

LINEBURNER

VOLUME 230 PRICELESS

FISHING TROPICAL FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

FEB 20





BRANSFORDS
Discount Tackle Shop
ABN 91 061 777 722

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

Wishing all our valued customers a Merry Fishmas and a Catching New Year!

We carry a large range of bows and arrows (and accessories) - especially for kids – buy any ten arrows and get a 10% discount

GIFT VOUCHERS:
Buy any Gift Voucher from Bransfords and we will make it out for **10% more!** You spend \$100, we make out the Gift Voucher for \$110!



- All fishing DVDs are half price – and if you buy any 2 Hardbody lures we will give you the top shelf Stealth or F1.11 Hardbody free – your choice of colour!
- We have over 200 rigged fishing combos on display – ready to use and at the lowest possible prices.
- Buy any 2 Yosuri lures and get another one free – you won't beat that for value!
- All Zerek soft plastics are reduced by 25% – check out the new UV colours.
- Buy any spool of Sufix, J Braid, Saltiga or Berkeley braid and receive a free pair of Penn Braid Scissors.
- Venom Rods are custom built in Queensland and simply the best you can buy! Every Venom rod purchase will receive a 300mts spool of multi-colour braid.



And there's hundreds more super specials for you to choose from at Bransfords Clifton Beach – the Ultimate Man Cave!

So from Keith, Andrew, Bruno, Andy, Matty and Jason,
have a fantastic Christmas -
and stay safe on the water!



Cnr. Coe Hwy and Endeavour Road, Clifton Beach 4879 | Ph (07) 4055 3918

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:
The 'Girl Power' team camping and boating at Lake Tinaroo on school holidays



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

EXCEED SPORTFISHING

BY JAKE WYATT

The beginning of January was an action packed period for us at Exceed. With numbers of tourist around initially we had a waiting list to get onboard. We started the new year off with a really 'Big Bang' with some absolutely cracking GT fishing action on the surface. The days were what all fishermen hope for, flat calm seas, bait balls getting smashed by big fish everywhere and plenty of insane strikes. It was like the perfect storm. The spanish mackerel were also thick in amongst the commotion with mid air attacks only to throw the lure on landing on most occasions.

The Gt fish were in the typical Port Douglas size range from 10-15kg with a couple of good ones around the 18-20kg range. One lure that really stood out was a Zerek 220 stick bait in Blue and Pink colour, it really was going off. By day's end it this lure had copped a flogging and withstood the barrage of fish time and time again. I will get some more of these to have on hand and highly recommend to have in your own tackle box.

With some handy fishing on our local waters, in the second week I opted to accept a gig for a few weeks working on the Spirit mothership which is a 35 metre (115 foot) wave-piercing motor yacht, just fully refitted in 2016 to the very highest of standards. The catch here though it was at the Solomon Islands. On the 6th my bags

were packed and first stop was Cairns airport. On our first flight for the day, we were headed to Brisbane to then catch our connecting flight over to the Solomon Islands for 3 weeks. Talk about connecting flights, it was a further 4 flights later before we arrived at our destination which was Gizo airport. This actually was one of the coolest little airports I have ever seen. To be descriptive it consisted of a small open shed and that was about it. Being right on the water I was met by the tender boat and with a short trip it was back to the Mothership. It was go time...

I was so looking forward to the next few weeks on the Luxury Super yacht, Spirit as part of the team. I would be skipping their fishing boat, a brand new 31ft Contender with twin 300 Yamaha's. What a beast of a fishing vessel with all the bells and whistles. The days just flew by and over the 21 days with the clients we fished, dived, snorkelled and jet skied our way around the many islands. It was the ultimate Pacific Island adventure. As we travelled we visited small local communities and traded goods for awesome wooded carvings, fresh produce and sensational seafood. It is a completely different way of life over there and stunningly beautiful.

Unfortunately the weather was not too kind to us at stages of the trip and we stayed a lot of the time close to the islands for protection and comfort. ▶



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



Fish of the Month 20kg Giant Trevally



EXCEED
SPORTFISHING
PORT DOUGLAS

LET US MAKE YOUR EXPERIENCE THE BEST IT CAN BE

Captain: 0467 606 817 | Bookings: 0497 561 867
info@exceedsportfishing.com.au

www.exceedsportfishing.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

Exceed cont ...

However when we did manage to get out fishing, we smacked into some decent coral trout trout and emperor off the reefs, hard fighting dogtooth tuna on the jigs over pinnacles and some XL spanish mackerel on the troll.

After a day's activities it pretty awesome to be coming along side Spirit to relax and enjoy the evening on this insane boat. The food is absolutely top notch, service is second to none and absolutely nothing is ever too much drama for the clients. If you ever have the opportunity to do a few days on this super yacht, I say don't think twice, it's brilliant. It was a dream gig for me.

