting towards the end of the movie, with some absolutely mind-blowing surfing by Andy, Kelly and Shane Dorian.

Campaign 2 is by far Taylor Steele's best movie yet, and I'll go as far as to say the best performance surfing I have ever seen. You have to check this one out!

wordsquintin

Taking Back Sunday - Louder Now

I wanted to start this review with a singular word to sum up Taking Back Sunday. Catchy? Sure. Fun? Oh yeah. Consistent? Definitely. That's the one I was looking for. From 2002's Tell All Your Friends, through to this year's Louder Now, and everything in between (well, the one album in between), Taking Back Sunday have exceeded their contemporaries by having the strength of consistency. It's something that most bands come unstuck on – as seen on the recent Thursday release. From opener What It Feels Like To Be A Ghost, through single MakeDamnSure, to the quieter moments of My Blue Heaven and Divine Intervention, and finally to I'll Let You Live, this is an album that is definitely worth picking up.

Saves The Day – Sound The Alarm

After what was arguably an overall disappointing album (In Reverie) Saves The Day have released an album that not only returns to the form seen on Through Being Cool and Stay What You Are, but also exceeds it. The songs are heavier than fans may be used to, but are filled with the hooks and aggressive lyrics that were abandoned on In Reverie. Standout tracks include opener Head For The Hills, the particularly heavy Say You'll Never Leave and Bones – the best track on the album. It's safe to say that if Saves The Day continue to release albums of this stature then they'll soon get the large Australian fan-base that has so long escaped them, at least when we have such a healthy pop punk scene of our own.

SonicYouth – Rather Ripped

While Sonic Youth may never release another Bad Moon Rising, or even another Dirty, the music that they have continued to release over the past 6 years (basically everything since Murray Street) has seen the band covering exciting new territory, even if it may not be as 'exciting' as their past work. The reason I say this is that Murray Street, Sonic Nurse and now Rather Ripped are undeniably more 'safe' pieces of work than some of the albums that preceded them. But when you've pushed as many boundaries as Thurston and co, you are allowed to slow down a bit. Rather Ripped is a superb album, filled with very Sonic Youth sounds, as well as some great production. Lead single Incinerate is one of my favourite SY songs (BIG CALL) and tracks like Do You Believe In Rapture, Rats and closer On prove why Sonic Youth will be a band that never leave my record player for long.

Spank Rock –YoYoYoYo

Honey honey see me / Behind my Gameboy I got game, girl it comes easy / Let go your shoulders, my Popsicle is so sweetsie / Slam back that Sparks, don't hesitate / and you'll believe me ya bitch believe me. With lyrics like that, could this record seriously be bad? Throw in some of the fastest beats, some INTERESTING backing tracks (think experimental electronica), two of the freshest MCs around at the moment, and some heavy sexual undertones (ooh, that pussy gets damp) and you've got the best hip hop album to come out this year. Standout tracks are the aforementioned (and quoted) Bumps and Backyard Betty. If you missed the tour last month then you missed naked girls at Vice parties and sweaty, sweaty shows.

Phoenix – It's Never Been Like That

With production duties taken care of by the boys from Air, French quartet Phoenix have made an album filled with 10 perfectly constructed pop songs. Long Distance Call (from which the title has been taken) is currently under high rotation on JJJ, and it comes as no surprise why. Along with Consolation Prizes and One Time Too Many it stands above the rest of the tracks on the album. In fact almost all the tracks on this album have their merits, however opener Napoleon Says is surprisingly the lowest point on this otherwise stellar effort.

Danielson – Ships

As far as albums that are incredibly difficult to pigeonhole are concerned, this one comes close to topping the list. Daniel Smith enlists the help of Deerhoof members as his backing band to create an album that at times sounds like Sufjan Stevens, at times like Modest Mouse and at times like something completely unlike anything. For this reason it's an album that doesn't hit you straight up – it takes a bit of listening to become completely involved in it. But once you are in, it's something else. Standouts include Cast It At The Setting Sail, Two Sitting Ducks (very Modest Mouse) and the slowed down, acoustic country tones of He Who Flattened Your Flame Is Getting' Torched.

wordssam davison

Boz Wreck
DRAKE SESSIONS pop magazine MILO bakoda design • logic Ambiguous
ALLY DISTRIBUTION TRANSWORLD SNOWBOARDING northwave NEFF holden VENUE snowboard co.

buck 65

A short listen to his music and it's no wonder he has been called the hip-hop Johnny Cash. A gruff and monotone delivery and tales that no matter how absurd, seem gospel. Even his samples rhythm and rhyme are oh-so country. Buck is well known in underground circles since 'Vertex' with such classics as 'The Centaur' and in more recent times with cross-over successes such as 'Wicked and Weird' and 'Pants on Fire'. If you are unfamiliar with his work, go to buck65.com, plenty of stuff there that he will let you have for free.

It's not the first time that he has visited our shores, however the first time that I have been able to see him. I had been promised by many of my friends that I should be willing and ready to indulge in everything from spoken word to scratching and pixie dust. Yeah, pixie dust. He did not disappoint, I met a girl after the show that was so stoked that she was the new owner of a pocket full of Bucks magical dust that I thought she might fall over*.

The show was exceptional, unfortunately due to my drink intake, to give a song by song account, I would have to lie. Plus it's just not the same. What I thought was the standout performance of the evening was his dedication to the people who keep him in the business... us! Not your usual rapper exit backstage to a scene of unbridled debauchery. He stayed and talked to every single person that had something to say. He gave people nicknames, posed for photos, and was giving people stuff (not drugs) out of his bag. He even sat around and talked to me.

Sick at the time, I didn't need to give him an interrogation after speaking one on one with 100 people. What I got out of him was the following. He would prefer to have a bag of tricks like Felix the Cat than David Copperfield, Would prefer Wishes than Money, and can't decide whether he likes being at home our touring more. May seem random, but it just goes to show he's in it for the fans as much as he is for himself. This formula makes a great live show and next time you have a chance, go see him, not too many shows around like it. Good times.

*The girl was fine, just damn excited.

thesuperficial.com
iwatchstuff.com
youtube.com
anewyorkthing.com
highsnobiety.com
robio.com.au
snowiness.com
slamxhype.com
1500videos.com
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nivarlis.com
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WWW

Blotto

On the recent Un..Inc tour down the east coast of Australia I was fortunate enough to spend a few weeks with Dean "Blotto" Gray. Blotto is no doubt one of the snowboard worlds most well known and respected photographers. His images frequent the best publications including Snowboarder, Pleasure, Frequency and even our very own Australian and New Zealand magazines in the odd privileged edition. After spending some time with Blotto I soon figured out that the quality of his photography is fuelled by his love of snowboarding and even more so, his love of shooting it. Blotto is what I guess you'd call a "pioneer," and has been involved in the snowboard business long before settling into his final career as a photographer. Starting as a young pro for Lamar Snowboards out of Colorado in the early 90's, Blotto became a partner in the then emerging Technine binding company. He helped their rise before taking control of Burton's new brand Analog in its launch years. However, photography was always there and it wasn't until he coupled it with the extensive travel as brand/team manager at Analog that it really came about. Blotto then became a staff photographer at Burton, and the rest can be found in the pages of your favorite magazines and picturesque Burton catalogues. His love of snowboarding shows through his photography and his work keeps your magazines a pleasure to flick. On top of this, Blotto is one of the quirkiest/funniest guys I've met in a long time. He's more than happy to field hundreds of questions about digital vs. film (on which he votes film) lighting, or anything else photography, but even happier to sit and recite lines from Dave Chappelle. If mischief is about, Blotto is more than likely fuelling it, camera in hand ready to shoot. When POP hit up Blotto for a portfolio, needless to say he was more than happy to help out. Enjoy.

wordschris

Freddie Kalbermatten
Alley Oop
SnowPark, New Zealand

Jeremy Jones
Fakie Rock
Salt Lake City, Utah

Trevor Andrew
Frontside 180
Chile

Cory Stasinos
50-50
Breckenridge, Colorado

Nicolas Müller
Melon to Fake
HCSC, Mt. Hood

Nicolas Müller
Andrecht
Alaska

DCP
SnowPark, New Zealand

Keir Dillon
Hemsedal, Norway

Keegan Valaika
Mammoth, California

DCP
SnowPark, New Zealand

alex kutaysov

Alex told me once that if I ever go to Russia with him, he could take get me on a hunting trip and lots of girls would be interested in me. Turns out he is an incredibly talented snowboarder too, have a look and read, you will be seeing more of him.

pop **Yo, first of all, tell me about where you're from and what are you doing here?**

alex I'm originally from a place called Kamchatka, Russia, but I have been here in Melbourne for six years now. Came here when I was in year 10 and right now I'm studying construction management at RMIT Uni.

Now, I have known you for a while, but until I met you met you I had NO idea a place called 'Kamchatka' existed, tell us a little bit about the place and the snowboard scene there.

