



MICK FANNING

**Date of Birth – 13th June 1983 – Place of Birth – Penrith, NSW
Inducted 17 November 2021**

Mick Fanning put the finishing touches to his remarkable Championship Tour career at the 2018 Rip Curl Pro 17 years after winning the event as a wildcard. In the process, he cemented his legacy as one of Australia's greatest surfing heroes.

Mick emerged from a deep pool of talent based out of Coolangatta as one of The Coolangatta Kids band of brothers alongside fellow legends in waiting, Dean Morrison and Joel Parkinson, to earn his 2001 wildcard entry into the Bells event as a star Rip Curl team rider.

He qualified for the Tour that same year and spent the better part of the next two decades as one of the biggest gravitational forces in the sport, racking up 22 Tour wins, 11 Top 5 finishes and three World Titles in 2007, 2009 and 2013.

In 2018, Mick announced his retirement from full-time competition at Bells to bookend his journey.

And while his stats point to a storied career, his global allure came from things that don't show on the scoreboard.

His razor sharp brand of high-speed surfing became the benchmark for an electric brand of speed, power and flow that earned him the nickname White Lightning although Mick's personal journey to the top was anything but smooth.

In 1998, when he was already one of Australia's hot up-and-coming amateur prospects, his older brother Sean, his best friend and hero, was killed in a car accident.

In 2004, he tore his entire hamstring muscle off his pelvic bone, ripping the ligaments that attached to his buttocks.

And in 2015, a great white shark famously attacked Mick, biting his leg rope in half during the Final of the J-Bay Open in South Africa, which was being aired on live television back home.

The other finalist, Australia's Julian Wilson, heroically paddled into the danger zone to help his good mate.

Later that year, in the middle of another World Title race at Pipeline, Mick's brother Peter passed away, but through every horrible episode he rebounded with bravery, grace and conviction.

And he had no trouble swapping the green room for the boardroom when in 2016 Mick and mates Parkinson, Bede Durbidge and Josh Kerr established the Balter Brewing Company, which was acquired by Carlton and United Breweries just three years later.

In 2017 he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to surfing as a professional competitor at the national and international level, and as a supporter of a range of charitable foundations.

In August 2020 Mick and his fiancé, Bree, welcomed their first child, a baby boy named Xander and in May 2021 Mick was inducted into the Australian Surfing Hall of Fame.



CITY OF
GOLDCOAST.



JOEL PARKINSON

Date of Birth – 10th April 1981 – Place of Birth – Nambour, QLD

Inducted 17 November 2021

Joel 'Parko' Parkinson is regarded as one of the most naturally gifted and stylish surfers to grace the sport. And his story is a sporting classic.

Joel had finished runner-up for the ASP World Title an astonishing four times between 2002 and 2011, the most heartbreaking of those in 2009 when he led the rankings all year only to injure an ankle in the mid-summer break and lose the world title to best mate Mick Fanning in the final event of the year at Pipeline.

It's a measure of the man that having had the title taken from his grasp only minutes before and broken down in tears, he dusted himself off, pulled himself together, and walked to the water's edge to chair Mick up the beach. But his time would soon come.

In 2012 he went into the last event of the season - the Billabong Pipeline Masters - leading the ratings by a whisker, this time from 11-time world champ Kelly Slater.

In one of the most drama-packed days in pro surfing history, Joel and Kelly traded the lead in the world title race four times, but when Kelly eventually fell short in his semi-final it was Parko who was crowned World Champion. And surfing in an era of superstars, it was certainly a long road to the top. Born in Nambour, Queensland, Joel grew up on the Gold Coast.

He started surfing as a child on his father's board, before the Palm Beach Currumbin State High student started competing with his friends Dean Morrison and Fanning - a childhood that would soon see the trio surfing some of the finest pointbreaks on the planet.

Parkinson, Fanning and Morrison became known as The Coolangatta Kids, and it was in these formative years that he developed his smooth stylings that took him to victory in the ASP World Junior Championship.

The first professional win came at Jeffrey's Bay, South Africa in July 1999, where competed as an 18-year-old wildcard in the Billabong Pro, systematically dismantling the world's best surfers and winning the contest in a canter.

It was the start of a stellar career that would see Joel win 12 Tour events at iconic waves like Pipeline, Sunset Beach, Jeffrey's Bay, Bells Beach and California, in Bali and at his home break of Snapper Rocks.

He made the ASP/WSL Top 5 on nine occasions, won the Hawaiian Triple Crown three times in a row and featured in dozens of surf movies and magazines.

His career tally is headed by his 2012 world title and four runner-up finishes in 2002, 2004, 2009 and 2011, with his last tour win coming at the Oakley Bali Pro in 2013, where he earned one of the few perfect heats seen in history - masterfully pairing two 10-point rides.

In 2018, Joel graciously made his retirement announcement at Jeffrey's Bay in salute to his 1999 wildcard appearance at the peeling right-hander.

And he has shown he is also adept at riding the business wave.

In 2016 Joel and mates Fanning, Bede Durbidge and Josh Kerr established the Balter Brewing Company, which was acquired by Carlton and United Breweries just three years later in 2019.



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