



Joel Taylor

- ◆ 2023 Australian Para Surfing Champion
- ◆ 2023 ISA World Para Surfing Championships
- ◆ Australian Team Captain
- ◆ 2023 ISA World Para Surfing Champion
- ◆ 2023 Australian Para Surfer of the Year
- ◆ 2024 Ballina Shire Citizen of the Year
- ◆ 2024 Australian Para Surfing Champion



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Joel Taylor

Joel Taylor is a World Champion paraplegic surfer born and bred in Lennox Head on the Far North Coast of New South Wales, Australia, where he still calls home with his wife Lorin and their two young sons, Jay and Sunny.

An accident at Pipeline, Hawaii in 2001 ended Joel's past life as a professional surfer and left him paralysed from the waist down with a spinal cord injury. Resigned to the fact that he would never walk, let alone surf again, Joel didn't so much as touch the ocean for 20 years, until he rediscovered and fell in love with surfing again in 2022.

Just 12 months later, in August of 2023, Joel won the Australian Para Surfing Titles. He was then selected for and later named captain of the Australian team, The Irukandjis, to compete at the ISA World Para Surfing Championships at Huntington Beach, California that November, which he also won.

In January 2024 Joel was announced Ballina Shire Citizen of the Year for 2024 and a month later, in February, he was awarded Para Surfer of the Year at the 2023 Australian Surfing Awards.

Joel's comeback story of unrelenting perseverance and resilience has inspired people and resonated with media outlets all around the world. As is evidenced by, when, in March 2024, he appeared on the cover and was featured in The Sydney Morning Herald Good Weekend Magazine.

An avid advocate for people with disability, in April Joel joined forces with Local and State Government to push for increased disabled access at New South Wales beaches. In conjunction, he is an ambassador for Accessible Beaches Australia to help improve accessibility nationwide.

In May 2024 Joel started a partnership with Red Bull as a Wings For Life ambassador. A cause he is deeply connected with through experience, Wings For Life raises awareness and money to support research projects to help find a cure for those affected by spinal cord injury.

By successfully defending his Australian Para Surfing Title at the Australian Surfing Championships in August 2024, Joel is now a back-to-back Australian Champion. Through winning Joel has qualified to represent Australia as an Irukandji again and will now defend his World Title also at the 2024 ISA World Para Surfing Championships in Huntington Beach, California, in November.

Location: Ballina NSW



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