It's a massive peninsula located north of Japan and kinda parallel to Alaska. It's a pretty remote place of about 350 000 people and is a nine hour flight from Moscow. Because it's so far north we get snow for seven months of the year; therefore, the snowboard scene is pretty strong. Everywhere you go you see kids with snowboards – buses, school yards, all over the place.

Having ridden in both Australia and Russia, what do think are the main differences between the riders here and there?

Well, all the kids in my city grew up riding backcountry and doing rails in the city, but the progression is slower in this situation because it's much harder than doing laps in the park all day. Up until last season we didn't even have a good park, but now that we've got two decent ones everyone is getting good so quickly and able to take it to the backcountry and the streets. We still don't have a pipe though.

In Australia, you are pretty restricted to riding park all the time, so except for the kids that go overseas it's hard to learn to ride all terrain. Even in places like the US and Canada you need heaps of equipment to access good backcountry. This means most Australian riders need to be extra motivated to do the same things that are easily accessible for people in the Northern Hemisphere. The top riders in both countries are as good as anywhere else in the world, but they just don't have the same opportunities available.

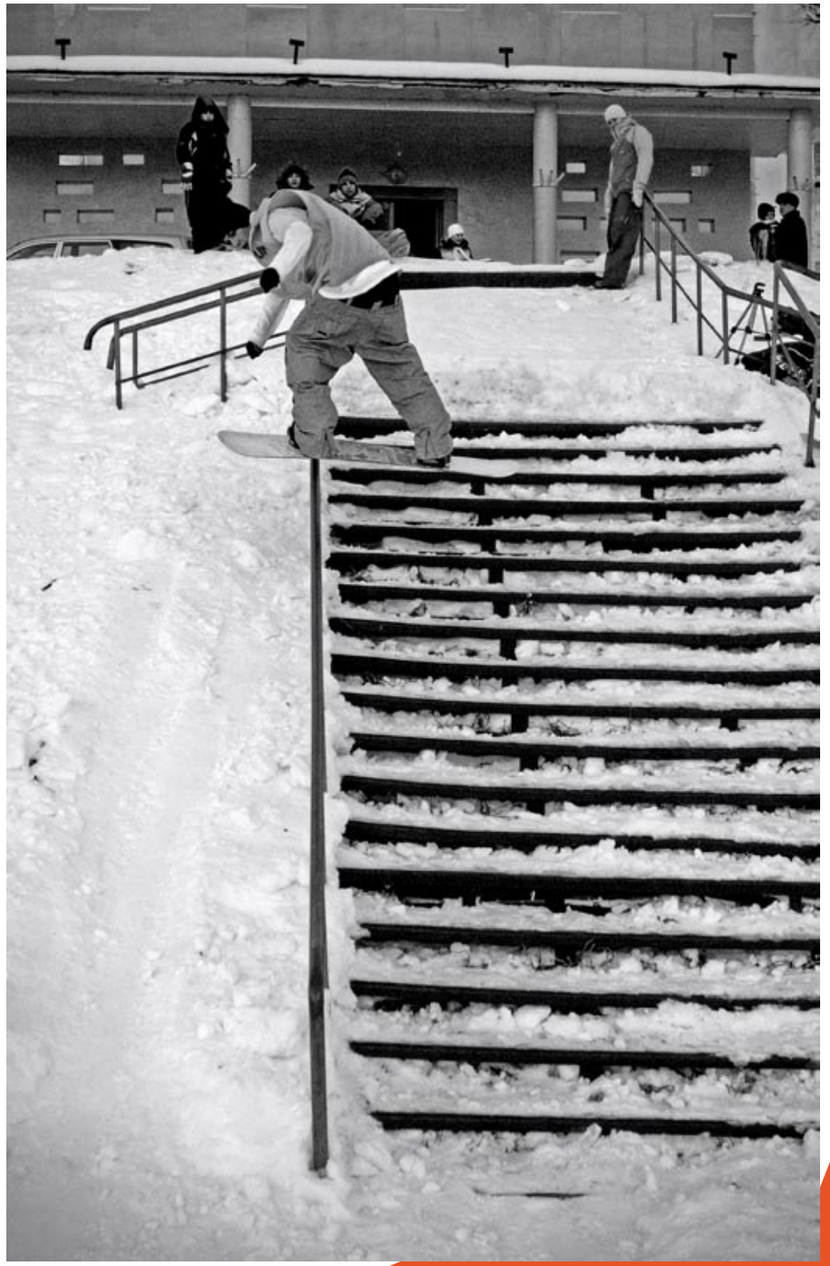
So how easy is it to go ride in Russia?

In my city everything is so accessible, you can take a 20 minute bus ride to get to pretty good backcountry and if you drive for 2 hours you get amazing backcountry. Also there are handrails everywhere you go in the city and enough snow to set them up.

But not all of Russia is like that though. Most of it is flat and there are not that many big mountains. But most cities get snow so it's pretty easy to find some handrails to do.

Now, I know we have all heard some crazy Russian stereotypes and stories, tell me something about Kamchatka that we may need to know before we head over there? You have had some pretty interesting stories with the Russian police yeah?

I could go on about this for ages, but basically most of the stereotypes are true! [Laughs] People drink a lot of vodka because it's the cheapest alcohol there. Russians also like beer though and that's real cheap too. You can get a bottle of real good beer (0.5 litre) for about $1.5 and a bottle of vodka for about $9. Just make sure you don't spend all your money on booze because you might need to pay off



Frontside Boardslide, Kamchatka, Russia.
Photo: A-Team.ru

Nosepress, Kamchatka, Russia.
Photo: S.Pogrebnyak

alexY kutaysøv

cops a few times while you're there. Everything is so corrupt; you can pay your way out of just about anything. You can pay anyone pretty much: cops to let you ride rails, teachers to give you better marks in school, the list goes on. It's a pretty rough country to live in at times but I grew up there, love it and will always go back there. It's really different to Australia but definitely worth checking out.

For sure, I have to get there, I'm glad I know you [Laughs]. A couple of years ago, before I knew you, you could be found every weekend hitting rails in the Buller park. You are meticulous when it comes to style; I have spent many hours debating tricks with you. Why is style so important to you?

Ye, style's really important to me I guess. Everyone can pretty much do the same tricks now, so it kinda comes down to who's got the best style. I just think it's better to do a smooth five or seven instead of a whacky ten. Also some people try to learn as many tricks as possible in a short time, but I'd probably spend more time on each trick to make it look good...

Like kids now see skate and snow videos and want to learn 1080s and tre flips before they can turn and ollie..?

Yeah, I see instructors take kids on their first day straight to the park, pretty funny but maybe not that appropriate.

[Laughs] So who/what influences your riding? Other than me...

Dickhead... [Laughs] I'm mostly influenced from watching my mates push each other, also from watching snowboard videos and mags. There are too many good riders who got sick style now to name them all. But riders like JP Solberg, Mark Frank, Andreas Wiig, Jon Kooley and Hampus are probably some of my favourite ones, you know, the ones that make it all look too easy.

Come on Alex, there has to be some Aussies in there... Do you think any of the Australian pros have got what it takes to make it big time worldwide?

Ye, for sure! Australia has some real good riders. I just watched the new Digital Snowboard video and saw how good everyone is now. People like Max Cookes, Mikey Williams, Chris Boadle, and Nick Gregory are killing it but from what I've seen lately I think Robbie Walker's got the best style right now. Also, there are so many unknown talented riders around that we are bound to see more and more kids come up.

You've been riding Buller for a few years now, do you like it there?

[Laughs] I don't know, I got mixed feelings about it. It's the closest resort from Melbourne and I know a lot of people there, so it can be real fun even on the shitiest day. But sometimes I get over riding in crappy weather and bad park. It's been getting better every year though, so hopefully this year they step it up.

I made you do the Pepsi rail jam this year, are we going to see you compete at all? You're definitely coming snowboarding with me other than at Buller this year!

Ye, that jam didn't turn out real good. I got first in qualifying though [Laughs]. I might do some comps this year. Stylewars and Red Bull rails looked real fun last year, so I'd like to do them.

I met some of your Russian mates last year at the Koorora, they drank a lot and wanted to beat someone up for me... All your friends like that?

Yeah, so you better let me win any contests you're judging Chunk! Nah, just kidding, not all of my Russian mates are like that but they can definitely drink more vodka than you. A few of them can get pretty rowdy sometimes but usually they're chill.

Any of your snowboard friends from Russia have plans to come ride with us?

So many of them want to come over here, but it's much cheaper for them to go riding in European summer camps because they can just fly to Moscow and then drive from there to anywhere in Europe.

If only life was that easy for us... Anything else you want to add, shout outs?

Yeah, thanks for getting wasted and losing that 21st present I gave you. [Laughs]

Firstly, I'd like to thank my parents who have always supported me; it's not that easy to live by yourself on the other side of the world. Also would like to thank my beautiful girl Olya. Big thanks to Rick Baker and everyone at Trigger Brothers – Chunk, Rory, Matt and Chris, for always taking care of me. Thanks to Dave Fraser from Gnu for hooking me up with boards and shout outs to all my mates in Russia and Australia.

