



Pop magazine
Issue Nine



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lucky tyke



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Pop magazine
Issue Nine

NEWS
16

PRODUCTS
18

REVIEWS
20

OPINION
26

EDITORIAL
28

COLD CHILLIN: WINTER OUTERWEAR PREVIEW
48

CENTERFOLD
60

MARC 'SNAPPA' HOLLAND
66

BENJI WEATHERLEY
76

NATE JOHNSTONE
82

TWO WEEKS IN PHOTO DIARY
88

JON KOOLEY
92

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A POP MAGAZINE PICTURE

TWO WEEKS IN...

FEATURING:

TOM PELLEY
GUS ST LEON
CHARLES BECKINSALE
MARC BAKER
JAKE MCCARTHY
NATE JOHNSTONE



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FEATURING GUS ST LEON NATE JOHNSTONE TOM PELLEY MARC BAKER JAKE MCCARTHY AND CHARLES BECKINSALE "TWO WEEKS IN..."
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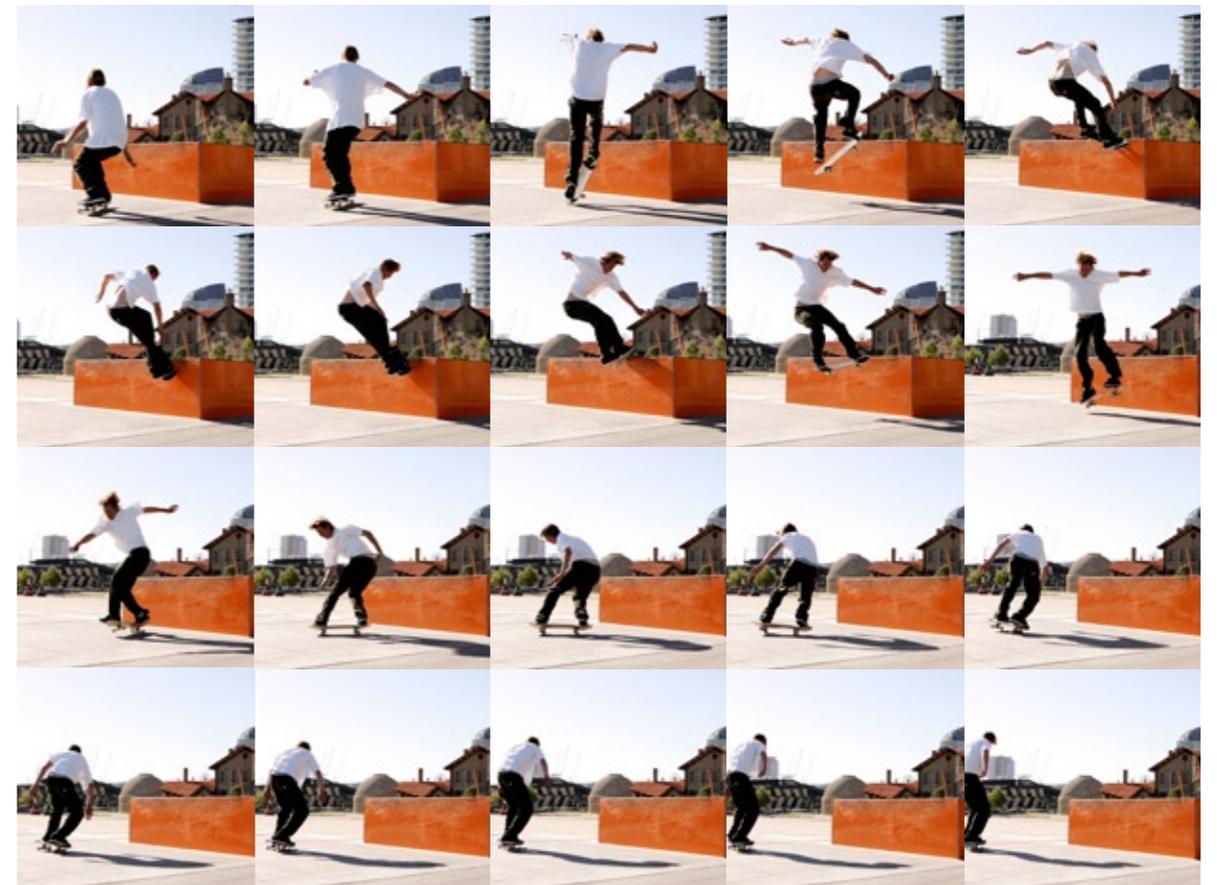
GUSTAV EDEN

—Frontside 270 Fakie Smith Revert. Perth, WA.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Steve Gourlay

"I hope this will help describe the cover shot, its pretty amazing. I've never seen anyone else do it before on a ledge anywhere near that high."

—Steve Gourlay on the cover.



Pop magazine



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twilliam jacket, stripe merino



hooded flannel shirt, fisho beanie

dan gemmell

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NEWS

—Yesterdays News Today

WRITER
Dave Keating

First up in late breaking news, Tony Hawk may be joining Jamie Thomas, Cairo Foster, Steve Berra, Kris Markovich, and Alex Chalmers by becoming an ex-member of the Adio team. **Hawk finished his contract with Adio shoes** in February and as hard as I have hassled his publicist, there is no word yet on where he is going or what he is doing with regards to footwear.

The Stash is no longer just a place for hoppers to keep a G Pack - thank you 'The Wire.' Burton have worked with the Remarkables in New Zealand to get their third Stash built there. It is basically a different type of terrain park with purpose built huts, drops and wall rides hidden along the way. It will open this season and if the other two are anything to go by, its going to be amazing!



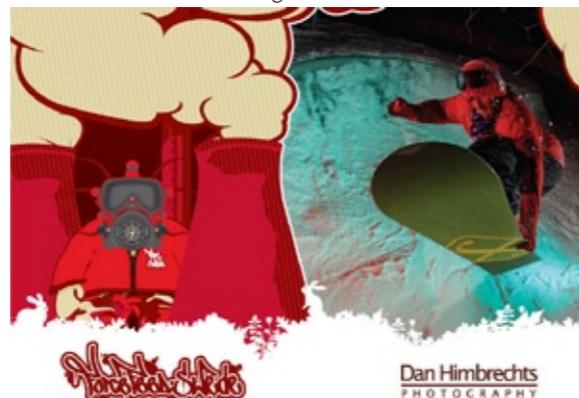
Have you checked out the Burton ad on the inside of the cover? This is a remake of an older Burton ad (pictured above) called Lucky Strike which was originally run in the 90's. The new one is called "Lucky Tyke" and features Nils Mindnich.

If you spot 'Two Weeks In...' star **Gus St. Leon** around the place, give him a high five. The man has just got himself an **international ad for Nitro** - we're the first people in the world to run the ad so flick back a few pages and check it out.

Artist Mat Laroche's headwear label, **IFOUND**, is coming to Australia. Ettienee Gilbert and Rube Goldberg are riding for the Canadian based company. It's going to be fairly sought after this year as the supply will be limited but check with your local shop about getting your hands on some.

3CS are in for a big year. Aside from the launch of

their girls outerwear, they have also launched the brand in Europe and North America along with New Zealand. The gear is looking pretty amazing and is definitely a different vibe and style to what you will see from a lot of the other ranges coming out. Head into the winter outerwear preview further in this issue to check out their gear.

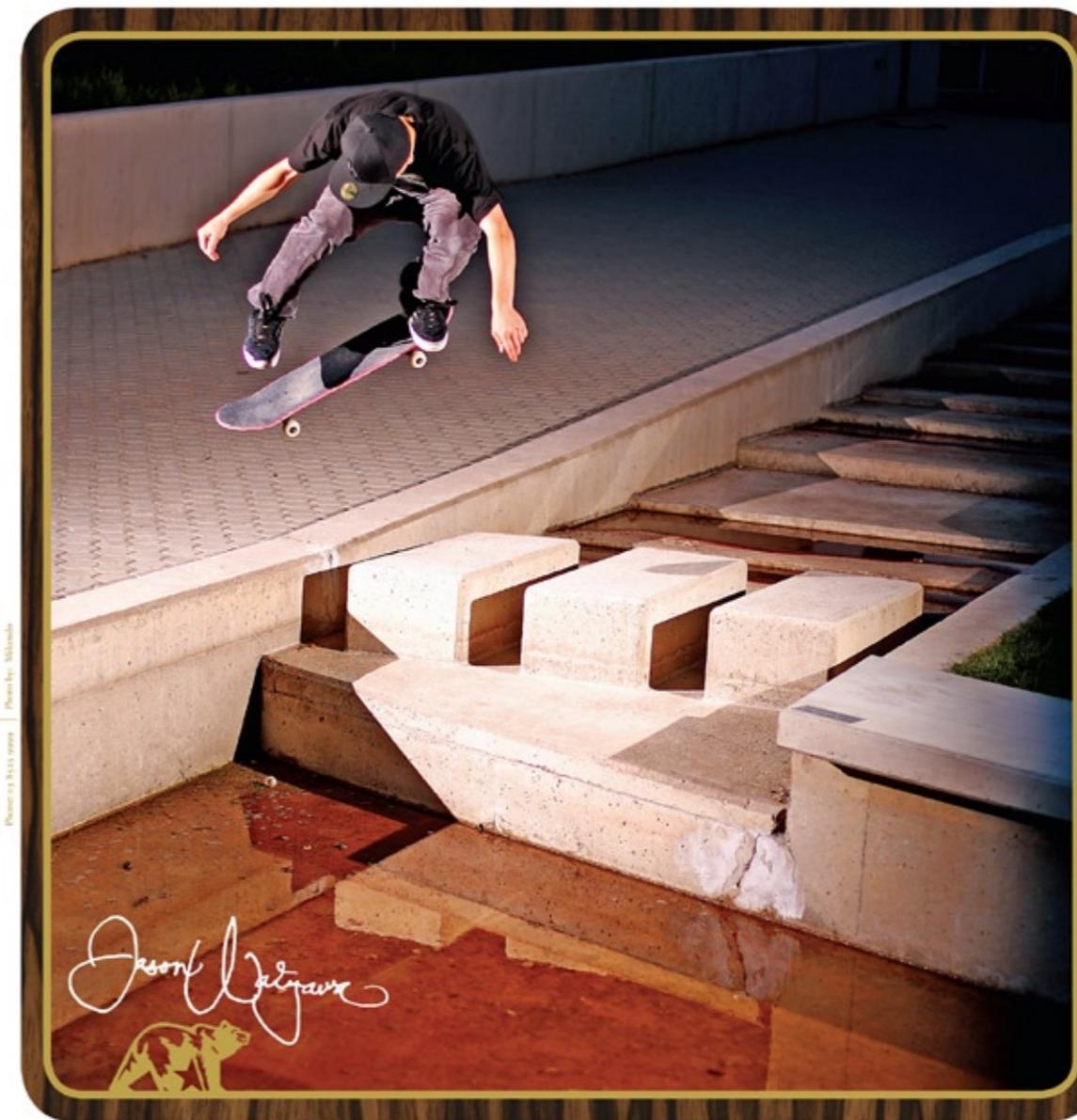


POP's favorite photographer, **Dan Himbrechts**, is holding a mixed media exhibition with graphic illustrator and digital artist, **ForceFeed.Swede**. It's happening over at the MTV Gallery in East Sydney and will be opening on May 8th. Dan has been shooting a collection of Australian snowboarder portraits for the past few years with the goal of revealing the people that largely remain faceless behind goggles and beanies all season. You know this is going to be good.

Now, wait while I take a big breath cause I'm about to blow our own trumpet. **Filming for 'Two Weeks In...' has ceased.** I say 'ceased' because Rick, being the new Howard Hughes, wanted to re-shoot the whole thing, shot for shot, using trained monkeys as stand ins for the riders - this was to represent his views on evolution and the closeness in biology between humans and primates. Drew and I asked Woody to administer enough sedatives for us to get him on a plane and get him home to restore his sanity... it's not an easy job filming, everyone involved has been working around the clock to get to this point. Drew, Rick, Woody and myself need to give **a huge thanks to the guys that have supported us** on this - although I would like to list individuals, they requested that I disguise their names with brands, so here we go - Oakley, Rip Curl, Burton, Nitro, 3CS, Ride and a smaller but equally appreciative thanks to Neff, Holden, Panasonic, DC and Grenade. We couldn't do this without these guys - they're doing a lot for Australian snowboarders. The film features Gus St. Leon, Charles Beckinsale, Nate Johnstone, Tom Pelley, Jake McCarthy and Marc Baker. Just FYI - Rick has returned to sanity... the warm glow of the LCD monitor and the quiet clicking of the mouse has returned him to the man we know and love... pity really, I think snowboard films are missing that scientific/artistic opinion thing. Maybe in the next one we can reference the Flying Spaghetti Monster? Look it up.

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1. Air Leash by Airblaster

The Air Leash is a playful little number that suggests you're up for fun, appreciate a good joke and most likely know how to do indy-carves and cross-rockets.

