

OUR STRAIGHT MATES

With Matthew Myers



# Bondi Blond

For five years he dragged people from the surf as part of the Bondi Rescue team. Now Brad Malyon has opened a gallery specialising in, you guessed it, surf photography.

**DNA: How has being a part of Bondi Rescue changed your life?**

**Brad:** In terms of working as a team, it really made me aware of the importance of communication, especially with the duties we would perform on a day-to-day basis. The number one priority for us is to save people's lives. The fulfilment I got from that work had nothing to do with *Bondi Rescue* the TV show, but more from learning how to get on with other people and to communicate well.

**Do you get recognised a lot?**

Every now and then. I was recently in Perth and a young bloke came up to me and asked if I was Brad from *Bondi Rescue* and I was quite surprised. It doesn't happen every day, but it's kind of rewarding to know people out there enjoy and appreciate what we do.

**Did making a reality TV show make you self-conscious?**

For sure. For me it was quite hard work. I'm not a natural in front of the camera, like some of the other guys. Every time I had to say a few words in front of the camera I found it quite hard. But that's the joy of editing, they can take what they want and make it look half decent.

**What celebrities have you met while filming the show?**

Well I spoke to David Hasselhoff on the two-way, as I was on a different beach that day. I think I asked him where Pamela Anderson was! Paris Hilton also came down and some of the guys got to drive her around in a beach buggy. I missed her as well!

**Do you have any gay mates?**

I've met gay people in my travels and have kept in contact with a few of them. But I also have a gay cousin, who I call a mate. I get on really well with him and he does a lot of helping out in our family.

**How do you feel about gay guys on the beach checking you out?**

It's not a worry at all. It happens a lot, to be perfectly honest. Especially at Tamarama Beach, where all the gay guys like to go during Mardi Gras. I guess it's perfectly natural to have a look.

**If you were gay, who would you go for?**

Well, I've always thought George Clooney is a handsome devil. The way he carries himself and talks. I don't think he's the fittest guy around, but he's handsome and a star.

**This month DNA is celebrating all things blond. Do blonds have more fun?**

I reckon we do. We get away with a lot more. We pretend we're dumb, but actually we're quite smart!

**If you do something stupid, do you ever get the blond tag thrown at you?**

Yeah, for sure. I've done plenty of stupid things in my life and the boys always throw a blond joke in there. But I've been a blond all my life and I know how to deal with it. You've gotta laugh it off.

**What has been your biggest blond moment on the beach?**

There's a blind lady that walks with her guide dog. When she first came onto the scene there, I went and asked her to get her dog off the beach. But in my defence, a lot of other guys have done it as well.

**Are you sure she is blind and not just saying that to get away with it?**

Well, we've had this debate, but as far as I know she's legally blind.

**Do you drink Pure Blonde beer?**

No, to be honest, I don't like it. I reckon it gives me a full-on hangover! I stay clear.

**Which blond would you rather date – Paris Hilton, Kate Hudson, Cameron Diaz, Ivanka Trump or Taylor Swift?**

I've always liked Cameron Diaz. Ever since *There's Something About Mary*, I just sort of fell in love with her.

**When she had the spoof in her hair?**

Oh yeah, the spoof set it off for me.

**Lifeguards are a valuable asset. Do you feel pride in your job?**

When the shit hits the fan down there and people actually see what we do and how fast we react to bring someone in, or to bring someone back to life, they really appreciate it.

When you're part of a team like that, performing a great rescue, you feel team morale and a community spirit. People talk about it for the next few days and it's reported in the papers. We feel like an essential part of the community and that people look up to us. It's a great feeling.

**Can you explain about Frothers?**

I've always had a passion for photography and about seven years ago it became quite serious. I ended up building a website that showcased my work and other photographers from the area. Essentially it's a daily surf report and we try to capture the spirit of eastern suburbs in terms of the surfing community, with ocean-themed images. We've just opened a gallery in Bronte, which is doing really well.

**Speaking of photography, you were on TV Guide's cover. How did that feel?**

It was pretty exciting on the day. When the Sunday paper came out and everyone saw it, my phones started going mad. It was pretty cool. A couple of kids came to the tower and asked for my autograph and a couple of mums asked me to sign it, too.

**In lifesaving you have a lot of fun at the end of summer, like dressing up in drag. What has been one of the more outrageous things you've gotten up to?**

I wore these tights one night as we were going around from pub to pub. The crotch was so tight and everything was getting so squashed that you could see... everything! They were actually my girlfriend's tight spandex pants, the ones that look like jeans. We had a theme to dress up like those young guys who wear the tight pants. Do you know them? We call them squirrels.

**Is that because they show their nuts?**

[Loud laughing] Nah, they are these 20-year-olds that run around in outrageous outfits, with tight shorts and bare feet, and they have pretty much invaded Bondi. That's why we call them squirrels and we decided to copy them one night for a theme. It was good fun.

**Have you ever come across a shark?**

Yeah, I've chased one out on a jet ski. We once had a report that a group of surfers had seen a shark, so I and another guy had to locate it and deflect it away. That's always scary because they look a lot bigger when you're actually over the top of them. But I also cage-dived with sharks in South Africa when I was younger and it actually stuffed me up for a while. I wish I had never done it! They were four-metre great whites and were actually hitting the cage. Later that afternoon me and a mate went surfing at a break a kilometre away and it was a crazy feeling.

**Growing up, who was your hero of the sand and surf?**

I looked up to Grant Kenny. I thought he was a master in the water. He had the whole Nutri-Grain thing going on too and that marketing campaign certainly worked for me. On the other side, I'm a keen surfer, so I was also into the world surf tour and I really looked up to Tom Carroll and Mark Occhilupo.

**Have you ever skinny-dipped?**

[Laughing] Yes I have, a long time ago. It was a bit of a fun, drunken night. But that was way back when I was about 19, so I won't get into trouble with my girlfriend for saying this.

**When push comes to shove, are you a speedos or boardies guy?**

I'm definitely a boardies guy. When I throw the speedos on I feel totally exposed.

And my thighs are as white as a ghost, probably from wearing boardies all my life!

**Do you freeball much?**

I freeball all day long, every day! I don't like the feeling of being restricted in there, so I try and keep the boys as loose as I can!

For more on Frothers visit [frothers.com.au](http://frothers.com.au)  
Bondi Rescue appears on Network Ten