

LINEBURNER

VOLUME 244 PRICELESS

FISHING TROPICAL FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

MAR 21

Features
FNQ Ready to Rock
Exotic Catch
Golden Trev Focus
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:
Jamie Beitzel's
On the Daintree
with a Bar Cheek
Trout caught
near Snapper Is



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

Boom Time in FNQ ?

By Heff

With confidence gained by the national public to be able to travel interstate, Port Douglas is in the cross hairs for many wanting to explore the country.

Word on the street is that by the time you read this local accommodation forward bookings are through the roof for most of the year. There's incredibly strong numbers of weddings booked throughout in 2021 which normally draws up to around 100 visitors per wedding. I believe the local chapel St Mary's By the Sea will be literally rolling out 3-4 weddings a day and that's on most days.

On the main street there's a lot of vacant shops being refurbished by new enterprise in anticipation of the tourist boom which is always a better vibrant feel for the town. If the ghost town of our marina gets their act together then this will only enhance everything.

I did notice just the other day the visitor car parks at the iconic Sheraton Mirage were the fullest I've seen them since Christmas 2019. That was a very encouraging sign that's for sure.

On the fishing front our fleet of boats at Fishing Port Douglas will see the coming month likely to record new booking records and the remainder of the year appears to be really, really positive. Fingers crossed the Easter period can deliver some wonderful weather to welcome everyone. There's a sense the weather pattern is already changing for the better and we hope this

continues.

Even recently we had our idiotic QLD Premier visit Port Douglas jumping on the coat tails of the more positive signs. If the politicians get a sniff of good publicity they'll be looking for their cut of the fat. To be honest our Premier has done little to literally no good for our tourism industry during the crisis times. In retrospect her presence in town was snuffed by most.

Anyway for those we are looking forward to greeting in the coming month here's what the latest weather bureau are anticipating.

The 2020-21 La Niña event is nearing its end, with most oceanic indicators now neutral. However, some atmospheric indicators remain at La Niña levels, with outlooks indicating some precipitation in April is likely for northern and eastern parts of Australia.

Sea surface temperatures throughout most of the Great Barrier Marine Park are currently close to the long-term monthly average. They will gradually decrease which in turn produces better catches offshore.

Other than that, there's no real talk about any further cyclone development.

The coming month is a crossroads in the changing seasons and to be honest probably one of the best times to fishing in the tropics whether it be inshore or out on the bluewater.

Come and join us if you can ! ■



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

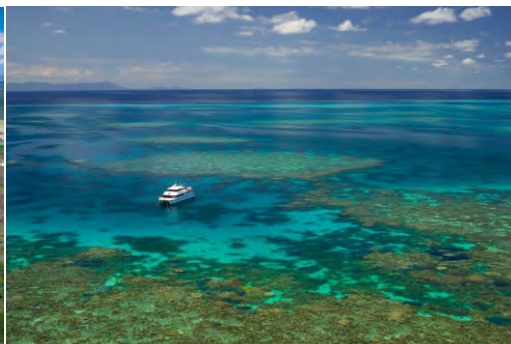
MARKHAM
timber
naturally the best choice

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



- 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**

Exotic Catch by the Boys

By Heff

On a recent few day commercial fish further north of Port Douglas, the Dragon Lady crew caught a very special type of fish. So special in fact Skipper Steve Adamson had never caught one before in over 35yrs of fishing the Great Barrier Reef.

Fishing at Escape Reef which is aligned with the continental shelf they hooked a Sailfin Snapper measuring 60cm on the nose, so it was a grandfather of a fish. Steve was so bemused at what they had caught they had to refer to the legendary Grant's Book of Fishing to identify it. Steve said he had thought he'd almost seen everything the GBR had to offer till now.

