

Basic Detail Report



ANMS1078[023]

Title

Australian Championship, Coolangatta

Date

1966

Medium

Photograph on paper

Dimensions

Overall: 305 × 405 mm

Name

Photograph

History

These photographs by photographer and publisher Jack Eden shows the many facets of surfing culture in Australia in the 1960s. It was a time of change with internationalisation of the sport on the one hand and the beginnings of what would become the relaxed ideal of the surfing surfari on the other - when surfers followed waves around the coastline, firstly for competition and then as a 'soul surfing' lifestyle. Eden's photographs show the surfers, largely male but also some of the female surfers, that he ascribed the title femlins in the idiom of the day. They also show spectators, media, judges, surfboard makers, entertainers - Little Pattie and the Statesmen, beachfronts, waves, land and sea scapes, along the coastline from Coolangatta in Queensland to Point Lonsdale in Victoria. The early 1960s saw the rise of Australian stars like Bernard Midget Farrelly, his early protégé Nat Young, and Phyllis O'Donnell, all of whom won their respective classes in the first world surfing titles held in Manly in 1964 that he documents from the beach, the water and the air. Many of his competition shots were published in his magazine surfabout and are energetic and exuberant but today it is those images of life around the surf 50 years ago that are compelling - surf and beachwear, the crowds, the personalities, the boards and the changes in the coastal sites themselves.