Trigger Brothers

We love skateboarding

Says Frankston store employee Mike Martin

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Photo by Mike Kearney & produced by POP Creative

MIKE DEE

Words & Photo: Emily Rosendale

Laax, Switzerland. Photo: Jason Horton

When Pop Magazine asked me to do an interview with Mike D. I figured it would be easy writing about someone who has so much going on and is doing it so well. He's a wicked snowboarder, skater, surfer and seaman. Truth is, there isn't a magazine long enough to capture all of the crazy adventures and amazing skills this guy has.

Mike D has it all worked out. He does the Aussie season at Hotham while living at his place in Harrietville. His off-season is spent in the Swiss Alps. In between he's relaxing on the coast in Torquay, Vic. and he funds it all by working stints on boats and oil rigs somewhere in the South Pacific. His love for snowboarding has brought him to many ports of call. As we speak, the man is working on a ship somewhere in the middle of the Timor Sea.

Some would say D has led a charmed life. You could say he's like a crazy little leprechaun, but not the kind you see waving in the St Patty's Day parade. Picture one that might star in a Kid Rock video or a horror flick and you'll get the idea. From the outside, his life may look like he's got some extra luck stashed somewhere, but truth is he is the one that has created all of his chances, even if sometimes he just gets by with a smile.

When asked about her big brother, Stacey D said this. "What? Tell them he's a shithead. The thing that makes everyone love Mike, is just his stoke for life...that's probably because he's had such a good one, but as far as I'm concerned the credit that he is getting now is long overdue."

As with everything, Mike D, is pretty casual about how many of Australia's up and coming riders grew up looking up to him. He doesn't even mention his role in the Hotham Boardriders. These guys organize comps, support and encourage the young competitors, and run snowboard camps. They are the oldest, longest running and now the only alpine boardriders club in Australia. D has been involved since the early days of the club. Starting out there as a grommet himself, he later coached many camps and has been active as President for two years, vice for one. El Presidente, himself has been known to cook a few snags on the barby, while cheering for the groms at comps and simultaneously schmoozing for sponsorship on the kids' behalf.

Little D, grew up in the Suburbs, a long way from any mountains or even surf. If it weren't for his obsession with skating from the time he was seven, and one fateful family holiday to Mt.Buffalo at ten, we may never have been graced with his snowboarding style.

Diesel, as he is known by most, even his mum, is a character that tall tales are made of, well maybe not so tall. This is the kind of tale that doesn't always translate best on paper. In his own words, "you need some beers and some eager ears". He is one of the best storytellers I've ever met, so I'll try and let him do most of the "talking".

MIKE DEE

Pillow line in Switzerland. Photo: Sean Raddich

mike "My first memory of snowboarding goes back long before I had even seen snow. When I was 7 years old, there was an article in Transworld Skateboarding on a new sport called snowboarding. I was pissed off, I thought "What the hell is a skate mag doing printing pictures of this pussy shit. They even have their feet strapped to the board! What are they afraid of? Falling into the soft snow? Fah! To hell with that shit! To this day whenever I think about that I have a little chuckle to myself, especially when I'm strapped into my board and afraid of slamming into the not always soft snow!"

pop **What was the Aussie snowboard scene like when you started?**

The scene when I started was all about Sorel boots with ski boot liners to add support, outerwear held together by an abundant amount of duct tape, and hand-shaped half pipes. The mountains had half the amount of people that we have these days and 90% were skiers. They had no time for us loud, dirt-bag boarders, which made us wanna be more punk just to freak them out. It was good times for sure!

How has it changed today?

My generation, has seen the most dramatic changes anyone will ever see in the history of snowboarding. It has gone from one extreme to the other. Now there are runs totally dedicated to machine groomed terrain parks and half-pipes. The equipment has improved ten fold, not only in performance but in variety. It's now a billion dollar industry, with everyone in the latest fresh gear on any ski resort. It is even a bloody Olympic sport now! Even so, I like to believe that the soul of snowboarding hasn't changed and that were all out there shreddin' for smiles, good times and to work up a thirst for the arvo pub sesh!

In some ways you love being the centre of attention; jumping out of moving cars, hucking off of crazy shit (without your board), telling a good yarn for all to hear.... but when it comes to the snowboarding industry you don't chase the spotlight. You let your riding do the talking...

[Laughs] Yeah I guess I've been know to get a little loose, and I get a buzz from making people laugh with funny travelling experiences. It's one of the many after joys of travel. I guess, I don't think there is a need to go chasing fame, especially with sports like snowboarding. I think that if you have a genuine passion for what you are doing and enjoy its moments, you're stoked. If fame comes along, it is simply a bonus.

How long have you been working in the shipping industry? and why?

When I had turned 16, I decided I wanted to follow in my father's and grandfather's footsteps and become a third generation Australian merchant seafarer. It was bound to happen sooner or later, as I was surrounded by the industry my whole life.

At 17 years of age, my first day on the job was quite the introduction. I boarded a ship that travelled the South Pacific and Oz. The ship's bosun convinced me to "play a trick on the crew" at their traditional darts competition. Turns out the joke was on me and I ran across the ship's bar room completely starkers, only to be laughed at by the blokes standing around casually sipping a few cold ones. The bosun just smiled and said "welcome aboard son!".

It's a great industry to be apart of. It can be hard work at times, mentally and physically. I've seen blokes lose it out there and it's not a pleasant sight. It also gives you many unique experiences that no other job could offer; with the characters you meet, the places you go and the shit you get up to along the way.

Where do you do your off-season?

I started off going to B.C., Canada and the Western States. The tree runs in B.C. are bullshit! Then about 3 or 4 years ago I headed to Europe and I haven't been back to Canada or the States since.

Europe has so many places it crazy! Every little town has its own chair lift taking you up to places that would be 4 times bigger than any resort in Oz. You could have 10 years of free time to trek around the European ski resorts and still run out of time.

Germany is one of the many places I like to ride in Europe but that's more for park summer riding, there was this glacier on the Zugspitze. It's full of kickers,a pipe, massive hip and a heap of rails. They called it the Gap 1328 snowboard camp, Gap stands for Garmisch the town you live in and 1328 is the year the local beer was established. Basically its summer weather, you ride park all day then party all night for 5 weeks. This Euro winter that just passed, I lived in a weathered Swiss alpine hut built some time in the early 1800's. It was the coolest place I've ever spent time in at the snow. We were amongst the tallest mountains in Switzerland and the ski runs were our back yard. It was epic, I'll be heading back there next year.

Down Time?

I love it when I get to hang at my house in Torquay. I have a bunch of tight mates down there that make it what it is for me, and we all love a good time. Also the only time I get to hang with my red healer Digga is in Harrietville or when I'm in Torquay. I try not to go anywhere without him. Basically, it's just a cruisey time to hang out with ya mates, go surfing, skatin' n' running amok.

You've been in the Australian snowboard scene for over ten years, and you have been someone that a lot of kids have looked up to. No matter what, you seem to always give them the time of day...

When I was a kid in the burbs, I had the usual grommet syndrome; big ideas, no wheels, too young to go to far from home but to old to sit around. Occasionally the older fellers in the area would throw me in the car and take me surfin' or out riding with them. I would cop grommey abuse the whole day and I loved it! So I just try and return the favour. I don't do it for the sake of being any type of mentor or teacher. If they're out riding, I'll go shred some lines with them. If me n' me mates are heading out to go build a kicker and they're around, then they're coming with. If they need a ride home after riding its no skin off my nose to drive 'em.

Some stand outs would be Azza (Aaron Maxwell), Marc Baker, the Pellys, and my sister, Stacey. I've watched them all grow into solid riders from straight-airs to spins and each year they keep getting better and better. When Azza was younger, he reminded me of myself when I was his age. He lived next door to me in Harrietville, so I just tried to make him part of what ever was going on, whether it was shredding the hill or just hangin' out.

Would you have any advice for kids with stars in there eyes about riding the white carpet to fame and fortune?

Do it 'cause ya love it and if you make it don't be a smart-ass just because your a good snowboarder! That will only get you so far, it's who you are on and off the snow that will get you places!

What is your pot-at-the-end-of-the-rainbow, what would be your biggest accomplishment?

A realistic accomplishment would be to be able to kick back one day surrounded by good mates and family and be totally content with what I've done... but if we're talkin' pot at the end of a rainbow that would be a different story. I'd be living on a island with remote control climate, hot women, endless pipes, groomed parks, uncrowded limitless pow terrain, cold beer, smoking waves and live music from Jimi Hendrix, Zeppelin and whoever else I wanted.

Any regrets worth turning back the clock for?

No not at all, I'm happy where I'm at right now. I'm riding every winter in Oz and heading overseas to shred pow. I have a relaxed relationship with DC, Fyve Snowboards, Oakley, Mordy's and Blunt. I feel like I'm in my prime and I'm still enjoying it as much as I ever have.

I don't know about you but that sounds like a pot of gold to me.