The Sailfin Snapper or blue-lined sea bream (*Symphoricthys spilurus*) is a species of snapper native to the Indo-Pacific region. It inhabits coral reefs in areas with sand substrates at depths from 5 to 60 m (16 to 197 ft). It is a solitary fish, only coming together with others of its species to spawn. This species can reach a length of 60 cm (24 in). Its body shows blue undulating stripes over a yellow body, an orange stripe crossing the eye, and another one at the back of the head. It has typically a black spot at its tail. Apparently it is of minor importance to local



Aquarium

commercial fisheries and can be found in the aquarium trade, but typically smaller in size. It is currently the only known member of its genus.

Steve said the fight of the fish was quite admirable and it went to the wholesale auction in Cairns. He said he's quite interested to see what price it would fetch and if it was rated by the more exotic restaurant trade.

As far as the rest of the trip was concerned he said things a looking good for the recreational scene with more positive catches of coral trout in particular. There were an abundance a quality red emperor about, however the nannygai remained mediocre. He believes the nannygai will turn up in better numbers in the coming month. Overall though there's plenty of offerings on the table when fishing 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



The Dragon's Den

By Steve Adamson

The past few weeks have gone really quickly with some good bookings and also getting prepared for barrage of tourists due to hit us in the coming days. Of note we've done more private charters than shared charters in recent times which has been a huge bonus.

It's just been over 12 months since we had our world turned on its head with Covid and we are quite hopeful everything will return to some normality moving forward. The whole town and even the marina precinct has undergone a dramatic change for the worse and it will be nice to see our streets and boardwalks return with a vibe about it. There's been plenty of serious worry for so long and we are hopeful to bounce back.

As for the fishing, recent weeks has seen the weather mostly kind for us which is a positive for the March period. I do suspect the wet season hasn't quite left us and we may see a bit more to play out. In saying this you can feel the seasons have changed for the better and fingers crossed the highly busy Easter period will be on our side.

With the reef going through a gradual change it has been noticeable the coral trout have come back on the scene. Numbers and sizes are improving each trip we do. Last year they became a staple catch for many trips and it seems they will repeat this again. They are a highly sought after species and we have a good grip on where we can fulfill this requirement. The nannygai have been a bit sleepy but will improve moving forward. Shark feasting has been to be honest stopped us from doing well when we come across a good patch of them. Spangled emperor have been quite common and of good size around the 4-5kg range and a great by-catch. We've come across good sessions on the red emperor at times and everyone gets excited when one of these babies comes over the side. We've picked up quite a few mackerel on the float and I'd say they are above grade for



DRAGON LADY
PORT DOUGLAS

Certificate of Excellence
2019 WINNER

0429372466

this time of year when concerned with numbers. Reef mangrove jack have given us a lot of joy at times and they've been rippers around the 5-6kg. They never fail to give a ferocious fight and are considered one of the very best fish to have on your table. Trevally species have consistently played an important part on most days and few pop up surprises have included green jobfish and baldy bream. Overall there's been a lot more busier days on the deck than quiet ones.

Days outside of charter have included keeping up the forever maintenance on the boat and self making a lot of sinkers for the busy period ahead. I buy my lead from Cairns and then spend hours in the shed melting them into moulds. It is a huge cost saver and it's my own time that really costs as compared to buying them off the shelf. I have a good little system in place and can pump out a couple of hundred sinkers at time. However you find yourself repeating the process a few weeks later due to angler ignorance by not listening to the crew. Anyway that's the joys of running a charter.

Looking ahead my friends I would be on the phone now if looking to fish over Easter and also beyond for that matter. If we can keep all our borders open it will be a godsend for us in FNQ. We anticipate this will be the case and expect to be quite busy.

Thanks to all that have kept us in the game for the past 12 months and hopefully see you all again soon. ■

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**



In a normal year we'd be normally fishing the PNG National titles at this time but Covid has put a halt to this program at least till next year. So we've left the boat in Port Douglas this year and have knocked over a few charters in recent times. The weeks ahead look quite busy on the books so we are grateful to see the tourists returning back up to FNQ.

At this time of the year it always pays to hedge your bets and do a variety of fishing on any given day. A mixture of reef fishing and light tackle trolling has seen us return with a decent haul each trip.

