

- belloomer A belly board popular in Australia.
belly The middle curved-contour on the under-
side of a surfboard or surf equipment.
- big surf A surf generally considered to be eight or
ten feet high or higher, usually seasonal.
The term is relative to one's experience.
- bitchin Very good; tops.
blast A helluva good time.
blend The functional unifying of the lines of a
surfboard; fairing.
- blind Riding backward on a surfboard.
blowhole In surf, an upspouting of water caused by
air trapped in the wave tunnel. An up-
welling of water from an underwater cliff
or obstruction.
- blowoff Being blown off a wave by the wind.
blowout A day when the wind is so strong as to
make surf riding undesirable or unfeasible.
- bluebird Any very large swell that rises up in blue
water.
- board A surfboard or *paipo* board.
board reverse A trick pullout accomplished by swinging
pullout the board around and off the wave in the
direction opposite to that of the slide.
- bodysurfing Riding waves with or without fins but
without the use of surfboard, mat or any
other equipment.
- bone yard The area where waves break; also known
as the graveyard.
- bottom-out The end of a drop down the face of a
wave; to ride near the trough in front of a
wave.
- bottom turn A sudden turn at the bottom of the wave
from a straight-off position at high speed
enabling the rider to commence sliding.
- bottom profile The contour plan for the bottom of a
surfboard.
- bow The forward end of a surfboard; the tip
or nose.
- bowl A bend in a wave where it builds up
higher, usually caused by the shoaling of

- the ocean floor or by waves merging from
slightly different directions; also known as
a hook.
- box seat Australian term for the hottest spot in the
take-off site.
- break The breaking crest of a wave. The area
where waves break. The moment when a
wave breaks. A big surf.
- breakaway edge The trailing edges of a surfboard (its rails,
tail or after-edge of the skeg) where the
member separates from the water.
- broadie South African term for a slide.
bucking Fighting ones way out through a surf.
bugged To be annoyed or disquieted.
canopy The curved overhead-crest of a wave.
catalyst Methyl-ethyl ketone peroxide used to initi-
ate thermal reaction and harden polyester
resin.
- catch a rail When a surfboard edge catches in the
water when rider attempts to turn from
too forward a position.
- chair Australian term for underwater cliffs that
create the wave-breaking site.
- chicken out To be overcome with fear; to hold back
from catching a steep wave or a high one.
- chine A definite edge where two surfaces meet.
cleanup set A large set of waves that breaks to seaward
of the take-off site literally cleaning the area
of surfboards.
- climb and drop A rhythmic course steered up and down the
face of a wave.
- climbing the wall Steering a surfboard up the sloping wall of
a wave for kicks or to gain position for a
speed run.
- close haul A very fast slide when the board-to-wave
angle is very small.
- closeout A period when big surf is breaking across a
bay or surfing area making it impossible to
get out to seaward. A section of a wave that
breaks ahead of a rider.
- cloud surf The biggest surf one can remember. Also,

- paipo* A small surfboard from approximately one to three feet long held in front with the hands or beneath the chest; a belly board. Some riders can stand on *paipo* boards. The term is from popular usage but may stem from *pae*, to ride a wave to shore, and *pu*, the sea at midtide (Hawaiian).
- papa nui* Literally, a big board, but loosely applied to a big surf or a big-surf site such as Papa Nui at Waikiki which only breaks when the swells are 25 feet or higher (Hawaiian).
- peak The top of a breaking wave; the crest. Also refers to a type of wave that is high in one section only, as distinguished from waves that "line up" for a long distance.
- pearl To pearl or pearl dive is to allow the tip of the surfboard, canoe or boat to catch under the water causing it to head straight for the bottom and the rider to be dumped forward.
- peel off Turning back off the shoulder of a wave to terminate a ride; a cutout.
- period The time interval elapsed between the passing of a fixed point of two successive wave crests. Also, the time between sets (loosely).
- pig board A hot dog board with an extremely wide (22" or more) tail exceeding the width at any other point.
- planing A long, steady ride on a steep wave in which the board-to-wave angle is small. A portion of the forward end of the board may be partially supported by the flow of air rising up the face of the wave.
- planing surface The longitudinally flat bottom surface of a gun or hydroplane surfboard which enables planing at high speed.
- plank An old-fashioned surfboard, usually made of redwood, square-tailed, heavy, more cumbersome and far less maneuverable than contemporary boards. Used in Hawaii until the late 1930's.

- poi* A Polynesian staple, a starchy food.
- polyester A liquid plastic used as a glue covering for surf equipment.
- polyurethane A liquid plastic that, when gas-expanded and solidified, is used to make surfboard blanks and other equipment.
- popout A cheap, mass-produced surfboard.
- pour it on To trim a board on a wave and assume a stance that achieves maximum speed and control.
- pressing Crowding of a rider on the outside (away from the curl) by a rider on the inside (near the curl). Any crowding while wave riding.
- proneout To lie down on a board while riding the soup.
- psychout To be overcome with fear; to pull off a wave from fear of its steepness or height; to chicken out.
- pullout Pulling out through the back of a breaking wave to terminate a ride.
- Quasimodo A hot dog riding-position consisting of a squat with head down, one arm forward, the other back, used when shooting a tunnel or for show.
- rabbit-ear skeg A twin skeg, joined at the base, designed to increase holding power on sharp turns and minimize spinouts.
- rail The edge of a surfboard.
- rakeback skeg A skeg with its lower extremity or axis angled rearward.
- resin A polyester used with a catalytic hardener to coat surf equipment and produce a hard, resilient surface.
- reverse twist A fancy hot dog peeloff whereby the board turns off a wave to one side, while the rider twists his body around the other way; also called a reverse pullout.
- right slide Riding across a wave toward the rider's right.
- righting The point in a roll beyond which a water-

