

# PUBESCENT

## BLUE PACIFIC

Rocky leads the  
Future Trading five  
through Samoa.

JUST THREE WEEKS AFTER THEIR FUTURE TRADING MOVIES WERE UPLOADED ONTO YOUTUBE, WARD, HALSEY AND WALUEW ARE IN A CORNER OF SYDNEY AIRPORT SURROUNDED BY CAMERA GEAR, ALL INSTANTLY IDENTIFIABLE BY THEIR SPONSOR KIT, THE VERY BRANDS THAT FRONTED THEM. WITH VIEWS ON THE WEBSITE HITTING AT OVER A HUNDRED THOU, AND THEIR FACES SOON-TO-BE PRINTED IN ELOQUENTLY CONTRASTED FOUR COLOUR, THEY'VE JUST HAD A TASTE OF THAT FIERCELY SOUGHT AFTER FAME THAT JUSTIFIES WEEKLY RAGS AND CAMP NEWS PRESENTERS THE WORLD OVER.

It was, after all, the only thing we were offering in this facade of a competition but the first sitting of Australia's 'next' could potentially pull them from a life of normality. A couple of these scrawny frames might take sponsor funded travel from this and run for years, funding an exuberant life of wave hunts, moonlit antics with foreign girls and forever obliging ATMs.

For mags hacks, though, our constant observation of the pros leaves us with little but distaste for the negatives they rag on about. It may not buy a house for all, but it has for a few. Mitch Rawlins, one such man, turns up at the airport. His journey began with junior contest victories and trips as the young grasshopper. Now as the elder on the trip his position was to lift the kids' riding and, to be brutally honest, keep a photographer from losing his mind, murdering the youngsters one by one and packing them into his airlock pelican case.

A fashionably late Liam Tomkins corners into the group like a ghost from Pac Man, his deathly white hair and quiet demeanour spooking us into formalities. Liam's mother hands over the declaration form we made a couple of days prior but instead of questioning the confused patron over the legalities her only request is that Liam wear his shirt from Falcones Bread in a few shots, Falcones the local company that gave the dough (cough) for his trip.

We shuffle over to the Virgin Blue check in and the final link in a hellish week of organisation arrives in a little digital envelope, it's Nick Rubesaame, whose flight from the Sunshine Coast has just touched down in Samoa.

**Thorpe Wainew**  
Gold Coast, QLD

**Nick Rubesaame**  
Sunshine Coast, QLD

**Charlie Ward**  
Carlton, TAS

**Alex Halsey**  
Mandurah, WA

**Liam Tomkins**  
South Coast NSW

**Mitch Rawlins**  
Gold Coast, QLD



MITCH

RAWLINS

- 25, Gold Coast, QLD.

**Born in '84** makes Mitch almost twice the age of Thorpe, the youngest rider present. It wasn't long ago Mitch was that new kid, tagging into trips like this. Now that tables have turned it seemed fitting to send an invite. "I looked at it as an opportunity to surf with upcoming kids and keep my surfing fresh," he says.

While lesser folk might've seen it as two weeks in warm waters with the opportunity to call shot gun on the biggest set of the day, the front-seat and leftovers at dinner that's not Mitch's way. The man carries himself with a despicable amount of humility; sharing waves, listening to options on the surf, remembering all the kid's names from the first day. There was no kingpin elevation, just an easy-going bloke who loves surfing.

"When they're together, they're just a big ball of energy and have completely different personalities," he says, lounging inside a fale hut. "Charlie and Thorpe are constantly talking and doing something, Liam is so reserved you have to check he's around and Nick and Alex are somewhere in between. It's actually a nice balance of punks. Truth is I usually chase swells, so I was actually a little hesitant to come somewhere on a set date but as it got closer I got amped on the idea."

From here Mitch will fly to Sydney to meet his girlfriend for a few days before hitting the Billabong house on the North Shore for the start of the IBA World Tour. "Trips like this Future Trading concept will send a shock-wave through Australian bodyboarding, every aspiring grom will be out there pushing to get on trips like this. It's only positive outcomes that can come from it."

You heard the man, get those cams out, drag a friend into filming and a trip and maybe a slim chance of a life like Mitch's aint far off. "I'm sure these guys are going to do well in whatever they choose to do in life. I hope they look to make a career out of bodyboarding and see their goals out. All the kids out there should get to work, a spot on a trip like this is closer than you think."