On the troll the spanish mackerel have been up and about which is a bonus for this time of the year. They haven't been overly big reaching up to around the 7kg range. Still they fight hard and fast and it's all relevant to the lighter line class we use at the moment. They are super quick and explosive and the clients can't get enough of them. They also make a great return in fillets which are appreciated for a feed of fresh fish. We are finding them inside the outer reef concentrating along that 30m line running up against the main reefs. Working the bait schools on the sounder has produced the goods.

Fishing off the bottom has been handy enough for likes of large mouth nannygai and some of the trevally schools have left the punters with very sore arms. There has been a bit of exploring to obtain the bottom fishing results but well worth it when you find a school of fish on the bite. Sometimes

it only takes a couple of good hangs to turn it into a very successful day.

We are into a very serious re-fit on the 60ft Shaka vessel which the owner will be spending around 500K. The whole new stereo and electronic system is 250K alone. So it's been action stations lining up all the necessary tradesmen as we have scheduled charters happening in a couple of months. Other improvements include new shades in the flybridge, new seating in the flybridge, new carpets inside and new bedding to name just a few of the improvements to this already high class game boat. Without question it will be the freshest and best game on the East Coast of Australia in a few weeks ahead.

Looking further forward enquiries for heavy tackle game fishing later in the year are on the rise. Last year was close to a wipe out with a lot of vessels really feeling the pinch in Port and more so in Cairns. Some have ceased to operate which is a real blow for the industry. For those of us with a good business model and the ability to adapt during Covid will see a better return this year. We do heavily rely on the domestic market as it stands but will miss the overseas business till at least next year. From what I'm hearing from very good sources is that there is no intention to open international borders at all in 2021.

We look forward to burst of visitors during the Easter and April period and the fishing will be good with the change of the seasons. ■



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

Signs of Early Mackerel Run

By Heff



Having an in depth chat from the lads from Saltaire Charters they have already seen the signs that the mackerel are already here and will only improve as the days go forward.

Going on the past the February / March period will see normally only a smatter of Spanish getting around but this year the signs are a lot more positive. They haven't been huge in size mainly between 4-7kg but the numbers are a lot healthier. The lads on Saltaire dedicate their current days to a mixture of reef fishing and light tackle trolling. The trolling time spent has been well worthwhile. They have caught them around the deeper nannygai schools and around the 30m range where the reef starts to rise in the shallows. Finding bait and a bit of run in the current at pressure points has been a key factor. Ploughing the field at these types of locations has yielded quite a few double hook-ups in the process.

Light tackle trolling at the moment entails using a 6-8kg line class so it is all relevant and a lot of sporting fun. Even a smaller spanish mackerel will feel like a bullet zipping all over the ocean. Getting up to speeds of 80km per hour they hit a lure at top pace. Imagine throwing your lure to a passing car at 80km an hour and hooking up. Even though they don't have the weight of a car you get the picture that they are like a bolting horse out of the gates.

The boys at Saltaire like to troll at about 6 knots and will go up to 8 knots if they come across a hot patch on the bite. Being a game boat with outriggers they will troll 4 presentations at different lengths from the

back of the boat. A typical spread will consist of a wog head garfish and a skipping garfish on the outriggers further out the back, say on the 4th wave from the wash. They will run a shallow diving lure and a deep diver lure on the short lines from the transom. Again these lures are at varying lengths but only say 20m from the prop wash.

It is all about adapting as seeing which presentation is getting the most attention. Say for example the deep divers are getting smashed, then run two of them, and the same can apply for the garfish rigs on the outriggers.

Garfish rigs are fairly stock standard and if any colour is used to frill the bait pink and lumo green are popular. When it comes to diving lures the boys still like the Halco brand for the shallow run and Rapala for the deeper option. Colours are debatable as to what to use but it is the action of the lure which is probably more important.

So on your next trip to the outer reef it is in your interest to do a bit of trolling. At the very least have a ganged pilchard on a float dangling down around 15m whilst you are anchored bottom fishing.

The mackerel is easily the best return from a reef fish in relation to fillets. They are long in body with a relatively small head. So it's all meat off the bone and they are simple to fillet.