- moment borne vessel will not right itself and cap-sizes.
- rip A fast, narrow current running seaward, also called a rip tide, sea pussy and sometimes mistakenly thought of as an undertow.
- rocker The lengthwise-curved bottom contour of a modern surfboard.
- rookie A beginner.
- rooster tail An upward-curving spray of water directly astern of fast-moving surfboards, water skis or boats with a certain curvature of bottom and/or trailing edge.
- round rail A surfboard rail, the cross section of which is round and thickened, generally producing a slow and stable or stiff response.
- 'round the island A tandem maneuver where the girl is rotated 360° around the partner's shoulders or waist, also called 'round the world.
- routed skeg A strong method of attaching a skeg in a routed slot.
- routed stick A cheap method of inlaying a non-full stick.
- rubber suit A cold-water insulating suit made of sponge rubber; a wetsuit.
- runback Fast back-stepping on a surfboard.
- runup Fast forward-stepping on a surfboard.
- sampan roll An area to seaward of Waikiki Bay frequented by fishing sampans on their way to sea and where only the largest swells break in blue water. Any large-swell breaking site.
- sanding coat A hot coat.
- sardine A shark.
- scoop The camber or uplifted shape of the forward or rear portion of a surfboard; a spoon or cup.
- scorpion tail The tail scoop aft of the step on a hydroplane surfboard.
- scuba Self-contained underwater breathing apparatus.
- sea breeze A light wind blowing onshore.

- sea pussy A rip.
- second break The area where waves break a second time, closer to shore than the first break or zero break. Also a specific surfing site such as at Waikiki.
- semi-gun A big-wave surfboard modified for slower speed and somewhat increased maneuverability.
- set A grouping of several waves, usually from three or four to seven or eight, the groupings separated by intervals of relative calm from less than a minute to half an hour or more. A drift current.
- shock wave A secondary side-wake caused by the motion of a fast board across the face of a large wave.
- shorebreak Waves that break near to or directly on the beach or shore.
- short board Australian term for a general purpose or hot dog board.
- shoulder The smoothly rounded end or edge of a wave away from the broken portion or soup. Also a hydroplane step.
- shooting the tunnel A fast slide through a tunnelling wave.
- shuffling Changing position on a surfboard without the walking step.
- side-ride A fast bodysurfing position on the side, possible only on a very steep wave.
- sideslip The drift of the forward end of a surfboard diagonally down the face of a wave, a natural component of motion of wave riding.
- sitting island-pullout An island pullout in sitting position.
- skateboard A skate mounted on a short piece of wood.
- skeg A fixed underwater fin on the underneath rear end of a surfboard providing directional stability and holding the stern of the board in the wave.
- skim or skitter A fast, finless belly or *paipo* board about

- board 42 inches long and 30 inches wide and around three-eighths of an inch thick with a flat bottom—one of the fastest wave-riding devices.
- slack The period between ebb and flow of the tide when the water is relatively motionless, also called slack tide or slack water. Also refers to the quiet periods between sets of waves.
- slide The movement of a surf rider across the face of a wave as distinguished from going straight in with the wave (straight-off). Sliding may nearly double the speed and distance covered by the rider as compared to that of the wave.
- slop Very poor surf. Soup.
- slot The most desirable riding area of a wave, where the rider is in position to plane; a little less than half way up from the fore-front to the crest.
- soft Easily maneuvered; said of a compliant surfboard. Also a slow gentle surf without much energy.
- sound To dive to the bottom.
- soup The broken portion of a wave less suitable for riding, often dangerous in big surf. Also refers to the area of white water where waves are breaking; the bone yard.
- spinner A 360° body spin or twist on a surfboard done for show or as the rider is turning his board to begin sliding or during a pullout.
- spinning board The rapid spinning of a board thrown into the air by the force of a wave plus its buoyancy.
- spinout The loss of purchase in the wave of tail and skeg causing board and rider to fall down the face of the wave.
- spoon A scoop.
- square tail A surfboard with a squared-off stern.
- stall To delay forward motion on a wave. On a

- board it is done by stepping back and angling up the board, when bodysurfing by raising head and shoulders.
- stallout A stall held long enough to let the wave pass by.
- standard A surfer who rides with left foot forward. A left-foot-forward stance.
- standing island-pullout An island-pullout in standing position.
- steamer lane The general area where ships pass by offshore. Loosely, any place far out from the shore. A deep-water surfing site.
- step The line or shoulder differentiating the planing surface from the scorpion tail on a hydroplane surfboard.
- stepoff Terminating a ride by stepping off the nose of a surfboard.
- stepping back Changing position on a surfboard by stepping or walking back, one foot at a time.
- stern The rear end of a surfboard.
- stick A piece of wood, usually redwood, glued between the two halves of a surfboard for strength, and, when pre-shaped, to aid in shaping the board. Additional off-center or curved sticks sometimes are added for strength, weight and design.
- stiffener A stick.
- stoked To be chuck full of enthusiasm or satisfaction.
- straight-off The path of a surf rider straight in with the wave, distinguished from sliding across the face of a wave. Straight-off is a term also applied to the riding style of novices.
- stringer A stick.
- surf The action of breaking waves. The area of breaking waves. The act of surfing.
- surf chaser Australian term for a surfer's jalopy.
- surf hearse An old hearse rehabilitated for carrying surfboards. Any jalopy used to transport surfers and boards.