2. All-Weather Field Book by Rite in the Rain

3. Arcade Fire "Neon Bible" Deluxe Gatefold LP

This is a great album. But I can't load vinyl onto my iPod I hear you say... Well Arcade Fire have got you covered with a free download of the album. So what's your excuse now? Oh you don't have a record player... Yeah well that's a problem.

4. Record Carrier Case by Crosley Radio

5. The Assassination of Jessie James DVD

6. Mass Effect for Xbox 360

This game is not your everyday car racing game. If you liked movies like Aliens, Starship Troopers, Blade Runner or Star Wars then this is for you (and evidently, me).

7. Charlie Wilkins 5boro Deck

8. M2 Centurion by SureFire

9. Terje NINE Headphones by Skullcandy

These headphones are designed to integrate with the Skullcandy fleece lined beanie. It's a good concept I guess, but maybe leopard-skin is cool in Norway (where Terje is from) but down here, it's more associated with 40 year old woman at singles bars and, well, leopards... Still, sounds like a standard Friday night for me...

10. The Navy Gingham Fitted Cap by Elm

As far as baller caps go, Elm do some good things. This one has a navy and white check pattern and a navy satin liner. Now you just need to learn how to play ball... or rap.

11. Ride Belt by Ride Snowboards

This is really a pretty ingenious belt from Ride. At first galce you think, 'Oh yeah Ride snowboards. No big deal'. But what if you didn't know that Ride was a snowboard company? Think about it. A big Ride logo inches from his crouch? See, ingenious!

12. Etnies Ollie King Verte Shoe.

Etnies have teamed up with NYC tee label, Verte to offer this collaboration shoe. Called the Ollie King, co-founder of Verte, Andre Razo, jokingly claims the shoe will "increase your ollie height by at least 17 percent."

13. Etnies Seed Project Organic Tee.

14. Peter Griffn Talking Doll

This 18 inch figurine either reads my thoughts or plays audio clips of Peter Griffin from the cartoon Family Guy. I'm not sure which yet, because I'm always wishing for fart contests and trying to solicit sex from sailors. Ether way, this is funny.

PRODUCTS

—You Really Need This Stuff

PHOTOGRAPHER
Steve Gourlay



IPOD TOUCH

—Not A iPod, Not A iPhone

WRITER
Drew

PHOTOGRAPHER
Steve Gourlay

Writing a review for Apple's iPod Touch is a little difficult. At its heart it's an iPod, but it's also kind of an iPhone. In fact it can do everything an iPhone can do except make phone calls. To be fair to Apple, I don't think they ever really intended for it to be an iPhone, but thanks to a shared operating system and some creative hackers, that's exactly what it's become.

The iPod Touch is really an MP3 player with parts of the iPhone's operating system. Yes, the Touch's features are pretty cool, but in the end they are just novelties and don't really make it easier to use. I can see no reason to buy this over an iPod Classic. The Classic has much more storage space and has the same music playing features (actually the Classic's audio chipset is better than the Touch's). Given its large wide-screen display you'd be forgiven for thinking the Touch was a dedicated video player. Yes, it does play video quite well, but the largest capacity it comes in is 32gb at a jaw dropping price of \$629. You could get a 80gb iPod Classic for half that price!

The Touch has a lot of potential as a sort-of iPhone, but is limited to WiFi hotspots, which thanks to bandwidth caps (which is in turn, thanks to Telstra) we don't really have them in Australia. I hear some of you saying, "They are everywhere". Yes they are, if you pay for them, which kind of seems redundant seeing as you're paying for your internet at home (and mobile phone bill) already. So, email from your computer at home and email with your phone when you're mobile.

The Touch becomes useful if you travel overseas a lot, because WiFi hotspots are much more frequent (and free), and the ability to email without lugging your laptop around is pretty handy. But then, the Touch's email client can't hold a candle to a modern enterprise orientated phone like the Blackberry. The touch sensitive typing isn't as good as a tactile keyboard, and it doesn't have the ability to make calls. So you see, the Touch is stuck in this middle ground of capability. It seems to me it was made to fill a price point between the iPod and the iPhone and appeals mostly to gadget geeks.

Chances are you're going to carry a mobile phone whenever you're carrying the Touch, so you'll find you end up using the phone for everything except playing music, so why didn't you just buy the iPod Classic? Of course, you could scrap both the phone and the iPod and get an iPhone, but again, that's not possible in Australia right now.

It is possible to hack the Touch and install 3rd party applications on it. I did this, and it's pretty easy to do but you don't gain a whole lot. The Nintendo game emulator is pretty sweet, but the touch sensitive screen isn't that good at recog-

nizing multiple inputs so it's more of a novelty. The most useful applications (Google Maps, Mail and Weather) you could use from hacking the Touch have now been legitimized by Apple (for \$20), so the advantages of hacking it aren't what they used to be.

In the end, if you have a good phone that lets you email then just get an iPod Classic. If you have a basic phone, and don't really encounter many WiFi hotspots, then get a normal iPod and upgrade your phone (or wait for the iPhone). If you're in the minority and you have lots of WiFi hotspots around and you don't want to use your phone for emailing then maybe the Touch is for you. Me, I'm a gadget geek and don't mind forking out the extra cash for this sleeker, smaller capacity iPod.



KYBOSH COLLECTION - SPRING 08

NEXT GEN CONSOLES

—*Nintendo Wii & Xbox 360*

WRITER *Drew* PHOTOGRAPHER *Steve Gourlay*

Next Gen? Well, firstly what is Next Gen? Because, for something to be next generation it has to be different above and beyond what came before it. I think it's safe to say that none of these consoles are really Next Gen. They pretty much do the same thing as before but with better graphics. To me, these consoles are all Next-Half-Gen. But which is for you? Prices have come down, games have come out and now is the time to buy if you haven't already.

Xbox 360

The Xbox 360 is pretty much the same as your old Xbox but with better graphics. How much better? Well, if you have a HDTV, then it's going to blow your mind. The difference is very

noticeable; you're going to find yourself sitting closer to the screen just so you can see everything that is going on. Other than that, you can also sync it to your Windows Media Player on your PC (which lets you play your downloaded movies on your TV), but it's a little tricky to setup and you have to use Windows Media Player (which sucks). For me, I'm a big fan of games like Mass Effect, Halo, Bio Shock and all the sports games so the 360 is my console of choice.

The Nintendo Wii

These consoles are aimed at 'gamers' like my office associate Dave. He believes games peaked at Donkey Kong Country and is happier guiding Mario around a track than having to play something which is too indepth. The motion sensitive graphics are entertaining but aren't as practical for all night gaming sessions. Based on our test with Wii sports, this is definitely one for the lighter gamer.

Playstation 3

I don't know. They never sent me one to review and I wasn't going to go out and buy one because it is really expensive (the most expensive of the consoles) and all the games I want are on the PC or 360. As a game console it's online capabilities aren't up to Xbox Live (as I understand it) and several major game developers have come out and said it's too hard to make games for, so that's not a good sign for the future.



sean genovese (canada) | the suspect beanie with hidden facemask
jojo | the federal fedora

int'l | freddy austbo hana beaman jacqui berg eero ettala eric jackson
john jackson nima jalali jordan mendenhall silvia mittermuller

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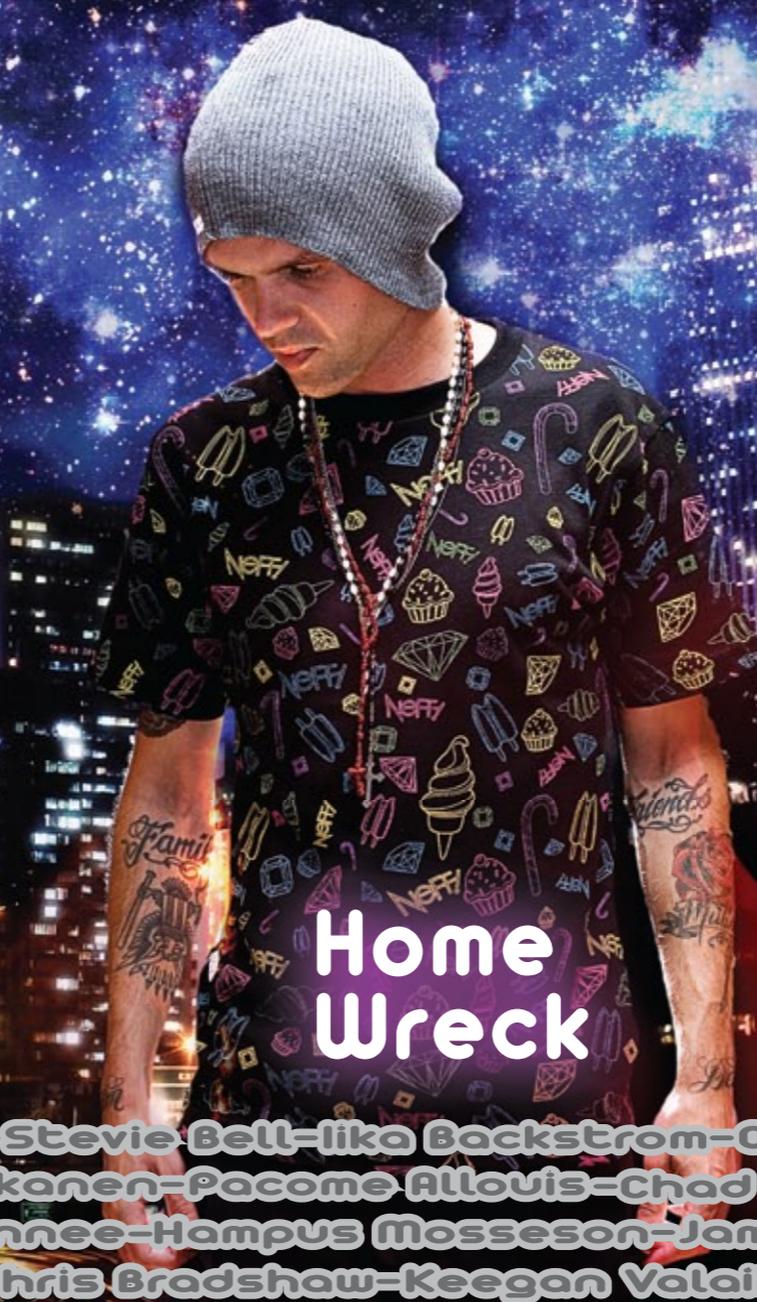
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Home Wreck



Bozung

Lauri Heiskari-Andreas Wiig-Joni Malmi-Travis Rice-Stevie Bell-Iika Backstrom-Chris Brown-Travis Kennedy
Lucas Magoon-Scotty Lago-Cory Cronk-Paavo Tikkanen-Pacome Allouis-Chad Otterstrom-Mike Casanova
Zak Hale-Derek Dennison-Aaron Biittner-Justin Bennee-Hampus Mosseson-Jamie Anderson-Mark Messier
Zack Marben-Melissa Evans-Jonas Michilot-Chris Bradshaw-Keegan Valaika-Derek Dennison
Tyler Flannagan-Miami Thunder Aussie Team...Robbie Walker-Max Cookes-Mikey Williams-Gus StLeon-Nick Gregory-Chris Eacott



I must be getting old. Sad, I know, but as the weeks, months and years go by it becomes painfully obvious that they can easily be divided into specific segments. I'm not talking about the seasons, rather blocks of time that are occupied primarily by one activity. This year I missed the part that involves going away over summer to do something fun. Unfortunately this has had a domino effect on the other segments of the year, making them both lengthier in duration and at an increased level of importance. Right now it's teaser time.

Why this is important to me makes no sense whatsoever. Snowboard movie teasers are supposed to entice you to buy the film by getting you all riled up with a little taste of the action. For most normal people, this works, you watch the teaser and make an informed decision about which one you will spend your hard earned cash on. I, however, am an idiot and buy them all. No deliberation, I just buy them all like a rabid housewife at the boxing day sales. Recently I moved and had a guess that I would need seven boxes to get everything out of my room. Three boxes full of DVDs and VHS (remember them?) later I decided I would no doubt need more.

What does all this have to do with you? Basically I have seen a buttoad and had a lot of experience with teasers and snowboard films, so I'm here to save you precious time that could be put towards watching said films.

To be honest, most of them are very similar, in fact

practically the same. If you're only going to buy one or two, avoid the films with heavy themed trailers. Gangsta, Rocka, whatever the hell... If it needs a theme, chances are that it's no good (Technine videos excluded). Acting is also a no-go, just because they have a film festival in Park City doesn't mean snowboarders should act. If the entire trailer is in slo-mo, the whole movie might be and that equals a little bit boring.

My list of can't go wrongs is pretty simple, these guys have been consistently making good films:

- Absinthe
- Mack Dawg (or better yet, We're People Too)
- Blank Paper Studios
- Technine/F.O.D.T (if you like handrails).

And my tips to look out for this upcoming 'season'.

- As above and:
- Transworld – These Days
- Actionhorse (www.actionhorsefilms.com)
- www.isenseven.de

There is always a lot to get through at this time of year, and we here at Pop will do our best to keep you informed about news and teasers worth watching. If you still can't make up your mind, come and ask me, the idiot who bought them all.



