



The NMD hot shots have been moving around all corners of the Aussie coast to get their waves during the month of March. Here's the low down on how Ben and Winny summed it all up when they left Skype voice messages on Mez's computer.

**Ben Player:** I've been chasing swells with sea planes up to the Gold Coast and back and getting shot by Helicopters in the Victorian jungle. All in all when I look back at all of the footage from the past few weeks I feel like I've been chasing the swells and footage pretty hard and am quite satisfied with all the hours put in. I rode my light blue top boogie with the white pin stripe and red rail for most of the month and felt like a style lord and loved it!

**Dave Winchester:** Well the past month has been pretty fun with waves every week. Though it seemed like the only place I surfed was down south. I was able to shoot loads of photos, hopefully milking some stuff, along with trying to get footage for the Waldron DVD as well. It has been insane to just focus on surfing with all the waves around. The boards you made me the other day Mez are sick, I have only ridden one a couple of times but I'm so amped on them and expect they are going to blaze through this upcoming month. I'm keen to spend a month in WA in May which will be fun and should be refreshing. Hopefully it's a good month there for swells. Until then I'm just keen to get some interstate waves as the south coast is becoming a joke these days.



Current World Champ and wizard of the air **Jeff Hubbard** has just flown home after a three week stay in Oz. While here he managed to fit in a trip to WA with Skipp and photographer Tim Jones, so expect to see the results of that mission in a future issue of Riptide. Hubb also hung out on the Goldy and got to surf the Points and all time Straddie according to the locals. Plus a successful hit and run on a North Coast wedge got the job done and a stack of footage was captured for No Friends 10 coming later in the year. He even put in some hours at the BZ office preparing his new line of BZ signature boards for 2007. "I am so stoked on what is going to be available from BZ this year. It will be definitely putting me on the right track to achieve a second world title". Hubb will be back in Oz in a few months for the first event of the tour at infamous Shark Island.

**Jose Marquina** got back into more familiar and comfortable grounds after an escapade to the mountains. There wasn't any need for him to travel far with Tama and K-Bay serving up some ideal waves. "When the sand is in the right spot for only so long, you have to make the most of the good banks and milk your local as it can be even more satisfying than scoring all time waves at exotic locations". A further bonus for Jose was having some fresh J1 signature boards to break in and get ready for the upcoming swells. One of the better morning's at K-Bay we're was more like a C-Grade celeb after party with most of the crew from hit TV show Bondi Rescue and Hubb sharing the take off zone with Jose in the wee hours before sunrise. Having professional lifeguards in abundance to help if in trouble and the pressure to perform with Hubb in the water Jose took to K-Bay like a wild matador and put his new J-1 through a solid workout and came up styling with Simon Fisher getting some fresh rides on film. He even captured his new move called "the sarcastic". With the long weekend party fever on and Hubb cruising at Jose's pad they hit Bondi's night spots with the rest of the Tama fella's to send Hubb off in a stylish un-sober fashion. Jose informed us at BZ that Hubb's night style was all Aussie with Woodstock's being his preferred night starter and a dirty kebab being his night finisher...too funny. He is human after all!!!

**Toby Player** who is forever ahead of the trends decided to send through a MySpace style blog of his BZ life during the month of March. It read as follows. "Waves have been cracking as usual, started March with a bang when everyone thought the waves were going to be bigger than it was (stupid buoyweather disciples think it's god!). Whatever happened to be able to read a weather map! Blackrock was 5 ft dead high and pumping with... wait for it...4 dudes out for 2 hours. Best Blackrock I've surfed in years. I could've had a section from that one surf but no one was filming or shooting! Next was a session at everyone's favourite wedge, with Rod Owens and Kane W shooting. The 'Big Rig' got the 85 kg flying on many occasions. Next stop was the heaving left south of the border; Ben and I flew down for the most hyped session there since the groundbreaking session years ago with Helicopters, jet skis and a cast of superstars all on hand to perform. After 2 hours, the boys were run out of the water by the 'protectors' of the joint. Everyone bailed but we hung around and had a confrontation on the beach with the 'protectors'. An argument pursued and there were nearly punches thrown (I was hoping for a biff). As soon as they bailed we were back out there again this time with only 3 dudes instead of the earlier 20. I got the biggest wave of the day (as big as my Movement cover). After a feed we ended up

out there again for round 3, Kane Waldron was all over it with his new camera set up the. Once back home I found myself at everyone's favourite south coast wedge again for another aerial show that lasted two days. I was launching big time it was Captain Insane-O! The final week of March was nicely rounded off with two days of Whaley wedge, so as expected more ramp action went down. I rode my Player Graphic and Ltd and they were money for the conditions I scored they took the Big Rig to new heights so I'm absolutely loving it!"

Sounds like Tobes had such a blast in March that he's canned a trip to Indo to continue cruising in Oz and hang for the east coast autumn swells and do pretty much the same he did last month. If he gets that much of a roll again, he should look at hitting the Casino tables for a wager...Best of luck to him.

**Nick Ormerod** sent through to BZ quite a tale of one colourful adventure he had during the month of March. It read as follows.

