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**Front Cover: Jake Wyatt with a Blue Trevally caught on fly**

# FISHING PORT DOUGLAS .COM

By Adam Boone

There's no question the month of March had a bit of Jekyll & Hyde about it dishing up some atrocious conditions then backing it up with some of the best weather you could hope for. We found that when the weather was favourable the phones were ringing with enquiries. We did a mixture of charters including river/ estuary and coastal/wrecking fishing.

We'll start with our calm water efforts up the local inlet. The water clarity was directly related to the amount of rain we had recently received. There were times when it was premium and others when it was like the colour of coffee, especially mid month when we copped a solid week of rain. Naturally our results were considerably better when the water clarity had some normality about it. Sourcing live baits was key to our success and it so much easier when you can see through the water as opposed to blind casting in dirty water. Sardines and mullet enticed some nice estuary fish including mangrove jack, fingermark and cod. Dead baits did have their value at times when the water was discoloured tempting mainly bream and grunter.

We did conduct a couple of night fishing trips, the first fishing a local coastal mark and also trying our luck at the river mouth. This evening produced small mouth nannygai coastally and mangrove jack closer to home. I do remember distinctly this night as we sat in the dark and that was the noise of a really heavy downpour

approaching. You couldn't see it but you could definitely hear it coming and sounded like a freight train approaching. It was a bit of a strange sensation not being able to see the enemy coming. Consequently it did soak us to the bone the damn thing and moved through.

We did do another night fish along the coast and it produced large mouth nannygai between 40-45cm on this occasion and also provided one moment which had us hot shoe shuffling around the deck. At the very same moment two rods buckled over peeling line singing a merry tune. One was on a 30lb spin rod with pilchard and hard bait on the hook and the other was the floating mackerel rod with a free swimming live 'pinkie' on the end. The 'pinkie' was caught off the bottom and they are often associated with open muddy waters. The prawn trawlers sometimes catch a lot of them and they make for the best coral trout if you can access them. Anyway with both rods going off it was a juggling act moving around to avoid lines crossing over on several occasions. You would think the mackerel rod would be the easiest of the two to get in first but this wasn't the case. In fact both fish arrived at the boat together around 10 minutes from the initial engagement. On the 30lb outfit was a cobia around 8kg in size and on the mackerel rod was a Gt pushing close to 20kg in size. It was a ripping double whammy which brought lots of smiles.

CONTINUED Page 12...



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## Exceed Sportfishing

By Jake Wyatt

When you get a phone call asking if you would like to join a 5 Star luxury fishing and diving expedition in another country, you say YES, and that's what exactly I did. The last 6 weeks I have been based in PNG conducting trips aboard the glamorous 114ft Beluga mothership and the 54ft Zulu game boat. We would base ourselves out of Alotau, a small town about 570 Nautical miles North East of Cairns. Here is where guests would jump onboard and we would head off on a trip of a lifetime. I had never been to this part of the world and was super excited to check it out. On the charts the area looked amazing with massive drop offs and super deep channels between the reefs, 'Doggie Tuna' heaven I highly suspected. Most of our time would be spent around the Conflict Islands and the Louisiades.

The start of the trips saw us fish our way east and visit a few small communities on the way. Each morning we would wake up to find numerous canoes and dug outs floating patiently waiting to do some trading. They would bring fresh fruit and vegetables including new drinking coconuts, plentiful amounts of shells, local bush eggs and anything else they could gather off the land. In return we would offer fresh water, flour, rice, fishing hooks and lures, clothes and also local currency. One afternoon when we pulled up for the evening, a local lady came over and we asked about mud crabs. We gave her a Dolphin torch and by 'crikey' the next morning we had 6 nice 'Muddies' on the deck, including one of the biggest crabs I

have ever seen. This also seemed to be the case with Crayfish.

