

# Coach seeks surf equipment for PNG

A COOLANGATTA-based surf coach is calling for help to bring wave-riding skills to isolated villagers in Papua New Guinea.

Jamo Borthwick, who owns the Walking On Water Surf School at Generosant Beach, has returned from a three-week tour of PNG, where he trained coaches and lifeguards.

He said he was amazed by the enthusiasm for the sport among locals, despite their decrepit equipment.

"At one club there were 30 members sharing three boards and the kids were catching waves on broken boards, bits of wood and debris they had carved themselves," he said.

"They are amazing people and there

is some phenomenal natural talent there but really, they have nothing."

Mr Borthwick is now starting to collect unwanted surf equipment, which he will transport and distribute with the help of the Papua New Guinea Surfing Association.

"Really we're looking for anything from boards, body boards and surf clothing equipment right down to hoodies, T-shirts and hats," he said.

"Here young people especially place so much importance on having the latest gear or the latest look, but last year's hoodies will put a huge smile on someone's face over there and they will treasure them until they fall apart."

For more information or to donate, visit [www.pngsurfing.com.au](http://www.pngsurfing.com.au).



**SURF MISSION ...** Jamo Borthwick is collecting surf gear for PNG. *Picture: BRAD WAGNER*