



Sons of Beaches '72

Until 18 Mar
Gold Coast City Gallery
Gallery 2

Historical reunion for five former World Surfers

MEDIA: Media launch, photo and interview opportunities

**11.00am Tuesday 21 February
Gold Coast City Gallery**



Top: left to right Terry Baker, PT, Michael Peterson, Rabbit Bartholomew, Paul Nielsen at Coolangatta airport 1972. Personal photo Peter Townend. Above: Larry stylin at Sydney Harbour in 1978, 1978. Photographer Art Brewer. Courtesy of Larry Bertlemann

On the morning of Tuesday 21 February at 11am five former world surfing competitors will converge for a reunion at Gold Coast City Gallery to discuss *Sons of Beaches '72*, a surf documentary and art installation organised by producer and director Glenn Blight. The exhibition and film document the 1972 World Surf Titles held in San Diego, California in which all five surfers competed - Peter "PT" Townend, Wayne "Rabbit" Bartholomew, Paul Nielsen, Andrew McKinnon and Larry Bertlemann. Tracks Magazine surf photographer of the 1970s Martin Tullemans will also attend. **BIOS OVERLEAF**

Blight has spent the past five years researching and interviewing this largely untold era in Australia's surfing history. He collaborated with Peter "PT" Townend, one of the pioneers of the emerging professional movement and First World Surfing Titles Professional Champion in 1976. Townend placed third in the World at San Diego. Using PT's large collection of surf newspaper and magazine articles, personal photographs and objects which he had amassed during his career, Blight was able to closely examine the events which unfurled during this tumultuous period.

The film and art installation tell the story of the Australian team of 19 year old Gold Coast and Australian men who travelled to San Diego to represent their country at a competition which marked the dissolution of the amateur format of surfing contest and the beginning of the professional circuit, replete with million dollar prize purses, covetable brand sponsorship and endorsements. The development of surf technology is also showcased in the exhibition through a range of historical surfboards.

The exhibition also observes the subversive side of surfing during a period when surfers were equally reckless in and out of the waves. In 1972 the Australian team were based at the San Diego Travel Lodge which was to become the base for all night parties. Fuelled by Californian groupies, drugs and rock and roll, these parties were avoided by most of the Australian team, who were holed up in their rooms. Competition was rife between the surfers at the event, with California's David Nuuiwha waking up one morning to find his board hanging on the end of a pier with a knife plunged through it and message inscribed, "good luck Dave!" Despite that, Nuuiwha finished runner-up to World Champion, the late Jimmy Blears of Hawaii.

On Tuesday 21 February, a Red Carpet Event will be held in the Gallery to celebrate this exhibition. Coinciding with the **2012 Quiksilver Pro and Bleach Festival**, *Sons of Beaches '72* follows the journey of Gold Coast surfers who would play a pivotal role in the design and shape of surfboards and surf techniques, in addition to the development of the sport as a legitimate profession.

MEDIA – For photos and video footage DVD please contact Pip Lean, Assistant Curator 07 5581 6524
lean@theartscentregc.com.au

Attending the media launch will be:

Peter "PT" Townend

First World Surfing Titles Professional Champion in 1976. Former competitor, movie stuntman, contest organiser, writer, publisher, marketer, and coach - the list of attributes to his name marks Townend as one of the founding fathers of professional competitive surfing.

Wayne "Rabbit" Bartholomew

World Surfing Titles professional Champion 1978. Former National Surfing Director for Surfing Australian and CEO of Association of Surfing Professionals. Wayne was equally as instrumental as PT in promoting and developing the professional sport of surfing worldwide.

Paul Neilsen:

Smirnoff World Pro-Am Surfing Champion 1972. Nielsen had a highly successful competitive career, 71 Australian champion, competed and reached the finals in many international competitions. A former National coach and retailer, Nielsen has contributed to the sport as a local and on the world platform.

Andrew McKinnon:

Former World Surf Competitor who placed 6th in San Diego. He is a Gold Coast local who shares his knowledge about surf and wave conditions daily through local radio and newspaper. McKinnon was 1988 World Longboard champion.

Larry Bertlemann:

"*The Michael Petersen of Hawaii*" Hawaiian World Surfer known for his radical and explosive style of surfing. Bertlemann placed 4th at the 1972 World Titles as a 16 year old and as one of the first paid professional surfers was seen as a rock star of surfing in the 1970s.

Martin Tullemans:

Photographer of *The Soul Arch* (below), Tullemans' iconic photographs of the Coolangatta Kids in the 1970s were featured in many surf magazines, including Tracks.

FREE PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Red Carpet Event

Tues 21 Feb

6 – 8pm

RSVP essential

075581 6567 / gallery@theartscentregc.com.au

On the Couch Sessions

Sun 19 Feb, 1pm

Sun 26 Feb, 1pm

Sun 4 Mar, 1pm

RSVP 07 5581 6567 / gallery@theartscentregc.com.au

Check the website for more details

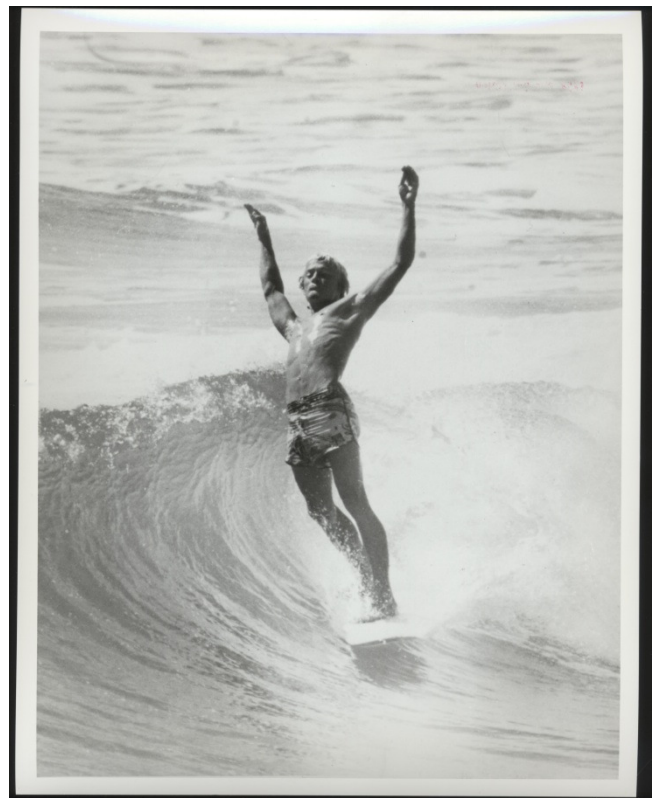
www.theartscentregc.com.au and follow the links to Sons of Beaches

Sons of Beaches '72 Documentary

Runs from 4 Feb – 18 Mar

10am – 4pm

Film runs for approx. 90 mins



The Soul Arch Peter Townend. Photographer - Martin Tullemans. The Peter Townend Collection.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

GOLD COAST CITY GALLERY

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Open Weekdays 10am-5pm Weekends 11am – 5pm

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