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WAIST DEEP

—Please Don't Sue Us

WRITER

Business Reporter J. Jonah Jameson

You may have heard some huff and puff about the 'Global Credit Crunch', our share market going south or the US Economy falling into recession. But what does this have to do with you and why do you care? Well, if you don't want to walk the slopes at Hotham and Falls Creek this year then you should read on because the chairs may very well not be running.

Mount Hotham and Falls creek, (aka Australian Alpine Enterprises) as you may know, was bought a few years back by a company called MFS Living and Leisure for the cool sum of \$110 million. MFS Living and Leisure is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and in addition to owning and running Hotham and Falls, also operates a horde of aquariums and 'Tree Top Walks' around the world. In January this year, MFS Living and Leisure ran into some financial trouble which has put the health and fate of our beloved Victorian Mountains in jeopardy.

In late January the parent company of MFS Living and Leisure announced to the stock market that they had excessive inter company debt. This sent the parent company and MFS Living and Leisure into a tail spin, wiping out millions of dollars in just days. There are a several reasons as to why this happened. Some may blame the tightening of credit markets and bank lending standards around the globe, higher domestic interest rates, a slowing economy or even panic stricken investors' lack of confidence in the company and stock market in general.

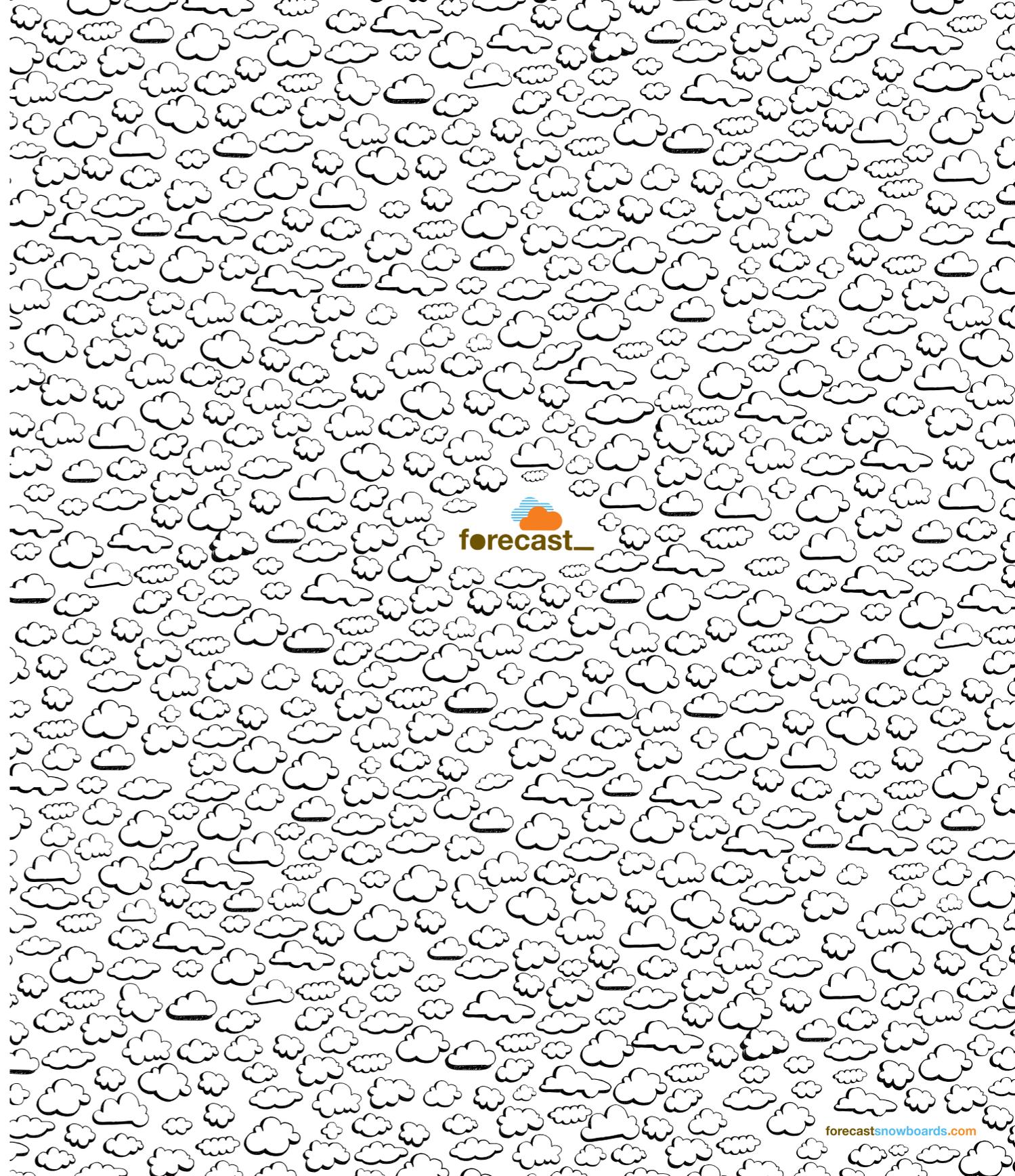
So what does this mean for our mountains? The long and short of it is that the company can not afford to buy bread let alone fund any future growth at Hotham and Falls. They have flagged a whopping \$500 million to be spent on 'upgrades' which now looks in doubt, i.e. new lifts, new roads, new buildings, a bigger Dinner Plain, etc. To survive they must either sell parts of the business or borrow more money (just don't raise ticket prices please!). Given that few banks or companies around the world are still loaning money, (why is another kettle of fish), MFS Living and Leisure's chances of borrowing money may be like trying get blood from a stone. They will then be forced to sell the aquariums, the 'Tree Top Walks' or Hotham and Falls to stay afloat. The company has recently alluded to the fact that they would prefer to keep the mountains and sell the rest and this has been reinforced by the fact that the newly appointed CEO of MFS Living and Leisure, John Schryver, has been CEO of Falls Creek resort since 2005. However, at this stage the outcome is still anyone's guess (the company to date has remained tight lipped). Everything is up for

sale and the almighty dollar will eventually win - you can forget about snowboarding coming first this time. June 30 2008 is D-day for MFS Living and Leisure. This is when they need to have found some more money - a lazy \$180 million - or need to have settled a deal to sell some shit to pay back the banks! There is still a glimmer of hope. Village Roadshow wanted to buy part of MFS Living and Leisure (we don't know what part) but couldn't strike a deal and rumor has it people are queuing up to buy the aquarium business. One may also take heart in the fact that the old boss of Falls Creek is now at the helm of MFS Living and Leisure (over the last few years I have been stoked at the progress Falls has made). If the company decides to hold on to the mountains and can strike a deal to get some cash, good things may be in store. Otherwise changes may happen if ownership switches hands again. Either way we all know how amazing these mountains are so it makes sense that someone will eventually take good care of them.

It is quite comical to read about what the company has done in detail or who is running and investing in MFS Living and Leisure. Their old CEO is gone, they changed their name (yeah like that will help) and continue to make unbelievable claims about their future while what they really should be saying is "we are up shit creek without a paddle." I read comments from stock brokers like, "23% of runs (At Falls Creek) cater for advanced skiers", "given a fixed cost base, we expect FY 08 to enjoy strong rebound in skier days" or even "We forecast a compound annual growth rate of 3.7% for skier days in FY 08-15" and just laugh... There are pen pushers who have never seen snow before trying to value what these mountains are worth, how to run them and how much can be squeezed from our pockets. Is it right to Excel spreadsheet our Mountains' future? It is a real shame that the growth of our sport is likely to be constrained by the mistakes and culture of the corporate world.

So if you have a few hundred million lying around, hold onto it as you may be able to finally own your own mountain at bargain basement prices. After all, the CEO said he will have 'Discussion with anyone' (sound desperate?!). Either way, it is likely that in less than two months we will know what the future holds for Hotham and Falls. Let's hope that whoever ends up owning them will prioritise and invest in all the good things like snowmaking, accommodation and park facilities rather than 'Joe, the aquarium's favorite Mexican walking fish' and fixing the board walk planks from wood rot in Thailand!

Final Note: We will put here that we received a response from Alistair Young, LLC's media representative, stating that "Living and Leisure Australia (previously MFS Living and Leisure) has repeatedly confirmed the ski operations at its Hotham and Falls Creek resorts are performing well and will continue operating as business as usual in 2008." Lets hope so.



forecast_

MY LIFE IN THE FIREWORKS TRADE

—A Gunpowder Addiction

WRITER *Irwin Fletcher* PHOTOGRAPHER *Dan Himbrechts*



What is it with fireworks? Why are they so attractive to people? Is it because they are illegal? I don't think so, because in countries where they are legal, people still go nuts with them. This is the story of my life in the illegal fireworks trade.

I'll never forget it. The first time I was introduced to fireworks. I would have been about 15 when a friend came back from Bali with a bunch of crackers and some bottle rockets. These were pre 9/11 times so things were a little looser in the airports and the man with the rubber glove was a much gentler "package inspector". Still, you couldn't really buy them anywhere I knew of at the time, so for me it was a big deal.

I guess it's the same thing that occurs to somebody trying heroin for the first time. You think, "this is only going to be a one time thing, I can control this". Then before you know it...WHAM, hepatitis and you're married to Kate Moss and

your music career is taking off (um...that's a bad thing right?). From that point on I was all about trying to score some junk and when your 15 that's not an easy thing to do.

I got a job to pay for my habit. Working at a skate shop changes things real quick. All of a sudden stickers don't mean as much to you as they did before. You might start peddling some to your friends, maybe a little grip tape here and there. You don't mean no harm, but a kids got places to be and chocolate to eat. Then you start dealing the hard stuff, king-pins, bearings that sort of stuff. Now imagine when a man named Bucky tells you of a guy he knows that can get the good stuff. Crackers, bottle rockets, roman candles, that sort of stuff. To an addict, that sort of information can ruin lives and make for one hell of a weekend, ah-come-on-now!

It was simple. All I had to do was tell Bucky what



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I wanted and 5 days later he'd give me a dose. At this point I only had access to the basic stuff, nothing too exciting. The effect of crackers wears off once you get used to it, I guess it's never as good as the first time...

At this point, I'd moved up from being a user to a pusher. I'd buy for friends from school and friends of theirs and take a little action off the top. I didn't care if it was going to kids and I'm not ashamed to admit it, after all it was their lives to ruin and fingers to blow off. It was just after this that I out stripped Bucky's ability to supply my habit. Like an Asian man in the locker room, I always felt like I could use a little more...

Bucky put me in contact with his guy, and things went from there. I now had access to everything. The gear was amazing, real top notch hooch. 30mm mortars that looked like grenades, quarter-sticks of dynamite and multi-launch rocket boxes that would make Hezbollah jealous. I was now ordering in the hundreds of dollars per week range. I would take orders from all the guys at school, get the shipment and then cut it up and distribute it. I was loving life, but a candle that burns twice as bright, burns twice as quick and then in my case, explodes in a ball of flame.

I found myself in the middle of a paddock, in broad daylight, with a bag of tomato sauce strapped to a 302 cracker, that was strapped to a lunchbox lid, that was in turn, strapped to my chest. I had a t-shirt on over this and my friends and

I were going to see if we could make it look like I was shot. I don't remember exactly what happened, but it was a loud bang followed by about 24 hours of sleeping I think. In actual fact, it looked very much like I had been shot because a lunchbox lid with 20 grams worth of explosive strapped to it, acts remarkably like shrapnel and very little like a protective shield. Well, that's what the nice doctor in the ER told me the following day.

Anyway, this incident combined with the following made me realize that things had gone too far. One day, I got an email from my supplier asking if we could meet up in the city. I was only 17 at the time and wasn't too keen to meet the kind of guy that had been illegally selling fireworks to a minor. Not to mention, I was certain that our handshake would be quickly followed by a set of handcuffs and my rights being recited. It had all come crashing down. Like the great Kurt Cobain, I had lived the good life but in the end I'd gone crazy and shot myself...

