



Aussie Inventors who Changed the World

Work with a partner to read aloud about some other famous Aussie inventors. Circle words that you struggle to read, and practice them until you are fluent. Are there any words you don't understand? Discuss them! Are there clues that can help? Look them up if you're still stuck.



Port Macquarie SLSC

Harry (second from left) and mates on surf skis in 1919.

Surf Ski

In 1912, when he was just 15, Harry McLaren designed the surf ski. He'd been inspired by watching porpoises move through the water, and created his craft to "shoot the breakers" (ride the waves) at Pelican Island, in NSW.

Baby Car Seat

Believe it or not, seat belts weren't required in Australian cars until the 1970s. But how could babies be protected? Colin Nagel and Robert Heath solved this problem in the early 1980s when they invented the baby safety capsule. As soon as it hit the market in 1984, hospitals haven't let new parents leave without one.



Baby capsules in 1980s brown, and today.



GTHO via Wikimedia Commons

The 1934 Ford Utility Coupe

Ute

In 1932, Lewis Bandt was a Ford vehicle designer in Geelong. He received a letter from a farmer's wife. She wanted a car that could take the family to church on Sunday, and the pigs to market on Monday. The ute was released just two years later, when Bandt was only 24 years old.