Once I arrived back in Port it was straight back into it. The half day coastal trips were producing some good bar cheek trout and also some decent tusk fish, which are a pure novelty to catch and super tasty on the plate.

Finally we have had some decent rain about which is what we all have been waiting for. February is looking to be quite a busy month for Exceed so we are looking forward to getting back out there, getting stretched on some big fish and putting smiles on people's faces. 1 boat, 1 captain and 1 goal. ■




Amazing photo taken by Mark Geddes' local company In Depth photography - Croc on the Reef -



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



DRAGON'S DEN^k

BY STEVE ADAMSON

The past month or so has been a two sided coin for us. The first week was filled with charters and the remaining days we found ourselves in the dock for a couple of reasons.

We'll kick start with a bit of fishing and when the town was busy enough with tourists we were out amongst it. The weather was very kind this year in comparison to 12 months ago and the fishing was what you would call quite admirable. We fished all manners of depths and probably found the coral and bar cheek trout the best biting fish overall. Their sizes were worthy and I guess we'd bring back around a dozen or more per trip. There were other species around which kept us on our toes including some tough nut cod, unrelenting chinaman fish, various trevally, spangled emperor and once again the cobia of quality size. Sweetlip, stripeys and a few moses perch made up the numbers. Spanish mackerel dropped right off the pace for us but our choice of locations were not really suited at times for the odd big rogue of a fish.

In the second week the tourist numbers got really sketchy and as it panned out literally dried up to this very point. Normally you would expect a bit of extra traffic but I'm not sure if the bush fires down south had something to do with it or if people aren't travelling as much outside of peak times. I can tell you though we normally see a few more international guests and from what I can read into it, the whole of Australia was under fire according to overseas media reports. Last year it was ridiculous cyclone reporting and this year it is the bushfires. Then add the Asian market on top of this with a killer virus and we can't seem to take a trick in the tourism industry. Just to exasperate the situation even more, the local coral trout industry found themselves unable to export live product to the Asian market rendering them to a stand still. The timing couldn't have been worse around the Chinese New Year.

In saying this though I had been nursing a bit of an exhaust leak



DRAGON LADY
PORT DOUGLAS

Certificate of Excellence
2019 WINNER

0429372466

which was patched up when we were flat chat and then got to a more critical point. It coincided with the down turn of visitors so I bit the bullet to get it sorted, I wasn't going to muck around with a piece of \$30K machinery.

Once we got into the crux of the problem with Chris from Sea UU Engineering, it was a bigger job than anticipated. What made it worse was that it took more than a couple of weeks for the damn parts to get here. The joys of living in Far North Qld does have its pitfalls. Knowing it was going to be a drawn out process we tackled a full detail of the boat and I addressed some areas of the generator. On top of this basically everything else got a good going over. Again the water conditions remained very calm out at sea whilst we were stranded in the dock. However, the heat on the marina being surrounded by concrete made our maintenance efforts a very arduous task.

I am now glad to say we are very much back open for trade firing on all cylinders, though not expecting a great deal in the February period. It feels this year is a bit more of a traditional wet season with some handy rainfall but not over the top. If the calm seas continue it might just surprise me. Key for this time of year is accommodation and flight specials that can entice more people to shoot up here for a impromptu trip for a few days. People who do travel just have to be a bit more flexible with their plans as we may only run a couple of times of week when the numbers suffice. It's been a shaky start to 2020 and we can only hope for better. ■

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

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

Office Home Resort Marine Car
Carpet & upholstery cleaned



Download your
Line Burner
now online

www.fishingportdouglas.com.au



Fish with the Best
in the Business

**River
Reef
Game**

Ph: 0409 610 869

**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

DREAMS DO COME TRUE PART 2

BY FRASER ALLEN



Following on from last month, having already spent several weeks working on the Levante game boat in conjunction with Beluga the mothership and Zulu the sister game boat, my first ever marlin season as a crew member was approaching a crescendo as we moved to the famous Ribbon Reefs. I had already learnt a heap and now it was time to leap into the fire.

Day 1:

With new clients on board having flown into Lizard Island before being transported inside Ribbon Reef No 10 to the 35m Beluga mothership, we started fishing a bit later on day one. It felt like we had missed the bite that day and we didn't raise a fish ourselves. So late afternoon we headed back to the mothership and on our way we had skipper Brett from Amokura on the radio ask if he could weigh up a big black marlin on Beluga which had an official weigh station facility. It was teed up and watching it get lifted out of the water on dusk under the floodlit mothership, the scales were complete at a total weight of 1032lbs of black marlin. With Stephan Kreupl (the angler), making history he was the first person officially to ever to catch 3 marlin over 1000lb! He'd caught a Blue marlin, a Pacific Blue marlin and now the Black marlin all over the magical mark of 1000lb. It was so incredible to experience such a spectacle in my personal opinion.