LT



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ALEX

HALSEY

- 17, Mandurah, WA

"I don't surf with photographers that much, but it feels good cause I'm guaranteed coverage and that." And, as Alex knows, coverage equals fame, fame, fa-fa-fame; that heady poison so sought after by his generation, but what does it actually mean to him? "It means heaps of chicks! Nah, I don't know, probably just make me happy cause I'm heading towards my thing."

Alex turned 17 the day of our flight to Samoa and is already a National Opens champ. His Unite digs are so fresh they tell the story of a man with a new sponsor. "I owe mum and dad so much money now, I hope I get a shot where you can see a logo," he says, already planning his payback. Recently returning from the Philippines where he'd been filming with West of Claws and Teeth for his new movie Pastiche, Alex has an evil debt that he can look to enjoy for years to come, so he's hoping his skills can, er, pay those bills.

"I was on the internet everyday looking at (the Future Trading vids) and stressing out. There were heaps of write-offs, they were saying I can't go left because there weren't any lefts in the footage. I can go left, not as good as rights though," he says, a rare admission of talent. A phone call from Brad Hughes at the airport, calling for an all-out WA blitz in the islands reminded us all of that poignant rivalry between East and West and the pressure to step up.

"Being from WA, well it means I'm from Western Australia and I gotta try and keep it going, I guess. At the moment there are heaps of big waves, like the ones Brad Hughes is riding. I don't know, I don't think I need to step up any time soon. It's not like they just went straight into big waves when they were 17. I do need to start getting into some bigger waves though I don't know about crazy-gnarly, kill-me-waves just yet. Just 6 - 8 feet for the moment."

"For a young guy Alex's surfing is really powerful, his reverses in the pocket are some of the best I've seen and he is always looking to get in the air. He has a bright future if he wants it, he has the natural ability and talent."

**Mitch**

## NICK RUBESAAME

- 18, Sunshine Coast, QLD.

"Some of the stuff that was said was pretty hectic," says Nick on the viewer comments that landed on his Future Trading clip. "Like they started bringing my family and my girlfriend into it and stuff. You don't take it seriously because they're just idiots but it still sort of hurts when you first read it, you're like, 'why would you say that?'"

Fortunately Nick has his smarts and didn't let them get to him or his girl. "My girlfriend is actually really cool about everything, she's like the only girl that's ever understood, like if you say 'I've gotta go surfing - the surf's cracking I've got to cancel appointments with you, she's like, 'no worries.'"

The trip was made sweeter for Nick by his backers at HB and Inverted who've got high expectations and are keen for him to mix it up with the bigwigs. "I really enjoy surfing with Mitch, I've surfed with some pros and they don't talk that much but Mitch talks and relates to a lot of stuff," he says, undaunted and full of confidence. "Mitch is still pretty young, always keen to surf and never wants to go in early. If it's really bad he'll still give it a go anyway, like every morning he's been surfing that tiny lefthander just for a bash. My mates at home won't do that. I guess you definitely need to be able to surf in big and small surf these days, especially in the comp scene. I was talking to him about Portugal and he was saying you need to flip in small waves, to be internationally competitive."

The Sunshine Coast can lay claim to some impressive riders now who have been able to make it a full-time gig, is Nick the next? "I'm real keen to have a crack at bodyboarding, this is real fun and if I have the opportunities I'd love to give it a shot. I mean the top guys have a job where they just surf and to have a job that's ridiculously fun like that would just be amazing. I really want to pursue it."

"I like Nick's surfing, it's different to the other guys which is fresh. He rides with a lot of speed, that's what I like most about him. I think he'll do really well on the contest scene."

**Mitch**





MR



AH



TW

"Liam's the quiet one of the group but he is definitely not quite in his approach to the surf. It looks like he prefers to surf by himself and he can be really unpredictable and has all the moves at his disposal, this kid could be a real talent."

**Mitch**

LIAM

TOMKINS

16, Port Kembla, NSW

"Heaps stoked and can't believe this is happening it's been like a big dream for this to happen to me and that. Just to be in a magazine and get my name out there and to be known." Liam's words are pure delight to the mag, his story like that of an anonymous young girl plucked from a mountain-topped village and flown abroad to be paraded as the star of a new Victoria's Secret push-up range.

Having never been overseas or had a shot in a mag, Liam's story was made greater by the local Port Kembla bread manufacturer turned benefactor, Falcones Bread who supported Liam and his 'once in a lifetime opportunity'. Asked about those initial moments, touching down in a new country for the first time, the usually silent lad gushes. "Real good experience and I couldn't believe it was happening. I was just blown out about how warm and how different it was to Australia, like driving on the wrong side of the road, the temperature, the weather, how it goes from raining one minute, to sunny the next. The wind changes about five times a day and the swell never gets under a foot!"

