



From surfing at his favourite beaches to sailing the high seas on an international research expedition, he's never far from the water. He has found himself at the front of a movement shining a spotlight on the plastic pollution of the world's oceans.

Sailing on Sea Dragon
Copyright Tim Silverwood GoPro

take 3 for the sea

From surfing at local beaches to international sailing adventures, environmentalist Tim Silverwood is never far from the water.

By Justine McClymont

In 2011 Tim Silverwood stepped onto a sailing boat to travel from Hawaii to Vancouver. But his 5000km journey through the high seas was no holiday. Along with 12 other people, Tim was part of a 23-day international expedition to research some of the most polluted waters on the

planet. Trusting in their 72-foot vessel, Tim and the team of researchers from North America, UK and Korea sailed to the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" – a massive area of plastic rubbish in the North Pacific Ocean said to be twice the size of France. As an environmentalist and co-founder of "Take 3 –

A Clean Beach Initiative", Tim was no stranger to the issue of plastic pollution, but witnessing the devastating impacts of rubbish in such remote ocean areas was an eye-opening experience – one that added fuel to his fire for leading environmental change.



Day Two at Kamilo Beach
Photo: Tim Silverwood

In 2011 Silverwood sailed 5000km through the North Pacific Ocean on an international research expedition through one of the most polluted areas of ocean on the planet. Known as the great Pacific Garbage Patch, this area is a massive accumulation of plastic waste twice the size of France. “I went to Hawaii and I joined a 72-foot sailing vessel with 12 other people,” says Silverwood. “We spent about 23 days sailing from Honolulu to Vancouver doing scientific research. We had people from Korea, North America and the UK.”

“It was a wonderful journey to experience the open ocean. I’d never really done any sailing prior to then.”

Tim’s passion for protecting the natural environment started at a young age. He grew up on a pristine bushland property on the NSW Central Coast and developed a deep respect for the ocean as a surfer.

“My inspiration definitely stems back to my own personal relationship with the Australian environment and our oceans.”

Tim went on to study sustainability at university and observed the impacts of pollution while travelling overseas.

“I encountered a lot of horrific pollution during my own travels in my twenties in developing regions. The realisation was that, even

here in Australia with all our money and education and infrastructure, we still have a big problem.”

After working in the not-for-profit sector, Tim joined forces with surfing enthusiast Amanda Marechal and marine ecologist Roberta Dixon-Valk to establish “Take 3 – A Clean Beach Initiative” in 2009. Take 3 aims to reduce plastic pollution on a large scale through a simple message – take three pieces of rubbish with you when you leave the beach, waterway or anywhere in the great outdoors.

“When we started Take 3 it was really a

response to the increasing awareness around plastic pollution,” Tim says.

“We were all learning about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and these horrific anecdotes of the amount of plastic in the ocean. So we thought let’s encourage surfers and people who are walking along the beach and visiting special places to do something positive in light of something seemingly so negative.”

“I’m really passionate about seeing Australia become a global leader when it comes to reducing pollution and preserving our natural environment.”

“We’ve seen since we started an increase in participation from a whole range of people.”



Tim Silverwood
Portrait by Chris Prestidge www.atdusk.com.au

Killick Creek Crescent Head

MY TOP FIVE

Tim Silverwood



1 Crescent Head, NSW

"I learnt to surf in and around Crescent Head. It's always the first place on my mind when I think of ideal surfing destinations in NSW. Such a relaxed and beautiful coastal community with stunning beaches in either direction."

2 Depot Beach, NSW

"A jewel of the South Coast of NSW. The campground is teeming with wildlife and the beaches surrounding are spectacular."



Pebbly Beach
Destination NSW Murray Randerveer

Bruny Island
Tourism Tasmania
Andrew Wilson

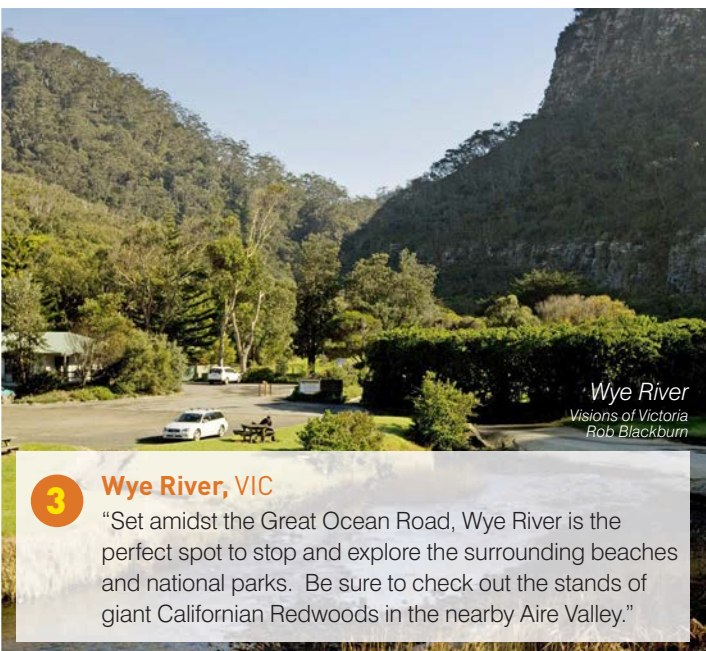


4 Bruny Island, TAS

"Take the ferry to Bruny Island for some indulgent exploration of this beautiful island. Wild and rugged, it's a stunning destination for a few days."

5 Seal Rocks, NSW

"One of the last stretches of coastline in NSW to avoid excessive development. Surrounded by national parks, this area hosts a treasure trove of pristine beaches and stunning natural landscapes. Take a walk to the lighthouse to watch migrating whales and dolphins riding the surf at Lighthouse Beach."



Wye River
Visions of Victoria
Rob Blackburn

3 Wye River, VIC

"Set amidst the Great Ocean Road, Wye River is the perfect spot to stop and explore the surrounding beaches and national parks. Be sure to check out the stands of giant Californian Redwoods in the nearby Aire Valley."



Seal Rocks
Destination NSW Brett Gregory