

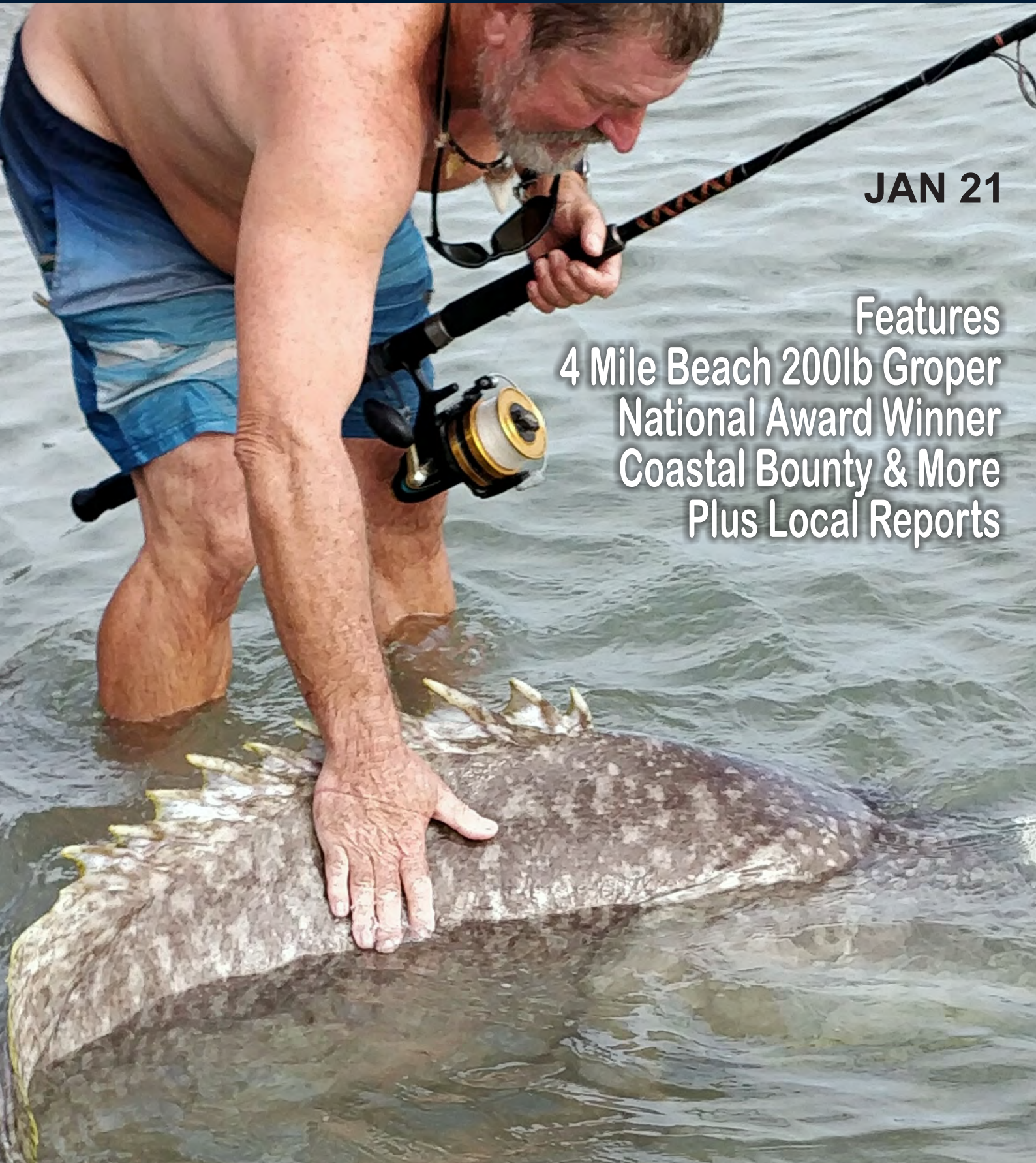
LINEBURNER

VOLUME 241 PRICELESS

FISHING TROPICAL FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

JAN 21

Features
4 Mile Beach 200lb Groper
National Award Winner
Coastal Bounty & More
Plus Local Reports





BRANSFORDS
Discount Tackle Shop
ABN 99 061 777 722

QUALIFIED ADVICE • FISHING CHARTERS • WHOLESALE/RETAIL • PHONE/WEB ORDERS
Web: www.bransfords.com.au Email: keith@bransfords.com.au Proprietor: Keith Graham

Captain Cook Hwy, Clifton Beach 4879
Ph: (07) 4055 3918
Best Tackle Prices in FNQ

Our Valued Contributors:



'Sharky' Shane Down
Local Expert



Steve Adamson
Dragon Lady Charters



Damian Collete
Saltaire & Allure Charters



Jake Wyatt
Exceed Sportfishing



Mick Hart
Magazine Chef



Fraser Allen
Local Deckhand



Keith Graham
Bransfords Tackle



Dylan Case
Nautical Marine Sales



Bruce Belcher
Daintree Croc Tours



Lynton Heffer (Heff)
Owner / Editor



Jase Teelow
Gunnell Rod Australia



Jake Collete
Master V Skipper



Jamie Beitzel
Fishing On the Daintree



Ethan 'Choppa' Scott
Junior Reporter



Contact Us if you'd like to
Contribute - Most Welcome

This magazine is published by The Line Burner business of Port Douglas & welcomes any Far Nth Qld contributions including editorials & photographs. The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the magazine, the editors, or the authors themselves. The magazine does not guarantee accuracy, validity, honesty or politeness of content, and we shall not be held responsible for the content of mentioned websites. The content (photos, art, articles etc...) found within are the property of the submitter and not our magazine.
Contacts: Ph 0409 610 869
www.fishingportdouglas.com.au
info@fishingportdouglas.com.au
Fishing Port Douglas
Po Box 108
Port Douglas 4877

Front Cover:
'Sharky' Shane
Down with an
estimated 200lb
QLD Groper caught
from Four Mile
Beach



FISHING
Port Douglas
River - Reef - Game
Ph: 0409 610 869
www.fishingportdouglas.com.au

ESSENTIAL FISHING SERVICES

TACKLE STORES

Bransfords Discount Tackle Shop
On the Highway - Clifton Beach 40553918
See them on Instagram & Facebook
Nautical Marine - Pt Douglas 40996508

FISHING CHARTERS

Fishing Port Douglas - 0409610869
Dragon Lady Charters - 0429372466
Saltaire Charters - 0459323888
Exceed Sportfishing - 0497561867
On the Daintree - 40907638

BOAT & 4WD WRAPS

Port Signs - 0437031572

CAMPING CRYOVAC MEAT PACKAGES

Mossman Butchery - 40981669

4WD REPAIRS & SERVICING

Port Douglas Automotive - 40995177

BOAT SERVICING & REPAIRS

PD Marine Engineering - 0478546676
PD Suzuki Marine - 0419593694
Above Grade Marine Services - 0417195559

BATTERIES

Battery World Cairns - 131760

AUSSIE AWARD WINNER

By Heff - Congratulations Dragon Lady!



Australian Enterprise Awards Official Letter

Hello Steve

First and foremost, I would like to wish you & the team at Dragon Lady a very Happy New Year!

Following on from the nomination acceptance in the 2021 Australian Enterprise Awards, the judging panel have made their final decisions and I am delighted to be the one to share the results with you.

It brings me great pleasure to inform that Dragon Lady has been awarded:

Fishing Charter of the Year - Far North Queensland

Dragon Lady, like all our victors, have demonstrated excellence and commitment in these tough times.

Australian Enterprise Awards Criteria

The judging panel uses the case file built by our research team and any supporting evidence submitted by the nominee to make the decision as to who is successful in the programme. Our dedicated researchers used merit-orientated research via the public domain, taking into consideration a number of different factors. Once finalised, the file is presented to our judges for their consideration. To move

successfully from nominee to winner there must be evidence of expertise within a given field, dedication to customer service and client satisfaction with an ongoing commitment to excellence and innovation.

Charter owner Steve Adamson was humble in his response saying he also felt that Dragon Lady had served very admirably and ran more often than any other charter in a very tough year for tourism in our general area. Customer Service and Fishing Capability are key to his operation. He said we can control the following: service, presentation of the boat and fishing gear and our overall knowledge of the fishing grounds. Sometimes the weather can go against you and sometimes the fish aren't overly hungry, however we get it right for the majority of our trips. Our customer satisfaction would be over 90% if not more. When you consider we take around 2.5K customers per year there's been a lot of happy customers out there, some which have caught the biggest fish of their lifetime. This winning formula will not change in the coming year according to Steve and people looking for a great valued day fishing on the Great Barrier Reef are welcomed with open arms.

Proven Over the Test of Time, Dragon Lady Catches More Fish!!

THE GUNNELL ROD
AUSTRALIA

**Wonga
Beach**
Service Station
Daintree Road

Last fuel stop this side of
the Daintree River!

Fuel - Oil - Bait

Ice - Tackle - ATM

Boating Accessories

Fast Food & Groceries

Ph: 4098 7616

MARKHAM
timber
naturally the best choice

PO Box 687
5 Sawmill Road
Mossman 4873

Framing Timber
Wall Sheeting
Hardwood
CCA Logs
Moldings
Cypress
Fencing
Lattice

Brian & Tricia Markham
Proprietors

Ph: 07 4098 2197
Fax: 07 4098 2394



EXCEED
SPORTFISHING
PORT DOUGLAS

LET US MAKE YOUR EXPERIENCE THE BEST IT CAN BE

Ph: 0409 610 869

www.fishingportdouglas.com.au



**Download your
Line Burner
now online**
www.fishingportdouglas.com.au



HAPPY POOLS

- Pool servicing & water testing
- Private pools, Body Corporate, Holiday homes
- Selling pumps, chlorinators, filters, pool heaters
- Ask us about 9 Star energy saving pumps

Daryl Taylor
0404 286 187
Ph/Fax 4098 5780
happypools@bigpond.com

How to avoid a BIG \$\$\$ BILL



.. the next time you need assistance at sea off the Douglas Shire coast.