There's so many anglers that claim they are their favourite tropical fish to eat and there's no denying that. Fried, battered, crumbed, grilled or steamed, they are a true delight. They also freeze really well so there is no waste at all. ■



River - Reef - Game

Ph: 0409 610 869

www.fishingportdouglas.com.au

on the spot
SIGNS
PORT DOUGLAS

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.

 **Battery World**

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

Great Initiative from the NT

By Heff



After little more than a year in the water, the largest single artificial reef deployment in the Southern Hemisphere is already teeming with marine life in the Northern Territory.

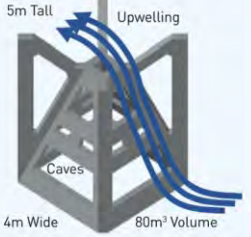
Fishing tourism draws many Australians north to cast a line and the four new purpose-built reefs, located off Darwin, are part of a \$50-million Northern Territory Government project to improve recreational fishing opportunities for locals and visitors alike. It is something the Queensland Government should look at as well. Recreational fishing is the biggest participant pastime in Australia surpassing all other major sports.

I have personally fished out of Darwin on a daily reef charter and I thought the fishing was mediocre. They are loose as a government on size limits and bag limits. From what I experienced I sensed the waters a couple of hours from the harbour had been raped and pillaged over the years. According to the FRDC the artificial reefs are part of a 'fishing trail' experience, a connected journey of the new and existing fishing spots. However, the reefs will also play an important role in aiding the recovery of fish species whose populations are at risk of overfishing, such as golden snapper or as we call them fingermark and also black jewfish.

The aim is to create new habitat on a scale that will increase productivity as opposed to simply attract existing fish stocks and reduce pressure on existing fishing locations. They also provide an opportunity to encourage anglers to become reef guardians and custodians of reef fish in the same way that Northern Territorians have become custodians for the iconic

NT REEF PYRAMID FACTS

- Number of Reef Pyramids: 118
- Dimensions: 4 metres x 4 metres x 5 metres
- Reef Pyramid weight: 24 tonnes
- Quantity of concrete used: 3000 tonnes
- Volume of each reef: 100,000 cubic metres



Barramundi.

This knowledge helped to drive a shift from using illegal 'materials of opportunity', such as car bodies, defunct whitegoods, tyres and other miscellaneous objects for reef construction, towards more effective, purpose-built structures.

The NT's new reefs consist of 118 modules, known as Reef Pyramids, each five metres high, which have been designed by Perth-based company Subcon.

The modules are made from high-strength, reinforced, marine-grade concrete and contain internal caves, vertical surfaces and inclined planes that make the water flow upwards, lifting nutrients to attract forage fish.

The current upwellings in the reef modules that draw baitfish aggregations are also expected to attract coral trout, emperor and also pelagic species including multiple mackerel, trevally, and tuna.

Originally the design specifications called for the artificial reefs to have a life span of 30 years, but modifications to the design mean the structures are expected to last for 100 years, or even longer. They are expected to be very productive habitats within three years.

The development of the reefs is monitored using baited remote underwater video systems (BRUVs), which sink to the ocean floor and record the fish that come to eat the bait. In addition to the six-monthly BRUV recordings, NT Fisheries uses sonar to monitor fish clusters and drifts video cameras through the sites. The FRDC has funded several projects that have been important in developing these innovative techniques and technologies now widely used for monitoring marine species on artificial reefs. ■



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

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

Golden Nomad of the Tropics

By Heff



There's one particular species which doesn't necessarily get enough credit up here in the tropics. As a member of the trevally family, the Golden Trevally is often unheralded. I'm not sure why because they are one of the very few that are considered high class on the eating radar and they also go like the clappers on the end of the rod.

The golden trevally is a true nomad being caught in our local rivers and creeks, along our beaches, coastally and then offshore. They do get bigger the further you go offshore but they are definitely a formidable adversary closer to home.

By the shape of their mouth it is obvious to see they like to explore the ocean floor looking for crabs and yabbies, however they are very adaptable to taking live / dead baits, lures and flies as well.