As we would start to track further east our next main stop off would be the Conflict Islands. On the way we would troll a selection of lures and it didn't take long till the esky was full of Wahoo. This place is just amazing, it's like every picture of a tropical island on a list card. White, sandy beaches, coconut trees, beautiful reefs and amazing fish life. This is where we would really start to amp up the fishing and diving programs. With morning activities ranging from spearfishing, snorkeling, diving and island visits the afternoons were saved for fishing. We found one nice shoal patch on the charts one morning and thought we better come back and give this a try. We motored around and waited for the call from our skipper Jason to drop the jigs down. Deep water jigging is one of my favourite styles and it didn't take long till one of us was buckled in the corner holding on. That little session proved to be productive as we landed a few nice Doggies, Iron Jaw and plenty of XL trout, although we got smoked a lot of times also. As the current started to change we moved up onto the shoal and started our surface lure assault. This ended up being one of the most memorable fishing experiences I have come across with big Spanish charging in on the stick baits, launching 15ft in the air and almost crashing into the transom. It was almost a fish a cast. We even had a few big doggies swipe at the stick baits but failed to convert.

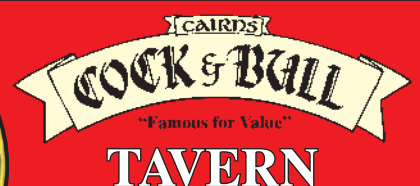
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# The Dragon's Den

By Steve Adamson

The month of March was no real surprise and was typically quiet on the tourist front. We could have been easily excused for a week as Cyclone Trevor passed the coast way further north but we saw a very wet and windy week transpire down here. The last few months have been a testing time and we are hoping for a much busier period in April with a combination of national school holidays, Easter and Anzac Day spread over a 3 week period on the cards.

Looking back through the diary we only conducted a handful of trips for the month so there was a fair bit of maintenance done during the down time. From memory the trips we did complete were during flat, calm periods and the fishing continued to surprise and impress on every trip. It had me thinking as to exactly why the fishing has been so, so good this summer period. The answer was fairly simple and was a result of having an idle conversation with young Fraser, our deckhand. He had recently been doing a bit of spear fishing and made the simple comment that when swimming on the surface the water temperature was quite comfortable. However he said, once you dived down further than 5m or more the water was absolutely freezing. As most of you would know our tropical reef species bite best when the water temperature is cooler. Our waters haven't had the chance to really warm up properly this summer with several interruptions of rain, wind and lots of overcast days for extended periods at a time. That to me makes a whole lot of sense and why the fish have continued to bite consistently during a traditionally challenging period.

Our charters during March went 'gangbusters'. Numbers, quality and variety of species was exceptional. According to the log book our quietest day, if you can call it that, was just over 30 fish coming back to the docks and our best trip was just shy of 50. It was a real mixed bag of fruit in the chill bin including coral trout, small and large mouth nannygai, cobia, spangled emperor, cod, gold spot trevally, speckled scale



Seaperch and spanish mackerel. As mentioned the average size of the fish was very pleasing with some of the biggest small mouth nannygai we've seen in quite some time.

Tides didn't seem to matter overly as both the spring and neap tides seemed to produce, although the bigger tides were I'd say slightly better.

Looking ahead I've always been of the opinion that the April period is a time of transition when the fish tend to pick up their game. Frankly I think they are right on top of it as it stands and if it improves even marginally then I can see some big days coming up. Hopefully with more people anticipated to visit the area in the next few weeks they'll be treated to a great experience with us. ■



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## The Karumba Pilgrimage

Part 1 - By 'Sharky' Shane Down

Yepee !! Annual leave on the cards and fishing in Karumba was on the cards again for another year - the Pilgrimage annual trip. Again my cousin Reg flew up from down south and with everything organised we were on our way driving across the gulf with tinnie and camper trailer in tow. The 10hr drive was uneventful and the welcome sights of wildlife and water filled plains as you approach Karumba was, as usual a welcome sight. There's something about approaching your final destination that gets you naturally excited. Arriving at the caravan park we took our time to set up the campsite and then had a bit of a reconnaissance around the place to see what was biting. From the local reports the fishing was quite fair so we were excited.