Join ...
Marine Rescue Port Douglas
& protect your lives, your boat AND your wallet.



07 4099 5392
marinerescuedouglas.org.au

As essential as a Bung in Your Boat

Red Herring Cyclone

By Heff

For 24hrs Cyclone Kimi had Port Douglas and surrounding areas on high alert. It was first alerted around midday on the 17th January and was tracked to cross directly over our heads by the early hours on the 18th January reaching a Category 2 level, which is serious enough.

The low depression hanging north east of Cooktown quickly formed into a Category 1 during the Sunday morning of the 17th. It was a bit of a surprise at the time but not unforeseeable and only a couple kilometres away. With social media working overtime we were all aware to get things in order.

Down at the marina we all knew we had to evacuate the boats up into the depths of Dickson Inlet amongst the mangroves. Pretty much the boating community was a couple of hours ahead of the official evacuation alert from the Cairns Harbour Master which is in charge of the FNQ district, which was then relayed via the Port Douglas marina hub. The rules are very strict, every boat must evacuate if required even with very short notice, which was applicable in this situation. Even for owners down south or overseas they must have a system in place in such an event. Failing to vacate nullifies boat insurances and a follow up fine. The price of that fine I'm not 100% sure on because with our boats we have always done the right procedure.

By early afternoon the marina was a busy bee with crews on many boats in preparation to evacuate up the creek. There was a calm atmosphere as most had experienced this before even though it had been a few years. From the big Quicksilver's, to high end Super Yachts, to sailing vessels and also the local fishing fleet commercial and recreation, the evacuation went smoothly. It was like water

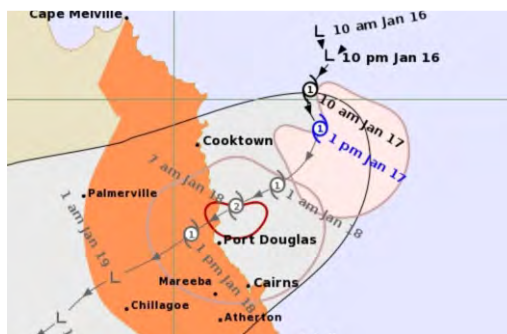


of a duck's back.

The reason why all boats must do this is because our local precinct is not cyclone built or approved. Newer marinas nowadays are held to these standards, but even a super storm wont save you. The other reason is the local inlet with its lined mangroves offer incredible protection. With the boat secured tied off from two points to solid mangrove roots and two anchors out towards the main channel you have a secure foundation to keep your vessel safe. There are plenty of other factors which can undo this including big tides, massive rainfall and extreme wind factor. All you can do is do your best.

As it eventuated Cyclone Kimi flirted right on our back door step and followed the line south of the Great Barrier Reef some 500km further south. There's no denying the reef itself can deflect such a system. Unless it is beyond control, it can bounce around on the East Coast of FNQ and ideally burn itself out. We got lucky initially again in our magical part of the world. Even though ex-'Kimi' turned back north and gave us a bit of grief for a day or so as a depression we managed to avoid the worst of it.

Will be a wet season to closely watch ! ■




FUEL • OIL • SEAFOOD • BAIT • ICE

Dickson Inlet, Port St, Port Douglas
Phone 4099 6792

0419 278 170

24 HOUR EMERGENCY PLUMBING SERVICES

GENERAL MAINTENANCE
RENOVATIONS & NEW INSTALLATIONS
ROOFING
HIGH PRESSURE DRAIN CLEANING
HOT WATER SERVICE INSTALLATIONS

NATHAN FITZGERALD
nfpplumbing@outlook.com.au

QBCC: 1294530
ABN: 679 641 30253



The Dragon's Den

By Steve Adamson

Since our last report on the cusp last Christmas Eve, I'm pleased to say we have been moving along at a steady pace moving forward. We had a good period between Xmas and the New Year and since then have seen in 2021 have been relatively busy.

We did however experience a 3 day interruption in early January following the rain depression which came from the Gulf and it hung around a bit longer than we expected. The issue we saw here was that the rain and wind was coming down from the north west which is basically hopeless for us because there is nowhere to hide on the water. To add it was a substantial sort of system which did prove to be nasty at times. Thank goodness we didn't run one particular day but others did, and it proved to be unsafe to be out on the open water. It pays to err on the side of caution when the weather is predicted to come from any north or even to the west direction. Now down to some fishing and for the most it has been productive for this time of year. It's been a real bag of mixed fish from coral trout, red emperor, nannygai, long nosed emperor, gold spot trevally, sweetlip and a host of others. Surprisingly we have experienced some hot bites on the mackerel float. One day we had caught some good fusilier live bait and neither of them lasted more than 30 seconds in the water once presented. The mackerel just can't resist them and we had some hot running lines which had everyone buzzing. The beauty is the mackerel go into the community chest and even for the odd struggling angler we'll send them home with a fillet of the one of the best eating fish in the tropics.