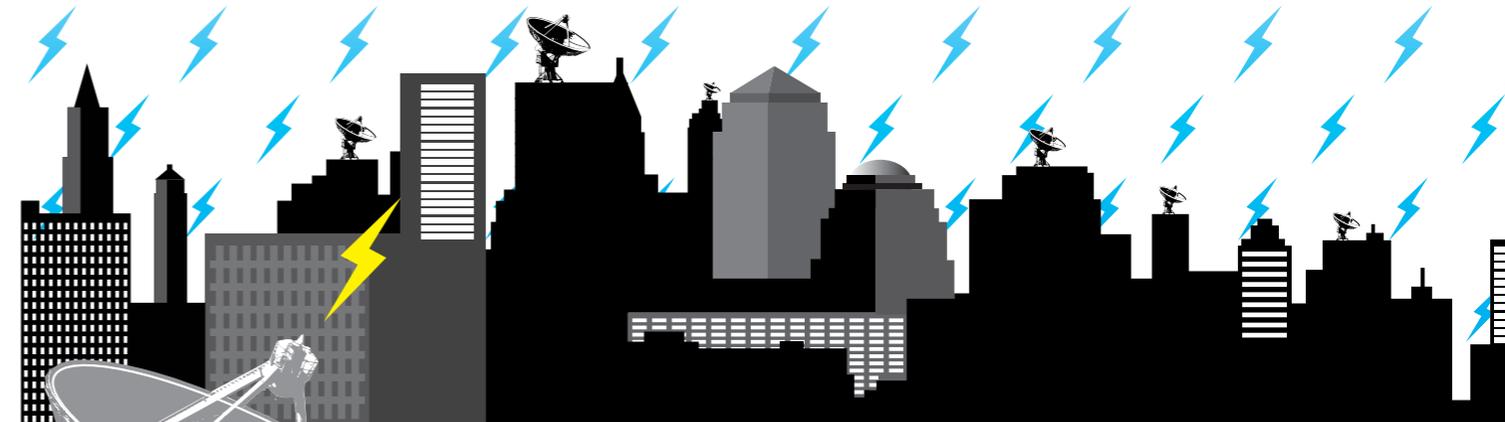
So, I went cold turkey.

It's not an easy thing to do. All your friends are still into "the party" and everyone is putting pressure on you to supply, but when the heat comes, you need to be able to just drop everything and walk away.

I was lucky. I'm 4 years, 272 days clean and everyday is tough, but I take it one step at a time.

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A RESPONSE TO 'AUSTRALIA IS FUCKEN UP'

—An Editorial Reply

WRITER
 Tim Deitz
 Supported by Cal Viney, Tim Sullivan & James Lovie.

Remember back to issue 8 when our good friend Irwin had a... ahem... mild rant about the state of the nation? Well his opinions angered several people - Tim Deitz for one. Read on for a response to that article and look to the pages of issue 10 in July for Irwin's response...

Reading your article 'Australia is fuck'n up' was like watching a blind dog run into walls. The poor bastard has no idea where he's going and the only thing that can point him in the right direction is the pain. So here is your pain. Hopefully it will prompt you to reconsider some of your views. But I doubt it. Before I continue, I will mention that I love Pop Magazine and its founders are personal friends of mine.

Irwin, you want the government to take roundabouts out of highways to make them faster. You like speed huh! How about you drive as fast as you can to the nearest school and find out how much most teachers are paid. Because believe me buddy it isn't much and personally, I think people who spend their lives educating children deserve more money than any road. They don't strike just to piss you off!

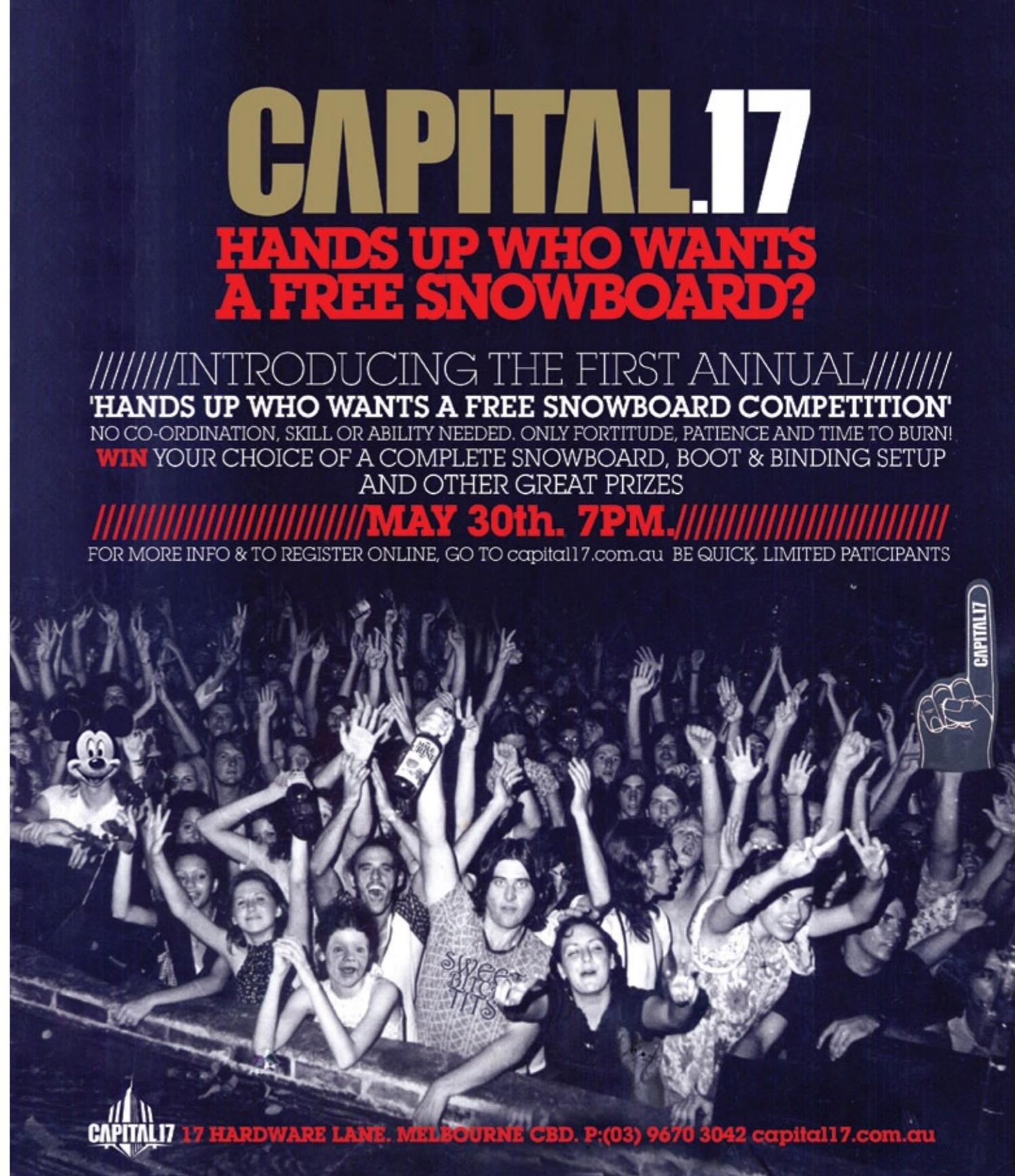
No sooner do you claim to be the Albert Einstein of merging do you get onto the topic of Australia's trains. Come on Irwin. Our trains may not be at the level of France or Germany's but they do the job. Not happy? Guess which government, Liberal or Labour, privatized Melbourne's trains in 1999? Guess which government sold them off completely to a French company in April 2004? A company that really doesn't give a shit if my train gets to Richmond by 10:50 on a Wednesday morning? Yep, you got it mate - Liberal. Maybe you should stop being so dramatic. Try catching a train in the Congo, where you have a good chance your train will crash, let alone get you somewhere on time. Oh but that's right, you chose to compare our trains to those in Canada, a rich first-world country. The rest of the world is slightly bigger than Europe and Canada. Why don't you visit it?

You claim that 'the only people who want high oil prices are terrorists'. That's like saying girls can piss standing up - it's just not true. As far as I know, the people who want high oil prices are the people that own the oil. That would

include countries like Russia, and a whole bunch of African and Middle-Eastern states. But I guess you're right, they're all terrorists aren't they Irwin? It's easier that way. And another thing, if you declare war on a country that holds the second largest oil reserves in the world (Iraq), what do you think is going to happen to the price of oil? But your guy JH, having done such a 'bang up job for ten years' has nothing do with that. It's not like he sent our army over there is it?

When you believe Australia is 'fuck'n up' because we can't download on-demand movies or email a file properly, you're going to get into trouble writing an intelligent article. No coincidence that you left the things that actually matter to the end. And then you pick a pun about a condom that you probably heard at one of your parent's cocktail parties. As far as 'protecting a bunch of pricks' goes, who are they Irwin? Are they the people who earn less money than you and your friends, yet have more demanding professions? Are they the majority of Australians that voted for a government that wouldn't exploit them? You write for a magazine that targets surfers and skateboarders. Do you think a kid that can barely afford a pair of trucks cares about FTP or IP-TV? You aren't writing for some highbrow software journal. Look into the history of surfing and skateboarding and you'll find that both originated in poor communities. Sorry dude, you can't be doing what you're doing and not understand this.

We understand Pop isn't a political magazine, but in some ways that article was - and it offended a few people I know and myself. You don't have to reply if you don't want to. But please don't post some comment saying we are over-reacting. Pops is a quarterly journal, which means you have to write an article four times a year. Don't pretend yours wasn't meant to be taken seriously. Of course you are free to say what you want. So am I. Take care.



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WRITER
Ben Hoban

Have you ever wanted your own shop? Sure you have, you've probably already figured out how it would look, what you would stock and the ideal location. You would be the master of your domain, the king of your castle.

You're looking for 'The Simple Life' of whistling your way to work, waving at the neighbours, opening your store and watching the happy customers empty their wallets into the till.

I must state early on that 'The Simple Life' does not refer to or involve in any way, over-blown talentless celebrities with penchants for DUI charges, crap reggae albums and amateur porno films. Just wanted to make that clear before we went any further. Got it? Good.

Anyway, back to the shop and 'The Simple Life'.

If you've tried your hand at running a shop, you're probably thinking 'Simple What?' It doesn't matter if your business never made it, or if it's now a thriving successful shop, you know that it's hard, gruelling, work.

You're the one fighting with the real estate agent, or the shit tradesman who can't find 'deadline' in the dictionary. You're the one begging suppliers for a chance to prove yourself, or you're sitting on a palate of unsold novelty hats that will, realistically, never sell. You're the one with cranky competition across town trying to sabotage your efforts, and more than likely, you have the house on the line!

So, do you still want 'The Simple Life?'

POP spoke to two people who do. Andrew Tebb of Fast Times Skateshop in Frankston, Victoria and Gavin Daniel of Destination Surf in Falcon, WA. Both have embarked on this search, and both have found that life is not so simple, but rewarding nonetheless.

Unlike the very vocal minority of Surf and Skate shop owners, Andrew skates and Gavin surfs – both of them regularly. Both have been in the industry for most of their



professional lives. Andrew was at PSC Skateboarding for nine years, first as a casual employee, then as the head buyer for 12 PSC stores, Gavin has almost 16 years of retail and sales under his belt, with his most recent posting as a sales rep at Bilabong.

Playing with the big boys can be fun, but for both Andrew and Gavin, the lure of being your own boss was too good to pass up.

For Gavin it was an opportunity to build a business with his partner Mel.

"We had both worked for big companies for a long time and really wanted to do our own thing. We felt with our combined experience, Mel being in the Customer Service industry and mine being in all aspects of the Surf industry that we had a lot to offer and could really make it work. We also love the Surf and Fashion industries so it's a great opportunity to be doing something we love and really enjoy"

Andrew however, was presented with the chance to break out and go it alone with his PSC head office cohort Mark Grayson.

COAL

Laura Hadar in the Sierra Hat and Sierra Scarf.

Jon Kooley Priscilla Levac Robbie Sell Laura Hadar Justin Hebbel Mikey Leblanc

Mark Welsh photo / coalheadwear.com

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“A great opportunity came up to buy the store. It was too good to not have a go”

One of the quirks of this particular industry is how the more things change; the more they stay the same. Major companies will often sweep through a whole department and layoff countless staff, while some stores will be run by the same people; with the same passion they started with. Andrew is no different.

“I guess it all began with me and my friends making a skate vid around '95 and I sent it to a few shops to maybe get sponsored. I received a call from Mark Grayson saying that PSC could look after me- I was down the next day to grab some stickers, a PSC tee and start supporting the shop. It is crazy to think that the person on the other end of that phone call would become my future boss and eventually business partner in our own skate store!!”

One of the first hurdles is getting your door open. There are a myriad of fine details that must be ready ‘on the night’. You have to secure your brands, get the shop looking exactly how you intended and most importantly, know how to run a business. For Gavin in WA, it started from the ground up.

“We knew we wanted to do the store but it was a matter of waiting for the right location. When we did eventually find the spot it was about another 16 months before we could open our doors. A lot of time was spent setting up the company, negotiating the lease and trying to secure brands before we could even get started on the shop design. We had some great people that helped us with areas we didn't have a lot of experience in like leasing and accounting. So we owe those guys’.

Fast Times had the benefit of re-branding the old PSC Frankston store and making it their own.

“We took over the original shop fit although we made some changes to the layout. We moved the shoes from the back of the store to the front, sanded back the floors and got new signage for front counter and front of store. There was a bit of back and forward with centre management about the signage but that was probably the only hurdle before our launch. All of our suppliers were fully supportive of the new store which has been fantastic’.

Andrew and Fast Times took advantage of experience and contacts and had few issues getting the brands that they wanted; Gavin had to fight his way into an established and traditionally rigid surf industry. He did however spend 16 years in and out of stores, and that knowledge and open eyes can go a long way.