Simon Lyddiard

words & photo by brad stock

pop simon

Ok Simon, I guess we should start with letting the POP Readers know your stats, name, age, years skating etc...
My name is Simon Lyddiard. I'm 17 and I've been skating for about 7 years.
What was your first set-up?
A hand-me-down single kick from my cousin.
So why skateboarding, what's your motivation?
Probably the people, how fun and free the sport itself is and the feeling you get from rolling away from a trick you've worked hard at.
So what type of skater would you classify yourself as? Tech, Gnar or Tranny?
I'd love to classify myself as a bit of all of them but sadly I have neither the skill for tech or the balls for tranny so I'd say I'd fit more into the gnar category than anything else.
I hear you are filming a part for a local Newcastle video at the moment?
You heard right, Join The Dots is the local video I'm filming for and maybe one day may actually get enough footage for a part in it if I don't keep getting injured.
Have you been killing your body trying to get the tricks you want in it? I personally have seen some pretty damn heavy slams from yourself.
Um, yeah, I do seem to get hurt a fair bit but that's what comes with trying to film a part.
Have you ever had any really bad injuries, what would you say was the worst and how long did it keep you off your board?
Probably falling from the top of a 15 stair rail straight to the hip, it only put me out for about a month but it was the most painful and surprisingly the most time I've ever been off my board.
So what does a day in the life of Simon Lyddiard entail?
Get up, skate to Maccas, get picked up by Ian and Bryce and go skate. Then go home and either see my girl or sleep.
So your still at school, do you plan on finishing?
Yeah, I've only got about 3 months left till schools over then its out into the big bad world.
What's planned for after school?
I don't know. I want to go to tafe to study film but that probably won't happen.
I know your dad is a pretty damn fine photographer from what I hear. Are you going to follow in his footsteps and get into it?
Yeah, one day I hope to get into it but time will tell on that one I guess.
So what do you do off your board, any other sports or hobbies?
I got into Boxing for a while; I hope to go back to it soon but other than that I'm as boring as you can get outside of skating.
If you had $10 to last you a week, what would you buy?
A BBQ chicken, eat it then mooch food off Bryce for tricks for the rest of the week.
Any thankyou's?
Thanks firstly to Bryce for actually filming me when I sucked and making me skate better, Brad for getting me this interview, shooting the pics and not getting angry when I broke his lens (I kicked out one of the 3 flips over the fire drum into his fisheye),and of course Pop for running the interview, Bobby and Owen at Newcastle Skate Shop, Dad and Mum for funding all my boards, Lauren for her on going support, K-pink and -03, and of course my OG crew, Liam, Xavier, Jordan, Jesse, Ethan and Mitch.

Nosegrind

Jamie Hawley

I've got to be honest. I didn't know that much about Jamie when I called him to do this interview. I'd heard he was a nice kid but that was about it. So I called Steve Gourlay, the photographer who took the photos for this interview, and asked him what he knew about Jamie. He was much the same as me. All he said was that he heard he'd joined the Army but it hadn't worked out and now he's just an insanely good skateboarder. Well that was all I needed to hear...

wordsrick **photos** stevegourlayphoto.com

pop jamie **So last I heard you were in the Army! What happened there... You were in the Army?!**
I was in the reserves for three weeks. I went for three weeks basic training,

I was meant to be there for 45 days and I lasted three weeks before I thought 'nah, fuck this. I gotta get outta here.'

But yeah, it was shit... It wasn't what I expected.

I was kinda thinking about doing the same thing a while ago but I heard that basic training was real boring?
Well, you're definitely not doing anything fun. It's not easy, not easy at all. If anyone tells you it's easy they're bullshitting to 'ya! [Laughs]. It's full on. We were doing 6 in the morning till 10pm, they were just non stop – screaming, yelling, swearing at you and you're constantly on your feet and that's 7 days a week.

How long ago was that?
Well it would have been probably two months ago.

So even with everything going on in Iraq, did that phase you? Or did you join because of that sort of stuff. What made you think about it?
Basically I just wanted money [Laughs]. I thought I'd give it a try, see how it went but, yeah, it wasn't for me. I guess I spent so long skating, being a free spirited person, and then going into something where they try to brainwash you and mould you the way they want you...

Yeah. So I guess that would kind of inspire you to take your skating to a new level. Have you got plans to do that?
Definitely, after I got out my skating has improved 100%. I'm pretty much spending everyday at the moment skating and I've been back in touch will all my sponsors. Everything's going really good and they're all signing me back up again. Everything's going really, really good at the moment.

Element is one of your major sponsors and they're quite a unique company. They've got an environmental focus with Elemental Awareness. Is that something you sought to be a part of with them or was it something that happened by accident?
They came to me when they were first starting up an Australian team. I'm pretty sure I was the first Australian team rider. The rep came up to me and said they were putting together an Australian Element team and asked 'do you want to ride for Element?' I was like 'Oh, yeah. Definitely.' That was four years ago now so I've been with Element for four years and I'm loving it.

I've had offers from other sponsors but I've said no because Element look after you, you're taken really, really good care of, like they do all their riders.

That's good. What's on the cards with them then? Are you planning any travel in the next six months?
Yeah, I definitely want to get overseas as soon as I can. At the moment I'm looking for a job to make a bit of money. I'm trying to get into the skate industry, in the marketing and sales and all that sort of business side of skating. So get a job in there, save up a bit of money and hopefully go overseas pretty soon.

Any preference? Europe or America?
Europe, I want to go to Europe. Yeah, Europe and the States. Also want to go over to Thailand and check that out cause that's cheap over there and supposedly they've got a lot of spots.

In Thailand?
Yeah. I've seen a lot of photos come out of there.

That'd be good. Would you be traveling with the Element Team, or by yourself?
Bit of both. I want to do one trip with my mates and then go to Europe and meet up with the Element Europe guys and hang out with those guys. And then go to the States and hook up with people like Tosh [Townsend] and Colt [Cannon].

Gourlay mentioned he hadn't seen you in a while, when was the last time you were down in Victoria?
That was when we were shooting the photos you're running with this. Maybe 12 months ago.

Easier to shoot up in Sydney?
Nah, sort of the same I think. I'll definitely be down there soon. I'm heading up to Queensland in the next couple of weeks to go shoot but it will be good to get back down to Melbourne.

Shout Outs?
Element, NinetyNine, Gourlay, all my mates, Amy.

Frontside Salad Grind

ADAM MELLING

pop adam

Adam, have you been for a surf this morning?
Nah I'm just driving to Straddy [Stradbroke Island]. I'm going to stay for a couple of days and get some waves there. Waves at home were shit, so I'm going up north to Straddy for a couple of days.
Where do you usually surf around home?
Around North Wall and Ballina.
So how'd you first get into surfing?
My Dad used to surf heaps and he taught me when I was super young, about 5 or something.
What kept you wanting to do it?
I don't know, all my mates were doing it. My Dad gave me a choice when I was younger, whether I wanted to be a surfer or a boogie boarder. I'm sort of glad I picked surfing. And all my mates were surfing so we sort of grew up competing against each other. Even like local clubs and stuff and then when I left school it was either look for a job or surf for Oakley.
Why didn't you choose Boogie Boarding?
[Laughs] Well Dad gave me the choice to choose, I wanted both but Dad said and I had to choose one,

so I choose the surf-board, a couple of mates got the slick bottom boogie boards and I thought they were all cool but I sorta' just stuck with surfing cause its way better.

And who's influencing the way that you're surfing at the moment?
I look up to all the guys from the Goldie– they're pushing each other hard. Mick and Joel and Deano, they've made it, good to look up to them cause they're sort of like from a local area – its good to see that people can make it.
Who else from your area do you rate?
There's a few younger guys that I surf with like James Woods, Stewart Kennedy, they surf together and are really pushing each other.
What would you be doing if you weren't surfing?
I don't know. I was working in a bakery till I was about 17. I didn't really want to work there but I probably would have kept going. I'd finished year 12 and I didn't really want to go to university.
So you're into golf yeah?
Yeah, I don't mind a bit of golf.
Art? Music?
Nah. Just a bit of fishing.
What are your thoughts on the Oakley Big Wave Challenge. Oakley's got a few guys in there people may not have heard of chasing big waves around Australia. There's a fair bit of tow surfing going on and it seems a good chance for guys to get better known?
Yeah, I think it's really good because a lot of the local chargers don't really get a lot of exposure and this lets you get seen.
What about you, are you into tow-ins and stuff?
Lennox doesn't really get big enough, I've done a bit but it's better over in WA cause there's always bigger swells. Its always good fun but it never really gets as good here.
Could you ever see yourself moving away from comp surfing and just doing free surfing and chasing big waves?
Yeah, I wouldn't mind just free surfing and I've always wanted to get into that big wave and stuff but I'll just see how I go with the comps.
What does keep you motivated when you're surfing comps and you're in small waves and not getting good results?
This is my first year on the WQS doing the whole leg and I've had a couple of good results and a couple of bad ones but I could see if you were on it for long enough you could sort of get sick of it. Other than that I just like beating people.
Do you do much training, mentally and physically, to keep that drive?
Yeah, I do a bit of weights training and stretching and I do a bit of training with a surf coach which does help a lot.
Which Aussie junior do you believe has a shot at the title, later down the track?
There's a few. Maybe Ben Dunn or Yadin Nicol. Like, younger guys, maybe Matt Wilkinson.
There seems to be a heap of hype around Dane Reynolds and from the Aussie side of things there hasn't really been someone that people have said 'they're going to be the one.'
Yeah. It's kinda hard to tell cause when you get to that level its more about the wow factor. The criteria has kinda changed in the last five years.
Do you think the change in how they score the WCT will mean that guys like Yadin and Wilko who have a wide repertoire of tricks will succeed a bit more?
Yeah for sure.
When it's all over, what would you like to look back on and say you got out of surfing?
Fun, see the world and have lots of stories to tell the kids.