Another special note is we caught 3 sizeable Barramundi Cod on one day from off the one area and that was something out of the box. Being protected they were released in good condition. Admittedly we had the rare slower day when it was hot and still with variable winds, but this changed as soon as the winds



DRAGON LADY
PORT DOUGLAS

Certificate of Excellence
2019 WINNER

0429372466

changed more south easterly and we had a bit of run in the tide. As you are aware there has been a bit of rain around but it hasn't perturbed us from getting the job done. With a well covered boat it is no issue and to be honest most clients enjoy our rain at this time of year as it doesn't even have a chill about it.

Looking ahead we naturally expect numbers to start dwindling down but we do have some positive signs on the books compared to the last couple of years. Everything, as it has for months now will hinge on the Covid outbreaks and how for us, our QLD Premier responds. She has been nothing but ruthless to date and we expect nothing less moving forward. Looking back over the last year or so, yes we have taken a massive hit financially but the bright side is we have been able to move around more freely than the other bigger states in FNQ. Learn to live with Covid, take the precautions if needed and let's get on with life in 2021.

I get this asked a lot recently from people in regards to what the weather will hold in the coming month or so. To be honest I wish I had a crystal ball, but I sense we'll see a bit more rain this wet season since the monsoon trough has shown its colours already. Cyclone activity, not convinced but wouldn't be surprised. The Coral Sea is our eyes and ears and that is what we'll keep a closer look on.

From our point of view we are seeing positive signs for the moment and the fishing is quite good. ■

PORT DOUGLAS **pda** AUTOMOTIVE

Driven to deliver quality care and service for you and your car.

- ★ All Mechanical Repairs
- ★ Tyre Sales and Repair
- ★ EFI Diagnostics
- ★ Suspension Repairs
- ★ Air Conditioning
- ★ Mini Bus Servicing
- ★ Wheel Alignments
- ★ Auto Electrical
- ★ Safety Insp Stn AIS# 9119

P 4099 5177 E service@portdouglasautomotive.com.au
F 4099 5420 41 Warner Street, Port Douglas

Specialising in Marine Carpets

N.Q. Carpet Cleaning Services

More than a clean... ABN 804 2801 0097

Brad & Glenda Evans

Port Douglas, Mossman, Cairns and surrounding districts

Office Home Resort Marine Car
Carpet & upholstery cleaned

Mob: 0429 935 206
Email: reefpark1@bigpond.com



Download your
Line Burner
now online

www.fishingportdouglas.com.au



5 / 12 Grant Street, Port Douglas
www.thebarbershopportdouglas.com.au



barbershopportdouglas



barbershopportdouglas

Group bookings for wedding parties or events
bookings@thebarbershopportdouglas.com.au

A 10+ YEARS
LOCAL BUSINESS

CUSTOM BUILT WEB SITES

ONLINE BOOKING

WEB DEVELOPMENT

ONLINE SHOPS

DESIGN

DIGITAL MARKETING

LET'S MEET

ICIT

4098 8268
www.icit.com.au

Breathing in the Saltaire

By Damian Colette



With a really solid block of work around the New Year, things in January backed off a bit for us in January. We still did quite a few charters dealing with private groups of families and boy's trips, and they mostly entailed a lot of reef fishing and snorkeling as well.

The weather certainly threw a few curve balls at us in January and it was a matter of making the right judgement call when to run. It has been a bit of a weird one with the weather pattern of late and I suspect it will challenge us in FNQ for the coming weeks. As you might already know we did our first evacuation of the marina precinct up into the depths of the Dickson Inlet. It was a credible call and luckily we saw Cyclone Kimi suck down south avoiding a nice little blow. We hadn't had to do this for a few years and it was a good practice run for maybe another one or two to come in the near future.

Back to our charters and we enjoyed some really great success on the reef catching large coral trout, nannygai amongst some hard fighting fish such as Chinaman and a spectacular Footballer Trout. At this time of year the reef fish can be consistently big. The Footballer in particular are an amazing looking fish and a bit of a rare treat for anyone.

The trolling aspect was a bit tougher this past few weeks with the odd bite from the

spanish mackerel. However most of our trips were completed with a solid snorkeling session at our selected private reef systems with nobody in sight for miles. This personalised style of trip appeals to many we are establishing.

Now talking of the ultimate trip at the best rates you'll find anywhere look at what we have on our books with our operation in 2021.

35ft Saltaire, categorically the best A1 sized boat in it class in FNQ \$2500 - \$2800 per day
60ft Shaka, \$5500 - \$6000 per day and described as the best Assegai game boat on the east coast of Australia
90ft Argo Mothership, absolute luxury from \$8500 per day and highly suitable for large groups up to 10 pax and more

Any combination of boats together are possible and with the 60ft Shaka saddled up next to Argo, group numbers can expand considerably more on extended trips and all in absolute platinum style. Pick your destination - GBR, Lizard Island, Cape York and further north. Our range is phenomenal. For more information call Heff on 0409610869 and we can tailor make any trip you desire - Heavy Tackle, Light Tackle, Gt Popper, Reef Fishing and Diving and Snorkeling. Adventure Plus!! ■



SALTAIRE Charters

Phone
0409610869

Full Blown
Excitement!



