

Surf News



5 Minutes with

Luke Madden

Luke Madden

is a young surfer who has lived in Cronulla his whole life. Luke surfs the Alley and when the swell gets up a bit he likes to surf the Point. When not surfing he is completing a Business and Event Management degree at Wollongong Uni. Surf News spent 5 minutes with Luke.

Well Luke tells us a bit about yourself

I am 19 years of age. My dad started me surfing when I was about 12 years of age. I have been surfing Cronulla ever since that day. I surf daily, most days twice. I work for CSA- Cronulla Surfing Academy (surf school) as well as Surfing NSW running surfing events. I am also Team Manager for Wing Wetsuits. I have completed my HSC at Woolooware High School (2007) and an Advanced Diploma of Sports Management (2008). Currently I am studying in the field of Business and Event Management at Wollongong UNI.

Where do you live?

I live in Cronulla. I'm lucky I live about 2 minutes from the surf, it's so handy – I have to appreciate that!!!

How long have you lived there?

I have lived in Cronulla my whole life. I grew up in Cronulla and am hoping to live here in the future.



How long have you been surfing?

I was a late starter to surfing – for these days anyway. I didn't really get into surfing until I was about 12 – about 7 years ago now. Now groms by the age of 12 or even as young as 10 are ripping which is great to see.

How did you start surfing?

My dad has been surfing for his whole and got me into it. Stoked he did!!!!

What is your favorite surfing spots and why?

Around Cronulla I would say The Alley; when the banks are good and all my mates are out it's the best. The whole of last year and this year (so far) Wanda has also been really good. Overall my favorite waves are any good rip bowls doesn't matter where it is. Cronulla Point when it gets a bit bigger has to be up there too. Going down the coast and scoring peaky Woonona is siik, as well as Narrabeen's punchy rights and long peeling lefts. I have been to Bali 4 times and Cunggu, Ulu as well as Kuta Reef have been some of the best waves in my life.



Who are your sponsors?

IsurfforWingWetsuits, Force9surfboards, DirtyDogEyewear, Squidaccessories, Nippy'sFruitJuice, EvolutionFinsAustralia, SunsationalSunscreenandStompwax. Theyallmotivateandhelpmeoutsomuch.

What boards do you ride?

I ride Force 9 surfboards – a local Cronulla Brand (Jim Lucas). Deane Frazer is my shaper. Currently my favorite board is my new 5'10 by 2 ¼ by 17 ¼ round tail. Deane made some changes and now it's my best board to date. When it's small I ride a semi fish/short board - 5'8 by 2 1/8 by 17 ½ swallow tail. All the guys down there are great to me and are making great boards. Thanks Jim, Deane, Bazza and Ryan!!!!

Who is your favorite surfer in Cronulla and who is surfing the best in cronulla right now?

There are a lot of guys surfing really well. At the moment I think Cronulla has its strongest juniors in a long time – they are winning comps left right and centre. For the best I think it is between a few guys; Dyl Hayllar, Dyl Hannah, Dane Durban, Kirk Flintoff, Joe Sear, Fletch Hayllar, Wiley Folwer and Glenn Pringle are my pick. I can't pick one they all rip!!!

Who is your favorite surfer in the world?

Bede Durbridge is crazy. I like his style and power. Julian Wilson, Dane Reynolds and Rob Machado are also favorites.

What is so good about surfing?

That it is not only a sport but a lifestyle. Surfing depicts healthy, exercise and fun all in one. It is also great to meet new people and make new friends of all ages. It is never the same conditions and is a challenge. It is also great that it is both individual and a team sport.

What do you do out of the water?

I hang with my girlfriend, mates and family; work, do UNI work and go to UNI.

Do you compete? Boardriders or other?

I surf in local boardriders – Cronulla sharks and Christian surfers.

Favorite food?

North Cronulla Kiosk specialty - schnitzel roll, Sushi and anything home cooked.

Education?

I have completed; HSC in 2007 at Woollooware High School, Adv. Dip. Of Sports Management at the Australia Business Academy and I am currently studying in the field of Business and Events at Wollongong UNI.

If you were not a surfer what would you be?

I would like to be a good soccer player or skater.

Well thanks Luke for sharing a bit of info about yourself and hope you go well with finishing your degree and that it helps you with a career in sport.