words julian **photos** courtesy of oakley

MARTIN PARADISIS

pop martin

Hey Marty, what's up?
Not much, just relaxing. I worked last night but had a surf today.
Where'd you surf?
Just a couple of beachys. I'm buggered. The cold takes it out of you...
So the past two years have been huge for you. You've been getting shots in magazines, covers on Waves and Surfing Life, poster books and editorials... Life's good hey?
Yeah. I've been pretty lucky really... Actually I've been pretty lucky to have a wave like Shipsterns pretty much at my door step. Lucky I've been able to get a jet ski.
What do you think about kids having a Marty Paradisis poster on their walls?
It's weird really, you think they'd put something different up! My chick said to me the other day that

'there's probably a lot of grommets with your poster up on the wall!'

I'd never really thought about it.
You seem to be on Shipsterns whenever its breaking, who do you surf it with?
James Holmer-Cross, Tyler Holmer-Cross, Jy Johannessen, Brooke Phillips, Gibbo, Dusto, Polly, Zada.
Shipsterns has really put Tasmania on the map, what's it like to have Andy Irons, Joel Parkinson and Koby Abberton come down just to surf it with you guys?
Oh yeah, it's good to hear what they have to say about it. They're not too bad when they're down here [Laughs]! You usually get a couple of pros over summer. The best days are usually when no ones around, no crowds in sight.
Tell us more about the waves in Tasmania. We all know Shipsterns but what about waves like Daves Place, Boneyards, The Wedge... The wave's sound bullshit?!
There's heaps. The way the swell works, when there one spot firing, there's usually another 20 spots just as good. It's just a matter of working out which spots are the best and going to them. Right now we're trying to chase these big waves and stuff. We're going to try some stuff a bit further south. So we're just trying to suss out the weather and work out what conditions it will work best in.
Now that you're surfing bigger waves do you find you're having to teach yourself to read weather patterns, wave height reading and things like that?
Yeah, definitely. Before I started surfing Shipsterns I'd just sort of get up at home, have a look at the beach and sort of go 'oh yeah, next break down would be good.' When I started surfing Shipsterns I didn't have the internet or anything. I just looked to see if it was big enough and went down there not knowing what the wind was like or anything... But within the last 2 years I've sort of been looking on the net and getting a lot better idea of what we can expect when we go travelling and stuff. Especially when sussing out new breaks, the ones down south that take a 2 hour drive and a 2 hour boat ride. You want to make it worth while.
Any trips planned? Are you going after some bigger waves or are you sticking closer to home?
Well, yeah, I heard a mate, Skeeta, got WA big last week. So that sorta bummed me out a bit, I should be over there!
In that regard, I guess you saw the swell coming in W.A on the internet?
Definitely, it's all done by net these days. Most people who are chasing good waves all round the world are definitely relying on the internet.
Is it restrictive having your skis and that sort of thing down in Tasmania or anywhere for that matter. Do you need to have big backing so that you can fly into places like W.A and have skis there already?
I don't know. You just sort of make friends around the place and help them out when they come down and they help you. It's always good to have connections.
I heard that you're probably heading up to Hawaii soon?
I was thinking about it. It's definitely been on my mind. But I want to go surfing some different waves at different places, that's sort of what I'm amped on at the moment.
Finding new places?
Yeah. Definitely finding new breaks. I don't know, you just need financial backing but there'd have to be so many islands around that have just got big waves off it. Even Scotland, Ireland, Iceland, that's all getting exposed. Everyone's finding sick reefs everywhere.
There's even sick waves in Alaska!
Yeah definitely. It's so cold up there but there's such good waves. And that's why I'm really keen on travelling down south in Tasmania.

There's only stories you hear from fisherman but I'm really keen to get on a fishing boat and go exploring for a few days or something.

You just got your first Volcom ad, you would have to be stoked with that?
Yeah, I was pretty happy. Definitely. It's good for them to take an interest.
Who else is supporting you?
Dragon and Haydenshapes.
What's the future for Marty?
Keep chasing it. I'm loving what I'm doing, just chasing the surf.

wordscast **photos**stuart gibson

Dean Bowen is king. Now obey him!

Dean Bowen taking the crown

Dean Bowen (Gerroa, NSW) has announced himself as a future world beater by winning the most prestigious surfing event in the country for his age, Quiksilver's King of the Groms, held over two days in excellent three-four foot (1-1.5m) waves at Newcastle's Main Beach.

The powerful 15-year-old goofy footer from the NSW South Coast defeated an all-class field of nearly 100 surfers to claim the title, plus airfares and accommodation to France where he will represent Australia in the international King of The Groms grand final scheduled for the beachbreaks of Capbreton in August.

Bowen was literally chaired from the water, seated in a throne and 'crowned' on the presentation dais with a red carpet stretched before him after a long day that saw him compete in four arduous heats before clinching the coveted, winner-take-all, number one spot.

Bowen's final two wave combined score of 15.50 was enough to push Garrett Parkes (Byron Bay into second on 12.90 points, with Davey Cathels (Narrabeen, NSW) in third on 10.40 points and Tom Myers (Freshwater, NSW) finishing fourth in 10.10 points. Bowen also scored the highest individual wave of the event, locking a near-perfect 9.9 out of a possible perfect 10 in round three.

In 2005 during the King of the Groms inaugural year, Bowen finished runner to recently crowned Quiksilver ISA World Junior Champion Owen Wright (Culburra, NSW). A little extra weight and experience clearly paid off in 2006. "I'm just over the moon," said Bowen. "I think I've definitely stepped up my surfing to a new level since last year. I got a 9.0 today in the final which I was really stoked about, so once I got that big score I felt like I was so close and it worked out perfect, I'm so stoked! I've never been to France."

On the international stage in the King of the Groms grand final at Capbreton, Bowen will come up against 47 other surfers from around the world, including winners of similar King of the Groms qualifying events held Japan, Indonesia, South America, Hawaii, North America, Europe and Africa. Bowen will also meet one other Australian, a wildcard, who will be announced in two months time.

A win in August will guarantee him the greatest honour of all, he will be treated like royalty; flown to each of Quiksilver's professionally rated World Championship Tour events, including the Quiksilver Pro held each March on Queensland's Gold Coast, with a chaperone and given guaranteed spots into the pro trials of each tournament.

Bowen, Parkes and Cathels looked in contention for the crown from round one, but Cathels nearly pulled a rabbit out his hat after he entered the final 10 minutes late.

The natural foot told organizers he could not compete in the 25 minute decider after he became buckled over with severe stomach cramps. Despite receiving some attention and advice from two-time world champion Tom Carroll.

Cathels was completely overcome with pain and could do little more than clutch his stomach as he lay on his back for nearly 20 minutes following his semi-final victory ahead of Myers and Sam Schumann (Forster). The condition abated however, and he paddled out with just less than 15 minutes remaining to make a late charge and finish third.

Both Carroll (1983 & 1984 ASP world champion - Newport, NSW) and Martin Potter (1989 ASP world champion – UK) presented the finalists with prizes today, Carroll returning to the site where he achieved victory as a fledgling junior and later as a full-time touring professional competing on the world stage. "For Bowen It's like the official start of his career here today, this win is the foundation for great things to come. You have sponsors looking at you, and to have that title, being the King of the Groms in Australia, it's a big accolade that sits well your resume'. As it's shown already with Owen Wright, it's likely the winner will immediately go onto bigger and better things. "Newcastle is such a great arena, the region is hard-core, it's a hard core surf town and I can just imagine Dean and these other kids looking back at their achievements here in much the same way as I do," reflected Carroll.

An additional $100 bonus prize was made available thanks to co-sponsor Evian and awarded to Wade Carmichael for riding the longest barrel during the competition.

Finishing in equal fifth today were Victoria's Todd Rosewall and Sam Schumann (Forster, NSW). Rosewall was just one of three Victorians to head north for a crack at the title. "The waves are pretty different to home, a lot peakier, I'd prefer more down the line waves. But I can leave knowing I've stuck it to the New South Wales surfers, you've just got to look at the draw, it's stacked with them. They're the surfers to beat. I'll just have to go a bit harder next time," said Rosewall.

The best performed local surfers were Jake Sylvester (Merewether, NSW) and Wes Bainbridge (Merewether, NSW) who both finished in equal 13th position. Bainbridge fell to Myers (Manly, NSW) and the hard-charging favourite Cathels in round three, while Sylvester ultimately lost out to Max Brokman (Manly, NSW) and West Australian Todd Quartermaine (Mandurah, WA).