South Mossman Roadhouse

6AM - 8PM
7 DAYS

Fishing Gear
Bait and Ice
Auto Care



Hot Food
Sandwiches
Cold Drinks



129 Alchera Drive Mossman QLD 4873 Ph: 07 4098 1656
ABN: 34 069 005 438 003

Four Mile Beach Dinosaur

By 'Sharky' Shane Down



Only a few weeks ago I found myself down at my favourite haunt on southern Four Mile Beach. Following some decent rain in previous weeks the beach was loaded with bait, so I was quite optimistic of nailing something half decent.

Just prior to this particular afternoon I had noticed some big hammerhead sharks getting around up in the shallows. So I decided to take down my TLD 20 Shimano outfit that arvo, which is normally an overkill, but I had an inkling something would happen. All I can say is thank goodness I did.

Upon arrival it wasn't too hard to source a good supply of plump sized garfish in the cast net. Ideal at around 6 inches in length they were always going to attract some sort of attention from something decent. The water clarity wasn't overly flash but a hapless garfish flicking away out there would send out the right signals.

Sitting in my deck chair having a 'coldie' I sat and watched my two rod tips in a bit of a trance. There was very little activity on the beach this afternoon. It was the TLD 20 outfit which indicated the first sign of activity. The ratchet on the reel ticked over slowly and methodically as something had picked up the garfish. I let it run for several metres of line before putting the drag into action.

'Holy Crap', once connection was established it nearly pulled my arm sockets

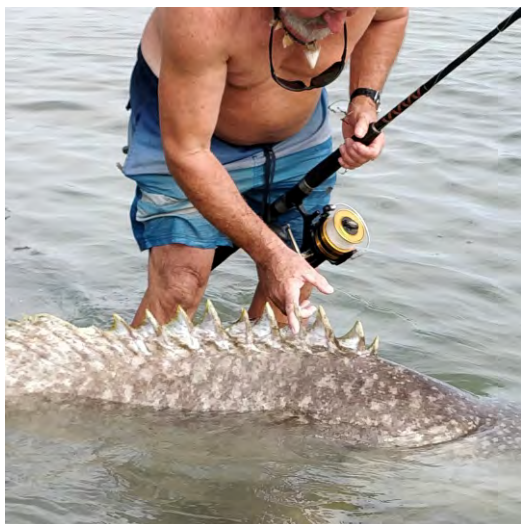
out as I held on. To best describe what was happening was like hooking up to the Landcruiser as it took off slowly in 1st gear. I thought 'bugger', a bloody big stingray or something like that. It just kept going at its own will as if it hadn't realised what was happening.

It would have rattled off a good 50m of line off the spool before I put a bit more pressure on with the drag, basically to sunset. Once I did this it gradually changed its tune and direction which gave me a better angle to fight it from. With a bit of toying going horizontally to the beach it decided to swim back towards shore. This is when I gained back valuable line and kept it coming. The weight of this thing was incredible and I was in a lather of sweat at this stage.

As the line came into the shallows I saw this drum like shape poke its back out of the water. I then thought crikey it was a massive cod, but soon worked out it was an ancient QLD Groper. This got the heart racing I can assure you.

I met the Old Mate Groper a couple of metres out in the water and what a giant it was. 6ft in length and easily a 100kg or better with its big drum belly shape. It must have been decades old having been through some trauma in its time missing a left nostril and a big gash on top of its head. Sharks or Crocs or even a motor boat propeller could have left those battle wounds.

Knowing what I was dealing with I was very diligent and quick in removing the line and aiding it back out to sea. What a moment I must say and something I'll never forget. Hope it lives for another decade !! ■



River - Reef - Game

Ph: 0409 610 869

www.fishingportdouglas.com.au



AND NOW PRINT
AVAILABLE
AS WELL

TEXT:
0419757864

CALL:
07 4099 4353

ONTHESPOT
SIGNSPORT
DOUGLAS.COM.AU



Why troll around when
everything you need is here!

Find all your marine power needs under one roof.
Batteries, accessories, you need it, we've got it.