From the South Coast of NSW, Liam is accustomed to surfing solid waves alone and in many of the sessions he'd move to a peak away from the pack or simply bar the session altogether. Is this kid a hater? "Nah, I like meeting new people, I'm a bit shy around them but with my mates I talk heaps," before he roll-calls some buddies from home who get the Tomkins earful. "Todd McRorie, Matt Warne and Cameron Simms, they haven't been mentioned in mags and they shred."

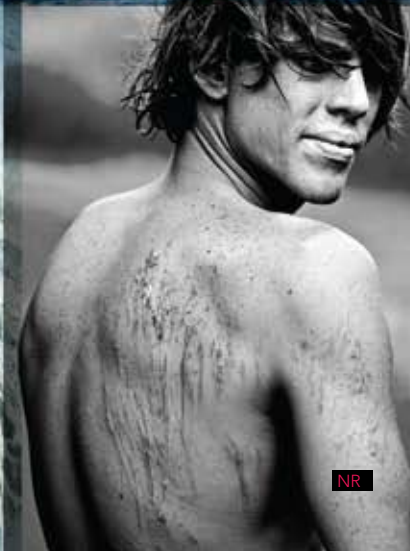




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AH



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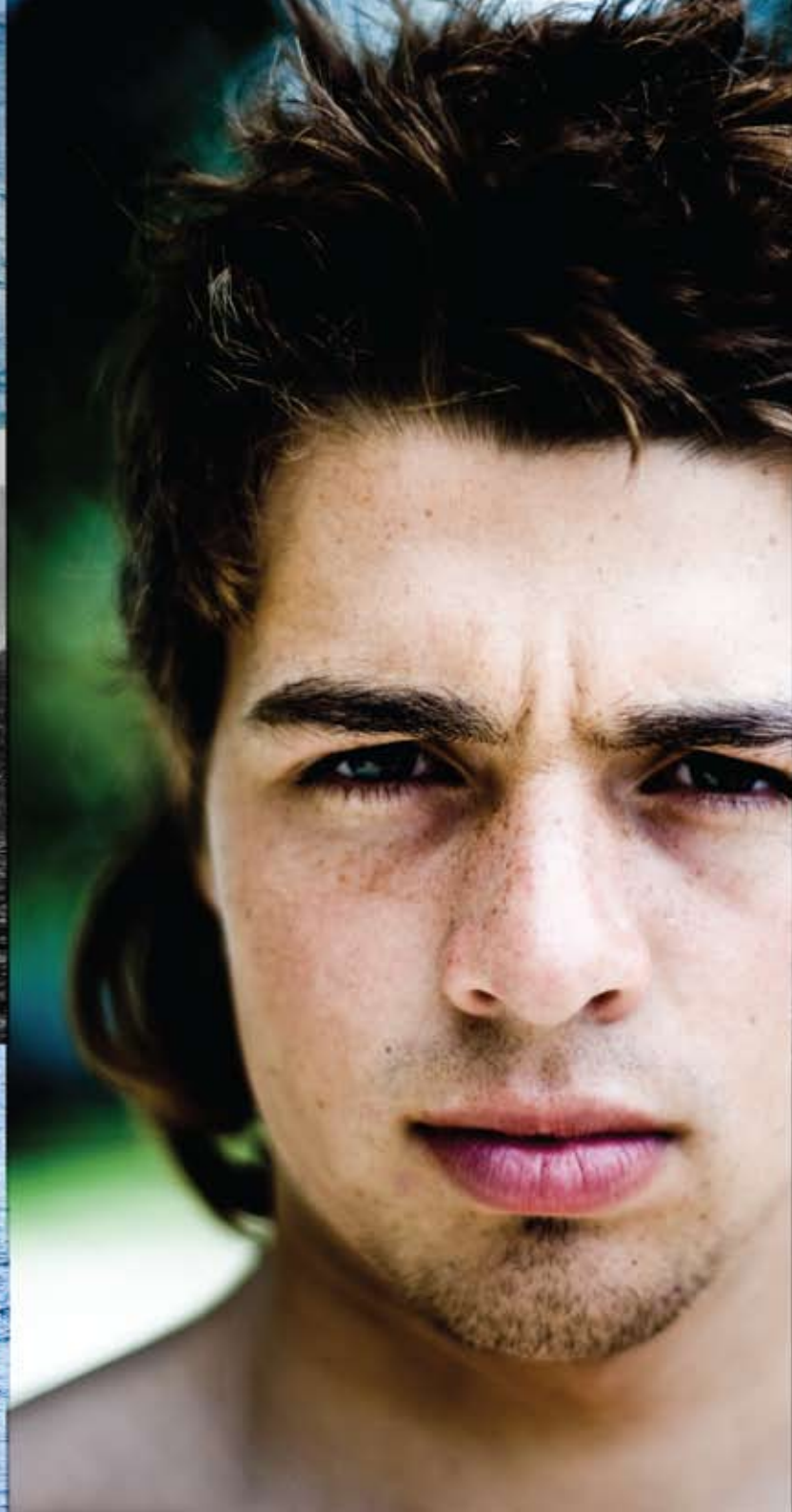
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"Once the waves get a little bigger I think **Charlie** will really show us all why he is on the trip. It doesn't stop the man-child from getting air in two-foot surf but I can't wait to see him surf in waves around four-to-six feet."