Now, there maybe a faction out there that would call this unacceptable. I must reiterate that this practice is rarely done and only for a specific purpose. In this case it was for a first ever world record achievement. Secondly, it strengthens the game fishing industry within the country with the massive exposure creating better economics for a very, very high end experience. It's not much different to some game parks in Africa for their hunting experiences or even in our own back yard by putting a price on our very own crocodiles with farming practices for their skins. As I mentioned it is rarely done and only with serious reasoning behind it.

Anyway after a bit of celebration with the boys on Amokura it was time to head back to Levante for a week that promised so much!

Day 2:

Well today is the day we have to go and get them! With the first few hours starting off and our swim baits getting chopped off by wahoo and mackerel, we were going through a lot of precious stock. However once 3 o'clock came we were onto our first fish for this trip starting at 250lb which was a quick fight and released. The smaller marlin are very frisky on top of the water once hooked and great value to watch carry on. Then it was back into the swing of things and just on sunset we hooked up onto another fish around the same size again to finish off the day, which was pleasing.



SALTAIRE Charters

Phone
0459 323 888

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

The beauty of mothershipping though, is that you can literally fish right to the final siren and be back on the back deck sipping cocktails watching the magical sun sets across the mountain ranges in very quick time. This last hour of fishing is also referred to by some as the 'bewitching hour' when a really hot bite can occur, especially by the big fish.

Day 3:

This day proved to be one tough day and quite frustrating. Notably we had no bite offs on our swim baits from the toothy wahoo or mackerel. However on two separate occasions we were able to entice big marlin coming up under our swim baits and then each of them following the lure for miles! We just couldn't get either of them to eat our baits and estimates from Jason our skipper, with a bird's eye view from the flybridge had them both close to the 900-1000lb mark. Just the anticipation of one of them latching on was knee knocking stuff. Just to sum up the day, even with our light tackle efforts at the very start, we had a few dolphin fish (Mahi Mahi) amongst the spread which we couldn't even get to bite a little hard body lure either. One of those days I guess when the nothing was going to bite no matter what we tried.

Day 4:

What a day to remember! With the morning starting off with wahoo coming up and eating our baits in half we knew so much the fish in general were back on the bite and we were in the zone!

This proved correct being hooked up just before lunch where we caught and tagged a 300lb marlin to start off the day. This was the good omen we had been hoping for. But then it got hectic on the deck with the day going so fast with wahoo and mackerel being around our baits all day snipping them off. I was kept super busy rigging and replacing them. 5 hours of deck work flew by at the bait station and I was now finely tuned in the art of rigging them, even with my eyes closed I reckon.

With the day getting away the chime ticked over sending off the bells and it was the hot five o'clock bite! With this, an angry 950lb black marlin jump on and it was all hands on deck. Jase called it early from upstairs watching the bite on the outrigger. The

dynamics on a game boat change within a heart beat.

The idea of game fishing is to get as much line back on the spool and the fish as close as possible to the back of the boat. The techniques used by skippers to minimise fight time in conjunction with a very quick and versatile boat is to mow them down in reverse, always keeping the fish in full view. These vessels can turn a twenty cent piece if required changing the direction on the spot if required. This was the first proper big fish I'd seen all season at the back of the boat and it's nothing short of Formula One fishing. Hi Octane!!

With the boat backing down at a rate of knots on this monster fish and taking on copious amounts of water over the transom, I found myself, as well as everyone else on the deck in knee deep of water. This is a surreal feeling with waves of water continually smashing over the side and you are simply getting drenched to the bone. The scuppers on these boats allow water on the deck to drain fairly quickly at the skipper's discretion of manoeuvring and clearing the water. At this point my body being so numb from rushing around all day and then to take this all in was just insane. The moment this absolute beast of a black marlin breached her body out of the water, only being metres away from the transom was jaw dropping.

With great boating skills Jase was driving all over this fish in no time. As Lockie, the main deckie, got a couple of wraps of the line on each hand it was literally 'Man versus Beast'! Watching this 400kg fish throwing Lockie, barely 75kg wet, from side to side like a rag doll was really crazy stuff. I don't know how, but his years of experience and pure technique managed to curb the fish bit by bit in an intense battle of angling warfare. ▶



River - Reef - Game

Ph: 0409 610 869

www.fishingportdouglas.com.au



Cut Vinyl Lettering
Licence & Boat Names
All Vehicle Decals



Laser Engraved Signs
Safety Signs



Wall & Window Graphics
A-Frames & T-Frames
Large Format Signage



25 Warner Street, Port Douglas
07 4099 4353

onthespotsigns@bigpond.com.au
onthespotsignsportdouglas.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@primusonline.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



River - Reef - Game

Ph: 0409 610 869
www.fishingportdouglas.com.au

Barrier Reef Tavern

Bistro
TAB - Pokies
Drive Thru
Bottleshop
Sky Channel
Pool Table
Full AirCon



Reef St
 Four Mile
 Port Douglas
 Ph: 4099 3655

Dreams Come True cont ...