297 Mulgrave Rd Westcourt CAIRNS Ph. 13 17 60



MARINE ELECTRONICS

ABN 34 342 029 951

Authorised Agent for:
Furuno • JRC • TMQ
Raymarine • Garmin
Coursemaster
Koden • Simrad
Navman • Robinson
GME Electrophone

Mobile service for all service & repairs
Quality Workmanship
Qualified Technician

m: 0429 494 659 f: (07) 4094 2165

e: pdme@primusononline.com.au
PO Box 882 Port Douglas QLD 4877



PORT DOUGLAS

FRESH Local Seafood

- PRAWNS • OYSTERS
- MUD CRABS • BUGS
- CALAMARI
- SMOKED & MARINATED

PRODUCE

- CONDIMENTS
- FRESH SALAD • PLATTERS
- LUNCH PACKS
- PRAWNS COOKED DAILY

TUESDAY - SATURDAY 10am - 5.00pm
SUNDAY 10am - 3.00pm (Closed Mondays)
 11 Grant Street, Port Douglas
 Phone: 4099 4960



FISHING
Port Douglas

River - Reef - Game
 Ph: 0409 610 869
www.fishingportdouglas.com.au

Barrier Reef Tavern

Bistro
TAB - Pokies
Drive Thru
Bottleshop
Sky Channel
Pool Table



Reef St
 Four Mile
 Port Douglas

Local Coastal Bounty

By 'Sharky' Shane Down



With some calm weather on offer around the New Year I dusted off the cobwebs from my old faithful Haines Hunter open cruiser, made sure the old Mercury was ticking overly nicely and treated myself to a trip on the water. I didn't pack the fishing gear with the exception of a rod in case I saw something I liked, but instead went with flippers and spear gun. What a great morning trip this turned out to be.

With a quick squirt down the coast line I was at my designated place of choice within 20 minutes or so. I opted for this spot as I knew there might be some coastal bar cheek around but I was more interested in the crayfish which I hadn't munched on in sometime.

Upon arrival the water colour was very green and considering the amount of rain we had received prior it was not surprising. It didn't worry me because I knew the lay of this land like the back of my hand. Visibility when I first jumped in was quite ordinary but as I scouted deeper it did improve slightly. Working along a reef wall I could pick out the tell tale signs of black and white tentacles poking out from the crevices of the reef and they were everywhere. The 'crays' were there, no kidding. Free diving you find yourself up and down in the water claiming a catch and returning it to the boat each time. Seriously I could of plucked out as many cray as I wanted but only took three. Better off eating them fresh as our tropical species in my opinion don't freeze that well. It was the easiest feed of cray I've had in quite a few years.

Whilst I was down along the wall face I did see some nice trout as well. They were a bit trickier in the murky conditions but I did get myself a couple of nice plump specimens. Along the coast here they are always a bit darker in colour but still the same tasty colourful morsel you find on the outer reefs. Now probably more interesting I came across some extraordinary stuff whilst submerged downstairs. The first was two separate schools of fingermark, well and truly legal in size. They were grouped separately as a mass of 30-40 fish. I've never seen this before but is a great sign for our local fishery. They were quite flighty

when I approached them and wasn't able to snag one or two which would have made my day. They are absolutely one of the sweetest tasting tropical fish you'll ever wrap your lips around. I saw several green tusks fish as well but decided to let them be. Now something that put the spooks up me momentarily was a first encounter for me in the water itself. I've swum with the biggest and best sharks in this country but this experience had me thinking 'oh no'. Because the water was murky I felt this thing brush up against me and wasn't sure what it was. With a quick turn of the head it was large and dark in colour. Being not far offshore I thought Croc or even a big dirty Bull Shark! It did startle me and it takes a lot for me to initially crap my pants.

Once the initial touch up was done I composed myself really quickly and looked at what I was dealing with. It was a big dugong which decided to snuggle up against me. It was happy to saddle up and I spent a good 10 minutes swimming with it. Gee's I was tempted to swim back to the boat to get the camera. ➡




CAIRNS
GAME FISHING CLUB

COCK & BALL
 "Famous for Value"
TAVERN

GREAT VALUE MEALS
NO. 1 POKIES PUB
BARS • FUNCTIONS

"Friendly Water Hole" Cnr. Grove & Digger Streets

ABOVE GRADE
MARINE SERVICES

SHIPWRIGHTS
FIBREGLASS SPECIALISTS



- ◆ BOAT BUILDING
- ◆ REFFITS
- ◆ CUSTOMISING
- ◆ RESPRAYS
- ◆ ANTI FOULS
- ◆ DETAILING

APPROVED INSURANCE REPAIRER

info@abovegrade.com.au
 www.abovegrade.com.au

0417195559



Coastal Bounty Cont...

The reason I didn't go back and get the camera was in fear of not being able to relocate these amazing creature. So I spent my time with this beauty rubbing shoulders, being able to touch it and swimming along. It would have been easily double my size if not triple. It was one of the most surreal and tranquil moments I've experienced in the water. It was a hard choice to leave its side but I knew I had strayed a fair way from the boat. Wow, what a morning this had turned out to be.

Back home mid morning with a plentiful bounty to consider for the next couple of dinners, I had plenty of time left in the day. As I often do I headed down to southern Four Mile Beach for a late afternoon fish. Once again the tide was ripe with an incoming tide and to find live bait was not an issue. A nice big garfish out yonder haplessly flicking around would do the trick. The weather was closing in with typical late afternoon thunder storms and the water was a not the best to be honest. Anyway I

was happy to kill some time and maybe 20 minutes in, my rod keeled over in half with something of size and speed pulling off a good amount of line from the spool. It didn't take long to reveal itself as a big Queenfish came tumbling out of the water doing somersaults and then greyhounded all over the surface. This was a good one and fought well for a few minutes before submitting to the shore. They generally do this, exhausting themselves very quickly in every attempt to throw the hooks.

