

# Basic Detail Report

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**00054967**

**Title**

Country Club de Villa trophy (bird)

**Date**

17 March 1962

**Medium**

Silver, bronze and onyx

**Dimensions**

Overall: 295 × 540 × 185 mm

**Name**

Trophy

**History**

Bob Pike (Robert Hughes Pike 1940-1999) is regarded as Australia's first and one of its best big sea riders. He travelled to surfing's big-wave Mecca, Hawaii first in 1961, to the north shore of Oahu. 'I felt like I'd discovered where my umbilical cord was connected to,' Pike said of his introduction to the tropics. He featured in the surfing films Surfing Hollow Days (1962), Angry Sea (1963), and The Endless Summer (1966) exposing his 'driving big-wave style' to global surfing audiences. <http://encyclopediaofsurfing.com/entries/pike-bob> From Hawaii Pike was invited to compete in Peru where he went on to win the 'small-wave' competition. It was the first overseas win by an Australian. Bernard Midget Farrelly was to follow with his win at the Hawaiian Makaha championship in January 1963, the major global event of the era. Bob Pike surfed regularly at Sydney's northern beaches Long Reef, Dee Why, the Bower. He travelled to Hawaii in 1964 to compete in the Makaha championship in January. According to Jack Eden 'in a freak west swell at the treacherous Banzai Pipeline Pike was dumped by a wave of such force that his shoulder was pulled from its socket and some ribs were dislodged from his spine. He was pulled from the water by a photographer Leroy Grannis.' Surfabout revisited collection nd. c1999. He continued big wave surfing. As the Australian surf industry blossomed from the mid-60s, Pike removed himself almost entirely from the commercial surf scene and worked as a fireman. He also married the sister of 1964 world champion Midget Farrelly. 'If nobody had ever heard of me,' Pike said in a 1998 interview with Australian Longboarding magazine, 'if no one had ever known if I'd surfed or not, it wouldn't have mattered one iota. I did it because I loved doing it.' The following year, the 59-year-old Pike killed himself by asphyxiation. A bronze plaque dedicated to Pike was installed at Manly Beach in 2000, with the inscription describing him as 'The first and greatest of Australia's big-wave riders.' <http://encyclopediaofsurfing.com/entries/pike-bob>