“The surf industry is pretty territorial and suppliers tend to cop a bit from other shops when they go into new areas. So there are a couple of brands that we are still chasing and hopefully once we've been open for awhile and they see what we're about then we will secure them’.

So while Andrew and Gavin have an eye on ‘The

Simple Life’, most of us wouldn't even realise the constant struggle it is to keep up with your customers. Fashions change so quickly, (Anyone remember how hot visors were in 2000? I didn't think so) and buying decisions are often made 6 months in advance. Getting your product mix right is just one calculated risk after another. Your only other option is to chase cheap, sellable product – which more often than not, is uninspiring crap. For Destination, the solution is simple.

“We really wanted to achieve something a little bit different particularly with our range of product. We've still got the big names like Billabong but we really wanted to have a point of difference with some smaller less commercial brands. We think consumers are really asking for something a bit different’.

The task is even harder for Andrew at Fast Times, he has to decide what skateboarders are going to like, and that's like picking the lotto draw. Skateboarders are notorious for killing a style the second it gets hot. They don't follow a mainstream mantra the way the Surf industry has been known to. They're picky, pretentious and very guarded. Once a style is sold out, they'll fold on you faster than Superman on laundry day.

“To some degree, skateboarders are such a diverse bunch. So we can't afford to alienate any one style. The brands that we stock tend to cater pretty well for the different markets’.

The one thing that any great store is known for is its service, and establishing such a reputation is not as simple as it seems. You could have the most helpful and efficient staff in the world, but if that doesn't translate into sales, you're screwed. Andrew believes you need to find a balance of the two.

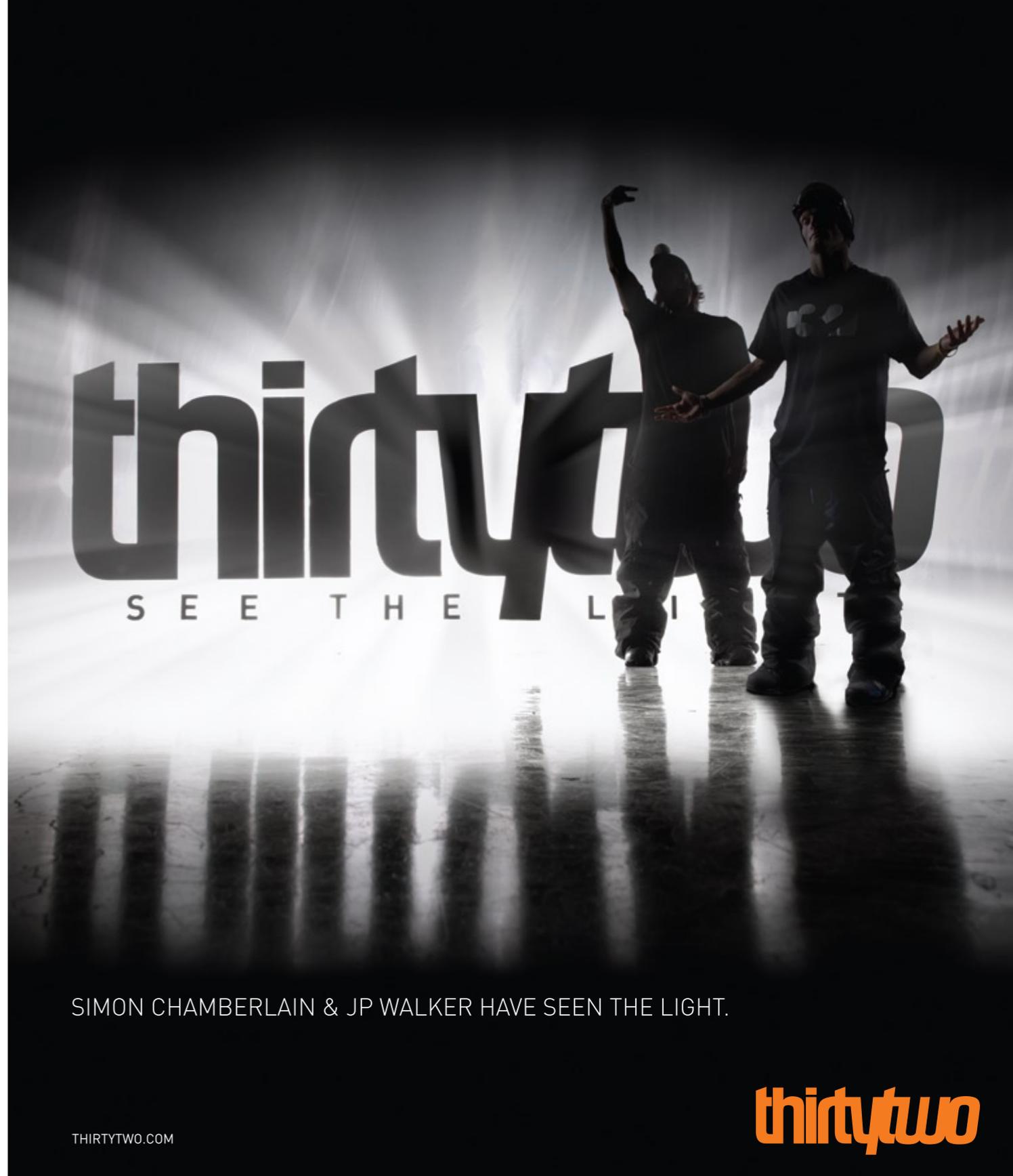
“I think they go hand in hand. It's so important to offer great service, be friendly and inviting to everyone. This, along with great presentation and the right product mix should hopefully translate into good sales’.

The formula for Gavin and Destination is no different.

“We think that if you have good service and presentation then that should obviously lead to high sales - hopefully. One of our main aims with starting this shop was to provide amazing customer service. The amount of bad experiences with service that we have had just blows us away, and we don't mean just in the surf industry but in all industries retail, hospitality etcetera. It really isn't difficult to be friendly and approachable to customers and we really want any customer to feel comfortable coming into our shop’.

What then, if the doors are open, the stock is one the wall but nobody knows you're there? Again, you're boned. The shoes wall suddenly translates into the value of your car, the denim stock is your bathroom, the fleece your master bedroom. There is nothing more frightening than staring at thousands of dollars in unsold stock.

However you don't need super slick marketing, surfers and skaters - not the ones who want to look like they might; but your core customers - need to know you love them.



SIMON CHAMBERLAIN & JP WALKER HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT.

It can be as simple as a sausage sizzle and a free beer. Fast Times probably had that option, but the stars aligned at the right time, and Andrew preferred to blow everyone out of the water instead.



'We had our official launch on the 23rd Feb. We had crazy specials in store, raffles for the kids every hour, free arcade games -which will be a permanent fixture in the shop - and then had the Girl team in store signing autographs, followed by a demo at Frankston park. We had an opening party at a local pub, where we premiered 3931- an awesome vid made by some great local skaters including Geoff Cook, Aron Winsbury, Marc 'Snapper' Holland and Stevo Dugec. These guys are the first kids on the new Fast Times team. We then had a premiere in store the following day for the under 18's. I guess we want to be active in the local community and try and do as much grass roots stuff as possible - Premieres, in store signings, demos, comps, BBQ's. We've got to keep the kids excited about skating and having fun.'

Independent surf stores rarely experience the luxury of the big names dropping in to see the kids. That's what the concept stores are for. As much as pro surfers would probably prefer that, it's just not in the contract. Destination however, has found a way around it, employing the help of a marketing/ design company to drive their brand.

From the start we have had a company called Style Engineers with us. They have helped with the store design, marketing, and staff - pretty much everything aspect of the shop that we needed help with. They have organised some amazing really out of the box type marketing for us that we think will definitely get us recognised, along with the usual radio, paper sort of thing. With a new shop you definitely need to spend the money on marketing to get your name out there.'

Still wondering about 'The Simple Life?'

It is out there, you just have to pull out the Jenga

pieces very carefully to make sure you get it. Balancing the rest of your life is the key, Gavin finds it out in the water.

'Surfing keeps it all real so I definitely still have time to surf, it's also a really good time to think about things and get things sorted in my head. We've had friends and family helping with all sorts of things and we are so lucky to have people like that in our life that are willing to help us. We also have a little 20 month old boy so it's important for us to take time out to spend time with him and the rest of the family. Although at times it can be difficult with a brand new business, it's great that everyone understands that.

Across the Nullarbor, the story is the same for Andrew.

'I always knew that there would be long hours involved, but I'm happy to do whatever it takes to make this work. I love spending time with my wife, daughter, family and friends, and I still try and skate as much as possible. But you defiantly need a balance of all of these things to stay happy!'

'The Simple Life' can be interpreted it two ways. A January holiday after the Christmas madness, with a sufficient bank balance to fill an Eski with beer and a fully stocked BBQ surrounded by your family and friends, could be all you need.

Or you could be sipping Verve on your chartered yacht off the coast of Greece. It depends on your ambitions. Gavin believes the key is to start small.

'We need to make sure we have got this shop right first but expansion has always been on our agenda. That's really how we came up with our name and the whole Destination concept, it can be used anywhere. We ultimately want to become a Destination store where people can come for good friendly service and to talk to people who know what they are talking about.'

Andrew has the benefit of riding the highs and lows of expansion personally at PSC, but is wary of pushing Fast Times too far ahead of itself.

We definitely want to get things humming in our local area first. But there's loads of possibilities out there!



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GENE KELLY

—Almost A Surf Bum

WRITER
Drew Baker

I met Gene at a Thanksgiving party held for the crew of 'The Pacific'; Steven Spielberg's and Tom Hanks' sequel to the HBO hit 'Band of Brothers'. I don't normally go in for the "schmoozing" that so often plagues those kinds of parties, but Gene is one of those guys that is so easy to talk to. I'd have never guessed he was one of Hollywood's most successful producers, but I'm not surprised, that's the kind of modest attitude I'd expect from an old school New York surfer.

How does a surfer from New York like yourself get into producing movies and living in Australia?

Well, it was an odd route for me to get into the movie business because I started my career on Wall Street. But going back to surfing... I started surfing in 1964-65 (I even forget when), but we had a summer house out in the Hampton's and I had always aspired to live and surf on the West Coast, although I never had any aspirations to become a surf bum. I mean I did, but I wasn't allowed to. In hindsight I think I would have preferred to become a surf bum (laugh) but I had to go to school and make something of myself in my parent's eyes. So, I started working on Wall Street and ultimately got a job working at Time Inc, as Time Magazine had just started HBO (Home Box Office) and I was looking for something different to do than just be a banker.

So, that's what you were doing on Wall Street?

Yeah I was working for City Core as a banker and even did a stint as a Bond Trader, but I got a job in Finance at HBO, which was a new company at the time, it had 200 people. Fortunately for me, HBO at that time, (this was 1979), was considering expanding its programming operation on the West Coast. So, when they were looking for volunteers to go to California, of course I raised my hand because I always wanted to live in California, mainly for the surf. So I went and took this assignment in LA to help them expand their programming operation and was fortunate enough to live on the beach in Malibu and would pretty much surf every day before work, which was great.

That worked out pretty good!

Yeah, my move to the West Coast was pretty much driven by my passion for surfing as well as the opportunity to work in Hollywood. What ultimately evolved was that I became an independent producer. I have done a lot of work for HBO over the years, but have also worked for Columbia Pictures, Warner Brothers and Disney. So I managed to move across the isle from strictly finance, to dabble in film financing for a while and then moved into more of the producing role.

When you say Producer, that term seems to be used to describe a lot of different roles in the movie industry. So when you say producer, what is it that you're doing on a day-to-day basis?

My function is as a Line Producer, which means that we have responsibility for working with the studio to determine where, when and for how long the project will shoot. So for example, for "The Pacific," we analysed where in the world we would shoot a project of that scope and we narrowed it down to between Australia and Hawaii. Australia became the obvious choice, mainly because of our ability to work up in far north Queensland, and specifically Port Douglas, to do our marine



Rider: Craig Beaulieu Photo: Andy Anissimoff

Sapient Pro Team

Craig Beaulieu
Paavo Tikkanen

Sapient Developmental Team

Clint Allan
Steph Just
Anthony Lefellaar
Jon McFarland
Asa Martinez
Tim Orr
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work. It became apparent that we could do the right kind of deal up there that would allow us to protect the environment but at the same time give us the ability to do beach landing and jungle warfare. And of course, Australia is also extremely production friendly and has generous rebates which were very instrumental in attracting us here. As a Line Producer you basically work with the studio to figure out where, when and how long the shoot will be, what the budget is, and actually put together the crew. On a day to day basis, you manage the schedule and make sure that things are functioning the way everybody had planned. The other types of Producers, for example Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks, who are Executive Producers, are responsible for coming up with the premise of the show and overseeing the creative process.

So you're on more of the scheduling and budget side of things?

Right. We intersect with the creative process by virtue of the fact that you can't help but get involved with everything. As a line producer you get involved with the creative process because you're always working with the cast and the writers on a day-to-day basis, but technically there will be a Creative Producer who probably never gets involved with the actual production of the film, who never gets involved with the actual making of the movie.