Once I had him on the sand you just know they have pushed themselves to the limit and releasing them super quick is of the essence. A couple of photos were taken before helping it revive itself for a good minute or so in the shallows. Pushing it back and forward I got valuable oxygen flowing through its gills. If you don't do this they can roll over on you in a heart beat. It all went well and this classic swum off strongly to live another day.

All I can say is what a day I enjoyed and that's why we choose to live in paradise! ■



River - Reef - Game
Ph: 0409 610 869
www.fishingportdouglas.com.au

KYE CHAPPLE
PEST CONTROL

Call: 0423249913

Far North Queensland
For All Pest Control Solutions
E: kyechapplepestcontrol@gmail.com

- Termites
- Cockroaches
- Ants
- Spiders
- Rats & Mice
- Mosquito's
- Flying Insects

PORT DOUGLAS



Only Fully Qualified
Suzuki Agency Here
All Outboards Serviced &
Repaired
SALES - SERVICE -
PARTS

Contact Peter
Ph: 0419 593 694 E:
spstaig@bigpond.com
18 Teamster Close
Craglie 4877



PORT DOUGLAS *Marine*

Ph: 07 4223 4725

•ENGINEERING
•SALES
•SERVICE
•PARTS
•REPAIRS



DIESEL - INBOARD - OUTBOARD

EVINRUDE




YANMAR

VOLVO PENTA

Advertise Here
Distribution Cairns
Port Douglas
Mossman
Daintree
Cooktown
plus 1000's of followers via downloads & facebook



FISHING
Port Douglas
River - Reef - Game
Ph: 0409 610 869
www.fishingportdouglas.com.au



James Beitzel's
FISHING ON THE DAINTREE
RIVER, COAST and REEF
Call 0409610869

On the Daintree Charters

With Jamie Beitzel



The last four weeks or so have been steady, steady for us with a bit of indifferent weather thrown in the works as well. Conditions haven't been over the top by any stretch of the imagination and I've seen plenty worse over the many years.

To be honest it has worked in my favour with a bit of rain about stirring up the river and also along the coast pushing good bait supplies to my usual haunts. There's only been the odd day when the Daintree River was really dirty but overall I've been quite pleased with the way things have been going.

The coastal fishing up around Snapper Island and general area has been very productive at times. With plenty of bait around the pelagic type fish have been snapping at their heels. We've come across some hefty Gt's and golden trevally plus a few spanish mackerel as well. These type of fish always put on a speed exhibition with plenty of grunt behind them. Clients just love a hard pulling fish which also have a knack of running all over the ocean. We've also secured some nice nannygai in our efforts so it's been good to shoot out of the river when the weather has been kind.

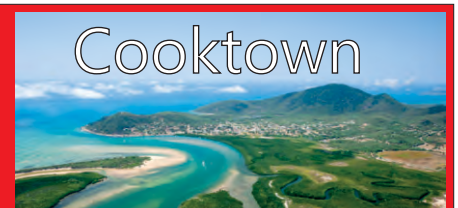
The river has performed at different levels over the past few weeks and it has been a matter of adjusting to the conditions which has been dictated by the amount of fresh

coming down the system. We've seen some good dumps of fresh at times coming off the mountains and other days the salt water has been trickling in nicely from the ocean.

When the river has been cleaner I've caught some really quality queenfish in the main channel along with plenty of mid sized river trevally. Naturally I have had contend with some ordinary water conditions, even to the point of it being past a coffee colour to orange.

When it is like this you have to revert back to old fashioned methods, such as fishing the flats out of the raging torrent and use high quality dead baits with a bit of smell about them. Naturally I've had use a bigger sinker to keep the baits on the floor and a I am a fan of a combination of squid and pilchard with also a separate prawn outfit out there as well. It has served me well in recent trying times catching javelin fish over 50cm and also a few permit as well which go super hard for their size.

Looking ahead we've already started to see the dry up of tourists in the area and it will be the case in the next month or so. However the Easter period on the books in late March and early April, are filling up quickly as we speak. This is typical for us in any normal year so it's business as usual, only if the borders remain open and people can freely come and fish our wonderful area.



