



Tunnel Vision

"I DECIDED to be a professional surfer a few years ago in a sauna in Norway", begins Sullivan McLeod's book Tunnel Vision.

"In a lifetime of silly ideas this was my silliest."

It may have been silly but it makes for entertaining reading, which is why "The true story of my probably insane quest to become a professional surfer" is the local's first book published by Allen and Unwin.

Mr McLeod's travels took him to Indonesia, South Africa, Europe, Hawaii and Brazil, where he was locked up in a holding cell (problems with his visa), lost everything he possessed to theft in France, and still kept going to have a most memorable travel experience.

"It was just gung ho and silly and dangerous," he explained.

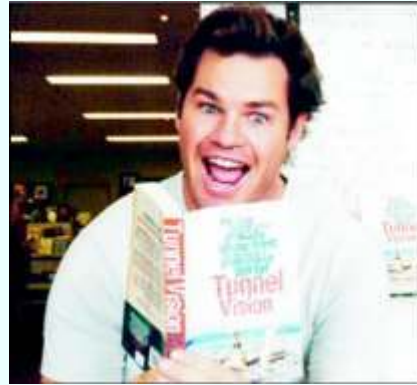
"It was a crazy year."

He spent six months in a treehouse at his parents' place in Margaret River writing the book—which includes an enjoyable chapter about life in Margaret River.

Not one to stay in a job for long, the "restless vagabond" has been a door-to-door salesman for a telecommunication company in Sydney, a spy for a Greek restaurant in Rhodes and a professor's assistant assigned to check the originality of ideas at the European Patent Office, Holland.

Hanging out with professional surfers seemed a natural progression.

"I think you get a feel for it," Mr McLeod explained of the pro surfing circuit.



INCLUDES JOKES: Sully McLeod having a laugh at his first published book Tunnel Vision.

The trip cost \$20,000 and he could only hope to obtain a book deal at the end of it.

But it paid off, and he attended the Perth Writers Festival last weekend, while this weekend he will be promoting his book on the Gold Coast.

His dad Keith McLeod has also had a book published, Shore and Shelter.

Research is already under way for McLeod's next book—with plans to go bull-riding in the US.

A book launch at the Margaret River Bookshop will be held on the Friday of the upcoming Margaret River Masters surfing event.