Having been on standby behind Lockie, just trying to keep up, I cut the leader off. I was then was able to assist the angler Peter Kendal out of the game chair to see his fish in its fully glory on the surface right at the back of the boat. When Lockie had this fish under full control I leant over the back to cut the line off as close to the hook as possible, making this a perfect catch and release. At this moment staring this behemoth in the eye at really close range was nothing you could imagine. It was a level of fishing I had only ever heard of, yet alone to get to experience. I'll never forget any of this chaotic but incredible moment. What a great way to end the day's fishing and naturally everyone on board was chanting well into the night ! I can say I did eventually sleep well that night but my head was full of amazing images that will last a lifetime.


Day 5:

Now day 5 was what it is all about when it comes to fishing in my eyes! Starting off the morning with some spearfishing (which I just love) I showed the clients a different perspective altogether in what you would easily call the most clearest, purest and pristine waters on the planet. The coral colouration is out of this world and the surrounding aquatic life is at its fullest enormity. With a bit of an explore we succumbed a couple of handy coral trout and then back to the game boat to quickly get our things together and head off to find yet another 'Big Girl' on the outer edge of the reef.

Poking our nose out from the reef into the abyss of deep water, the tuna were schooling up on the surface of a glassy sea smashing into the hapless bait schools where ever you looked across the horizon. The excitement levels were naturally sky high and we were hell bent on catching another big marlin skipping big baits on the surface to that of the tuna size. It's a strange game as we trolled for several hours

following the surface activity to vast distances offshore. You just knew the marlin would be sniffing around, but when would they make their move. Eventually with nothing happening out wide we cruised back closer to the reef for the afternoon to see what we could find. Moving into the shallower water in marlin terms, between 80m - 200m, we hooked up onto a quality 750lb black marlin that had absolutely engulfed the big mackerel skip bait! I must say at this point from what I've learnt in my very short time is that when a marlin is full on in feeding mode they will often light up with amazing colours as it approaches upon a bait especially from behind. They will swim up to it, saddle up to it, sometimes dropping off the pace before sizing it up and having a go. The skipper with clear sight will make the call to get ready to the crew and angler below. The best of deckies, like Lockie, will see this from ground zero on the deck at water level as well. Having an eagle eye and looking for anything abnormal behind a bait sets the best apart.

The bite that can really catch everyone by surprise is the one that possibly has been following a bait down deeper or from a distance whether it be from behind or from the side. Marlin will utilise their massive bill to injure a so called fish/bait with a violent swipe then come back to quickly to swallow it down, especially the smaller models. Bigger fish though have the ability to go all in and straight down the hatch. From what I've learnt and seeing this first hand they will literally crash tackle a bait from side on with severe ferocity and lightening speed. There's no doubting it will be a good sized marlin from the visual look of bite on the surface when this occurs. There's often no real indication leading into the strike but it's significant because it's literally like a car crash that came out of nowhere. Well this particular fish did exactly that and had us into overdrive before we knew it. It was a brilliant bite as you could ever wish for with instant connection.

CAIRNS GAME FISHING CLUB

COCK & BALL TAVERN
 "Famous for Value"

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

Watching the fish go crazy, with loads of jumps and incredible head thrashing we had to get some line back on to the reel. I got the call from upstairs to put the gloves on as the main deckie to wire this 'goliath'. I had watched Lockie and listened with all intent during my stint since the beginning, but this was my true initiation to being a game boat deckie. I was literally packing my pants !!

As it started to really play up jumping around, Jase skippered the fish closer to the boat in reverse and I was like a cat on a hot tin roof to wire this fish in. Unless you've done this you've got no idea of the adrenaline pumping through my veins at this moment. With the leader just being finger tips away I inched out that bit further and managed to just grab it with my left hand. Pulling down on the line I finally the first wrap on with my right hand holding this fish right were I wanted it to be. I summoned all I had learnt to this point taking every possible opportunity I could to get just to get one more wrap on my other hand so I could properly control this fish. The chance came and I nailed it. I will say at this point that there is a right way and a wrong way to wrap a marlin. The inside/ out technique allows you straighten your hand and the line will release from around it if you feel the fish is too big or even too green to contain. The wrong technique will see the line lock tight around your hand and on a big fish that can be catastrophic. Broken hands beyond recognition or even getting pulled over the side are on the cards, very life threatening.