At just 12 years old, Sylvester was particularly impressive, with the youngster eyeing off four more years in the division. Today he found himself waveless chasing a good score with seven minutes to go in his 20 minute encounter; he came up short but was still happy to reach round three.

Both Sylvester and Bainbridge improved upon the best performance by a local, Duncan McNicol, who reached the same round of the King of the Groms in its inaugural year last May.

"It's sick (good) to have the comp here, I just live around the corner so I could just get out of bed and surf. I had a good time and was stoked to get through to the third round," said Sylvester.

West Australian Todd Quartermaine (Mandurah, WA) flew the flag proudly for the sandgropers to reach the quarter-finals and finish in equal 7th. The Mandurah natural foot was trailing for most of his quarter final against Cathels, Myers and Max Brokmann (Manly, NSW) and as he paddled into a last ditch wave on the hooter needed just a 5.43 out of 10 to progress in second place.

Unfortunately for Quartermaine, the wave died out after he pulled just one vertical manoeuvre and the resulting score lifted him just one place to third, still in elimination position. "We don't have that many competitions over at home (WA), so it's good coming here (to Newcastle) and seeing what it's like. It's my first time I've been to Newy, the standard is so high. I came here to do the best I could, and I'm kind of happy but bummed at the same time. I've kind of kooked it when I've travelled East but this result is still okay I guess, you always want to win or make the final," said Quartermaine.

Matt Baldock (Margaret River, WA) was the only other West Australian to travel east.

Bowen's win today secures the Gerroa local one of only four spots allocated to Australasian surfers for the King of the Groms grand final (Capbreton, France August 1-6). One was secured by New Zealand Ryan Hawker at Dunedin in April, a second will be awarded to the winner of a series of Indonesian qualifying events culminating in June and the third remaining allocation will be given to another Australian who will enter France's grand final as a wildcard.

Garrett Parkes got 2nd

Davey Cathels got 3rd

Oscar Scarie

wordscourtesy of quiksilver **photos**luke southern/surfing australia

photos: here shane peel there eric adler

Steve Friedman

Last issue we had a chat to Steve Friedman about growing up in California in the 60's and being part of the surfing and skateboarding scene back then. We went back and asked him to share some stories with us about the time he spent in Hawaii. Friedman traveled and lived in Hawaii at a time when surfing was just starting to really take off out there and he tells us about the waves and the surf scene as it was 30 years ago. A real contrast to the circus that is the North Shore as we know it today.

pop steve

Last issue we left with you surfing in Hawaii, did you travel out to Hawaii by yourself? Or you did you go with friends?

I went with Wynn [Miller]. I was working at CON surfboards and I met this little Hawaiian guy, Kalani, he's the fastest sander I've ever seen in my life. He comes out and he says to me 'You know, you should go to Hawaii. Hawaii's a cool place, you'd really dig it, there's good surf there, really cool people.'

What made you go to Maui? Not Oahu, 'cause wasn't it all happening on the North Shore?

Wynn's dad actually was a developer out there. He had an apartment for us to stay in and all this stuff organized and Maui sounds really cool. I mean Hawaii; it didn't matter where we went. We went to the big island first and were running a muck. The next trip we went over, I went over with my friend Mark Ohlmstead. We flew from LA again; we went out to the North Shore and lived on Oahu for three or four months. That was awesome, big Laniekea, on potato chip boards. Oh, it was awesome, you know, probably ten to twelve feet. Billy Hamilton's out there and Ricky Grigg all the guys you've seen in the magazines sitting out there. I'm out the back, and I'm just going, "This is awesome!" Next thing I know I'm the furthest guy inside and all these guys are sitting there like this [crosses his arms] and just looking at me. The set comes in and a wave goes by and no one's on it and everyone's looking at me like "It's your turn." [laughs] I'm like "Oh fuck, you gotta go." I took off on this thing and I remember scooping down to the bottom starting to think I'll lay into a bottom turn and I looked up and went "Oh my god! Where's the lip?" It was so big, it freaked me out and I just bailed. I came up and I'm getting sucked up over the falls, I get a big breath of air and I can see these guys pointing at me. They're going, "There he is." They knew what I was going to fucking do. I got pitched three times and every time I came up, they're pointing and laughing at me and I'm getting pitched down the line. I'm getting fucking worked, absolutely drilled. I have no leg-rope so I'm swimming in and I catch this 8 foot wave body surfing in, I'm trimming along going "Yeah, this is not bad, I'll be in real quick," then the whole reef goes dry. I'm flying through the air. I was lucky I didn't get fucking killed. I swam in and I'm like "Where's my board?" I'm looking out at the sea and here's my board like a half a mile out to sea with like five other boards in this channel heading out towards Kaena Point. And we're all "Fuck! Back in the water." To be there then in the 70's was really awesome, we were really lucky. We met this guy Glen Kalkalui, this full blood Hawaiian guy, lovely guy, great surfer, and he goes, "You guys are really lucky, it will never be like this again." And it just changed, it really got crowded.

A good introduction to surfing Hawaii and meeting all the big names then?

Yeah, we couldn't believe it. One day we were at the car park in Velsyland cause we saw a couple of people surfing there. It was morning and the surf went to like ten foot in twenty minutes. My friend Wayne's out there and I watch him catch this awesome wave, just fucking stupid, then he got like swallowed up coming across the channel. It was just that big. He's coming in and I'm going "I want one of those," and he's going, "No way dude, you don't want to do this. Its getting insane out here, lets go back," so we went back. Sunset was about ten to twelve foot by now; it wasn't even breaking when we went around to Velsyland earlier. He goes "We'll go try Haleiwa," and we get to there and it looked awesome, you know, six to eight foot sets just perfect, straight offshore…turquoise. Only about twenty people out. So we started paddling out. We get about half way out and fucking the whole horizon just closes out and there's just lose boards coming at you like toothpicks in the white-water and I go "Wayne, what do we do?" He goes "Turn around, hold on and head for the beach!" So we did, I'm just sitting there looking over my shoulder, the water goes whoosh, flying past you and then next thing you know it picks you up and starts throwing you, you're just hanging on and bouncing along and then you come flying out of the white water. I'm hanging on for dear life and Wayne's just going on these big turns laying down, I'm yelling 'fuck!' all the way until we ended up right on the beach. I'm going "Well that works." We went back and looked at Waimea and now it's like twenty foot plus. We didn't even have equipment close to wanting to surf that stuff. We were just watching guys riding waves, never seen anything like it, just blown away, I mean I surfed really big surf at Rincon in 1969 but this is like the real deal Hawaiian style. Then this guy paddles out on this big red board, its Mr. Aikau, its Eddie. And he's paddled over beyond where all these other guys are sitting, he's a fair distance inside them and he's taken off and he drives up these turns like its four foot off the bottom, straight up and he's just standing there, hands at his side and it's as big as a house. It was so intense. Then here comes Buzzy Trent around the corner in this little fucking old Volvo and he's got this old style rhino chaser hanging off the edge on each side with rope on the nose and tail holding it on the car, and he's screaming out the window going "It's too fucking small! It's too fucking small!" and the boys are going "Fuck, we gotta get outta here." [Laughs] We went around from there to the west side, we were going to surf Makaha and we got vibed so heavy we didn't even get out of the car. We drove to Maili Point and it looked like this nice left hander out the back, about six to eight foot and we paddled way out to sea, we get out there and… fuck, it was monstrous! We got cleaned up a few times before we got into position and then a set came through and all I could do was just take off, thinking "I want to go into the beach, I've got to get this wave, I've got to get the fuck outta here." It was so big. We were riding 6'8's, you know California style stuff.

Did Wynn take you out to Honolua the first time you were there?

Yeah, Wynn took me up and we went out there and it was just like what you expected. It was awesome fun. It was a cross California Hawaii thing. It's a reef point break and the swell really has to wrap in on it for it to be awesome.

> It's perfect ten second tube rides and guy's still won't hoot for you.

You can stay in that long and you don't even have to turn if you don't want to. We pretty much lived out there when it was on.

They sound like some pretty epic times, did anything ever go wrong?

