

Visser rides massive high

By PETER GARDINER

A TAHITIAN tattoo, a punctured elbow, the best barrel in the known universe of Mark Visser and a wipe-out so epic it could have been directed by Cecile B Demille – welcome to Teahupoo times two.

Mark has been to the malevolent mountain of a reef break twice this year and immersed himself in the sublime to the downright brutally blood-curdling.

Both times Teahupoo (pronounced cho-po) left its mark on a surfer who earlier this year rode a 16.7 metre monster wave in Western Australia.

In April's Billabong Pro trials the 25-year-old Buderim big wave specialist surfed in "small" but perfect 1.5m to 2m surf that was still powerful enough to break half of his 12 boards.

His April wipeouts were enough to puncture his arm and give him reef gravel rash on his back that will remain like a permanent



BIG BREAK: Mark sees his way clear through a Teahupoo tube.

bruise known as a "Tahitian tattoo".

He has just arrived back in Australia after he and some of the world's best big wave riders took on the most massive swell to hit the Tahitian coast this year.

None of his boards survived this time.

Tomorrow night the highest bidder can have the remains of one of his boards that got Teahupooed.

The auction follows the Board Meeting corporate

charity surf event at Kawana.

"It was a case of beauty and the beast (from April) to what we found there this time," he said of the world's most powerful break.

"I've never seen waves come through that heavy ever before in my life."

Turn to the Coastlife section to read how Mark and corporate surfers are determined to help local kids in need lead better lives.



BARRELS OF HEART: Mark Visser has donated an autographed piece of his surfboard.

PHOTO: BRETT WORTMAN/BW170298A

Noosa to rock with Housexy tonight

MINISTRY Of Sound is one of the world's leading and best-loved dance music labels and its latest Housexy release is backed by a huge tour which arrives at Noosa's Rolling Rock tonight with superstar DJ Alan Thompson (not Saturday as mentioned in today's Entertainer).

As an international DJ, producer and broadcaster Alan has built an incredible career, having released and remixed more than 45 singles and 10 albums, headlined top clubs worldwide and hosted a variety of radio and TV shows.

With a sound that can only be described as a unique style of four-to-the-floor house music, sometimes deep, sometimes vocal and sometimes tribal but always funky, Alan is sure to rock the house with a vibe that has seen him in world-renowned clubs. For details phone the Rolling Rock on 5447 2255.



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