Thursday the 14th March and we were up at 'sparrows' down along the Normanton River collecting live bait. The bait was hard to find and as we found out, fishing in the boat around the river mouth the fishing was just as tough. The morning session saw us only tussle with a couple of catfish or as they call them over there golden cobbler. They were decent sized ones though at around 15kg a piece. The arvo session improved only slightly better with a 47cm blue salmon to put in the esky and I lost a bloody decent king threadfin salmon which cut through the mono leader at the boat. I should have known better and vowed to only use plastic coated wire trace from there on. As the water is often dirty in colour the fish don't seem to be perturbed by



upgraded leader and you don't lose as many fish. So day one was very average by Karumba standards.

Friday 15th March and we hoping for better results. Unfortunately the river was completely unproductive not even producing a stinking catfish. We spent some time around the front along the beach and for our time were rewarded with a jewel fish (scaly jewfish) of 64cm and a blue salmon of similar size. It was better than nothing and our start to the trip was well under par for our liking.

Saturday 16th March and it was raining early so we had a late start at 7.30am. We tried upstream for a bit at the 'jewie hole' and saw not a sniff of action. We then ventured back towards the mouth and tied up to a pylon. Here I got to the boat a 10kg golden cobbler which was encouraging but not what we had traveled so far for.

I checked the fuel situation and felt there was enough to travel across to what I call the 'Barra farm'. It is basically a small patch of isolated mangroves perched on top of a sandy bank a couple of miles away. I had fished it a couple of years ago with good results. Within the first minute of setting up Reg was onto a good barra which had other ideas. It ran around a mangrove tree and cut the line much to our disappointment. With this in mind we both adjusted our tactics and upped the anti on our drags to allow the fish no room for play.

Within 5 minutes Reg connected again and a silver barra came out of the water to play in spectacular fashion. With the drag cranked up this 67cm fish couldn't retrieve back to the mangrove haven and found itself in the boat net followed by the donging of the 'high priest' baton. Within minutes I followed up with a 64cm blue salmon and we were finally on the right track. Our method of floating 'livies' underneath a float at the pressure point of the mangrove system was delivering the goods. The use of a float keeps the baits from tangling themselves among mangrove roots and you know exactly where they are positioned at all times.

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It wasn't a long wait before Reg found himself hooked up again. It must be reminded, and for those who have followed our Karumba adventures in the past would know, that Reg is legally blind. He literally can't see his line and goes by feel alone. He probably has the best touch from anyone I know when it comes to hooking a fish. He does rely on a bit of coaching as to where the fish is running but does an outstanding job. We have our own personal dialogue which seems to work really well, especially when fishing in a tight situation. Anyway, this fish had a bit of 'curry' about it and with a few close calls avoided we netted a wonderful 75cm barra. The day was panning out beautifully. Following this flurry of activity the action grinded to a halt and we sat patiently for close to an hour. It was no worry as we had nowhere else better to be.

Sitting there solving the problems of the world the conversation was halted by a good hook up by Reg. A ripping barra jumped aft of the bow throwing the line in the same motion and escaped. Casting his line back at the mangroves it was only a matter of 30 seconds before a 67cm inhaled the bait and was persuaded in relatively quick time to the boat. This was followed by a quiet patch so by 11.30am we pulled stumps and headed back to camp quite content with this little session.

After a bit of tucker and little siesta we reloaded and headed back to the beach vicinity for an afternoon fish. Wow, what a difference one day can make ... Eight blue salmon at an average of 47cm and a 62cm jewel fish kept us very much entertained. I

also fought for quite sometime a 1.3m shovel nose ray just to add something a bit different. Karumba baby, was starting to awaken!!

Sunday 17th March we went to the 'jewel hole' nice and early. Again this previous favourite haunt didn't produce much but there was a ray of light as we watched an angler fishing off the bank reel in a good jewfish which looked in excess of 12kg. They were around but not on the end of our lines.