Oh man, I was surfing and I broke my shoulder on this tiny shore break. We're just surfing this beach break and I've come off the front and went into a body surf and I went to tuck and roll out, but my shoulder hit the sand and just separated. I jumped up and ran onto the beach and my buddies thought I was dancing around on the beach so they didn't come in and they thought 'oh, he's had a good wave, he's just freaking out.' Then I went into shock and I was just sitting there and we had to walk about two or three miles back to the car behind this big military base. We didn't go to the hospital till the next morning cause we drank all this cheap beer that night and we didn't realize how bad it really was. It didn't really worry me until about four in the morning; I'm going "Man, I'm fucked up." We went to the doctor and they tried to fix it up. I couldn't work 'cause I was working bussing tables at a restaurant on the west side of Hawaii. So Ray calls me up and goes, "Come back over to Maui." I had to watch Honolua for three weeks in a row, perfect ten foot plus and I'm sitting in the bay in the shade of the palm trees watching it. I'm thinking 'the doctor said I should be out of the water for a year.' I'm watching this and it's going off. It's like so perfect; I'm going 'Oh fuck this, I can surf. I'll just paddle out from here.' I took off on this…it would have been solid ten foot, it was just beautiful. I'm taking off backdoor of the peak and I've like committed to this turn and here's my friend Steve Dabny taking off on the other side of the peak, fading me and…he didn't see me or he wouldn't have done it. He's like fading the pit. I know what he's going to do 'cause he's been surfing there longer than me, I know the line he's going to pick and if I would have followed through with what I was going to do I would have run him down and we would have got fucking drilled. Like severely. You can't straighten out at Honolua when its ten foot. It throws out that far that you just can't get out in front of it. I've gone, 'Oh well, here we go, never done this before,' cause I know the rules. I've straightened off and I'm pointing down, I'm moving pretty fast and this thing pitches and I could feel it getting dark, and I could see this waterfall in front of me and I'm like 'fucking hell!' I'm still on the board and I figure 'what the fuck, I'm just going to ride into it, its going to kill me anyway.' I rode into this thing and I thought it was just going to hit it and just get exploded. I went straight down, still on the board standing, and I'm going, 'Oh, this isn't good,' and everything just went whoosh, it closed in on me and went really dark. Now I'm moving along underwater and I'm going 'Wholly shit, this is really different.' I'm moving, but

> I'm like 'don't panic, you'll come up, don't panic.' Then I panicked, I don't know up from down and I'm tumbling around and I'm freaking.

Then I went 'Leg rope!' I grabbed the leg rope, I reeled in my board, I'm holding onto the tail of my board and I finally come up in the middle of the fucking bay - like a half a mile from where I went down! I'm spitting up water and I'm absolutely just beyond it. Just lying on the board trying to get some composure.

Was that you're worst wipeout ever?

For me… yeah. It was… it was so heavy. And then Ray Pino paddles up and he's like "Are you ok?" and I'm going "I think so." He goes, "How about your shoulder?" and I'm going "Oh yeah, I didn't even think about that. Yep, shoulders ok." I paddled back out and I looked at Steve and he's going "Hey, are you all right?" and I'm going "Yeah, I'm OK. Have you got that fifty bucks you owe me?" he goes "Yeah, I got it in the car," I go "Good, I won't have to kick your ass when we get to the beach then!' And it was just nuts and we surfed… Just kept surfing…

Today Steve lives with his family on the coast, in a quiet corner of country Victoria. He moved down to Australia after meeting his wife in Hawaii in the late 70's and has since started a successful business as a surfer/shaper. Steve makes all different types of boards, but is known and respected Australia and world wide for his longboards, both traditional and modern shapes. There are not many shapers in Australia today that have a surfing resume as rich as Steve Friedman. He is a step back in time to the classic California longboard scene of the 60's, and he can tear it up on a thruster with the best of them today.

words quintin

Land of the Rising Fun!

The phenomenon of snow tourism in Japan is nothing new, the first snowboard movie I ever owned (Creatures of Habit 2, by the way) knew all about it. That was over 10 years ago. So what is it that has people, Australians in particular, going back literally in planeloads? Don't hurt your brain thinking too hard, its simple and I'm going to tell you right now...

Cheap: food, lift tickets, plane tickets, beer. All reasonable, when compared to an Australian resort... Seriously.

Culture: as much as I love going to the gun-toting, gas-guzzling loud and proud U.S.A. it's actually fun to go somewhere they don't speak your language. Everyone is helpful beyond belief. Even other Aussies there seem to be relaxed. The place gives off some sort of good-time aura like a pheromone that you don't have to smell someone's B.O to get.

Convenience: 8 hour plane ride straight to Sapporo, same time zone. Smooth as butter.

Snow: It doesn't stop! I've never seen anything like it. You know how you have those days..? Yeah, those days. Well, that is everyday, it's incredible! That's all I can say about the snow.

The list goes on and on, I'm getting restless writing about it because its stirring up too much good stuff...I'm getting horny. Something like 20,000 Australians (research is not my strong point, but I'm reasonably smart, so I think I'm pretty accurate) went to Japan this year, Resorts like Niseko Hirafu have been building infrastructure like crazy, 8000 beds (real number, spoke to a guy who is building the place) were just built in the Hanazono area alone. Don't fret about overcrowding though, other than the gondola I never really waited in a line. Also, with over 100 snow resorts over the two main Islands, I'm sure you'll be fine. Go explore!

Anyway, here is my checklist of things to do. Unfortunately this only works for the Niseko area as that is where I was (any editors of other travel magazines with money, hit me up). Go to Kutchan and go to Loaf Lounge, you can even have a VB there if you like. Go hike a little, although don't go where the mountain doesn't want you to, you'll know. Go night boarding, ever done a pow slash at night? Something you should probably do or I might hit you in the gut. Slang at Seicomart and read magazines you can't understand. Go to Gyu bar, the coke door bar from Saturation. Have an Onsen, nothing like steaming your balls or front-bum in boiling hot natural spring water. Have an open mind! And if your time and money permits; go to Tokyo, but that is a whole other chapter, and I don't have the stamina to do that right now. Get there!

wordschunk **photo**lee ponzio

Where you at?!

(peanut butter jelly time!)

I just want to say, this took a lot more work than any of us here at POP ever thought it would! We counted every photo in every issue of Australian & New Zealand Snowboarding, Australian Snowboarder and of course POP Magazine so far this season.

We tallied every riders editorial and advertising coverage and then assigned points based on how big the photo was. Thumbnails counted for very little whereas covershots were at the top of the scale. Get the idea? If not, you'll just have to trust us... It's accurate!

Now, to bring the results to a meaningful level we removed the international riders and photographers. 40% of photos are taken by international photographers and just over 40% riders are also from overseas. We removed these because we are purely interested in the Australian contribution.

So, who got the most editorial coverage? I don't think it comes as much of a surprise to anyone that Robbie Walker will be taking that title. He scored major features in both Snowboarder and Snowboarding. To top this off Robbie also walks away as Australia's best value snowboarder appearing in only one double page ad. Why does this make him good value? Because he's receiving the most coverage for the lowest dollar outlay for advertising (not including incentives and salary.)

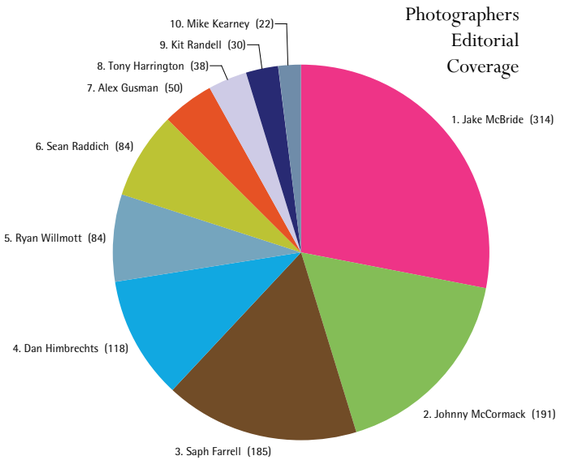
The riders to sign. If you're a company with cash you'll definitely be wanting Ryan Tiene, Mitch Allen, Russell Holt and Chris Boadle, all receiving great editorial coverage without posing for a single ad. These guys could be a low cost sign-up that will earn you some great exposure.

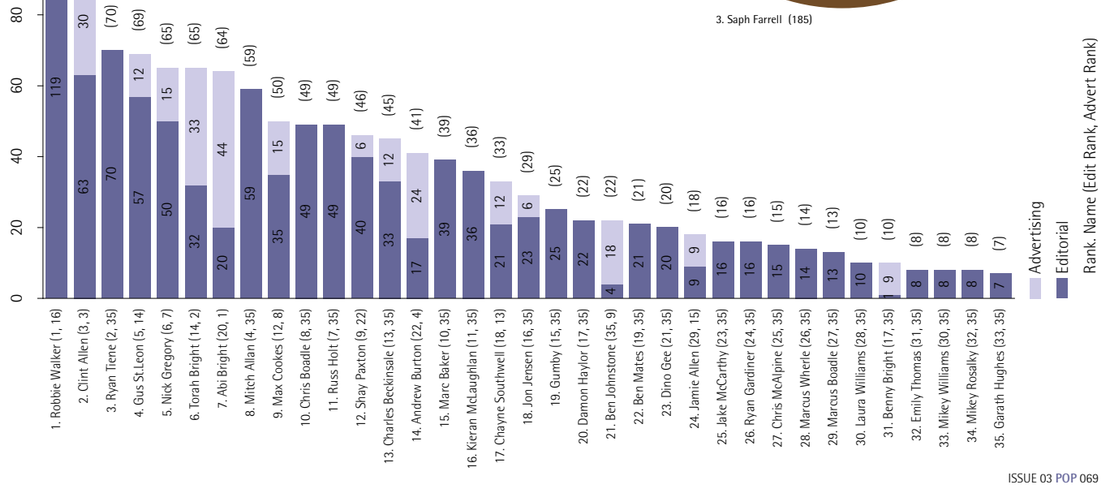
As for those in a win-win right now, Charles Bekinsale and Max Cookes are middle of the field producing a good return on their sponsor's investment.

