

New Zealand from the 1960s



Dave Jackman and Tony Butt, with one of Dave's paipo. November 2011.



Peter White, Tony Butt and unidentified paipo rider - Muriwai, 1967. Photo courtesy Peter White.

The 1960s

[Dave Jackman](#), an Australian surfer permanently moved to New Zealand in 1963. He had been exposed to the Paipo Nui style boards from trips to Hawaii and went on to ride a slightly, narrower and longer version (see above photo). [Peter White](#) had also visited Hawaii and brought back a Paipo Nui board, which he copied and sold to fellow members of the Muriwai surf club. [Tony Butt](#) bought one of the boards which he used over a 15 year period around Muriwai. Below is a 1967 article featuring Peter White.



Photo courtesy Peter White.
From Flett, N. (1967) Auckland Star

For speed in the surf, you can't beat a paipo

About halfway between the exhilaration of bodysurfing and the thrill of surfing comes the more sporty sport of paipo-boarding. The man who brought the boards to New Zealand is Peter White, of Christchurch.

A Christchurch school teacher, he discovered the paipo boards while on his holiday in Hawaii in 1962. He brought them back to New Zealand and they have since become a craze in the South Islands.

They are used there for the same reason as the paipo boards in Hawaii - they are fast and easy to use. They are also very popular with the young people of the islands.

The paipo board is a small, flat board, about 18 inches long and 12 inches wide. It is made of a light material, such as balsa wood, and is shaped like a teardrop. It has a small fin on the bottom, which gives it a little bit of lift and makes it easy to maneuver.

The paipo board is used in a variety of ways. It can be used for speed, for maneuvering, and for playing tricks. It is also used for teaching children to surf.

The paipo board is a great way to enjoy the ocean. It is fast, easy to use, and fun. It is a must-have for anyone who loves the beach.

"BLACK & WHITE" WHISKY DRINKERS ARE STUBBORN!

—and with very good reason

Photo courtesy of E. Bishop
Central Auckland Research Centre Auckland Libraries
Nga Whare Matauranga o Tamaki Makaurā.

In addition, to Peter White and Tony Butt, other surfers included Gary Butt, Mike Lawson and 'Red' Luton. Below are photos of boards ridden by Tony, Mike and Peter. All these boards were made from plywood, by Peter White using a wooden mould and clamps.



Tony Butt's board



Tony Butt's board



Mike Lawson's board



Peter White's board

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Red's board hangs in the Muriwai surf club. In the photo below Peter White is holding the original Val Valentine Paipo Nui board he brought back from Hawaii. Charlie Straumietis

also surfed at Muriwai. His father made him a similar style board which he eventually rode on his knees. He also added fins and when onto riding kneeboards which he continues to ride.



Red Luton's board

Photo courtesy Pauline Butt.



Peter White at Whangerai

There are few other accounts of bellyboards being ridden in the 1960s. Peter White recalls seeing a board made by him at Tauranga, while the Great Barrier Islands had been surfed by Maroubra surfers (Peden 2010) and Rocky Hall, from the South Island had surfed on a small ply bellyboard in Victoria (Callaghan 2010, Carson 2010) before returning to New Zealand. However, there remains an interest in riding and making paipo in New Zealand.



Peter White

Photo courtesy Peter White.

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