



__ AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS 2009 __

Surfing 'Rabbit' rides to new high

by Katrina Jones

WAYNE 'Rabbit' Bartholomew has been known as a surfing guru during his time as a competitor, administrator and mentor, now he can add Member of the Order of Australia (AM) to the list.

The president of the Association of Surfing Professionals has today been recognised with an appointment alongside 115 others across the country for his service to surfing and to the environment through support for a range of coastal conservation groups.

Bartholomew said the honour was 'quite remarkable' and a 'very, very pleasant surprise'.

"Just to think that all the work you've done has made a positive contribution and that you've been recognised by the country," he said.

"On a personal level it is the

highest distinction I have ever received and it does make you feel that your body of work has made a difference to the community of the Gold Coast and Australia."

The born-and-bred Coast man said he had three people to thank for shaping him into the person he is today.

"Firstly my mum, I know she is very proud," he said.

"My best friend and the person and surfer I most admire and respect, Dennis Callinan, and lastly Guy Ormerod, a pastor at King's College who's just a real high-integrity kind of guy."

One the surf circuit Bartholomew was an ASP Master Champion in 1999 and 2003, an ASP World Champion in 1978 and he was ranked in the world top five for eight consecutive years.

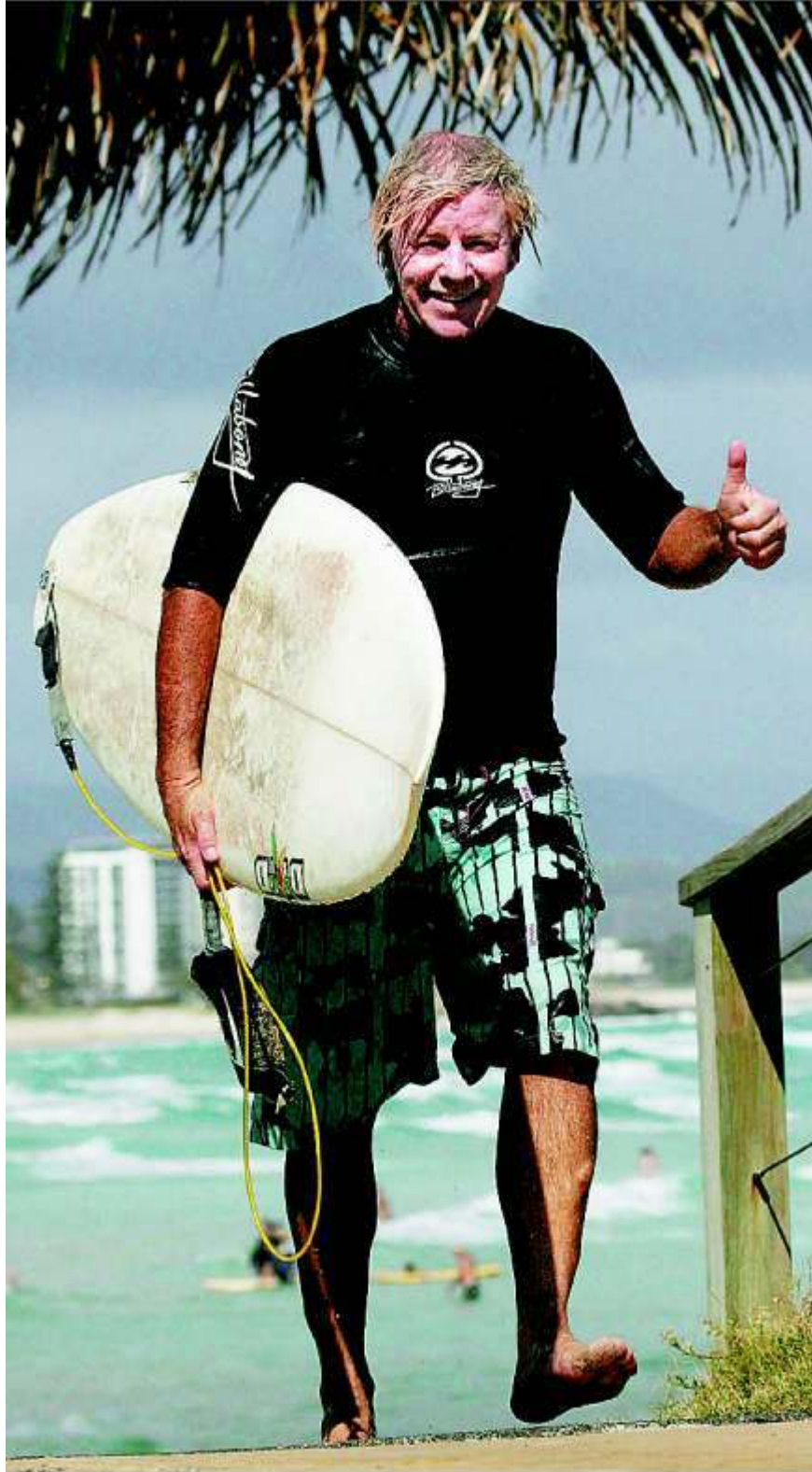
He was the national coaching

director of Surfing Australia from 1993 to 1998 and was also the president of Snapper Rocks Surfriders Club from 1987 to 2002.

He was inducted into the Australian Walk of Fame in 2006, the USA Hall of Fame in 2001, the Sports Australia Hall of Fame in 1999 and the Australian Surfing Hall of Fame in 1987. He was the Gold Coast Sportsman of the Year for three years and received the ASP Services to Sport Award.

If that is not enough, Mr Bartholomew is also a patron with the Groups Against Sewage Pollution, National Ocean Care Day and Surfrider Foundation.

Over the years he has showed his passion in the Bring Back Kirra campaign and is known for founding the Kirra Environmental Protection Trust.



Gold Coast surfing great Wayne 'Rabbit' Bartholomew is among the winners of Member of the Order of Australia (AM) award ● **Picture: Scott Fletcher**