By this stage of completing two wraps, I was literally forced by the marlin right into the back corner on the port side gunnel with waves tumbling over the top of me. My thighs were dug deep into the gunnel and my arms were stretched ready to pop out of their sockets. This beauty then leaped out mid air trying to free itself from the hook. But it didn't stop there as it just kept jumping and jumping. It was bounding away from the boat and releasing one wrap I was then completely stretched out with the other arm as far as I could. Holding onto the boat with my other now free hand, I hung on with dear life not be ripped over by such an aggressive fish! Somehow in the blink of an eye this monumental battle came to an abrupt end. This magnificent, big fish snapped 600lb leader and we watched her swim away to live another day. Since I had it

by the leader it was considered a tagged fish by the skipper and guesstimated as a 750lb beauty. You could not wipe the smile off my face for days following this. It was a milestone for me personally.

Day 6: 'The Grand Finale'

Starting off the day a bit earlier we all knew it was the last day of the season on the water for the Levante boys. Heading out to catch some bait we filled up the freezer for what we knew was going to be another great day. By this point we had gotten so close to the 1000lb marlin but just hadn't been able to put a hook in one. We all had an inkling that today was going to be the day. Heading out to the fishing grounds, we had our baits in the water by 9am which is earlier than normal. We knew we had to put in as much time as possible to try and catch that big girl. After hours and hours of nothing we still had hope in pulling off that one prized fish. By late morning we had a few smaller marlin strike at the baits without converting but we sensed the bite wasn't too far away. Again, it was that later afternoon bite that hit us again. We were watching boats all around us getting hook ups and landing really good fish. We just prayed it had to be our turn soon.

Fishermen are often superstitious and just when Lockie did his lucky nibbles on the rods - "CLICK", the line sprung out of the outrigger and "ZZZZZZZ", the line was running off the spool. ▶



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
- Email: kychapplepestcontrol@gmail.com

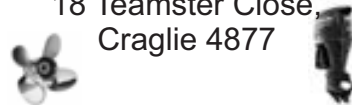
- Termites
- Cockroaches
- Ants
- Spiders
- Rats & mice
- Mosquito's
- Flying Insects

PORT DOUGLAS

SUZUKI
MARINE

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,
Cranglie 4877



Boat Names - Regos
Wraps - Apparel Design

PORT
SIGNS

0437 031 572

portsignsfnq.com.au




**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 4090 7638

Dreams Come True cont...

Soon after we were on! From this moment things went absolutely crazy from here. With John Hillier getting in the chair we had hooked the fish and clipped him onto the reel. Now it was 'Angler versus Monster'!!

Watching this huge fish emerge out of the water Jason upstairs from the flybridge screams out, "GOOD FISH!" To convert that into Layman's terms from a marlin decky's vocabulary book, this means 'a thousand pounder'. It is rarely used unless the skip knows it's right up there.

Watching the line disappear like no tomorrow it wasn't long before the mono line reached into the dacron line (the backing line). We all knew we had to get some string back from this fish and that were in for the long haul.

After a pivotal extended stand off lasting 30 minutes or more, which entailed frantic winding from our angler and manoeuvring the boat in multiple directions, the line we lost to this fish was back to the mono and we thought it had tired itself out. Well so we thought. The leader was soon there and as Lockie grabbed a hold of it she launched herself in the most spectacular fashion. Greyhounding out in the air continuously like a super sized dolphin it was stretching Lockie's arms out to the limit. At various times he had to let the leader go as her power was like no other this season. Every time there was weight on the leader she went berserk putting showcasing 'The Greatest Show on Earth'. After every dramatic episode Lockie went again like a 'Praying Mantis' on the deck being able to get a few wraps and really hold this fish to get a good look at her. I was right behind him holding the Go Pro camera in my mouth to film this epic moment. I was also on my toes ready to cut the leader line on command. We valiantly tried to cut the leader as short as possible but with one really big jump we knew she was still full of juice and had plenty in the tank. Whilst still in really good knick the skipper made the call to cut the leader and we let her go - this 1000lb marlin had given more than enough and then some more.

With celebrations upon release, we were very, very boisterous and the whole team were wrapped. With lost voices and minds blown, we knew today was a great day. We all couldn't be any happier including our clients.

Watching the videos on the way back to the mothership Beluga, we had smiles everywhere you looked. Pumping on the stereo system, 'THUNDERSTRUCK' (by AC/DC) on the speaker on our way back, it was definitely time to crack open a beer and celebrate a great days fishing. This was the ultimate fairy tale ending to a marlin season I'll never forget. Dreams do come true is all I'll say!

I couldn't thank Jason and Lockie enough for this trip, teaching and showing me so much. Their mateship was simply the best and it was just amazing to experience something that was always a pipe dream for me. I also want to especially thank Amanda and Casey from Zulu, if it wasn't for you guys I wouldn't have had this opportunity which I'll savour for always. So if anyone were to come up for an extended black marlin experience you never forget just go to zulugamefishing.com.au to get the 'Full Monty'.

