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### Paipo - Belly boarding in Australiasia

#### New South Wales # 4



TUCK THE BELLYBOGGER UNDER YOUR OUTS, LIE LOW, AND GO FOR IT.

Bellybogger  
Photo Dick Ash.



Ian Anderson on a finless wood paipo.

#### North of Sydney

Just north of Palm Beach, John Monie made a bellyboard (4ft10" x 20" x 3"). How many he made and whether it was ridden prone or kneeling is not known.



Monie bellyboard



Monie bellyboard



Monie bellyboard

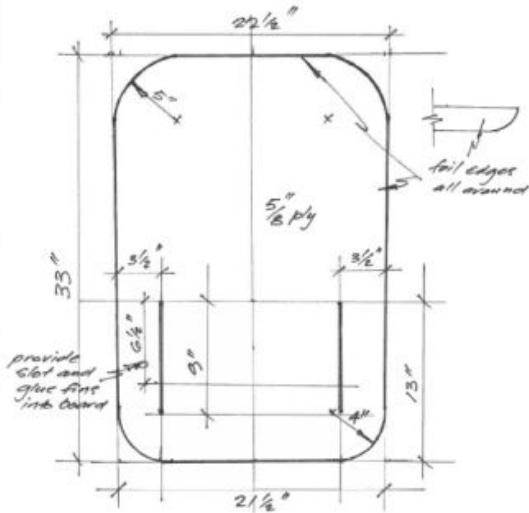
Photo <http://www.soulsurf.com.au/> Photo <http://www.soulsurf.com.au/> Photo <http://www.soulsurf.com.au/>

Bellyboards were being ridden in the late 1960s to the early-mid 70s at a number of north coast locations, by young surfers who were bodysurfers. Dave Andrews rode a board of his own design around the Coffs Harbour area while Ross Harvey and Mick Vesey rode homemade ply bellyboards with schoolmates around the Yamba area in the late 60s to early 70s. Ross noted that there were a few others around who rode these boards but he didn't know them. A lot of experimentation went on, but the final design was made using a jig. Three sheets of 1/8" marine ply, approximately 800-900 mm) were glued together using epoxy, and clamped to the jig made of timber and angle iron. Employing 8-10

G-clamps, this method enabled the boards to have some nose rocker. Initially the boards were tried with a large surfboard-style single fin, but the fins would break from the base. Two shallower twin fins were found to be better suited to the boards and longer lasting. Ross and his mates were body surfers and he thought the bellyboard idea came from trying to find a better way to bodysurf. The boards had limited flotation but with flippers were ridden in waves up to 1.8 metres in the Yamba area.



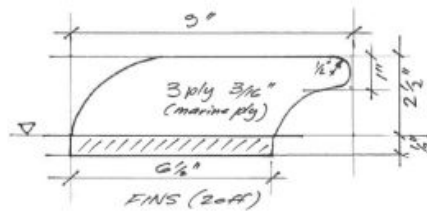
Dave Andrews with bellyboard.  
Photo courtesy Dave Andrews



Dave Andrews bellyboard  
Drawing Dave Andrews.



Dave Andrews bellyboard.  
Photo courtesy Dave Andrews



Bellyboard. D. Andrews  
10/7/2016  
Dave Andrews bellyboard fin  
Drawing Dave Andrews.

Also around Yamba, Rod Dahlberg made his wife, Adrienne, a "fibreglass boogie board" around 1977-78. The boards featured four channels and two small keel fins on the rail. Adrienne still rides these boards (Dahlberg 2013). Dan Webber advised that his brother Greg, a business partner of Dahlberg, also made his wife Diana Lobry, a bellyboard. These boards were surfed around Angourie (Webber 2013). Country Style from Yamba also produced bellyboards in the 1980's.



1980s Country Style bellyboard. Photo by Warren King.



