

TRACKS

THE SURFERS' BIBLE

THE NEXT BEST THING TO SHAKESPEARE

THE
KELLY
YOU
DON'T
KNOW

SIX
TWO
ONE

NUMERICAL
ANOMALIES
IN THE
MALDIVES



RENAISSANCE MAN

ACE BUCHAN

IN
MEMORY
OF
AB



NOVEMBER 2013
VOLUME 11 OF 12
AU \$10.95 NZ \$11.99 INC.GST

ASHER PACEY
PHOTO: SPARKES



Kelly has always been open-minded about seeking alternative paths to achieve personal enlightenment. Pictured here with guru, Sri Chinmoy, in 2003. || UNKEL

THE SECRET INGREDIENT TO SUCCESS

Whilst he may be the world's best surfer, Slater is only human. Acknowledging that he too thrives on watching people push themselves and strive towards their goals, he often looks to the younger guys on tour for inspiration.

"I'm usually inspired by a lot of people", he says. "I watched John John's heat yesterday [in Keramas Bali] and I was so stoked seeing him and Sebass [Sebastian Zietz]. Where the level was at in that heat was so exciting for me, you know. I'm feeding off that."

Outside of the surfing arena, he seeks his daily dose of inspiration from a multitude of sources. His diverse mix of friends includes blind surfer Derek Rabelo and paraplegic Jesse Billauer. "I go surfing with him [Jesse] probably once or twice a year," Slater says. An avid viewer of *National Geographic*, Slater relays stories of being teary-eyed watching people from across the globe topple one challenge after another. A firm believer in pushing beyond one's physical limitations, Slater affirms that, "what you think you can do, and what you can actually do, are two different things".

But it is really that simple?

No stranger to adversity, Slater has found inspiration and comfort in unconventional ways during the course of his life. In 2003, the surfing legend met the late Sri Chinmoy, a spiritual master and meditation guru from Queens, New York. It was at this point that Slater was passing through a period of self-reflection, a friend suggested the meeting. Slater admits he nearly did not attend.

"I was super messed up to be honest with you. And I didn't want to do anything, I just wanted to sit in my bed and not move," he sighs.

Describing the experience as "pretty cool", Slater felt "lifted" and "peaceful", and found it inspiring to connect with people outside of his normal circle that seemed so "loving, nice and kind". Remarkably, the meditation teacher, who lifted 2200lbs in a calf lift at age 73, was an advocate of the notion of "self-transcendence": striving to be one's best regardless of age or caste. Maybe a freaky coincidence, but it seems Slater is living proof of the late master's philosophy.

LIFE BEYOND THE BARREL

With a career that stretches over 20 years of supremacy in his sport, 'King Kelly' remains unquestionably one of the greatest athletes of all time. At least one of Kelly's fiercest rivals, Gary Elkerton, firmly agrees labelling Slater as a "phenomenal athlete" and "very smart". Witnessing the sport evolve, 'Kong' believes Slater is an absolute "master at reinventing himself" and doesn't think we've seen that calibre or longevity in any sport.

But Slater realises his life in sport won't be endless. So what happens next? If Elkerton's words are anything to go by, Slater may have already found his next odyssey.

"I WAS SUPER MESSSED UP TO BE HONEST WITH YOU. AND I DIDN'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING..."

Earlier this year, Slater took to the stage with rock band Pennywise. Youthfully energised, he jumped into the crowd at the Gold Coast gig. Something about the rock lifestyle clearly resonates with Kelly. He's a talented singer and professes a profound adoration for music, and admits that it's a likely next move if he isn't on tour.

"I'd probably just be really committed to music [off the tour]. I just love playing music, I just love the outlet. Cause I surf so much I don't commit enough time," he shares.

I guess we shall wait and see. But as I look at my crystal ball, I don't see the King retiring any time soon, at least not while there are still mountains to conquer - namely another world title.

And yet, despite all his success, Slater is impeccably humble. Whilst we mortals think his record of 11 world titles is pretty impressive, Slater smirks during our interview and says, "What would be really amazing was if I did that by 28. I've given myself a lot of time you know."

Kelly, you never cease to amaze.