By 8am we found ourselves back at the 'Barra farm'. We were about an hour too early so I mustered up some more live bait to keep the supply healthy. Once settled we put a couple of lines in a little channel which fed into the mangroves and I put a live bait out wide on the flats on my TLD 15 outfit. This bigger rod was soon enough doubled over and to my surprise it was a good barra out in the open. It paraded around classically and I was a bit nervous fishing with 40lb mono leader. Luck was on my side before it was boated to stretch 67cm on the tape. I was wrapped to finally claim my first barra of the trip.

For the next short period we experienced a series of pickers and a cracking mud crab dropped Reg's bait at the boat before I could get the net underneath it - bugger. Resetting baits back in the strike zone Reg found himself hooked up to something substantial. Luckily it decided to swim away from the treacherous mangroves into the open. I was trying to control my excitement whilst coaching Reg how to curb this ripper. It came out of the water and things went to a new level. ➡



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KARUMBA Cont...

It was very evident it was a trophy barra we had been dealt with. No doubt there were some very hairy moments in the heat of the battle which lasted an agonising 5 minutes, but it was pure relief when it was nestled into the landing net. Then the exasperation and celebrations followed which come after a momentous catch. At 8.5kg and 92.5cm across the tape it was a barra to remember. Wow, what a stunning fish despite not reaching the ultimate 1m mark. It was the only fish worth noting for the day but what a fish!!!

We didn't launch the boat that arvo and opted to fish near the boat ramp off the bank. It was quite average and saw us hooking into an 85cm bull shark, a 1.2m shovel nose ray and a decent catfish.

Looking forward later that afternoon our focus shifted quickly to the threat of another cyclone coming across the east coast and heading towards the Gulf region. We would have to keep a close check on its progress. If you remember from last year's publication our holiday was cut short with a similar scenario.

Tuesday 19th March the threat of an immediate cyclone had slowed down so we relaunched the boat and went to the 'jewie hole' with only dead baits in hand.



For a couple of hours a couple of catfish and a 40cm jewfish which was released was all that we had to show.

With the tide ready to turn inwards I went in search of live bait back down past the boat ramp some 200m towards the mouth. I spotted a heap of pop-eye mullet with their characteristic trait with their heads out of the water. Actually they are the hardest bait to catch because they can see you from some distance and have the knack of disappearing before your eyes. With some strategic moving of the boat I was able to corner them and managed 20 quality baits to play with.

Not too far away I spotted a shoal of mullet being stirred up not far from the mouth. I thought this might be a good sign, plenty of bait around and something down below stirring the pot - the anchor was dropped.

You know those hot little sessions which spring out of the blue? Well this was one which lasted a quick 20 minute period. We nailed 5 good barra, all good size at an average of 66cm and released 3 of them. It was hectic as you could imagine. I then dropped one as it flew out of the water and the show was over. It shut down in the blink of an eye. A further 2hr wait saw us claim a 47cm blue salmon to end this prosperous morning session.

The PM session saw us venture along the beach for a small blue salmon and a spikey tailed flounder, nothing much worth expanding on.

Wednesday 20th March we began our adventure a bit later as the incoming tide was later. The incoming tide I've found at Karumba over the years the time to hit the water. On the bottom of the tide however we ventured across the river to the other side to hunt down some live bait as our typical spot was producing blanks. Here we found sufficient bait and decided to have a fish for an hour only to snavel a small blue salmon which was released.

With the tide returning to an optimum level we decided to head back to where we got the hot barra bite near the mouth the day prior.

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This shift payed dividends within 10 minutes of setting the anchor. A feisty 79cm specimen latched onto a mullet and the barra dance followed. In the sunlight its chrome flanks were dazzling as it walked across the water on its tail - there is no other fish like it. After settling down Reg soon after hooked into an okay sized queenfish which he consequently landed. We had been brimming all trip for this fish to serve up as Numus - naturally soaked for an hour or so, refrigerated and cooked in vinegar alone, no heat. You have to try it folks, its yummy and very moorish !!