Ever since I was knee height to a grasshopper I have virtually lived for fishing. Now at the raw age of 18yrs old, I've achieved something beyond my wildest expectations. If you really believe or have that extreme drive you can get there. If any kids or even adults out there still have big dreams, just like I did, never dismiss them because you never know what will happen around the corner. You might just meet the right person at the right time who grants you an open door to a life long experience, just like I was lucky enough to do. ■



Port Douglas



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

**CORNETTS
SUPERMARKETS**



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

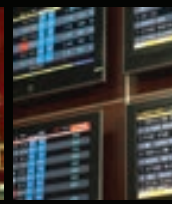
Cooktown



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



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

Reel Cooking with Mick Hart

Summer Styled Asian Stir Fry Coral Trout



INGREDIENTS

Coral Trout Fillets to suit
2 tbs vegetable oil, for frying

For the marinade:

1 tsp cornflour
1 clove of garlic, pressed
1 tbs grated ginger
½ tsp black pepper
½ bunch of fresh coriander, chopped finely
1 green chili, finely chopped or grated
1 ½ tbs fish sauce
½ tbs dark soy sauce
1 tsp palm sugar or brown sugar will suffice

For the stir fry and noodles:

100g medium egg or flat rice noodles - supermarkets have a good range
chili oil
1 red pepper
100g cup mushrooms
a handful of snow peas
50g beansprouts
½ carrot, shredded



4 spring onions
quartered lime, to serve



METHOD

1. Rinse and pat dry the fish; cut it into 5cm chunks. Mix all the marinade ingredients in a bowl, add the fish and chill for at least 30 minutes.
2. Core and chop the pepper into strips, slice the mushrooms, slice the beans lengthwise. Trim the spring onions and chop them into 1-2cm pieces.
3. Soak the noodles: bring a pan of water to the boil, drop the noodles and soak them for 5 minutes. In the meantime heat the oil in a wok over medium heat. Add the fish with the marinade and spread it over the bottom of the wok in a single layer. Cook for a minute, then turn the fish pieces over. When the fish has barely turned opaque, remove it back to the bowl and keep aside.
4. Add all the vegetables except spring onions to the wok and turn the heat up a little. Stir around to spread the marinade that might have stuck to the bottom, add ½ cup of water and cover with a lid or a tray. Cook for 3 or 4 minutes, stirring now and again. At this point drain the noodles, stir a little chili oil into them and keep warm.
5. When the vegetables look cooked, return the fish with its sauce into the wok, add the spring onions and stir gently. Cover the wok with a lid and let the fish steam for a minute or two. Divide the noodles between serving bowls or plates and pile the fish stir fry on top. Serve with lime quarters.

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

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



MAX STOCKS
WHOLESALE FOOD SERVICE • 100% LOCALLY OWNED

A wholly owned and operated local company, distributing wholesale dry, chilled and frozen grocery items direct to the kitchens of leading restaurants, cafes, hotels and sports & entertainment venues.



**Proudly Servicing
Port Douglas,
Mossman, Cairns
and District**
Phone 4035 3911



FISHING
Port Douglas

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



THE BARBER SHOP
CUT • SHAVE

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



 [barbershopportdouglas](https://www.instagram.com/barbershopportdouglas)
 [barbershopportdouglas](https://www.facebook.com/barbershopportdouglas)

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

THE GREAT LAKE ESCAPE

BY DAVE COTTON



Just over the range and only a couple of hours drive from Port Douglas and Cairns is Lake Tinaroo - our most visited camping fresh water destination in FNQ. The numbers that frequent and actually reside around this impoundment are quite astounding with a State and tourist based accountability for camping and semi/permanent accommodation. Being on the Tablelands, the ideal climate makes it a very easy place to visit. Personally I make the effort at least twice a year to camp with family and friends and just love every minute I spend there. It's stunningly beautiful, the camping arrangements are first class and it's 'croc free' so to speak.

With summer school holidays in full swing, the female teenage aspect of our lives were unrelenting to take a trip to Tinaroo. With good mate, Pete Brown in the same predicament we hatched a plan that would satisfy the girls and their friends, as well as the Dad's. It would also give our partners & associated parents a break left back in Port. Part of our entourage included the 'Girl Powered' team comprising of Emma Brown, Alex Brown, Evie Cotton, Bella Mussett and Ruby Woods, all dinky dye local girls. Us boys were heavily outnumbered.

We booked the Kauri Creek camping area which is on the water's edge of an inlet on the lake that is well suited for a swim, a fish

or exploration by boat. It is about 11.4km from the main precinct near the caravan park, via Tolga township access. All loaded up for a 3 day trip with Brownies boat, suited perfectly for lake activities, a couple of 4WD's and all the mod cons for camping we were ready. The girl's were like little pre-school kids going on an excursion as they jumped in the trucks that first morning - gee's they were excited. Technically they are still school kids but with a whole new outlook on everything compared to my days as a youth. They are young adults but with very grown up adult opinions. Only a parent with one at the same age would relate. In saying this they were on this trip absolute gems and we love them dearly.

