

# LINEBURNER

VOLUME 269 PRICELESS

*FISHING TROPICAL FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND*

MAY 23

*Featuring the  
Best Charter Reports  
& Some More ....*







**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](mailto: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



**FUEL • OIL • SEAFOOD • BAIT • ICE**

Dickson Inlet, Port St, Port Douglas  
**Phone 4099 6792**

**TAVERN**

**GREAT VALUE MEALS  
 NO. 1 POKIES PUB  
 BARS • FUNCTIONS**

“Friendly Water Hole” Cnr. Grove & Digger Streets

**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**

60ft of Luxury Fishing & Charter on the Great Barrier Reef

You Don't bring a Knife to a Gun Fight!

Purely Known By Reputation Best in FNQ



[www.fishingportdouglas.com.au](http://www.fishingportdouglas.com.au) Ph: 0409610869



**IT PAYS TO BOOK  
 PHONE BB'S DAINTREE RIVER CRUISES**

# Ph: 07 4098 7717

[info@daintreerivercruises.com.au](mailto:info@daintreerivercruises.com.au) [www.daintreerivercruises.com.au](http://www.daintreerivercruises.com.au)



**Port Douglas**



Phone: (07) 4098 5761  
 Cnr Captain Cook Highway & Port Douglas Rd, Pt Douglas QLD 4877  
 Email: [portdouglasiga@cornetts.com.au](mailto: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](mailto:cooktowniga@cornetts.com.au)  
**OPENING HOURS:**  
 MON-FRI: 8AM - 7PM  
 SAT: 8AM - 6PM  
 SUN: 8AM - 5PM

# Fishing Port Douglas News



## with Heff

The change of the seasons really kicked into gear during May as water and air temperatures dropped and the trade wind south easterly played a significant role. The reef fishing was very good overall but it was only accessible by our bigger, more stable boats. The reef fishing is approaching its peak period very soon and some kinder days will allow better access to explore it in its entirety. Not to be dismissed the calm water fishing has had a lot of highlights particularly up on the Daintree River where a lot of fingermark and thumping javelin fish to 60cm have featured regularly. No matter the time of year there's always something on the bite up here which makes it a wonderful destination to come and fish. Below is the latest Reef Report issued by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

### Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority - latest Reef Health update

The Reef experienced unseasonably warm conditions from early to mid-April; however, sea surface temperatures slowly cooled over the second half of the month.

The forecast for May is for dry and mild conditions for most of the Reef.

### Temperature and rainfall

The hotter-than-usual start to the month exposed much of the northern and central regions of the Reef to heat stress.

At the end of April, sea surface temperatures were, on average, 27°C across the Reef, which is 0.7°C above the long-term average for this time of year. The northern region experienced the highest anomalies at almost ~1°C above average.

Rain may continue across the Reef in the coming weeks due to a pulse in the Madden-Julian Oscillation, but this is not expected to greatly influence overall rainfall during the tropical dry season.

### Reef health

Of the 1273 surveys submitted between 26 March and 26 April, 955 were Reef Health Impact Surveys (RHIS). These surveys indicated that across the Marine Park, minor coral bleaching, disease, and damage continue to be reported. At the same time, anecdotal evidence of scattered bleaching was also received from the central region after the increase in temperatures earlier in the month.

Crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks remain the most severe on reefs in the central and southern regions.

### Reef management

While we have moved to our monthly updates, the Reef Authority continues to maintain a close watch for any changes in Reef conditions.

We are also continuing to work with our partners to protect and strengthen the resilience of the Reef through a range of management actions, including controlling the predatory, coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish and our year-round compliance campaign to deter illegal fishing.

If you are out in the Marine Park, we ask that you please continue to report what you see through the Eye on the Reef app, and make sure you know your zones and do your bit to help protect this World Heritage-listed natural wonder.





**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**

**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**

**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**




**on the spot SIGNS**  
PORT DOUGLAS

**AND NOW PRINT AVAILABLE AS WELL**

**TEXT:**  
**0419757864**

**CALL:**  
**07 4099 4353**

**ONTHESPOT SIGNSPORT DOUGLAS.COM.AU**





# Fishing On the Daintree

with Jamie Beitzel



Welcome to this month's report from the Daintree River. Once again it proved to be a busy month for me with a lot of river fishing involved.

This last few weeks saw a dramatic change in the change of seasons. The start of May saw a continuation of a bit of warmth in the weather but soon altered about mid month as the winds picked up and the days got a lot cooler. It didn't really sneak up but happened pretty quickly.

As you have to, adjusting to the conditions is part of the job. At the start of the month we had good river conditions and we were still accessing the likes of good fingermark and quite a few quality Daintree River barra. The water clarity was mostly good and the fish were in a conducive mood. Fingermark to 55cm and barra to 80cm were consistently about. Accessing live sardines was a lot easier during this phase.

Once the skies turned grey and the winds started really blowing, the landscape of the river changed quickly. Water clarity and temperature dropped off and a change of tactics was in order. I was able to source the live sardines but there was a lot of blind casting because of the water colour. These tasty fish morsels continued to account for fingermark and few more mangrove jack showed interest. They also enticed a few good queenfish in the main channel drifting in the current to the 85cm range. The big change was fishing across the flats

whereby a good old mix of pilchard and fresh squid produced some tidy results. Big grunter or javelin fish to 60cm provided some great angling moments and golden / river Gt's made up the difference. Lighter gear is used in this situation and it's quite exciting to see a good sized fish rip it up in a couple of feet of water.