It wasn't a long wait before I found myself engaged onto what revealed itself to be another decent barra. It was turning out to be the hotspot of the trip at this rate. It gave a spirited fight before being netted and presented a very serviceable 77cm in length. My next bite felt different from the moment it was hooked. This fish tried its best but found the net to show itself as a just undersized king salmon - their minimum size is 60m with a bag limit of 5 in the Gulf. We hadn't nailed a big one on this trip as in previous years but we still had plenty of time left. That signaled the end to this session but we were wrapped that our efforts were starting to pay dividends.

At this point in the trip Cyclone Trevor slipped over north of Karumba and I was half expecting the police to do the rounds and ask people to evacuate the area - this happened to us last year cutting our trip short. However, the visit never came from the boys in blue and we settled in copping a little bit of rain and wind for a little bit, but nothing too outrageous.

The plan moving forward was to continue on for as long as possible at Karumba as I still had a couple of weeks annual leave left to go. Catching a classic King Threadfin Salmon and a big Jewfish was still on the wish list and I'll report on this in next month's edition. ■



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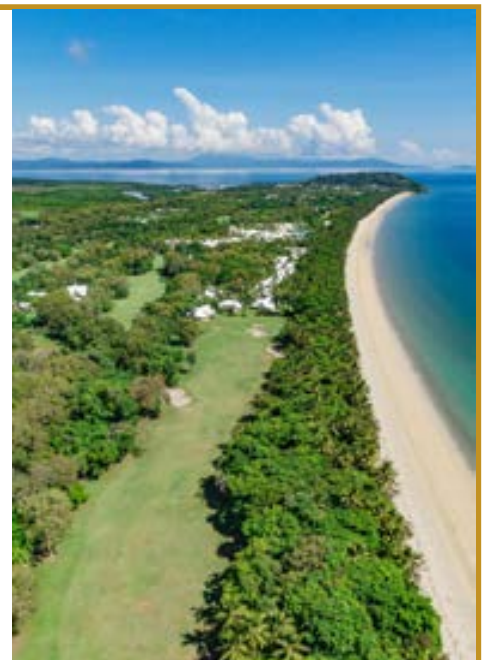


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## Nautical Marine Expansion

By Andrew McNeil

While the town has been suffering one of the quietest off seasons in years, the boys here at Nautical Marine Sales have been busy filling the walls of our new extended premises and setting up our online sales. YES!!! Our Website is finally up and running. Hallelujah!, I hear the boys saying, it has been a long haul. Setting up the website has been a very enlightening experience to say the least, and at times very frustrating. With 1000's of items to catalogue and upload, it will be an ongoing project for quite some time to come. Check us out at [www.nauticalmarinesales.com.au](http://www.nauticalmarinesales.com.au). Let us know your thoughts on how we are going. Any feedback, good, bad or otherwise would be greatly appreciated. You can drop us an email at [sales@nauticalmarinesales.com.au](mailto:sales@nauticalmarinesales.com.au) Watch this space as we are still adding stock items daily. We also have plans for a huge competition in May. We will be starting up our Loyalty program soon as well, so keep your ears to the ground.

As well as taking over the extra space in December, we have also expanded the range of products that we now sell. We have

secured Agencies with new Suppliers like Garmin, Led Lenser, Ugly Fish, Nomad & Cressi; allowing us to offer sought after items that include chart plotters, fish finders, hunting electronics, watches, headlamps, sunglasses, knives, torches, Cressi dive gear, Nomad lures, rods, reels, line etc. Come in and ask one of the boys to give you a demo on how our new line of 'Unbreakable' sunnies work, seeing is believing.

Since doubling our floor space in December, the shop is now starting to take shape. Lachy is taking great pleasure in fitting out the new area dedicated to fishing and tackle. The comments from regulars has been encouraging and satisfying. After years of struggling to find a spot on the wall to fit one new product, it is like a breath of fresh air to have so much space to play with.

Finally, we would like to thank all our local clientele for their ongoing support over the past 6 years. Without you, we would not be where we are today. We look forward to welcoming you to our new expanded premises sometime soon.