**Mitch**

**CHARLIE**

**WARD**

- 18, Carlton, TAS.

"I'd only surfed in shorts once before I'd been here. It's like being in a bath," says Charlie with that sly drawl of a country kid from the southern states, his hair now fashioned into a mullet and looking every bit the inbred his homestate is branded. "It's actually the result of a bet I set up with five other mates, that if we didn't get a girl at the Falls Festival we had to cut mullets. In the end four out of five had to, myself included."

Not that we'd know the average Tassie male don't do mullets. To our knowledge this mag trip is the first that an Apple Isle bodyboarder has ever been invited on, at least outside the state. "The way the competition is set up I think I got lucky, if you guys had have picked it I could have been overlooked pretty easy. My little brother showed me (the Future Trading invite) cause Turbo sent him one, then I called Science and they sent me the details."

Charlie's showings at Shipsterns in Movement 24 - a wave he's only surfed 12 times - was the catalyst for his sponsorship with Science and, we're thinking, his numero uno finish in the polls. "We waited for them to come up for a long time. They were late but it didn't matter. I woke up and I was in the lead, my little brother (Harley) said I was second but then I moved into first." Charlie swung into a Jana Pitman style press attack the following day and his cause was plastered over newspapers, sprouting some Tassie patriotism. "I think I got ahead cause I had Tassie behind me after the newspapers came out and maybe because my video had footage of more solid stuff than some of the other vids. Shipsterns is just the kind of wave people want to film."

Charlie was unaware that his childhood hero Mike Stewart was also out promoting him. "It's pretty insane really to have Mike backing me and sending it around, kind of a dream come true," he said when we told him. So now Tassie has an official pro backed by the Godfather, what does Charlie plan to do with it? "Hopefully I can get a few more kids out there amped and show that you can do more than just surf in Tassie."



"Thorpe's surfing is pushing everyone on this trip. He is such a smart young guy with the bodyboarding world at his fins and I'm going to enjoy watching him advance."

**Mitch**

**THORPE**

**WALUEW**

**13, Gold Coast, QLD**

Every now and then a young kid will appear with ability beyond their years. In the past it's been names like Wingnut Smith, Mitch Hall and Mitch Rawlins and now the name is Thorpe Waluew, who along with Charlie Holt scored their stripes on the NMD Bali trip. Holt missed out on Future Trading but it could be his saving grace to build on his repertoire and strike when the time suits.

Thorpe narrowly snuck through. "It was really intense, because I was coming fifth in the competition I just didn't wanna drop back to sixth or whatnot. At the time though I was in WA surfing with Hardy so I didn't look at the computer a lot. When I had a look I was still in fifth and I was stoked." Trips to hang out with Ryan Hardy in WA at 13 years of age and this being his third overseas holiday without his parents. "From the other two Bali trips they sort of trust me now. They know I'll be good, know I won't do anything wrong."

And they'd be right. Thorpe, who looks like a Partridge Family member who lost a battle with a shampoo bottle, holds court like he's ten years his senior. Indeed, two older brothers and a stiff upbringing have played out well. Surfing with the best in the world doesn't hurt either, he says. "They give you a lot of tips and help you out a lot, say if you do a little thing wrong, they'll tell you." As for his skills, he concedes that he's "gotta work on lefts, most moves on lefts except forward spins and rolls." Those improvements will be necessary as Thorpe's couple of years ahead will be lost once he's in the pro circuit, now's all about using the time to grow.

"Trips are always good to go on because it keeps your spirit of surfing, instead of surfing the same two foot waves back at home it's good to get out of the country or out of the state and I'm always keen." And like any good child star Thorpe doesn't forget his shout outs: "Thanks to everyone at Movement, thanks to people for voting and thanks to my parents."

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