

## Stoked! Surfboard lost in Tasmania turns up 2,700km away in Queensland

**Level:** Elementary / Pre-intermediate

### 1 Warmer

- In pairs, think of all of the rivers, seas or oceans near you.
- What would happen if you dropped an object that can float into one of these rivers, oceans or seas? Where would it go? Is it possible you could find it again? Discuss your answers.

### 2 Key words

- Write the words in the boxes next to their meanings. Then find and underline them in the article.

barnacles

florescent

local

recognize

via

- going to one place on the way to another place \_\_\_\_\_
- sea creatures that stick to objects in the sea \_\_\_\_\_
- in or from the area that you are talking about \_\_\_\_\_
- know what you are looking at because you have seen it before  
\_\_\_\_\_
- a type of colour that is very bright and reflects light \_\_\_\_\_

current

logo

miss

remote

straps

- the parts on some surfboards that you put your feet through \_\_\_\_\_
- a picture or symbol a company puts on the products they make  
\_\_\_\_\_
- a strong movement of water in one direction \_\_\_\_\_
- far away from anywhere else \_\_\_\_\_
- wish you still had something that you used to have \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Use some of the key words above to complete these sentences.

1. A strong \_\_\_\_\_ took the boat out to sea.
2. They flew from New York to New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ Frankfurt.
3. Police often wear \_\_\_\_\_ yellow or orange high-vis jackets.
4. I could \_\_\_\_\_ the house from your description.
5. Why don't you borrow the book from your \_\_\_\_\_ library?

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**Naaman Zhou**

**17 March 2021**

- 1 An Australian surfer has found a surfboard he lost four years ago. It floated at sea for thousands of kilometres, from the bottom of Australia to the top – probably via New Zealand.
- 2 Danny Griffiths, a big-wave surfer, lost his favourite board in the sea south of Tasmania. Two brothers found it in north Queensland, more than 2700 kilometres away. It had barnacles on it.
- 3 Recently, the brothers' parents took a trip to Tasmania and told local surfers about the board. They realized that it belonged to Danny.
- 4 "Tasmania is a pretty small place and the surfers all know each other. They worked out it was my board and the brothers sent me some photos," said Danny
- 5 Griffiths said he could recognize the board because it was bright green and a small specialist Tasmanian company made it.
- 6 "All my big-wave boards are fluorescent green. There are not many big-wave surfers around Australia. Everyone puts their straps on differently. And the logo shows it is from a small surfboard company here in Tasmania."
- 7 The board probably did not travel up the Australian east coast. It probably went the long way round via New Zealand.
- 8 The big current along the east Australian coast goes north to south, which means this board probably went another way. It is almost certain that it went east from Tasmania to New Zealand and then up north through the Pacific Ocean and then back towards the Australian coast.
- 9 Griffiths lost the board in 2017 when he was surfing Pedra Branca, a remote island twenty-seven kilometres south of Tasmania's coast.
- 10 "On my last wave, I fell off and when I came up, someone on a jet ski saved me. I couldn't see the board. We lost it."
- 11 Griffiths said he missed the board, and his new ones were not as good. "The old one was much better."
- 12 Barnacles from different parts of the ocean grew on the board during on its 2700 kilometre journey. They could have told experts about the board's journey, but the Queensland brothers cleaned all the barnacles off.
- 13 The brothers are sending the board to Danny. "It will be here in a week, I hope," he said.

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### 3 Understanding the article

a. Complete the summary with the information in the box.

2017	Australia	local surfers	logo	New Zealand
north to south	parents	Pedra Branca	Queensland	Tasmania

In \_\_\_\_\_ (1), Danny Griffith lost his favourite surfboard while he was surfing big waves in the sea to the south of \_\_\_\_\_ (2).

Two brothers found his big-wave board in north \_\_\_\_\_ (3) in the north of \_\_\_\_\_ (4).

North Queensland is more than 2,700 kilometres from the remote island of \_\_\_\_\_ (5) where Danny fell off the board and lost it.

The sea current along the east coast of Australia goes from \_\_\_\_\_ (6), so Danny's board probably went a different way.

His board probably floated east via \_\_\_\_\_ (7), out into the Pacific Ocean and back to north Australia.

The brothers' \_\_\_\_\_ (8) went to Tasmania and talked to local surfers.

The \_\_\_\_\_ (9) all know each other, and they said it was Danny's board.

Danny recognized his board on a photo because of the colour, the straps and the \_\_\_\_\_ (10).

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### 4 Informal language

a. What do you think the informal adjective *stoked* (in the title) means?

1. annoyed
2. happy and excited
3. sad

b. Who in the article feels stoked?

c. Why does this person feel stoked?

### 5 Discussion

- Have you ever lost anything that you, or someone else, found far away?
- Have you ever found anything in an unexpected place?

### 6 In your own words

You have lost something that you really want to have back. Discuss what it is and where you think it went. Write a text for an online post or a poster to help you get it back.