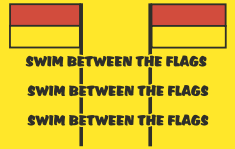


# STYLE SURFING SCHOOL BYRON BAY



# SURF SAFETY GUIDE BYRON BAYS' BEACHES



## BYRON BAY BEACH GUIDE:

### TALLOW BEACH:

**TALLOW BEACH IS NOT SAFE FOR SWIMMING.**

TALLOW BEACH IS THE LONG & OPEN BEACH ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE LIGHTHOUSE. IT IS AN OPEN BEACH THAT WILL PICK UP ALL SWELLS. IT SHOULD ONLY BE SURFED BY EXPERIENCED SURFERS, UNLESS THE SWELL IS AN INCH. THE WAVES ARE FAST & HOLLOW, BUT SOMETIMES CAN HAVE SPILLING WAVES. IT LIKES ALL WINDS FROM THE NORTHEAST TO NORTH WEST TO SOUTH WEST. IT WILL HAVE WAVES NO MATTER HOW SMALL THE SWELL IS. THIS IS WHERE WE GET BOTH GOOD, LEFTHANDER & RIGHTHANDER WAVES. THE SOUTH SWELL IS TO BE AVOIDED, AS THIS WILL PUSH YOU ONTO & AROUND THE ROCKS. THERE ARE ALWAYS "VERY STRONG RIPS & CURRENTS" ALONG THIS BEACH.

### WATEGO BEACH:

WATEGO BEACH IS THE MOST EASTERLY BEACH IN THE BAY. IT IS THE FIRST BEACH COMING INTO THE BAY ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE LIGHTHOUSE.

IT IS VERY POPULAR WITH LONGBOARDERS & A GREAT FAMILY BEACH. THE WAVES ARE MOSTLY SPILLING & WILL BREAK ALL THE WAY TO THE PASS. IT LIKES THE WIND TO BE FROM THE SOUTH EAST TO SOUTH. ALL SWELLS GET IN THERE, EXCEPT A STRONG SOUTH SWELL. THERE IS ALWAYS A SWEEP, [SIDE SHORE CURRENT] ALONG THIS BEACH THAT WILL CARRY YOU TOWARDS THE ROCKS & THE PASS. YOU MUST ALWAYS WATCH FOR AN EXIT POINT TO AVOID BEING CARRIED PAST THE END OF THE SAND, OTHERWISE YOU MUST KEEP SURFING AROUND TO THE PASS TO AVOID THE ROCKS.

### "THE PASS"

THE MOST FAMOUS WAVE IN THE BAY, WHERE YOU HAVE ALL EXTREMES IN ONE WAVE. FROM THE POINT, WHICH IS HOLLOW & FAST BREAKING ALL THE WAY PAST THE ROCKS, WHERE YOU MUST BE EXPERIENCED. ONCE PAST THE ROCKS, IT WILL BREAK TOWARDS CLARKES BEACH, THE WAVES THEN ARE MORE SPILLING AND CAN SUIT THE LEARNER SURFER. IT LIKES THE WIND TO BE FROM THE SOUTH EAST TO SOUTH, THE SAME AS WATEGO BEACH, BUT CAN BE SURFED IN ALL WINDS AS IT SOMETIMES HOLDS SHAPE EVEN WITH THE ONSHORE WINDS. ALL SWELL GETS IN HERE, DEPENDING ON HOW BIG THE SWELL IS TO HOW BIG THE WAVES WILL BE. BIG SWELLS ARE NOT GOOD FOR LEARNING AS THE SWEEPING CURRENT BUILDS WITH THE SWELL. THERE ARE ALWAYS PLENTY OF SURFERS HERE, SO SURFING MUST BE TOLERATED. ALSO DIVE & FISHING BOATS COME & GO. THEY WILL SOUND A HORN TO SIGNAL THE SURFERS.

