Bra Boys – Narration (Russell Crowe)

Located only 14kms from Sydney Harbour, and 5 beaches south of the world’s famous Bondi Beach, lies Maroubra Beach. A suburb with a poor history but one of rich characters.

In 1780 after passing through the Pacific Islands, Caption James Cook sailed in Botany Bay and discovered the vast and unexplored continent of Australia. As he entered into the Bay, the wild bounding surf, exploded onto the rocks around the entrance and Cook viewed Natives from the local Lee Nora Tribe swimming and fishing in its waters. Upon anchoring and landing, Cook was confronted by two natives and ordered his crew to fire shots. He claimed the unexplored land for England and the British returned to the same spot eight years later to colonise Australia as a goal. It was a harsh beginning to the first conflict inhabitance of modern Australia and for the native Lee Nora Tribe whose lands included the nearby beach of Maroubra. Name meaning, place of thunder.

100 years later, Sydney as the city became known, saw many of the poor forced to live amongst the persecuted Aboriginies in bays and caves around the area. By 1930, the beach camps around the Maroubra area housed up to 1000 poor and unemployed families (‘Happy Valley’ Local Slum – displayed on the shot). To limit the growth of the camps, the government purchased land adjacent to the bay and relocated some of the people into Government Housing Commission. Next came the building of the biggest sewage plant in the Southern Hemisphere. The scene was set for the Rifle Range and Australia’s biggest Goal was built on top of the hill (Long Bay Goal), which from its hilltop location served as a constant warning to the community below.

Maroubra, with its challenges, saw many of the younger members of the community born into a environment rived with domestic conflict, parental neglect and drugs. Over the decades, the beach and the surf have been their saviour.

At the corner of this story are the Abberton Brothers; Sunny, Jai, Koby and their younger brother Dekota. Both Sunny and Jai have surfed professionally, while Koby is now regarded as one of the best big wave surfers in the world. They, along with their childhood friends, were raised by the beach tribe at Maroubra. The Bra Boys, as the tribe is now known, has grown into one of the most infamous and recognised surf tribes in the world.

For years authorities have battled to disperse the beach tribes (Sun Club Boys, Tigers, Red Wings, Australian Boardriders Association, MSRC, Maroubra Surfers Association,NMSR, South End Surfers, Rebel Riders ) but as the centuries past the tribe names changed, their culture has survived. This is their story.