Cheers The Nauts Boys! ■



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## Reel Cooking

with Mick Hart



### Honey & Orange Roasted Coral Trout

#### Ingredients

- 2 large coral trout fillets
- Zest and juice ½ orange
- 2 tsp clear honey
- 2 tsp wholegrain mustard
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 100g bean sprouts
- Small bunch chopped parsley
- Small bunch chopped dill
- Mixed Garden Salad

#### Method

Heat oven to 200C/180C.

Place each coral trout fillet on individual squares of foil.

Mix together the orange zest, honey, mustard, 1 tbsp olive oil and some seasoning, and drizzle it over the fillets.

Pull the sides of the foil up and twist the edges together to make individual parcels. Place the parcels on a baking tray and bake in the oven for 10 mins until the fish is just cooked and flakes easily when pressed with a knife.

Serve on top of the Garden Salad with Bean Sprouts to add some really fresh crunch and taste.

Fresh breadstick or something similar is fitting.

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**Keith Lawrence**

FISHING PORT DOUGLAS cont ...

There was also plenty of opportunity to explore the coast during the day but it was intermittent with the wayward weather. As we found in recent previous months, the coastal wrecks and reefs have a tendency to really fire up after a decent bout of rain. The local systems spread a lot of bait along the coast and in tow are the predators, particularly the pelagics. Off the bottom we caught our usual suspects including nannygai, bar cheek trout and some really nice grassy sweetlips. The grassy sweetlip is a bit of an under rated fish in that they go really hard for their size. They are really good to chew however filleting them can be a tad more difficult as they have a thick set of scales.

On the surface using floating baits and also jigging metal slices we caught trevally species including a really nice diamond trevally. I personally think they are the prettiest of the trevally family and they go well on the end of the line. There were quite a few big barracuda around hitting the float lines and even though they look impressive they are a bit of a nuisance and to be honest they don't fight that hard. Still the clients enjoying catching a decent sized fish and that is what is important. We caught some spanish mackerel along the coast and on occasions it was notable they were hunting in groups of 3-4. You could see them down below lurking around and then lunging all over a pilchard drifted down. It was pretty exciting stuff to watch it all unfold with the end result of nice 'spanish' on the boat. Definitely the days

with a bit of run in the tide was better for the pelagic fish.

To finish up on a good salt story we were traveling between locations and a tern was following the boat behind. I assumed it wanted an easy feed so I tried twice to throw him a pilchard and upon it going to grab it from the surface it declined. It then dawned on me what to do, so I dropped the revs and slowed down. Before you knew it the little fella was on the bait board taking a breather. He looked plumb tuckered and wasn't even interested in the food on offer on the bait board. He would have traveled some 10 minutes with us not even getting scared when I got really close. Once we had settled at the next spot he decided he had a good enough rest and flew off.

Looking ahead we are praying for a good month of weather with a good run at the school holidays and Easter break. Just to keep you updated, as per our standard 4hr & 8hr day trips river and coastal reefs, we are now introducing 6hr trips and also 4hr night trips. ■




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EXCEED SPORTFISHING cont ...

There is a Sea Turtle sanctuary based in the Conflict islands and this was one of the morning activities. The clients got to stretch there legs, walk around the sanctuary and learn more about their relocating programs. On one special morning the sanctuary saw them hand us over 2 large tubs with about 40 baby Turtles that we're ready to be set free. We motored to the deployment zone and the clients jumped into the water with the snorkel gear on and were able to hand release the turtles. This was a pretty cool experience.



If you're into spear fishing then this place is a must do. There's everything from trout, job fish, wahoo, dolphin fish and Spanish Mackerel and not to forget everyone's favourite, the 'Doggies'. The next leg would see us head south to the Louisiades and just when we thought it could not get any better, it did. The scenery here really is something special.