In the rivers and creeks and also along the beaches, they do prefer the sandy bottoms looking for their preferred quarry. They are a true predator taking on whatever they can find. They do tend to hang out in a group but the bigger ones are happy to go solo. Probably without question the best location to source a really decent golden trevally is up on the Daintree River around the mouth a for a couple kilometres upstream. At the moment during the April period they are prolific and can be caught up to 4-5kg. Truly a great river fish to be caught.

Along the coast they hang about rubble bottoms, wrecks and also reef structures.

Here they tend to be more solitary and can be found amongst other schools of fish such as the nannygai brigade. Live bait or dead bait fishing is suffice and you'll tangle with them up to a sort after 7-8kg.

As you reach the outer reef they will hang around similar structure to the coast but also around deep pinnacles. Once again they will coat tail off the likes of nannygai and also red emperor. They are not necessarily a targeted species but a very welcomed by catch getting up to 10kg.

Like any fish they are best eaten fresh and easily filleted to whatever your recipe desires. Unlike other trevally, these guys do freeze just fine so a big one can be put aside if required.

If you find yourself tangling with a golden trevally of any size you'll appreciate their power from the onset. They are just another jewel in the crown of what is on offer in FNQ. ■



FISHING
Port Douglas

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: 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
Craglie 4877




PORT DOUGLAS *Marine*

Ph: 07 4223 4725

DIESEL - INBOARD - OUTBOARD



ENGINEERING
SALES
SERVICE
PARTS
REPAIRS

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



I've been steady, steady up here on the Daintree and it's only going to get busier with Easter on the horizon.

I have had a delightful time of late spending equal amounts of time along the coast and within the river. The weather has been very kind and it's been conducive to some really great fishing.

My efforts along the coast, fishing wrecks, inshore reefs and Snapper Island have been rewarded handsomely with the likes of spanish mackerel, nannygai, bar cheek trout and trevally. I've been fortunate to source the cream of the crop live oceanic sardines within the river before heading out. These guys on the end of the hook and lowered down do not last long at all. Sometimes you could count down the seconds on one hand before they were enhaled by something of size. I know for a fact we left a lot of fish out there due to angler error but that's part and parcel of charter fishing. If only some people would properly listen they would enjoy a lot more success.

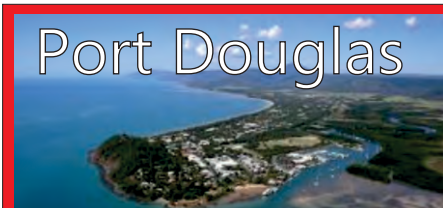
Back in the river which I really enjoy we've been nailing some beauties in recent weeks. Barra, golden trevally, big javelin fish, fingermark and those 1m queenfish are back again. At the right locations at certain times I'm currently more confident that we are going to see some brilliant action. Because we haven't seen too much rain, the water clarity is generally quite good and a healthy supply of live bait around goes a long way to a successful

trip. I've been fishing mainly below the ferry to get a good return on my efforts.

From a personal point of view I'm so proud of my daughter Unity who very recently ran silver in the Queensland championships in the Heptathlon division. She's always had good help locally but now she is being coached and advised by the best of the best including Glynnis Nunn, an Olympian champion. As a father I'm as proud as punch.

Looking ahead my calendar is telling me I'll be working 17 days straight from the beginning of April and this will naturally extend. With a mixture of return clients and new ones I'm really looking forward to a really busy period. We might see a bit of typical rain about for April but my gut feel is that it won't be over the top. If this is the case then the fishing will be right on the money. I've always felt April is one of the best times to fish our beautiful part of the world and give us a call to see if we can fit you in.

See you on the Daintree or nearby soon ..