At lunch time we on Day 1 we stopped off at Mt. Molloy just over the range for a coffee and a quick stretch of the legs. Next stop was at Mareeba supermarket about 30 minutes down the road for last minute supplies including the all important cold beer, a chook or two for lunch, bread rolls and any extras.

By around 1.15pm we stopped at the Dam Wall of Tinaroo to enjoy some lunch and our first cold beer for the hard working Dad's. It is a lovely spot and is the main feed of water which supplies further back down the coastal range to the amazing Barron River National Park Falls and the river itself out to sea in the heart of Cairns. From here we hit the well maintained dirt roads and meandered our way through the forest till we arrived at Kairi Creek campsite. Along the way we passed several other sites, which are magnificent but more populated. We opted for the road less travelled as they say, and what a sensational choice it turned out to be.

We arrived at our destination at 2pm and besides two other small groups we had this whole expansive campsite to ourselves. We set up camp in absolute pole position only metres from the water's edge. The scenery was world class and we established our own little mecca. 3 tents with comfy bedding, 2 marquees, camp chairs for everyone, a ripper kitchenette, surf skis ready to paddle and the all important campfire pit.

Continued Page 15



PORT DOUGLAS *Marine*

•ENGINEERING
•SALES
•SERVICE
•PARTS
•REPAIRS

Ph: 07 4223 4725

DIESEL - INBOARD - OUTBOARD



EVINRUDE 

YANMAR

VOLVO PENTA

DRUMMY TILES?

Paramount can solve the problem without needing to replace your tiles

Should you require any assistance with Concrete Waterproofing, Protective Coatings, Concrete Repairs, Restorations and Tile Injection, contact us.



**WATERPROOFING
& INJECTION SERVICES**

0417 126 226 | (07) 4053 5559
contact@paramountwaterproofing.com.au

paramountwaterproofing.com.au

QBCC Licence 15157362

**CALL NOW FOR
A FREE QUOTE**



Lake Escape cont ...

The boat was then backed down and moored on the water edge for instant accessibility. Really, what more could you want ?

With overcast conditions and the threat of rain for the next few days, there was no waiting to get into the activities. The girls were changed in a heartbeat and hitting up Browny for a bit of excitement in the boat. With 'The Sea Biscuit' all rigged up it was time to have fun and skirt across the water. I like this area in particular for the likes of water skiing because there is little timber to worry about. There is paddocks of open deep, unstructured water to have a fat time without the worry, as opposed to other sections of this massive lake which require a lot more attention. For a couple of hours we dragged the 'Girl Team' around at speed with a couple of spills here and there and a whole heap of fun.

It was back to camp to get a bonza camp fire going and to feed the hungry appetites. With the girls deciding to bunk down and check texts, Facebook and whatever else they do, Browny and myself settled down to a couple of quite ales around the fire. There's something so mesmerising and very relaxing about this camping ritual. It's quintessentially Australian !!



With a brilliant night's sleep by the Dad's in their own tents, there was movement in the station at something past something at a reasonable hour in the morning. I've got no doubt the girls were up all night nattering away in their establishment. I was up ensuring the breakfast needs were sorted whilst Browny attended to some extra Zz's. By the time the Bear awoke he had coffee in hand and a hearty camp Big Breakfast with all the trimmings. He then proceeded to grab the paper and sit back in his camp chair like 'Lord Muck' for sometime. All of us, besides him cleaned up ready for an exciting day ahead.

There was so much to achieve including laying some Red Claw pots, more skiing on the Biscuit and knee boarding as well, a paddle on the surf skis taking in the magical place at a more leisurely pace, plus a bit of a troll of lures for a barramundi.

I must say because this is predominantly a fishing based magazine our efforts were token. After all it is what they refer to as 'A Place of a Thousand Casts' without ever catching, despite it holding multiple world records of its Barra catches. We tried moving around with the appropriate gear but it was the serenity of just cruising around at a slow speed. 'Ah the 'Serenity', just like the

iconic Aussie movie, The Castle. I must say our crab pots faired much better producing a good half dozen Red Claw about 8 inches in length. They were put to good use for dinner that night as a bonus treat on top of another memorable camp feed. In the late afternoon this day we also established contact with some friends camping further around on the lake and caught up with them by boat. Travelling by boat to visit someone, what a concept !! Another point worth mentioning is that after dark right in front us were about 30 freshwater turtles each night on the bank having their own version of a get together. It was pretty cool to watch them socialising.