### CLARKES TO MAIN BEACH

THIS BEACH RUNS FROM TOMMOS ROCKS INSIDE THE PASS, ALL THE WAY TO THE MAIN CAR PARK NEXT TO THE BYRON BAY SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB. [SLSL] CLARKES BEACH IS THE BEST PLACE FOR LEARNING TO SURF & FOR SURFING SCHOOLS. IT IS ONE OF THE BEST LEARNING WAVES IN THE WORLD. AT THE SLSL IS BYRON BAYS' MAIN PATROLLED BEACH. THE WAVES ARE OFTEN FAST & HOLLOW BUT CAN GET SMALL & SPILLING, DEPENDING HOW BIG THE SWELL IS. THERE ARE BOTH LEFTS & RIGHTS HERE AS LONG AS THE SANDBANKS ARE IN GOOD SHAPE. THERE ARE OFTEN ROCKS ALONG HERE, DEPENDING ON THE SAND FLOW. IT LIKES THE WIND TO BE FROM THE SOUTH EAST TO SOUTH WEST & PICKS UP MOST SWELLS. THE SWEEP OFTEN COMES WITH THE SWELL, SO YOU HAVE TO LOOK FOR AN EXIT POINT, BEFORE YOU GET TO THE ROCKY CAR PARK, OTHERWISE YOU WILL GET BACK TO THE BEACH IN FRONT OF THE WRECK, ON THE WESTERN SIDE, PAST THE ROCKS.

### THE WRECK TO BELONGIL BEACH:

THIS BEACH STARTS AT THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE MAIN BEACH CARPARK & HEADS AWAY FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE. IT IS ANOTHER GREAT WAVE IN BYRON BAY THAT WAS FORMED WHEN A SHIP "THE WOLLONGBAR" WAS WASHED FROM THE OLD BYRON BAY JETTY DURING THE 1920'S. THE WOLLONGBAR WAS USED AS THE MAJOR TRANSPORT FOR ALL THE TOURISTS COMING FROM SYDNEY TO VISIT THE BAY. YOU CAN STILL SEE THE "RUDDER" & "THE BOILERS" STICKING OUT OF THE SURF AT LOW TIDE. CARE MUST BE TAKEN HERE AS THE WRECK CAN BE DANGEROUS. LEFTS & RIGHTS BREAK ON SANDBANKS THAT ARE ALWAYS THERE BECAUSE OF THE WRECK. FURTHER WEST BELONGIL BEACH GETS ITS SHARE OF GREAT WAVES FOR BOTH THE EXPERIENCED & LEARNER SURFERS. THE WAVE VARIES FROM FAST HOLLOW DUMPING WAVES TO SOFT SPILLING WAVES DEPENDANT ON WHAT THE SWELL AND SANDBANKS ARE DOING AT THE TIME. IT WILL PICK UP ALL SWELLS FROM THE NORTH TO THE SOUTH & LIKES A WEST TO SOUTH WEST WIND, BUT IS SURFABLE ALL THE WAY TO A SOUTH EAST WIND. THE SWEEP IS HERE IF THE SWELL IS HERE. LEARNING TO SURF AT THE WRECK IS ONLY SUITABLE IN SMALL SURF AT HIGH TIDE, AS IT OFTEN BREAKS CLOSE TO SHORE.

**LEARN TO SURF  
WITH STYLE:  
BOOK HERE OR  
CALL 6685 5634**

THIS INFORMATION IS A GUIDE ONLY & REPRESENTS THE OPINION OF STYLE SURFING SCHOOL.



### A RIP CURRENT:

A RIP IS A CURRENT THAT FLOWS STRAIGHT OUT TO SEA. WHAT HAPPENS WITH RIPS?? THE WAVES BREAK TOWARDS THE BEACH, TOO MUCH WATER IS NOW AT THE WATERS EDGE. THIS WATER MUST NOW ESCAPE BACK OUT TO SEA.....

### HOW TO DEAL WITH A RIP???

SURFERS USE THESE RIPS EVERYDAY TO OUR ADVANTAGE. IT IS LIKE A TAXIRIDE, THAT TAKES US DIRECTLY OUT TO SEA. WHEN WE NO LONGER WANT TO BE IN THE RIP, WE PADDLE SIDEWAYS ACROSS THE RIP [ PARALLEL TO THE BEACH] NEVER AGAINST IT.... ONCE WE REACH THE EDGE OF THE CURRENT, THIS IS WHERE WE SURF OR WHERE YOU CAN START TO GET BACK TO THE BEACH. >> A RIP IS IDENTIFIED BY SAND, SEAWEED & DISCOLOURED WATER GETTING SWIRLED AROUND IN BETWEEN THE BREAKING WAVES. THE WAVES EITHER SIDE OF THE RIP ARE ALSO OF BETTER SHAPE. WE OFTEN GET RIPS AT MOST BEACHES. IN PARTICULAR WHERE: > THE BEACH ENDS AT A ROCKY OUTCROP OR HEADLAND. > ALONG ALL OPEN BEACHES & LONG SANDY STRAIGHTS. USE YOUR LANDMARK TO SEE WHICH WAY YOU ARE TRAVELLING. ALWAYS KEEP CALM & KEEP YOUR COOL & STAY WITH YOUR SURFBOARD.

