

Surf Boards in the Making in New Ireland



This is one of the many surfboards that have been constructed at a beach house near Kaselok. Rangua is the name of the place with a little passage in the reef that provides surf, which is neither a left hander nor a right hander but maybe 'straight hander'

Each day a team of six mostly in the early 10s, including a little girl, would watch the tides and swells and when they think it is right they race across the reef flat to the surf zone to surf the waves.

The watching and waiting for the right time to make the dash for the first waves, paves way for chaos and weeping on the beach, there is fighting over who owns 'that piece of plank or this piece of plywood' If they are shaping their flat surfaces, it is one blunt bush knife they are fighting over, their only tool, stolen off course from the neighborhood.

During this festive season they have experimented and developed what you see in these pictures, a bigger shaped surface and with a fin!

There was still trouble at home as a result of the creation of this 'master piece', the walling of a family haus kuk was ripped apart, the construction of a new kuk haus came to a stand still because the 3 inch nails kept on disappearing and an hammer buried in sand for 3 days. Even before that, there was always a piece of plank missing from a new veranda currently being constructed.



This is the second fin on this creation (this is another 10 nails!), the first broke away on the back of one of their team members. It must have been an occasion! And now they joke about it.... it must have been very funny, the twisting and the yelling and the crying.

It must have been the 'holiday' at the surfing camp that contributed to the creation of this 'master piece', the drive and dream to stand and ride the waves on a bigger flat surface just like all of them out there