I was antsy to get the f@#k out of the Gold Coast, even just for a week or so as I was sick of my rubber arm getting twisted into going out every night the waves were not going to look great. So I decided to bail down south of the QLD border. It just so happened that the forecast looked good for down south so that arvo myself and Dave Child the video grapher and another mate packed the van and started the mission trying to get somewhere good for the start of the swell. By 11pm on the first highway leg of many to come, we were no further than Port Mac and the car broke down and refused to move. NRMA couldn't help and we wryly accepted that we were going to miss the day we were doing the mission for. We tried to sleep in the car...no comment. Luckily we happened to brake down right near a mechanic so first thing in the morning we forked over the cash to get the car running again to get down south. Back on the road we had a quick surf at Forster in the arvo and decided to head out west of Sydney to avoid peak hour traffic. 9pm came and again we were stranded with the car braking down 30k's southwest of Campbell town... f@#k. As we'd guessed the NRMA dude was useless, and told us we'd have to get the car towed and sleep in it again at a garage...yeah right. By this time I was ready to kill, hahaha. By 10pm we accepted that the trip further south wasn't meant to happen, so we rang some friends in the Nulla and asked if we could crash at their place if we got a train there. After a few hours of walking, cussing and train-riding we walked in their front door at about 2am and went straight bed because we had to be back up at 5am, as they said the Island might be fun, thinking maybe 2 or 3 ft. I was so bugged I was questioning whether just sleeping in would be more fun than the proposed Island conditions. Rational thinking re entered my train of thought and I was and ready up for some fun Island action. We got to the check spot and booyacka! It was pumping, solid 5 - 6 feet on sets and clean as a whistle. I had a ball out there with a couple of nice drainers. After the session already on cloud nine I was told further south had been small and crowded...stoked. That put the icing on the cake making me more than happy. The car dramas in the end had been a blessing in disguise. Once the car was fixed properly we couldn't help ourselves and went down south in hope of more good luck. We got a few days of fun un crowded waves with some southern counterparts making all the hassle and dramas really worth it. My new signature boards worked in perfectly during that mission and there's fun waves about back at home so the good times seem like they will keep rolling...may even have a fun night on the town to celebrate the missions...bbooyyyaahh!

You would think Nick is out of adventures for a while but he later called in to the BZ office to tell us he had spent the last few days catching 8 ft bronze whalers near his local bombie...Crazy or what!!!



**Spencer Skipper** just finished up a quick 3 week trip down in Oz with Hubb, Mitch, Lackey and vid master Liam. He put in a massive effort to try and find the best surf, racking up enough kilometers to circle the globe, starting on the Gold Coast down to southern New South Whales then to Western Australia and back to the Gold Coast then back to New South Whales. Needles to say they did end up surfing a good variety of waves coming up aces for most part of the trip, Liam's got all the footage locked in the vault and it's ready to be laid out in the much anticipated installment of NF 10. Life was fun for Skipp on his 30,000 kilometer search for the purple wombat. He is now in South Africa cruising with his girl; "I've got a gym done the road from her pad that will keep me sharp for when I return to Oz for another week in May. With luck a bombing swell will be hitting somewhere and the purple wombat will be found!!"

Jetstar, choppers, seaplanes, jet skis and 4wds is pretty much what sums up the past month for **Michael Novy**. With some new Novy signature models to ride for the month of March, Novy spent the first part of the month cruising on the Sunny Coast for what LMNOP anticipated would be a very busy and productive month for the brand's young ambassador. First off a call of a swell hitting saw Novy joining some other high profile riders and take off on an exclusive trip up the east coast for the upcoming feature in the next issue of Movement. The trip was a huge success with great waves and shots captured of Novy. Shortly after that Novy caught a glimpse of a thick swell hitting Vico, so he gave filmer Bryce Thurston a call to see if he would let him chime in on a trip Bryce had been planning for some time. With the form Novy has been in Bryce was happy to have the young gun there to surf and film for his next film. This time multiple angles were caught of the heaving left they surfed as it was shot from a chopper, land and water. Luckily the waves cooperated for the first day and they scored pretty perfect waves before getting chased in by the local crew,

which you could imagine were pretty pissed when they saw a chopper hanging over there local spot! After the Vico session Novy headed to the south coast and scored a few fun days' surfing and doing tow outs capturing some big punts and more unique angles of the tow outs. It is easy to say March was a very productive time for Novy who now waits April will be just as fruitful before heading to WA for some swells later in the month...Let the good times role!



**Harry Dixon** spent the past month getting good waves in WA and the South Coast, In WA he shot with Liam O'Brian and Tim Jones, and as expected worked the angles with these supremeo's of the lens. Once back home he ventured down south and continued the good run of sessions at the regular crowded spots with the usual paparazzi there both in and out of the water stock piling the images. Aside from tweaking his fashion designs around home he scored more local sessions at the Island, Suckrock, Av and Whaley keeping him in the air on deep behind the curtain. Harry reckons his Morey Dixon boards have been going great. He has been using polypro and has loved the feel of its speed and responsiveness for the waves he has been riding.



All of March **Mitch Rawlins** was hunting waves and just recently went to Tasmania with the Billabong Adventure Team in hope of scoring some big Southern Ocean waves. The original plan didn't work out. Instead he found himself at a remote beachie that was delivering what he claimed to be "the best 4 to 6ft waves imaginable" So for Mitch it all ended up to be what he called "a truly amazing trip". With the Aussie Tour event just around the corner, Mitch has been practicing his

small wave comp surfing so he can be ready for the Newcastle comp. His preparation has involved him riding a polypro board that he claims he is “excited about, due to the projection it gets in smaller waves. It has made me feel great and I am looking forward to the contest”. After the phenomenal success of the Mitch DVD, he has decided to begin work shooting for his next movie project. This second time around Mitch wants to create something completely different from the normal bodyboard films out there today. He plans to have it out on the market next year. So even though it’s a while away, Mitch insists the time is needed to only deliver the very best shots and the best quality that will make this project another historic film for the sports leading man.