It was endless white sand islands with coconut palms and crystal clear water as far as the eye can see. Once again the fishing was great with many 'Doggies' landed including the other usual suspects as well. The clients did some cracking drift dives in the mornings and more exploring in the afternoons. On the way back to Alotau for the last time we saw a Sailfish free jumping, so we put a spread out and tried our luck. Within 20 minutes we had landed our first 'sail' for the trip. This Sailfish ended up being the only fish landed this day, although we saw many more free jumping and saved the mark for next year.



As I am writing this, we have been traveling for around 36 hours and looking forward to getting back into Cairns soon. Along the way we have had the lures out and this afternoon I caught my first Blue Marlin of around 200lb. That was a very fitting conclusion to what has been the trip of a lifetime. If this trip sounds like something your interested in doing, get in contact with Beluga Expeditions. These



guys seriously run a great operation and hopefully I get to come back again one day. As April approaches things are starting to get busy again. With school holidays and Easter coming up shortly, the bookings are starting to flow. Can't wait to get back out on the GBR and get

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# magical daintree

## Cook's Feral Idea with Bruce Belcher



While touring on the Daintree River, there are obviously points along the way of significance and they are generally discussed. Heading downstream we usually go in behind Pig Island. It's named so because there is a higher density of feral pigs there than the surrounding cane fields, offering more protection.

Now, we all know that Lieutenant James Cook sailed past the river mouth and eventually rammed into the inner edge of the Great Barrier Reef, not knowing it was there. The story goes that he set pigs free onto the mainland, to breed up as game for any ship wrecked mariner, in the future. So, the legacy is that we now have a feral pig problem.

I was recently given a book to read to get facts right about what actually happened. It's relevant here as a history subject as Cook sailed past the river. The book is titled "Cook's Endeavour Journal, the inside story", by The National Library of Australia. So, I thought it was interesting to share with you some of the things we didn't know about Cook's journey.

Cook set sail on the 26th of August 1768, from Plymouth in England, aboard Her Majesty's Bark Endeavour with 94 persons including officers, seamen gentlemen and their servants, near 18 months provisions, 10 carriage guns, ammunition and cannons. The main purpose of the journey was to go to Tahiti and observe the path of Venus across the sun, to measure the distance between the Sun and Earth, which would revolutionise navigation. There was also a secret mission which Admiralty sealed in an envelope for Cook to read at a specific time and not before. The instruction was to locate Terra Australis Incognita (the unknown southern continent).

The voyage took them across The Atlantic Ocean and down the eastern coast of South America, rounding Cape Horn, then on northward to the Tahitian Islands. It took them several weeks to complete their observations of Venus.

Cook kept his secret and headed southwest, where the great southern continent was thought to be. He failed to find it there but bumped into New Zealand instead, which was known to Europeans. Having circumnavigated both islands he headed west and



after three weeks became the first European to sight the east coast of Australia. He then came across Botany Bay, named it and noted it was a suitable place for settlement. I've always believed that Cook was using Spanish and Portuguese charts which had been made 100 years before; not so. Hugging the east coast northward, he hoped to prove that there was a passage between the new continent and New Guinea. This would hasten his return to England, via Batavia where he completed repairs before returning to England.

But, getting back to his prang on the reef! Just off Cape Tribulation, at 11.00pm on 11th of June, 1770, the Endeavour hit the reef. Over the next two days the crew jettisoned 40-50 tonnes of material including 6 cannons, ballast, ruined stores and drinking water. The ship was eventually re-floated and they had to plug the leak using wool, animal dung and oakum. This was called fothering. This material was hauled under the ship using a sail. They eventually got to Cooktown and spent several weeks there repairing the damage while beached. The rest is history. See you next month.

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# Local Bragging Board



Dragon Lady Charters caught quite a few larger Spangled Emperor amongst a host of other great fish



Craig Cook caught this great Spanish Mackerel along the coast with Fishing Port Douglas Charters



Jake Wyatt with an XL Coral Trout caught fishing the Islands of Papua New Guinea



Reg Down with a 92.5cm Barra weighed at the Karumba Point Caravan Park

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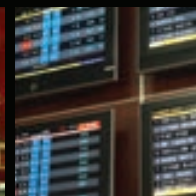
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