Gold Coast Surfing History Timeline

1903

- Beach swimming during daylight allowed
- South Coast Line rail link between Brisbane and Coolangatta opens

1910

Local Indigenous man, Churaki Comi is recognised for performing many rescues at Greenmount Beach before the foundation of the surf club.

1911

- First photo of someone surfing in Queensland. Tommy Walker surfing in Yamba.
- Queensland's first Surf Lifesaving Club, Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Surf Club is founded.
- Mr. Churaki Comi receives a Royal Humane Society Commendation.

1915

'The Duke' visits Australia and surfing becomes more popular.

1917

The Gold Coast area starts being described as a paradise for surfers.

1933

The town of Elston changes it's name to Surfers Paradise.

1964

The Surf Riders Association of Queensland is formed by Mal Sutherland and Joe Larkin.

1967

The 'short board revolution' begins. Surf boards become shorter and faster in the wave.

1977

The Stubbies Surf Contest is held at Burleigh. This was the start of the man-on-man format of competitions.

1994

Surfers from around the world come to the Gold Coast to compete in the Billabong Kirra Pro.

2000

Surfing Queensland brings the Quicksilver Pro competition to Queensland. The event wins Event of the Year at the Queensland Sport Awards and surfing starts to be recognised as a major sport in Australia.