Sounds like you have a fairly significant and obviously very busy role, have you had any chance to do much surfing while you have been down here?

Well, actually only on my recent trip to Fiji. Although, I worked in Australia about 10 years ago on a small movie that was based up in Queensland at Warner-Roadshow and on that film I got to surf a lot, I surfed at Noosa, Kirra, Burley heads and all up and down the Gold Coast because where we were based lent itself to easy access to the water. But here in Melbourne it's been more difficult. I have been extremely busy and as much as I have wanted to get down to Torquay to get in the water, I haven't had the opportunity. I hadn't surfed in the last 3 years because of my stint in Europe shooting the HBO series "ROME", although some people do surf in the Mediterranean, I never got the opportunity to. So I hadn't surfed in over 3 years, and as I get older these long lay-offs, you have to get motivated to get back in the water and it helps to go in tropical water where you don't need a wetsuit [Laughs]. I was fortunate enough that there was a connection with Tom Hanks to Tavarua. One of our other Co-Producers, Cherylanne Martin who had worked on "Cast Away," had hired the co-owner of Tavarua (a guy named John Roseman) as Tom Hanks' stunt-double on the film. John is of course a big surfer as well, so Cherylanne called him up and, because the island was totally booked with the Rusty Surfboard team down there with Jamie O'Brien, she got me an invitation to stay at his house.

So, you're still enough of an 'almost surf bum' to stay at some guy's house? [laughs]

Yeah, no I mean, getting back there even inspired me further, not only to want to keep jumping back in the water, but to actually seriously think about developing a surf series. Being

an observer of what was going on with Jamie O'Brien, because they were making a documentary down there, and when you're an observer of the surf scene you see a lot of the character quirks and drama that is unfolding, and that kind of drama lends itself to a great series. I remember saying to Rusty that it would be interesting to come at a surf series more from a character stand point like "The Sopranos," where that show comes at the Mob via character, it's not a series about the mob, but the characters that inhabit that world. I think that somebody could do a really great series about surfing, where you come at it from the characters who just so happen to be in the surfing world. I got truly inspired to really pursue that and probably will when I go back to the US, because there was a great cast of characters there who inspired me to want to do something with the idea. I even got to meet Greg Noll while I was there.

Sounds like you had a good trip!

Yeah, it was interesting because Greg Noll, when I started surfing in '64-'65, you didn't have people like Rip Curl or Quiksilver, there were people like Greg Noll, Mike Doyle and of course Hobbie Alter. It was sort of the initial branding, but nothing like what there is today. But of course, Greg Noll was an icon even back then, so it was great to talk to him, as there is another surfing hall of famer that Greg Noll knew that I grew up with. There is a family out in long island called the Snodgrass family and a guy named Ruben Snodgrass is in the surfing hall of fame and Greg Noll knew him from Hawaii so it was an interesting sort of flash back.

I remember you telling me a story about some friends of yours that were arrested in Mexico or something like that?

No, well one of the guys I grew up surfing with, Eric Penny, became a professional surfer and Eric is actually in the book "In Search of Captain Zero", which has just been optioned by Stacey Peralta and Sean Penn to make as a movie. It's a great road trip about a guy called Allan Weisbecker, who is from Montague, who went to Costa Rica to search for a friend of his who had disappeared into the underbelly of Costa Rica, and this is back in the 70's when there was lots of drug running and Eric had also gotten involved in that world. What ever happened to Eric? Well, there are mixed reports on that. Some people say that he died of cancer; other people say that he died mysteriously. I'm curious to see if that movie ever gets made because it's a great road movie.

We kind of skipped over it before, but how was the surf in Fiji?

The surf was perfect for me for the first couple of days, but Jamie O'Brien was going stir crazy! Then Cloudbreak came up while I was there to 16 feet and, of course, Jamie O'Brien was having a ball! But I didn't surf Cloudbreak because it got too big. I surfed Restaurants which was really nice, over head lefts and I surfed a place called Swimming Pools which is a perfect right hander at 4-5 foot. So that was great for me, but for the rest of the crew they were having a ball because Cloudbreak was pretty epic, it was what Cloudbreak is supposed to be.

It probably worked out pretty good for you then, otherwise

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you'd be surfing breaks with all these pro's and have no chance.

Yeah, what happened was it enabled people to spread out based on their skill level. But surfing Tavarua, it is truly a once in a lifetime thing. They have invited me back and I hope I can go back, but when you're in the line up, you're in there with a group of people who all know each other at this point and everybody respects the que and you don't have to fight for waves. The locals are extremely friendly, they're not fighting you for the waves, it couldn't be a better situation and the waves are perfect - especially for someone like me who hadn't surfed in a while. They are very easy waves to take off on, the challenge is that they are so fast. To make the sections, that's where it gets very challenging. You really appreciate how important equipment is, in terms of the board shapes. Many of the guys there were professionals or had been on the professional tour at one time. There were a couple of Australian surfers but they left the day after I arrived. There was a new group that had come in from Southern California, but there was a guy from Hurley, who was a professional but is now working in marketing for Hurley, and he had spent a lot of time in Australia. There was a very interesting group of people there who were very advanced surfers; I was really the only one who was not an advanced surfer [Laughs].

How does it go surfing up in New York? I've been there and it gets real cold, do you just surf in the summer or is it 5x4 wetsuits and ice?

Well, when we were growing up we would surf in a place called Long Beach in the winter time, when the weather was very cold, like high 30 to 40 degree water (about 0-2C). That was painful, but the nice thing about surfing in New York is that in August the water reaches about 80 degrees (about 26C) and August-September that's when you get the possibilities of hurricane swells. You get the hurricanes coming up the gulf from Florida so the best surf is August-September-October and it just so happens that that's when the water is warmest, it can almost be tropical when it gets up to 80 degrees.

It is incredible the contrast in New York, it can be so cold in the winter, but so hot in the summer.

The typical summer where I surf in Long Island, which is up near the Hampton's, pretty much most of the summer you get 3 foot surf. Storms take shape down in Florida and send the swell up that can be 5 or 6 feet, a couple of years ago it was epic we had like 15 foot waves, but it was very unusual to get them that big.

Does it get pretty busy there? You know, there are so many people living right there in New York.

Well surfing has increased, just like anywhere. I had been out of New York (either in Los Angeles or Europe) and I couldn't believe the number of surf schools in the last couple of years that had taken shape. When you go down to the beach in Long Island now, inevitability there will be a surf class down there. But it's been a surfing culture out there ever since the 60s really. Long Beach had always had a very strong surfing culture in the 60s, ever since the time of the Beach Boys. I lived in New York City, but I used to go in May when the water got warmer

and take day trips out to Long Beach to go surfing. There used to be a spot, I'm not sure if they do it anymore, at a beach called Gilgo's where they held the East Coast championship every year.

Is that where you're going back to soon? I know you're finishing up shooting down here.

Well, I'm going back to LA to do Post Production for awhile, which will be nice. Because where I used to surf at Surf Riders beach in Malibu, we pretty much would surf up and down the coast, but mainly Surf Riders or Manhattan Beach and I'll do a little bit of that. When I go back to New York I'll surf at my own beach.

You've got a couple of years of Post scheduled, but after that, you talked about doing a surf series and those types of things. I've been out there on the set and seen what goes into doing a simple 5 second shot, it seems to me that at the end of these projects, you'd get that feeling of "never again". Or are you at a point where it's much more orderly?

No, it's always challenging and there are always difficult moments but it's always fulfilling. The reason I got into this side of the business is because I knew after a lot of trial and error from various kinds of jobs, corporate jobs, being in banking and then in finance and then in production. I had a choice, I could stay and do a studio job as an Executive, which is a "suit and tie" kind of job in Hollywood, or I could be in a "short-sleeve" environment and actually making the films. For me, it became about being able to touch the product. It was very important that I be involved in something that had a beginning, middle and end where I could actually see the tangible result of what I was working on. In a corporate environment, that's more difficult to achieve. In movie making you really get that satisfaction, so it's something where if you have a good sense of humour, it's just fun. There is nothing that's not fun about it, even in the worst moments; it's like anything in life where as long as you can find the humour in it you can get through it.

It sounds like you have got a good setup. You get to go surfing everywhere around the world, you get to work on movies, there are a lot of worst things you could be doing! [Laughs].

[Laughs] Yeah, I got stoked when I was in Tavarua because Tavarua was mythic for me. We used to look at pictures of Cloudbreak when I was surfing a lot, inevitable you see photos or videos of Cloudbreak and to have the opportunity to go there is like a dream. I had to touch myself to make sure I was awake and that I actually got to do it. Because the waves, for me, the only waves that compare to that are the waves I had at Hanalei Bay. We hit a pretty perfect day at Hanalei Bay in Hawaii. We used to go surf the North Shore, but the reason I say Hanalei Bay is because the surf we had at Tavarua was non-threatening, in other words, I didn't feel I was taking my life in my hands [Laughs], which isn't fun, you know. That's why I didn't go into Cloudbreak, because I would be petrified, because I have been in places on the North Shore, where it really wasn't that much fun, it was pretty much like, "I have to survive this" [Laughs]. And at my age, to have perfect waves where I really was just having fun with it, is ideal.



INSTORES MAY 08

photo: Karl Hoffmann



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- Zippered/Magnetic flap hand warmer pockets
- Cargo pockets
- Ghetto slits



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CHARLES
BECKINSALE

—*Method, Donna Pass*

PHOTOGRAPHER
Liam Kaska

MTN.LAB



(Not Quite Two)

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AARON BITTNER
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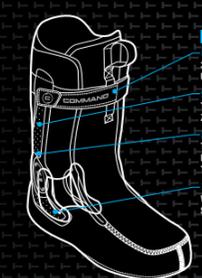


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Cold Chillin' Winter Outerwear Preview

A friend of mine claims that being on the mountain with snowboarders is closer to a fashion parade than it is a sport. He's probably right. And with that in mind, here's a look at some of this winter's best outerwear.

MODELS
Chris Jepson & Steph Currie

PHOTOGRAPHER
Steve Gourlay

STYLIST
Courtney Stern

HAIR & MAKEUP
Mia Hawkswell

CHRIS WEARS:
Ninja Suit by **Airblaster**.

STEPH WEARS:
Top, thermals & socks by **Eesa**.





CHRIS WEARS:
The Frena beanie by
Coal, Workhorse jacket
and Reversible pants
by Airblaster, Blackstar
gloves by Li, Full boots
by Ride.



STEPH WEARS:
The Cascade beanie &
The UK mitten by Coal,
Goggles by Ashbury,
Edenberry jacket & pants
by Cappel, Phase boots
by DC.

CHRIS WEARS:
The Theo beanie by Coal,
Realm goggles by Anon,
Deluxe Deville jacket,
Illusion liner vest & Zero
Hour pants by Destyn.
Via, Riot boots by Ride.



CHRIS WEARS:
Mace goggles by **Dragon**,
Loan beanie, Azusa jacket,
Monogramic hoody, Ban-
shee pants, Anat gloves &
Field boots by **DC**.

STEPH WEARS:
Beanie by **Holden**, Buffalo
jacket & Stirling pants
by **Lola & Evie**, Majestic
goggles by **Anon**, The UK
mitten by **Coal**.



STEPH WEARS:
The Waffle beanie &
Theo Fingerless gloves by
Coal, Majestic goggles by
Anon, After Hours jacket,
Windsor pant & Q boots
by **Burton**.

CHRIS WEARS:
Realm goggles by
Anon, Fragment beanie,
Freestyle boot, White
Collection Heavens
Reward jacket & pants
by **Burton**, Anat gloves
by **DC**.



CHRIS WEARS:
Frena beanie by **Coal**,
Vaddo goggle, Hilltop
jacket & Kravitz pants by
Rip Curl, R.P.M glove by
Burton, Field boots by **DC**.



STEPH WEARS:
The Crenshaw beanie by
Elm, Broken Heart gog-
gles by **Dragon**, Hi Noon
jacket & pants by **RPM**,
Blackstar gloves by **L1**,
Barrage boots by **Nitro**.



STEPH WEARS:
The Nels beanie & face
mask by **Coal**, Per-
sonality Crisis jacket,
Heartbreaker pants
& Blackmail hoody
by **Lita**, Muse boots by
Ride.



CHRIS WEARS:
The Theo beanie by **Coal**,
Hartman jacket, Everett
pants & Kimono hoody
by **Holden**, DX goggles
by **Dragon**, Riot boots
by **Ride**.



STEPH WEARS:
The Crenshaw beanie
by **Elm**, The Dylan scarf
by **Coal**, Broken Heart
goggles by **Dragon**, Cel-
sius jacket & Preset pant
by **3CS**, Supreme boots by
Burton.

CHRIS WEARS:
Crowbar goggles by **Oak-
ley**, The Hatch beanie by
Elm, RJW jacket & pants
by **Billabong**, Warrant
hoody by **Dragon**, Black-
star gloves by **L1**, Team
TLS boots by **Nitro**.