### SIGNALS USED BY SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA:

USE THESE SIGNALS TO: ATTRACT ATTENTION: >> WAVE BOTH ARMS TO & FRO, ABOVE YOUR HEAD, CROSSING. FOR ASSISTANCE REQUIRED: >> ONE ARM WAVED TO & FRO ABOVE YOUR HEAD. USE BOTH SIGNALS, ONE THEN THE NEXT, SO WHEN SOMEONE DOES SEE YOU, THEY KNOW YOU ARE NOT WAVING TO ONE OF YOUR MATES. SURF LIFE SAVERS WHO PATROL THE BEACHES AROUND AUSTRALIA USE THESE SIGNALS. THEY PATROL BETWEEN THE RED & YELLOW FLAGS. WE MUST NOT SURF BETWEEN THE FLAGS AS THEY ARE FOR SWIMMERS ONLY

### THERE ARE MANY THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR SURFING:

- ALWAYS OBSERVE THE BEACH & ITS SURROUNDS BEFORE ENTERING THE SURF. CHECK FOR ROCKS, REEFS, SHIP WRECKS, & ALL CURRENTS, SWEEPS, RIPS, AS WELL AS FOR ALL OTHER SURFERS.
- ALWAYS USE A LANDMARK: IE: A TREE A HOUSE ETC, BEFORE YOU GO OUT, THE CURRENTS WILL CARRY YOU ALONG BEFORE YOU EVEN KNOW.

### BASIC RULES TO REMEMBER:

- WHEN LEARNING - KEEP CLEAR FROM ALL OTHERS & SURF WITH A MATE, OR TELL YOUR MATES WHERE YOU ARE GOING SURFING. IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A "SURF BUDDY".
- DO NOT SURF WHERE THE EXPERIENCED SURFERS ARE, UNTIL YOU ARE EXPERIENCED.
- DO NOT CATCH A WAVE WHEN THERE IS SOMEONE ON IT. THE FIRST PERSON TO CATCH THE WAVE OR THE CLOSEST TO THE CURL HAS "RIGHT OF WAY".
- ALWAYS PADDLE WIDE OF A SURFER RIDING A WAVE, GO TOWARDS THE WHITE-WATER, INSTEAD OF THE UN-BROKEN PART OF THE WAVE.
- ALWAYS LAND FLAT WHEN YOU FALL OFF.
- COVER YOUR HEAD AS YOU COME UP FOR AIR.
- ALWAYS KEEP AN EYE ON SWIMMERS, DO NOT RUN OVER THEM.
- NEVER THROW YOUR SURFBOARD AWAY AS A WAVE COMES, IT IS A DANGER TO THOSE AROUND YOU.
- ALWAYS STAY WITH YOUR SURFBOARD, IT KEEPS YOU AFLOAT.
- NEVER PANIC: ALWAYS STAY COOL & STAY CALM.
- ALWAYS COMMUNICATE TO OTHER SURFERS. " GIVE RESPECT TO GAIN RESPECT"
- HELP THOSE IN NEED, OR ASK OTHERS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED.
- KEEP SMILING & DO NOT GET FRUSTRATED.
- WHEN LEARNING TO SURF, HAVE A LESSON WITH A REPUTABLE & LOCAL SURFING SCHOOL.

### YOUR EQUIPMENT:

- ALWAYS CHECK YOUR SURFBOARD, LEASH & OTHER GEAR ARE ALL, IN GOOD WORKING ORDER.
- MAKE SURE THE SURFBOARD IS THE CORRECT SIZE FOR YOU.
- ALWAYS WAX YOUR SURFBOARD FOR EXTRA GRIP.
- ALWAYS THINK ABOUT BEING SUN-SMART WHEN SURFING.

### THE ENVIRONMENT:

- ALWAYS USE THE CORRECT PATHWAY TO & FROM THE SURF & STAY OFF THE SAND DUNES.
- PLEASE TAKE ALL YOUR RUBBISH & BUTTS WITH YOU.
- PICK UP OTHER RUBBISH FOR GOOD KARMA.
- PLEASE LEAVE ALL SEA-SHELLS ON THE BEACH.
- PLEASE LEAVE ALL ANIMALS AT HOME. UNLESS IT IS AN EXERCISE AREA FOR DOGS.
- PLEASE BE WATER WISE & HAVE A QUICK SHOWER AT THE BEACH.

