

Day 16

The day starts slowly watching the last of the rogue wide sets over breakfast, but as swell eases to consistent six foot TC hits the water, then Peck follows, although slightly delayed declining overtures of compensation from Rinal. They surf superb waves alone until hunger pains force them in.

As usual the wind is NE until 10am, then still for a couple of hours, then strengthening SE through the hot afternoon. There is a big outgoing tide this day (Christmas Island charts have proved to be very accurate) and heaps of coral sprog in the water. Also a few tiny stingers - which provide very short term irritation to most, though Matt (NZ - the two had surfed with him five years previously in Java) reacts badly and resorts to constant strapping to keep his mind off the itching. Wave conditions all morning are pretty much faultless.



LUNCH: Chicken curry with pineapple, Fried peanut mix, Rice, fruit.

The afternoon is the same.

Following about six hours surfing the unanimous mood is for R & R in the shade.

A fourteen year old boy, Putra climbs a nearby coconut palm and cuts off some nuts. Everyone from the losmen shares the milk and superfresh, delicate, jelly-like meat. Gusti, Cici and Eda too; the latter proving to be frighteningly capable with a large blade.

From 4pm until sunset perfect six foot glass is enjoyed. TC gets a lovely tube following a late, late (fins exposed) takeoff, and Peck gets a long screamer

about 15 mins before dark and comes in for a beer rather than face another 500m paddle out round the still occasionally dangerous wide peak.

DINNER: Sailfish pieces, Potato/Vege frittata (delicious), green veges, rice.

TC "Its 9pm and we're last awake, outside in the Sumatran lounge (had to retire from the Club due to approaching lightning) enjoying our 3rd beer. Surf has been superb all day and under the fullish moon it still looks perfect. All evening its been hanging in at the six foot range with some bigger wide ones.

As thunderstorm gets ominous the RH peak starts breaking ominously but there is no rain and no wind before final retirement at 10:30. Another late night.