Phone: (07) 4098 5761
 Cnr Captain Cook Highway &
 Port Douglas Rd, Pt Douglas QLD 4877
 Email: portdouglasiga@cornetts.com.au
OPENING HOURS:
DAILY
MON-SUN: 7AM - 8PM

FULL RANGE OF GROCERIES
 • LOCAL BREAD • DELICATESSEN
 • FRESH FRUIT & VEGIES • FREEZER
 • DAIRY • FRESH MEAT • BAIT & ICE

Phone: (07) 4069 5633
 29 Helen St, Cooktown, QLD 4895
 Email: cooktowniga@cornetts.com.au
OPENING HOURS:
MON-FRI: 8AM - 7PM
SAT: 8AM - 6PM
SUN: 8AM - 5PM



Whet your Whistle



POST OFFICE
HOTEL 1928

Drive thru Bottle Shop Modern TAB Facilities Jackpot Carnivale & Fast Lane Links Mill Street Mossman Telephone 4098 2151

Reel Cooking with Mick Hart

Tempura Mackerel & Mushy Peas



Ingredients

- 4 Mackerel Fillets
- ½ cup (100g) rice flour
- ½ cup (75g) cornflour
- ½ cup (75g) plain flour, plus extra to dust
- 1 tbs crushed fennel seeds
- 1 egg
- 1¼ cups (300ml) chilled soda water
- ½ cup ice cubes
- Lemon wedges, mixed leaf salad to serve
- MUSHY PEAS**
- 40g unsalted butter
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 2 cups (220g) baby peas, thawed
- 30g baby spinach
- ¼ cup mint leaves, chopped



METHOD

1. For mushy peas, melt butter in a pan over a medium-low heat. Add onion and garlic. Cook 3 minutes or until softened. Add peas, spinach and 1/3 cup (80ml) water, and cook 3 minutes. Take off heat, add mint, and pulse with a stick blender for 1 minute or until roughly chopped. Season and set aside.
2. Half fill a large, heavy-based saucepan with oil and heat to 190°C.
3. Sift flours into a large bowl and stir through fennel seeds. In a small bowl, whisk egg, soda and ice. Just before cooking, gradually whisk the soda mixture into the flour until just combined. It should be a bit lumpy and the consistency of thin pancake batter.
4. Working in batches cook fish till golden and carefully use tongs to lift out. Drain onto paper towel and season with salt.
5. Serve with mushy peas, lemon wedges and salad.

Mossman Meats

FREE Delivery to
surrounding areas

DAILY

No Order too
Big or Small

Specialise in
Camping & Boating
Vacuumed Packages

Now
Stocking
Local
Seafood



UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
Free Home Delivery

All Beef & Pork
is locally
sourced from the
rich volcanic soils
of the Tablelands

Now Mossman's
Only Specialised
Butchery

PROUD
SUPPORTERS
of the
Junior & Senior
AFL CROCS

3 Junction Rd Mossman • Ph 07 40981669 • E bnbmeatsmossman@gmail.com



IT PAYS TO BOOK
PHONE BB'S DAINTREE RIVER CRUISES

Ph: 07 4098 7717

info@daintreerivercruises.com.au www.daintreerivercruises.com.au



magical daintree

Mystery Addition to our Tour with Bruce Belcher

For the last few years, we've been fortunate to have the company of a 2.5-meter crocodile that basks on the bank just 20 meters from our pontoon, in the winter. You could almost depend on seeing it there every morning as we depart for the first of several tours. We can normally identify most crocs but up until it started using this bank, I could not positively say which one it was or what gender it was. Until crocs are up to 3 meters long its difficult to guess its gender.

I thought it might be male, based on a couple of assumptions. Because it was so close to our landing, I thought it might have been an immature male, perhaps seeking protection near our pontoon, which would be a deterrent to a dominant male. Another reason was that it seemed to grow quicker, indicative of males. So, that was the consensus. At that point my son Griff, decided it should be named Bruce as it turned up for work and did nothing!

In the first few days of winter our guide Ray, reported that he had seen the croc flicking dead vegetation up onto the bank. Imagine our surprise to discover that it was a female. We are guessing that the nest had been built during November and that by the time we'd noticed anything it was probably adding to it.

To add some humor to the situation my son decided to rename it Bruce Jenner. As summer set in and crocs are hard to spot, Bruce Jenner became a reliable sighting as she stayed in the water only metres from the nest, while protecting the eggs from goannas. During the first week of January we had considerable rain, the leftovers of Cyclone Imogene from the Gulf, which fizzled out. So, we had minor flooding. Then we had a king tide of about 3.25



metres. The croc's nest is quite low, and I think it might have been inundated by water.

The eggs are due to hatch by mid-February. We will soon see how it went. I doubt if the croc has the awareness to determine failure and will still guard the nest until about April, from my experience.

We think it might be her first nesting experience as it is right out in the open and not high, whereas others are meticulous while using camouflage.

See you next month.



30yrs Experience
Best River & Coastal
Fishing Experience
Magical Scenery
Croc Spotting
Eco Tour Included
Call: 040961086

Douglas Community & Sports Club Inc.

Open 10am Mon-Sat
Open 9am Sunday Breakfast

UPSTAIRS COCKTAIL BAR

FRESH PRAWNS

DRINK SPECIALS
MONDAY - SATURDAY

A LA CARTÉ MENU

AIR-CONDITIONED
GAMING ROOM

STUNNING VIEWS

Weekly Member's Badge Draw
from 6:30pm Wednesdays - from 4:30pm Sundays

Phone: 4099 5553 Email: info@thetinshed-portdouglas.com.au