The final morning was spent cramming in as much as we could for the girls, mainly behind the boat. There energy is unwavering. To this point we had escaped any sign of rain and the unrelenting 90% humidity experienced along the coast at the time. Jumpers and shorts around the campfire at night was a welcomed change. It was a very well executed trip which us Dad's thoroughly enjoyed and I know the girls probably even more.

At lunch time we packed camp quickly with an all team effort and were home by mid to late afternoon. How convenient and it was a Great Escape on the Lake for all us. ■



CHANDLERY & ELECTRONICS - FISHING TACKLE & ROD HIRE - SPEARFISHING & DIVE GEAR - TOUR BOOKINGS



All Shirts

\$49.99

Burke Dry Jacket

15% off

Ecooda Live Shrimp

Any 3 for \$20

All Backpacks

15% off

Wet Weather Dry Bags

From \$19.99



10% off



IT PAYS TO BOOK
PHONE BB'S DAINTREE RIVER CRUISES

Ph: 07 4098 7717

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



magical daintree

Gold Rush Influence on the Daintree with Bruce Belcher

As you cruise up the Daintree River from the boat ramp and past the public pontoon, for about 200 metres, you'll notice bamboo that has subsided into the river, adjacent to Dale Wicks's house. If you continue on, you'll see mango trees and another species of bamboo with much smaller leaves and narrower stems. I'm often asked by tourists how they came to be here. We all know that there are exotic plants throughout the countryside including Lantana, Sensitive weed, Morning Glory and so on. The significance of the bamboo and mango is that they appear to be the legacy of a Chinese community dating back to the 1870s.

Gold was discovered on the Palmer River in the far north of Queensland in 1872, by William Hann. A year later, James Venture Mulligan found greater amounts of it, which guaranteed a rush. Both Europeans and Chinese aided the rush. Before long, the Chinese outnumbered everyone else by a great margin. Animosity towards the Chinese was intense. Eventually the government was forced to regulate the gold mining industry with licences. Monitoring this procedure would have been difficult considering the vastness of the area and that collecting funds from penniless people was prohibitive. Disrespect towards the people was intense. Aboriginal trackers were employed in locating hidden groups. Not only did the Chinese have the Europeans to deal with but the conflict involved aboriginal people too.

I once read that cannibalism was carried out against the Chinese and Europeans by the natives. I've heard that this was refuted. However, when you consider warfare, cannibalism could have become a level of terror to put the fear into the opposition. So, it's not out of the question.

The arrival of the Chinese came in two phases. One group arrived from northern goldfields and as far away as the Victorian goldfields of Ballarat and Bendigo. The other group emigrated directly from China. By the end of 1874, the Chinese represented about 40% of the goldfield's population.

The connection between the goldfields and the Daintree region is intriguing. Rice was the staple diet of the Chinese



and the banks of the Daintree River were ideal for rice fields and land was leased on Virgil Island, which is opposite what is now the Lafferty's Cruise Centre. I've never looked into the history but the evidence is visible along the river. I mentioned two species of bamboo: one would have been planted for building material and the other, I'm told, was used for cooking utensils. The bamboo was split into small slivers and bound together to make cooking steamers, etc. The mango trees were planted for fruit. There are still old mango trees along the river that might have been planted there 140 years ago.

PORT CUSTOM MARINE COVERS

Private & Commercial Vessels
KATEENA SKOUMBOURDIS
Marine Trimmer

Mobile: 0410 533 141

E: Kateena@PortDouglasMarineDecor.com.au

W: PortDouglasMarineDecor.com.au

Shed 1, 25 Warner St. Port Douglas QLD 4877

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@thetinshead-portdouglas.com.au

PROTECT AGAINST WATER DAMAGE

Paramount are your local specialists in concrete waterproofing & protective coatings



BUILDING

GRAIN AND STOCK FEED SILOS
DRY DOCKS
WHARFS
WATER STORAGE TANKS
ELEVATOR PITS
UNDERGROUND STORAGE
WATER TREATMENT PLANTS
TROUGHS AND STOCK TANKS
SLUICES AND GUTTERING
DRUMMY TILES



COMMERCIAL

BRIDGES AND BEAMS
REGULATORS AND WEIRS
WATER CHANNELS AND APRONS
SWIMMING POOLS
FLOORING SYSTEMS
COAL AND MINERAL STORAGE
CARPARKS
CHEMICAL BUNDS
ROOFS AND DECKING



INDUSTRIAL

RISING DAMP
HYDRO STATIC PRESSURE
RETAINING WALLS
TUNNELS AND MANHOLES
PRODUCE MILL STORAGE
SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANTS
PUMP STATIONS
BATHROOMS AND BALCONIES
PLANTER BOXES



**CALL NOW FOR
A FREE QUOTE**



0417 126 226 | (07) 4053 5559
contact@paramountwaterproofing.com.au
paramountwaterproofing.com.au