Country style bellyboard



Country style bellyboard



Country style bellyboard

More recently, in 2010 the late Frank Latta (formerly of Cronulla) was riding a bellyboard of his own design around Valla Beach at the time of his death. Based in Maclean, Paul Witzig rides a bellyboard based on a Reno Abellira template. The board features a set of horns which are used for turning. Ian Anderson (Anderson 2008) rides an Hawaiian Paipo Design and homemade wood boards in the north coast area. Anderson's motivation to get interested in paipo boards followed a 2006 surfing injury. Anderson came across the Hawaiian Paipo Design (HPD) website (the successor to the 1960s Paipo Nui board). Anderson recalled: "The HPD was very fast but felt a bit big in a lot of north coast beach breaks. In early 2009 I built a smaller HPD inspired board out of Paulownia and continue to ride this board regularly. It is 40" long by 24" wide with a Simmons type foil and this is the board in the accompanying photo. I have also built a few pocket paipo which are approximately 24" x 14 1/2" and have the same design influences. The best description for pocket paipo is 'high speed bodysurfing' and they are great fun in punchy little shorebreaks. My design preference is for low flotation, flat, fast and finless boards. Not having to use a leash is another bonus. Currently I am playing with plywood and vacuum bags to make cheaper flexy boards". Lewis Hayward has also been experimenting with bellyboards and rides them in the Yamba area.



2006 Witzig bellyboard. Photo Paul Witzig.



2006 Witzig bellyboard. Photo Paul Witzig.



Ian Anderson finless paipo



Anderson paipo and pocket paipo



Ian Anderson finless paipo

In Byron Bay Ash continues to ride bellyboards (Ash 2009). Originally based in Avalon, Dick Ash (Ash 2009) first produced a bellyboard around 1960 when he cut up an old broken balsa board. Almost a decade later, around 1970 Ash produced the bellybagger, a roto moulded hollow plastic board. After these boards were banned from use within the 'flags' and with the advent of the Morey Boogie board Ash ceased production. Operating out of Noosa at the time, in 1994 Dick Ash advertised a new bellybagger model. He estimated that he sold 50 of these boards. Now based around Byron Bay, in 2010 Ash released a new version of the bellybagger. John Standing from Coolangatta was recently making bellybagger for Dick. Dick advises that John died (November 2017) while riding his bellybagger and that he won't be continuing to make them.

Also in Byron Bay, Dennis Anderson at Jet surfboards produced some bellyboards around 1979 while Dain Thomas, who produces Sea Surfboards has experimented with finned, bellyboards.



Dick Ash bellyboards. Photo courtesy Dick Ash.



Balsa bellyboard made by Dick Ash.



Dick Ash and bellyboggers.



Dick Ash Bellybogger.  
<http://www.bellybogger.com>



Ad. for Dick Ash bellyboards.



Jet bellyboard by Dennis Anderson.  
Photo courtesy Gary Clist.

Further north, and an advertisement for a Tweed Heads Surfriders contest on April 1973 included division for the "neglected" (Unknown 1973). In more recent times Jon Jenkins and Jeff Latham ride prone around Cabarita. Jenkins makes Tube Rocket boards and acknowledges a debt to Glen Winton in relation his quad finned boards. A more recent entry is Al Bruce's twin fin/quad stringerless EPS boards with hybrid cloths, carbon/basalt cloth to the deck/rails and fibreglass/carbon insert on the bottom. [Native paipo](#).



Glen Winton inspired quad finned Tube Rocket.  
Photo Jon Jenkins



Hull entry single concave Native paipo  
Photo Al Bruce



Hull entry single concave Native paipo  
Photo Al Bruce

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### Extras

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Originally the board was going to be finless

Lewis Hayward



Lewis Hayward board  
Photo Lewis Hayward



Lewis Hayward bellyboggling  
Photo Lewis Hayward



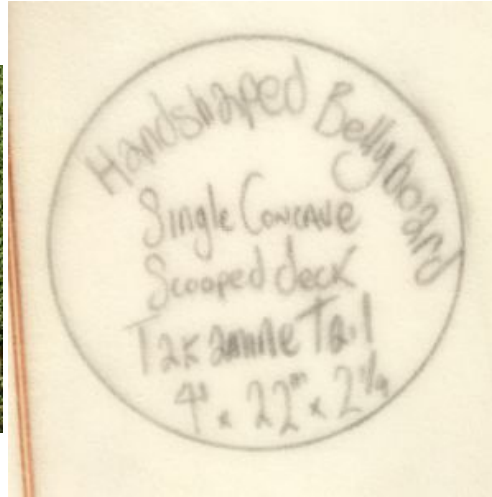
Lewis and bellyboggler  
Lewis Hayward



Lewis Hayward bellyboggling  
Photo Lewis Hayward



Wooloweyah bellyboard  
Lewis Hayward



Wooloweyah bellyboard logo  
Photo Lewis Hayward

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