



PodCaz audio 113. Australian Surf Culture: Coolum Surf Club

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But time moved on, and surfing clubs, board riders clubs started to develop. [Coolum Board Riders Club](#) - I've mentioned before, I have been heavily involved in Coolum Board Riders Club, and it's one of two clubs in Australia that has its own club house. The [surf life saving clubs](#) are community-sponsored in a big way, because they provide a community service, these surf life saving clubs have their own club houses, but for a surf board riders club, to have a club house is still quite unusual. There's one at [Philip Island](#) in Victoria, and the only other one in Australia is at Coolum Beach, and I was involved very heavily in acquiring the club house and organizing the occupation of what used to be a Council chamber office and caravan park office, and change that over to use as the Coolum Board Riders Club house, where the club now stores all its equipment – tents, [P.A system](#), boards and that sort of paraphernalia, and they operate competitions from that venue.

Because the club house is where it is – it's on a park that's got a good proximity to the beach, and a good view of the beach, it's become a center for top-rank, or elite surfing competitions in Australia. There are often Queensland titles, and Australian titles, and even a couple of international competitions these days are held at Coolum Beach because the club house is there and it's got the facilities to broadcast the P.A system and to judge events and to store equipment, all located within easy proximity to the beach.

(...) So there's a broad spectrum of ages in Coolum Board Riders Club, and it has certainly broken a lot of barriers in promoting surfing as a healthy and, er ... it's a healthy and stable activity ... sporting activity in the community, whereas in the early days, a lot of people perceived surfers as people involved in [drugs](#), long hair, lazy – that's not what surfing is about, and Coolum Board Riders Club has had a lot to do in promoting a good image for surfing.

Coolum Club also offers social activities: golf days, trips away – sometimes a bus is hired and it takes a group of surfers down to other surfing spots – [Angourie](#) comes to mind, we had a ... probably about 5 or 6 years ago, we had a big surf trip down there – I don't know what the local surfers down there think of it when a busload of surfers from Coolum arrive in town, but that's always an experience and that's good for the younger members of the club.