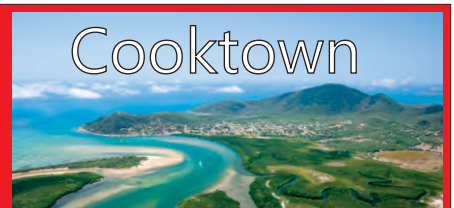


Port Douglas

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



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: cooktownniga@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

Southern Fried Coral Trout



Ingredients

- 4 to 6 fillets of coral trout
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 cup oil (for frying)
- 1 cup cornmeal (preferably yellow)
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons table salt
- 1 teaspoon ground paprika
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

Method

Gather the ingredients into separate bowls.

Preheat the oven to 150 Celcius. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil and place a rack in the pan.

Arrange the coral trout in a wide, shallow bowl, pour the buttermilk over the fish.

Pour about 1 inch of oil in a deep, heavy fry pan and place the pan over medium-high heat on the stove top.

Meanwhile, combine the cornmeal, flour, salt, paprika, pepper, cayenne, and garlic powder in a flat prep bowl.

Take the fish out of the buttermilk and dredge the fish fillets in the flour mixture to coat thoroughly. Shake off excess flour mixture.

When you are ready to fry when the oil reaches about 200 degrees, you can use a candy thermometer or drop a pinch of the flour mixture into the oil—if it bubbles and floats the oil is ready. Just be mindful of maintaining the oil temperature while cooking the fish in batches.

Cook for about 5 to 6 minutes, or until golden brown. If the oil isn't deep enough to cover the fish, turn the fillets carefully after about 3 minutes.

Remove the fish to the rack and place in the oven while you cook another batch. Repeat until all of the fish are cooked.

Serve with a salad of choice, lemon slices and tartare sauce. You won't touch KFC ever again after this effort.



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

Movement on the Station with Bruce Belcher

February & March is traditionally the time we take holidays and operate our business with limited staff and work half days only. There are two reasons for this; firstly, it's so quiet that we ask people to visit either morning or afternoon, depending on the tides. That is, if it's low tide in the morning we ask tourists to visit then. Secondly, as it would be high tide in the afternoon and that it's summer and the water is warm, crocs are hard to sight as they generally stay in the water. Ideally, it's a good time to focus on refit work to the boats.

For our holidays, my wife and I visited Brisbane and Fraser Island. Brisbane I know quite well but I'd never been to Fraser and I'd heard so much about it from tourists. Apart from interesting attractions like beautiful lakes and rainforests, we found that four-wheel driving offered good opportunities. Beach driving was good and although two-wheel driving is easy, there were times when 4WD was necessary. You can travel the beaches on the eastern side for up to 75kms but only at low tide, of course. There's a rusted out ship-wreck on the beach that's been there for nearly 100 years. February is good for the locals from Brisbane but I wouldn't like to be there in the tourist season as I believe it's too popular. Ecologically, keeping the public to restricted vehicle activity is good. There are several extensive walkways, too. The march fly population seems to outnumber tourists but I understand they are present in the wet season, only!

While on holidays we received tragic news that an older man had been killed by a crocodile somewhere south of Cairns. No doubt friends and family are grieving. I understand that the man and his partner were yachties and had sailed these waterways for many years. I'm told that the man was crabbing from the yacht's tender which are generally very small and low to the water. A croc would not normally approach small boats but as I don't know the circumstances, I put it down to just bad luck.

While on crocs, I had been keeping in touch with Griff, my son, about the nesting female opposite our place because the hatchlings are due anytime. You might recall from my last story that we named it Bruce Jenner, as we thought it was a male before it laid eggs! Before we left, there had been some minor flooding and the nest might have gone under, which would have destroyed the eggs. However, I'm being optimistic and hoping for the best. I had the girl from WIN TV standing by for a news story.

You'll remember that two years ago there was extensive flooding during January of 2019. All the crocs' nests were destroyed. Apart from sightings of a couple of rare hatchlings, it was pretty well a right-off.

Also before we left, there was an incident where a man was swimming at Lake Placid near Cairns when he was bitten by a 2.5 metre croc. The usual debate about crocodile management occurred. To me, it seems that the croc became aware of movement in the water, approached the person and took a test bite (as they do). It must have realised that there was more to the man and it decided to release him. 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 CARTE 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