CHRIS WEARS:
The Pteryclava beanie
by **Coal**, Figment goggles
by **Anon**, Flicker
Stripe jacket, Brawl
pants & Diffusion Boner
top by **Sessions**, Riot
boots by **Ride**.



CHRIS WEARS:
The Yukon beanie by
Coal, Personality Crisis
jacket, Thunder pants
& Blackstar gloves
by **L1**, Barrage boots by
Nitro.

MARC 'SNAPPA' HOLLAND

—*A Big Fish In A Small Pond*

WRITER & PHOTOGRAPHER
Sean Fenning

Have you ever heard of Baxter? No? Well you should know, because Snappa lives there. Baxter is another of those sprawling embryo's attached to the neck of the Great City of Frankston. Once only know for its dirt biking, dirt paddocks and dirt roads; Baxter was somewhere you raced through on the way to the Island - or to lose the cops. But like Coff's Harbour and the Big Banana, or that mystery town with the Big Koala, Baxter has a new aquatic attraction to call its own - the Big Snappa. 17 year old Marc "Snappa" Holland to be precise.





What's been going on in the life of Marc "Snappa" Holland since 2007?

It's been pretty good, just skating heaps trying to get my part in Geoff Cook's video finished. It should be out really soon. Geoff Cook, Stevo Dugec, Adam Coleman, myself and some other moron skaters have parts. I'm about to go back to school and do year 12 which sucks a bit because I probably won't be able to skate as much.

What's been going on sponsor wise since 2007?

It's been ok, I'm on Afends clothing and just got on Folklore boards the other day. I'm still trying to get hooked up with some other companies. I don't really have much luck with sponsors.

Where the hell did the name Snappa come from?

When I was younger I was sponsored by a surf shop called Snapper Head. That's where it stuck. It was pretty cool back then, being sponsored when you're in grade six. We even went out to film stuff! Those were the days!

Would you ever change your first name to Snappa legally?

I don't know, that's a pretty big change! I think I will stay with my real name. Snappa would be pretty weird when I'm older!

How have Afends been working out?

Yeah they have been really, really good too me. They're always supportive with everything, and Kent from Afends will ring me really randomly! Some of the Afends guys came down to Melbourne and I showed them around, they were really cool and were sick skaters. I guess some people haven't heard of Afends because it's a new brand, so just check their web site - afends.com.

Any travelling plans for 2008?

Geoff Cook, Steve McInnes and I are planning to go over to the states very soon. Not too sure when, but in a few months. We just have to work out where we are going to stay. We're trying to stay at someone's house, just so it's easier. I can't wait, it's going to be sick!

How has growing up in Franganistan affected your skateboarding?

Well I don't live in Frankston; I live in a little town named Baxter that's about

5 minutes away. But I still say I'm from Frankston because it sounds gnarlier and more scummy. It's been pretty good there; I haven't seen as many fights lately... But...

...there was a drive by around the corner from my house like 6 months ago! Frankston is the best. It's so scummy, I love it!

There are a few good skate spots and there is the sickest park there, so I guess that helps my skating. It's a lot better than living out in another area without a huge skatepark.

Any tripped out junkie stories from skating Franga?

No really good stories, just the same scummy people fighting at the train station over drugs and shit. There are heaps of kids that think they're gangster and carry knives and stuff, but when they get in a fight they're just little pussies. Sometimes the cops come around with sniffer dogs, and you always see people getting searched - and they always have drugs in their shoes!

Outside of skating, what's life like in Franga?

Frankston is a fun place to be at. There is always someone I know to hang out with and the beach is good. There are heaps of scummy people but there are lots of good looking girls too, so it evens out. I guess you just have to stay away from the train station. It's mostly a nice place.

What do you think of the Australian skate scene?

I think it's really good, there are so many good skaters in Oz and everyone is really chilled. I guess the standard of skating here isn't as good as America but then again, when they come to our spots, most of them do the same ABD tricks. Guys like Jake and Chima are just as good as any of them though.



“I always want to do bigger rails or more stairs, if a younger kid can do big things, why can't I?”

Do you think what you've achieved in skateboarding could lead into a career?

It could lead in to a career if I'm really lucky. It starts to become more of a job when you get sponsored and shoot photos, because you're not just skating for yourself, you have to skate for companies to make them happy. It takes the fun out a bit, and becomes serious. Making a career would be so hard because there are so many other skaters, so I guess you have to have something special about you.

What's the most interesting thing you've learnt about the skate industry?

Hmm I don't know. You have to treat yourself as a product or service that you can sell to companies. It's also interesting to hear all the bitching that goes on, like 'why they didn't use that trick in my video part?' Blah Blah!

By now I think everybody knows you can get your rail tricks on while rolling out of bed. At what point did you realise that jumping down 13-14 stairs became mentally possible?

When I saw one of my friends skate a hand rail I was like 'how you can ollie on to that!' Then I just saw other people do big rails and I wanted to do it. When I did my first 13 rail I was really young so I didn't really have much of a brain and I didn't think about it. So after that you just don't think and just do it.

It's now getting to the stage where the kiddies are hopping onto monster rails as standard. Does this get you amped on throwing your carcass down even bigger sets?

It's crazy some of the things little kids do. It gets me amped to skate bigger things. I always want to do bigger rails or more stairs, if a younger kid can do big things, why cant I?

Is there a routine you use to get yourself into the madness?

Sometimes I just skate really fast on flat and just do a few ollies. If it's really scary I would just shut my eyes and just pretend that I won't get hurt. But if you have a routine you always have to do it, so I just do what ever feels right.

How does having a girlfriend affect your skateboarding?

Having a girlfriend is good. But she gets angry when I skate heaps and don't see her. But she understands now and she is really good about it when I need to go skating. I try to hang out with her when I don't have to skate so it evens it out.

Does she get amped when she sees you in the mags and videos?

Yeah she is really proud of me. She gives me sex every time I do a good trick haha! Nah just joking! She is really happy for me and she put one of my photos on her wall and she shows people the magazines that I'm in. She's great.

Lastly, what's something good that's changed your life for the better?

Meeting my girlfriend; she makes me forget about everything and its always relaxing around her. And another good thing was when I met Sean Fenning. He started my skateboarding career, so thanks Sean.

Thanks for your time bro, anyone you'd like to thank?

I would like to thank my mum, dad and my sister. My girlfriend Kristie, all the people I skate with Geoff, Jamie, Arron, Stevo, Adam, Frog, Brett, Spook, Max, and all the skaters from Morno and Frankston - you know who you are. All the photographers who I have shot with; Sean Fenning, Andrew Mapstone, Dylan Skews, Brett Box and Glen Barry. Kent at Af-ends clothing. Jake and Trent at Slam. Every one that was in Fish Boy and Friends. All my friends from school, Pop Mag for this interview, Sorry if I forgot you I will thank you next time I see you. Peace!





SNAPPA
HOLLAND

—5-0 *Slash*

PHOTOGRAPHER
Sean Fenning



BENJI WEATHERLEY

—*The Good Life*

WRITER
Tom Milledge

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Embry Rucker & Brad Maylor

If most surfers had to describe their dream life it would probably sound a lot like Benji Weatherley's actual existence. A well paid job that takes you around the world surfing the worlds best waves in exotic locales with your friends who like yourself, are some of the best and most well respected surfers of your generation, more video parts in successful surf movies than you can count and the admiration of the surfing public as an exciting surfer in waves from two foot to twenty, I could go on but you get the point.

Even though the reality of Benji's life might differ slightly from this rose coloured account, the fact remains that he is living a good life, and must possess a slightly different perspective on the world than your average guy. We emailed through Benji a few questions we thought he might not yet be completely sick of answering and this is what he shot back, fresh from a jaunt to the Solomon Islands of course...

Well I guess the best place to start is the start; so you grew up on Hawaii's North Shore and moved out to California when you were still fairly young right? Do you feel like growing up in two such distinctly different environments has had a big influence on who you are?

Growing up in Hawaii and surfing big waves at such an early age helped improve my confidence and made me very comfortable surfing big barreling waves. But what helped me in the latter years was the transition to California. Filming for video parts in smaller waves advanced my surfing and really rounded out my overall ability.

That first trip down to Baja with Taylor Steele for Momentum 1, did you have any idea at the time that this was a major turning point in your life?

I had no idea. At the time I was 15, living at Pipe and just a stoked grom. The Cabo trip was the first surf trip of my life and I was awestruck. Being on that trip with all my friends, sleeping on the beach and surfing perfect waves. It was surreal. It really was the most fun time to be a surfer. And I had no idea a movie was being filmed let alone one that would change the face of surfing.

It must have been incredible to grow up as one of the new crew pushing surfing to a higher level. Kelly Slater, Rob Machado, Taylor Knox, Shane Dorian, the Malloy Brothers and yourself were all innovative, high performance surfers in all types of waves which was a fairly unique combination at the time. Why do you think it is that, of the last ten to fifteen years, so many of surfing's most influential figures came from within that tight circle of friends?

It was a unique time where Australian and American up and comers were a tight knit crew that really pushed each other to excel. We all felt that we were in it together and I think that helped us push each other to succeed. No one wanted to get left behind so we all progressed and let nothing stand in our way. Wherever we went in the world it felt like home because we had each other.

What drew you towards freesurfing over the more traditional competitive route? And was there an actual point when you quit professional competition altogether or was it more of a gradual movement away from it?

My decision to be a freesurfer was spelled out for me clearly. I never was a competitive person, especially in the water. I couldn't mentally handle the day in and day out of competitive surfing. I was inconsistent and not very good at it. It took away from my personal enjoyment of being a pro surfer. At the time I realized I needed to dedicate two solid years to get enough points to qualify for the CT and I just couldn't stick with it. I found greater fulfillment as a free surfer and traveling the world, experiencing life. What motivates me to surf is progressing everyday. Learning new tricks is the only reason I keep going - it gives me a fresh outlook every time I grab a board.

I was doing a tally of your video parts: Momentum 1 & 2, Focus, Good-times, The Show, Loose Change, Transmission, Campaign 1 & 2...after that I gave up, do you know exactly how many surf video sections you've had? And is there one you're particularly proud of?

I'm not sure how many video parts I have but I'm a video whore. As a freesurfer a good video part is like your contest win. A really good part with a great song is like a trophy on your wall that you can watch, and it lasts forever. I'd have to say Campaign 1 was one of my favorite parts because it was a turning point in my career. My body was finally injury free and I was putting 100% into my surfing, really trying my hardest. Mentally, I was really stoked on surfing and understood how to progress.





PHOTOGRAPHER
Brad Maylor at Frothers.com.au

“The Cabo trip was the first surf trip of my life and I was awestruck. Being on that trip with all my friends, sleeping on the beach and surfing perfect waves. It was surreal.”

On the face of it traveling the world to film in perfect waves seems like a pretty cruisy job, but the reality must be slightly different. What’s the pressure of nailing a particular shot on a deadline like? (especially if the waves aren’t co-operating).

There’s a lot more pressure than meets the eye on being a freesurfer. There are only a few brief moments a year when the trips are set, the cameras are rolling and you get to perform. And a lot of times its in a surf spot you’ve never been to or heard of. It can be pretty insane but I think its that pressure that makes you step up your game.

As someone who is constantly traveling to so many different countries and cultures, have you reached the point where you’re just keen to get the job done and get home or do you still like to soak it all in?

Actually, I used to be this punk kid who would travel, surf, get the job done and just want to come home as quick as possible. Now I have a camera and a journal and I like to soak it all in. Not to say that I’m Indiana Jones or anything, but I like to observe and learn about the environment I’m in. I definitely appreciate it all more now.

A sense of humor is a pretty valuable asset on the road, is there anyone in particular you really enjoy traveling with?

Humor on the road is so important, it helps you deal with all the ups and downs inherent in traveling. Over the years I’ve had some really amazing travel partners like Ross Williams and Joe Curren. Both of them are super funny and would make me laugh till my face hurt. These days I’ve traveled a lot with Donovan Frankenreiter and he can make me laugh harder than anyone I know. He can make light of any subject and he’s plays really good music. So if he’s not making you laugh he’s making you cry. And he looks like a walrus.

The title “Freesurfer” seems like a fairly fluid concept, do you have a job description at Analog? (and if so) what does it involve?

I guess you could say I’m a professional athlete, if you can believe that. I’m a representative of the Analog brand and I help with product development. It’s an amazing brand to be involved with and I’m so stoked to be a part of it.

You have a video up on the their website called the Moving Picture Project, whats the idea behind that?

Analog has a series called the Moving Picture Project (MPP) a concept where they follow their athletes around to tell their story and show insight into their lives. Not a new or original concept but one that doesn’t get old. Mine in particular is 2 months of traveling, following me to places like Bali, Maldives and Fiji. It gives a really cool glimpse into the best time of year for me... the summer months.

Kamalei Alexander, Koby Abberton, Nathan Fletcher... Do you ever get scared hanging out with the rest of the Analog team?

