

# Dick Van Straalen SURF DESIGNS

Photo: dickHOOLE



# DICK VAN STRAALLEN

## THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

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What a great time to talk to Dick Van Straalen (DVS), one of the world leaders in surfboard innovation, and, a classic waterman. While DVS may today be famous for shaping interesting boards for one *David Rastovich (Rasta)* you will read throughout this article that DVS is an innovator and always has been. Now that this whole concept of riding interesting boards is almost 'fashionable,' DVS is no longer alone in his quest for experimentation. With an underground cult following for more than 30 years you will also notice that Van Straalen is one of the ten legends of Australian surfing that is featured in our benchmark story, the Tribal Elders. Alongside names such as Mark Richards, Nat Young and George Greenough you begin to understand that Van Straalen is more than a shaper. Van Straalen is a pioneer for sustainable surfboard manufacturing, the operator of the first Australian surfing school, the inventor of the 'Coolite' surfcraft, a great surfer, a family man, a philosopher and a huge contributor to the development of surfing in Australia and around the globe.

All images courtesy of Dick's personal collection.