A bonus this month has been a return of all crocodiles of all sizes, sun basking on the edges of the river banks and across the mud flats. So at the moment we are not just completing a fishing trip but adding a wonderful croc spotting and eco tour to our operation. We'll be continually value adding to our trips for the next few months.

Here's something different to show and tell you about this month. I happened to be fishing one of my spots when I noticed something of very large proportion to the side of the boat. I recognised it as a massive QLD groper, so I changed my sounder to side scan and was able to capture this image. The image may appear to resemble of monster barra because of the paddle tail, but I can say it was around 100lb or more of pure QLD groper.

There's always something different happening on our river, so come and join us in a World Heritage Listing we call the Daintree River.



30yrs Experience  
Best River & Coastal  
Fishing Experience  
Magical Scenery  
Croc Spotting  
Eco Tour Included  
Call: 0409610869

## 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



# Dragon Lady Charters

with Derek Brown



Well it wasn't a month that was conducive if you happened to be a small boat owner or charter operator. The winds remained very constant for the entire month and the best day from memory was around 13 - 15 knots. Fortunate for us are able to handle the tougher conditions and fished comfortably even when it was hovering around the 20 knot mark. There was only one week in particular when it persisted as a strong wind warning where we didn't run. Otherwise we were kept relatively busy.

We found there's not a lot that isn't biting well at the moment. The spanish mackerel did taper off towards the end of the month but otherwise it was all systems go.

Coral trout without a doubt are your go to fish when there's a bit of wind about. They are quite plentiful at the moment up in the shallow waters of 20-25m deep where the adjacent reefs offer a fair amount of protection from the wind. Still you need a nice big comfortable vessel likes ours to get out there and access them.

At various times and when the slightly lighter winds coincided with a low tide we ventured a



**DRAGON LADY**  
PORT DOUGLAS

Certificate of Excellence  
2019 WINNER

**0429372466**

bit deeper and were able to source some cracking large mouth nannygai to 7kg and there were also a steady supply of small mouth nannygai around 45cm which can become suicidal when in the mood.

There were plenty of other species popping up at times including tea-leaf trevally, cod, sweetlip and there was a brilliant run of spanish mackerel caught on the float in the first half of the month. There was one particular day when the floating line was engaged for most of the day it seemed. These are a great fish to share amongst everyone as there's plenty of great fillet to go around.

Looking ahead June really starts to ramp up with forward bookings and it would be ideal to be forwarded with some better weather to assist us to continue to tap into some brilliant reef fishing at this time of the year.

# Saltaire Charters

## with Craig Newbold



It certainly proved to be a bit of a windy month for us when we had our scheduled charters. We lost a few charters when it was blowing 25 knots plus but did manage to get in a handful of trips when the winds were between the 15-20 knot range.

The days we worked turned out to be quite productive including bottom fishing and working the surface. Coral trout were very snappy as we worked the bottom fishing in shallower waters in the breezy conditions. Some hangs were producing up to 6 coral trout or more at times. Sizes were ranging from 40cm up to a healthy 52cm. Clients were very satisfied with taking back home a bag full of highly valued fish. No matter the conditions at this time of year, obtaining a feed of coral trout can almost be guaranteed.

Our trolling efforts proved to be super effective as we found where the spanish mackerel were starting to school. Utilising only a couple of deep diving lures more often than not they'd result in a double hook up. There was no need to run a bigger spread of lures as the fish were very concentrated. Sizes of the fish varied ranging from 7kg up to 12kg. A double hook up on the deck certainly lights up any deck and is quite exciting for the clients.

Actually our wonderful young deckhand Marlin (yes that's his name), was the victim of an embedded treble hook in his hand whilst dealing with a multiple mackerel catch on the deck. It was too deep to do the old fishing line trick to remove it, but to his credit he completed the charter in considerable pain

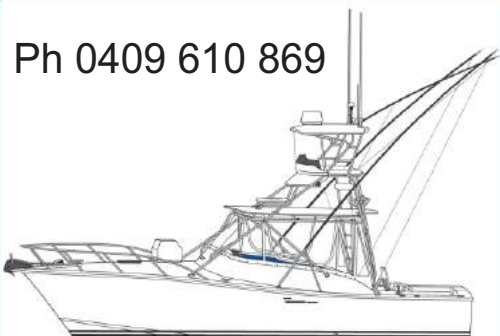
and had a visit to the hospital to remove it at the end of the day.

Besides the spanish mackerel, in a similar area the longtail or northern bluefin tuna were running amok and running the same set up we nailed quite a few of these hard fighting fish up to 12kg. They are also brilliant to take home to eat, so our light tackle days are working like a treat and will continue to do so as the winter continues.

Last month we mentioned a 14 days with JC University doing some research on our mothership Escapade. Due to an extended blow in the weather this has been postponed and will be completed in the next month or so. Actually the university with it's high tech weather forecasting postponed the trip well before they were due to start and they were right. They predicted the entire month of May to be quite windy and this proved very true.



Ph 0409 610 869



**SALTAIRE**  
PORT DOUGLAS, AUSTRALIA