No because they are all good friends of mine and they’re all puppy dogs. Unless you don’t know them, then they’ll slap you in the face.

So finally, what does the future hold for Benji Weatherly; surf industry career? Britney style meltdown? Eccentric recluse?

Britney meltdown for sure. I’m definitely going out with a bang!



NATE JOHNSTONE

—*The Quiet Professional*

WRITER & PHOTOGRAPHER
Dan Himbrechts

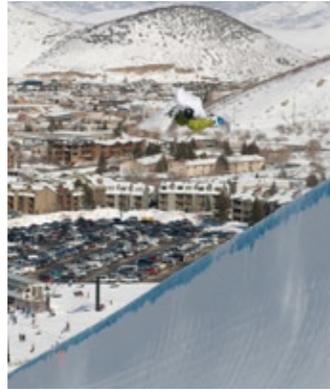
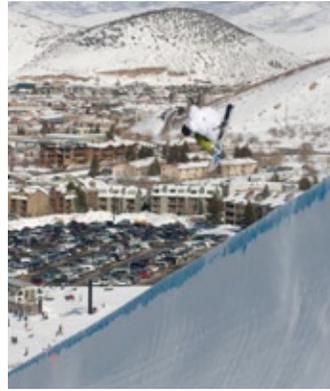


I first met Nate about two years ago, I don't really remember too much about our first meeting. I'd say it would've gone something like this; I'm sitting at Perisher pipe enjoying the sun shooting photos and some kid who's ripping the thing to pieces walks by. I introduce myself, he says "Hello", and keeps on hiking. That's the Nate I knew back then, solid ripper, quiet as hell!

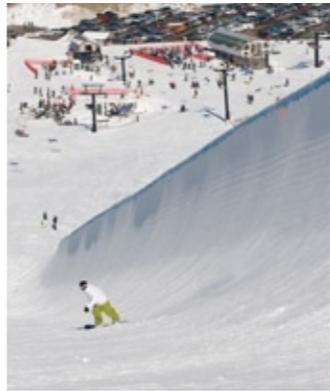
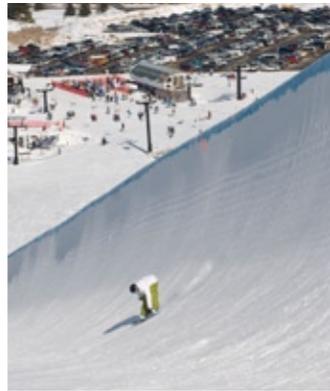
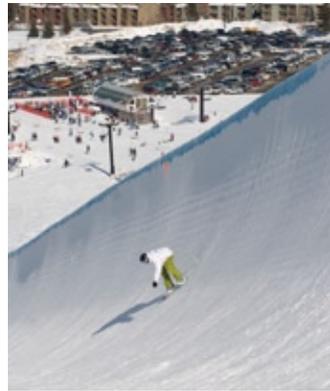
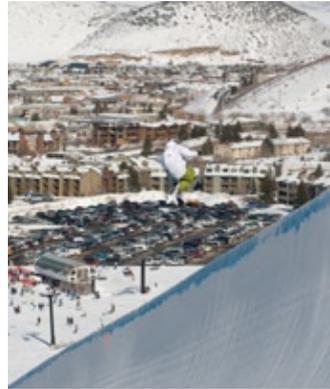
Fast forward two years and I have now shot with Nate on two occasions, both last season and both happened to be night shoots, don't ask why because firstly it's not relevant to this story and secondly I'm not quite sure myself...

After these two shoots I was convinced that Nate was the quiet type, maybe even a mute... I knew for sure he could ride pipe and park jumps, and consistently throw down hammers the likes of which Bun-





NATE
JOHNSTONE



nings don't sell at "lower prices". I was sure he was part machine, some might even say pipe jock - I would never utter those words! I can say I was guilty of thinking that out of the pipe or away from the perfect park jumps he may be limited. However, I can safely say that my habit of jumping to conclusions was exposed as plain dumb when I met up with Nate recently in Salt Lake City during the filming of the "Two Weeks In..." film project.

Salt Lake City, for the unacquainted is a bit of a jibber's paradise. It is to the jibber what a lolly store may be to a pedophile. To tell you the truth I wasn't quite sure how Nate would go on this trip. Given that the other riders were more likely to want to go jib some rails or whatever as opposed to hanging out at the pipe.

Day one of the film trip and the very first thing we built to shoot Nate proved me very wrong... This kid can jib! He actually jibbed the shit out of everything we did, he didn't need a pipe! It got to the point where the filmer guys would turn to me after he'd just landed a 15 ft bomb drop like it was a two ft bump, and say "do you think we should go to shoot pipe tomorrow...Nate must be hating this!"

We all got a bit of a kick out of how well Nate adapted to terrain he wouldn't normally ride. One thing is certain, this kid will ride anything and everything, and he'll probably land first try!

So it was not only his all roundedness that I was severely wrong about, it was his personality too. The quiet kid remember? Wrong! Nate's daily social commentary had the whole crew in stitches, he doesn't talk all that much, but when he does, I guarantee that you are likely to piss your pants! I was also wrong about his hometown

...I thought he was from the south coast of New South Wales somewhere, you know some place there is a secret break where "time stands still in the green room".

He is actually from Sydney's Northern beaches, not even close, but speaking of green rooms... He also has a borderline unhealthy obsession for a certain Danish brand of "green tea" ice cream, this became a kind of quest for Nate in SLC. If he found a store that had stock of this rare gem variety, he would buy multiple tubs with no regard for how long it would be before he'd be home to the ice cream safe house - the freezer.

Nate turned more than a few heads last season with some pretty outstanding competition results which included consistently placing and also winning some of the bigger comps at home, competitions that were nearly always loaded up with some big international names. The list of riders Nate easily beat in his pipe runs in the Burton Australian Open last year reads like a who's who of international pipe dogs, and just before going to press Nate took out his first World Cup podium finish with a third place at the Stoneham, Quebec leg of the FIS World Cup. This is a pretty significant feat for someone who spent weeks away from the pipe and seemed just at home sliding 30 stair handrails in Utah! I should also say that Nate is a member of the AIS Olympic halfpipe squad, no suprise really, given his natural, cyber-like ability in a halfpipe.

My note-to-self after hanging out with Nate for a couple of weeks is to never pigeon hole somebody because they are outstanding in one particular field. I found out first hand that Nate Johnstone is an outstanding snowboarder, and perhaps more importantly, an outstanding human.



TWO WEEKS IN... PHOTO DIARY

—Let The Good Times Roll

WRITER & PHOTOGRAPHER
Rick Baker

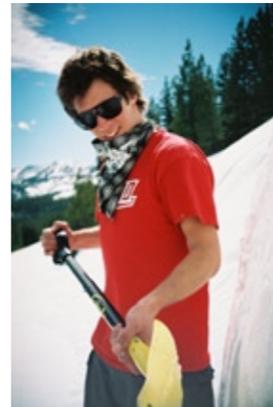
Here's some photos I took whilst away filming for POP'S upcoming snowboard film, 'Two Weeks In...' It was a unique opportunity to take photos of the people involved in making the film (as well as the personalities that I met along the way). I plan to show the rest at the premieres but until then, I thought you might enjoy these.



Robbie



Marc



Gus



Sean

Charles



Marc & Dan

Torah



Gus

Jackson, Nate & Jake





Cody



Dan



Tyler



Woody



Lake

Tom

Lake Tahoe



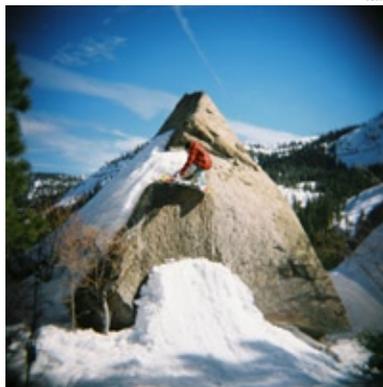
Gus



Tom



Nate



RIDE THIS



JON KOOLEY

—*Fast Standing Still*

WRITER
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I've had 'Write Kooley Questions' on my list of 'Magazine Stuff To Do' for the past 3 months. I'd been too nervous to write them. You see, Jon's one of my favorite snowboarders. He's the one guy that's tall and still kills it, the one guy that's always filmed a good part... What if he didn't want to do an interview? What if he turned out to be a dick? Lucky for me, Jon's all and none of those things...







Jon, thanks for taking time to talk to a little magazine from Australia. By the end of the US winter are you too over the snow to want to come see what Australian mountains are like? Or would you prefer to visit for the surf? On second thoughts, do Alaskans like yourself even like surfing?

It depends on the winter. Some years I'm super burnt by the end of the season. This year I'm really excited for summer snowboarding. Surf on the other hand isn't for me. You can surf in Alaska though, I'm just not that into it.

When filming and snowboarding is done for the season, what do you do with yourself?

I just chill, skate, hangout with my friends, and get tattooed.

What's Alaska like? Is it much different than the rest of America?

As a snowboarder, it's a place I feel like I must visit one day...

It's not that different at all, at least where I lived. People have a crazy idea of what Alaska's like, dogsleds and igloo's, that kind of stuff. Anchorage is the same as any other city I've ever been to, maybe a bit smaller.

Could you tell me quickly how you got from Alaska to Salt Lake?

Was it a gradual move or conscience decision? I imagine living in cities hitting handrails has got to be a stark contrast to growing up in what I picture as being a fairly spread out and removed place like Alaska...

After high school one of my friends was moving to Salt Lake and was like you should come. It seemed like a good place to hang out for the winter. I've been here ever since. As for the handrails, that's what we did the most in Alaska, just make do with what we had. People always think of Alaska and think big mountain, for us that didn't even exist. We would hit handrails mostly and build jumps whenever the weather was good which was super rare.

So how's snowboarding going for

you this year? I saw you having some fun runs at Brighton so it mustn't be all work.

Filming's going ok so far. I've had some personal stuff happen this year that's made it kinda hard to really concentrate fully on filming. But I think it'll work out in the end. It's not all work for sure. The fun days at Brighton with my friends is what makes filming all season bearable.

Have you thought about your song yet? Who are you listening too right now?

Yeah, I have a few different ideas for a song. It's gonna be fast for sure. Last year my song was slow so I want something different. I've been listening to a lot of different stuff but lately, it's been a lot of Dirtbombs, Coachwhips, MC5, and the Greenhornes.

When you're filming for those big crews like MDP how does it work?

Are you all working together or is it largely up to yourself to find new spots to drag a filmer along to?

It kinda works both ways. I find some spots in SLC, sometimes the filmers find spots, and sometimes we have guides in other city's that show us around.

Beside all the filming madness, you've had some big sponsor changes this year. Obviously you're on Nitro snowboards now. How's that been working out?

Amazing! Those guys are the best. I feel like it's a perfect fit for me. They are down to do stuff that might piss off or offend some people, which I think snowboarding has been missing for a while.

Will we ever see a Mike Giant/Jon Kooley pro model graphic?

Probably not a Mike Giant graphic, But this year I do have a kinda tattoo style graphic. A severed girl head with a dagger through her head, and some roses and blood on the top sheet. On the base there's a severed hand giving the middle finger with love tattooed on the knuckles. It's called the True Love...

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A fitting graphic for me this year. Now I couldn't help but notice that in all the photos for this interview you're not wearing Holden Outerwear... Can you tell me what's happening there?

I started ridding for L1 at the beginning of the year, and before that I would just wear jeans filming.

More sponsor stuff. I managed to get a pair of Ashbury goggles in SLC this year. I really like what Nima and the lads have going on. What's your involvement there? I don't have much involvement. I just wanted to do Ashbury because I like those guys and I thought that it would be a cool thing. It's the best! Cool style and amazing team, pretty deadly combination.

When I talked to Darrell Mathes I asked him who had the better pant, you or him. Will I soon have to ask Nima the same question? I'm pretty excited by his L1 range.

Yeah, you're gonna have to ask Nima that question for sure.

This L1 thing is really cool, Jordan and I are getting full lines like Nima has this year. They had us come down to the office and told us whatever you want to make. So I think we each ended up with two jackets and two pairs of pants. It's gonna be really cool.

It seems you've been lucky with

your sponsors in that you have a fair amount of creative input into what you're supporting. Is that something you look for?

Yeah for sure, I really like to give input, and the companies that I ride for are really down to get input.

When my local shop had the premiere for People I remember when you're part came on someone yelled out that you're the Birdman of snowboarding. I thought that was funny because you do manage to keep everything pretty stylish even though you're what, 6'2"? Is being tall a disadvantage in snowboarding? Do you ever wish you were half a foot shorter?

The only disadvantage being a tall snowboarder really has is sometimes I make drops or jumps look smaller than they really are. Other than that I have no real complaints.

Maybe when snowboarding is all said and done for you you could try your hand at basketball? I heard Justin has gone from being a snowboard guy to a soccer guy now so anything's possible...

Anything's possible for sure.

Well Jon, thanks again for talking to the Australian kids and I hope the rest of your winter goes well. Try to come visit sometime...





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