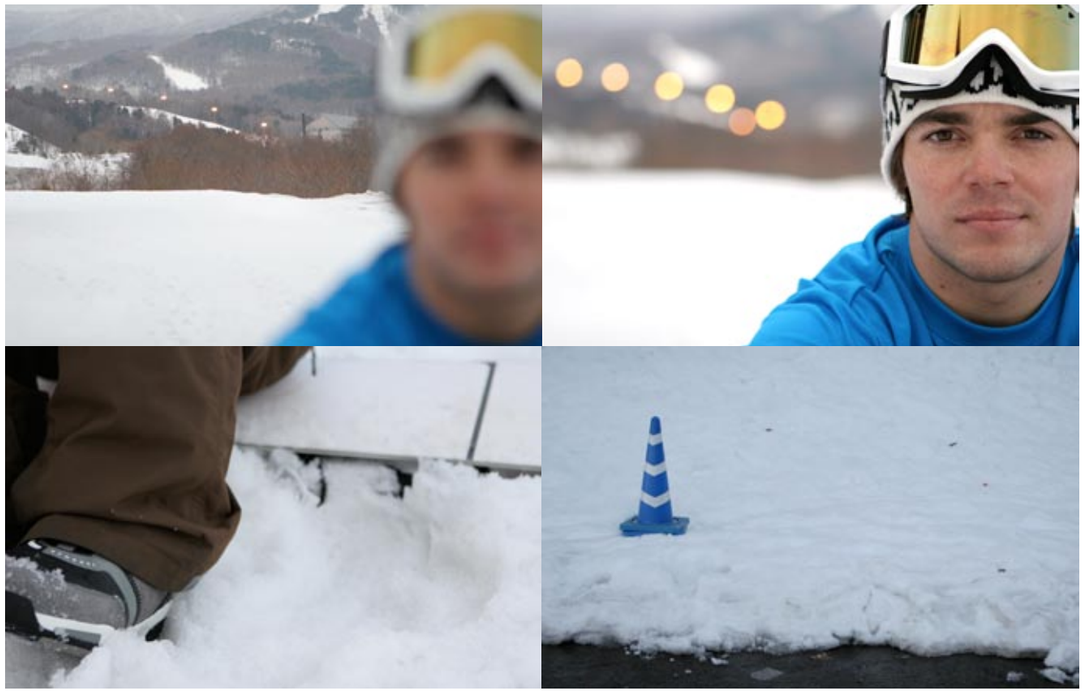
It's interesting to note that almost half the advertising points went to the Bright sisters. Of Abi's 64 points of coverage, action shots accounted for only 12 points, the rest being made up from portraits. Advertisers are not showcasing the exceptional talent of female snowboarders in their ads. It would be nice to see the ladies getting some respect for the effort they're putting in.

Photographer's kudos goes to Jake McBride with an incredible number of editorial points. He was followed by Johnny McCormack, Saph Farrell and Dan Himbrechts. These are the people who capture the feeling of snowboarding and we believe it's very important to recognise their effort and skill. Congratulations guys on getting your work out there. Its worth noting that Jake McBride has recently moved to New York City and will not be shooting the Australian season next year. So riders and companies alike will do well to make friends with the remaining top four for the coming season.

Finally, congratulations to everyone who has appeared in the snow press so far this year. We're going to post this research on our website and we'll update it throughout the season.







DAVID **BENEDEK**

If you're a snowboarder I'm sure you already know who David Benedek is. Even if you're not, I'm sure you'll enjoy this interview. David is one of the most progressive and talented people in snowboarding today. Still in his early twenties, it's astonishing to see the body of work he has already accomplished. Working with fellow snowboarder Christoph Weber out of his Blank Paper Studio's office in Munich, Germany, David produced '91 Words for Snow', a film which many believe is a true documentation of how snowboarding is today. Not only does it show how much work David and his friends go through each season but it also shows the fun they have along the way. But perhaps most important of all, it makes you want to get outside and go snowboarding...

I felt 91 Words For Snow did a great job of showing viewers the different aspects of snowboarding, much like the Robot Food films you were involved with. Do you think these films have had an influence in swaying today's films away from standard part-to-part snowboarding into more of a documentary style?
I think RF didnt necessarily start a trend away from Part to Part-Films. It was more of a consequence of our interest in showing more of the background or the fun and emotions that were behind what we did. I think most regular shred flicks were lacking enthusiasm or the ability to transport the fun you are supposed to have on the hill.
Do you find it humbling that that trend, arguably, could be attributed to some of your films?
I definitely think people are realising that they cant work the same concept every single year. In order to make it interesting you need to be unpredictable I think. So when RF did a more documentary style film with Afterlame it wasn't really our opinion that this is where the future lied, it was rather an attempt to simply do something new.

Something else I quite enjoyed about 91 Words For Snow was the soundtrack. I've always enjoyed the films you've been involved with because the music selection has always been so good, how do you manage that? And again, it could be argued that your work has helped change the sound of snowboard films too, from straight punk and hip hop songs to music that is more alternative and fitting.
It was a true group effort at RF and if you have about 10 people with very distinct music taste you always end up with something a little more special. I wouldnt say we changed the sound of snowboard films, maybe we were just a little quicker to change it than everyone else. Music was and is very important to any of our projects and i think we might just spend a lot more effort on it, too.
Could you tell us a little about Toymaker? Will they ever release a 91 Words album?
[Laughs] That´s pretty funny. Toymaker are two frenchies that worked with us on creating some original music and they are really good guys.

wordsmarc **photos**oli gagnon

Backside 540 Mute

Frontside 540 Stale

I think they just finished recording their album with most of the songs from 91 Words and it will be released on a Japanese label this fall. We´ll have updates on our Website.

With all this creativity going into your projects, do you find it hard to find a balance between that creativity and what you feel is expected from mainstream snowboarding?

No, not really. The only problem you face after a good project is that people expect something at least as good. That can be pretty stressful at times. But i dont worry too much about what the mainstream might think. Of course we have to make sponsors happy, too, but they understand what we do i think.

I noticed that you have a photo gallery on the 91 Words For Snow DVD (and that Christoph Weber took all the time lapse photography). Is that something that is important to your snowboarding; photography?

I am not sure how much it has to do with our snowboarding but yes, most of us are really into photography. I used to take way more photos (I am again, now) but riding/filming/directing kind of stole all my time for the last 2 years.

A little off subject, but have you been enjoying the world cup? Was it Podolski I saw own the Swedish team in the first 10 minutes?!

Yes, on both accounts. I am not such a crazy Football fan usually but since the World Cup is happening right here you really can't avoid it. It´s so nuts. I had no idea what it meant to have a World Cup in your country. It´s been like one big party for the last 3 weeks. And Germany´s doing really good so the party continues. And yes, Podolski sent the Swedes home, haha. Swedish Filmer Pierre Wikberg, who I used to work with on RF was giving me so much shit before hand... Well, now he´s quiet.

Another slightly off subject question, but in just about every portrait shot I see of you, you have some very good architecture publications scattered about. Is architecture a passion of yours?

Yeah, architecture is something I am really into. I dont think I ever want to become one but I follow it with great interest, I think it´s the toughest design discipline out there, combining form and funtion to the fullest.

It must be fun working with your brother, Boris? He helped on 91 Words For Snow right?

Yes, it´s cool working with my brother. He filmed and also helped on the editing of 91 Words and now he´s working with me and Christoph Weber on 2 new projects right now. Since we are brothers we don't always get along but all in all it´s very fun.

So what's next for Blank Paper Studios?

We put on our own event this season, The GAP SESSION, which we are just finishing a short documentary about. Also we are also working on a bigger project for the coming season, which will be really fun. We already filmed for 5 weeks in Alaska and we have all next season to get the rest done. It will be available a year and a half from now.

Ok so a couple of questions to end on. What are some of your favorite records right now? And when can we pencil you in for coming down to Australia?

Favorite records... Hmm... I am listening to a lot of different stuff right now. Almost overkilled listening to the Shins, they are so incredible I think. Also some new stuff like TV On The Radio and Clap Your Hands Say Yeah. There´s also a really good German Band called "Wir sind Helden", but I am not sure how good they are if you don't get the lyrics.

As far as coming down to Australia, I don't have any plans yet. Usually there's only one big photo trip I go on in July or August and it kind of depends on my sponsor where I end up since it's always their catalogue shoot. And once I am done with my snowboard travels I just want to be at home and not be on the road so it might be a little while before I come down. Then again, maybe Salomon calls this week and next month I am down there.

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Old Man Winter…

For some, winter is a time to pack your bags and migrate north.
For others, it means big swells, snow in the mountains and quiet skateparks.
We'll be back in September when Australia begins to thaw.
Until then have fun and get after it.

Photo: TM PHOTO .com.au