

# LINEBURNER

VOLUME 248 PRICELESS

*FISHING TROPICAL FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND*

**JUN 21**



Features  
Daintree River Fires Up  
Dragon Lady Charter Triumphs  
Saltaire Game Fishing Smashin' It

**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



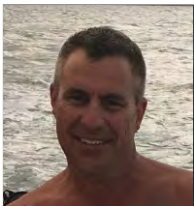
Dylan Case  
Nautical Marine Sales



Bruce Belcher  
Daintree Croc Tours



Lynton Heffer (Heff)  
Owner / Editor



Jase Teelow  
Gunnell Rod Australia



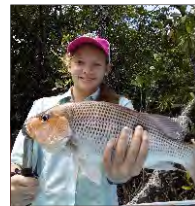
Jake Collete  
Master V Skipper



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:**  
On the Daintree Fishing experienced great winter river angling as depicted by this big Golden Trevally caught using live bait.



**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@thetinshed-portdouglas.com.au



IT PAYS TO BOOK  
PHONE BB'S DAINTREE RIVER CRUISES  
**Ph: 07 4098 7717**  
info@daintreerivercruises.com.au www.daintreerivercruises.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**  
**On the Daintree - 0409610869**

**4WD REPAIRS & SERVICING**

**Port Douglas Automotive - 40995177**

**BOAT SERVICING & REPAIRS**

**PD Marine Engineering - 0478546676**

**BATTERIES**

**Battery World Cairns - 131760**

**PORT DOUGLAS COAST GUARD**

**VMR 410 Channel 16, 72, 81**

# The Highs & Lows of FNQ

By Heff



From the onset of the Covid outbreak I have always maintained that we are probably the luckiest first world location anywhere to ride out this pandemic. It has remained true with very little restrictions placed on us in Far North Qld at any given time. No wonder people are eager to enjoy a stay up in paradise. We have maintained a very fulfilling lifestyle in general but it has taken it's toll especially with the small tourism sector.

All was fine with the roll out of the Commonwealth Job Keeper program and this was essential to see us moving forward into the next phase of recovery. All was tracking well since April and there was a spring in the step of most. Even June and July looked like setting some sort of huge relief.

This came to a grinding halt with the NSW Sydney closures in early July and now it has escalated into epic proportions with all borders closed. Even with the prospect of VIC and SA coming back on line the confidence to re-book is at an all time low. It's a shame because the fishing is at an all time high in our neck of the woods and we would like to extend this further to as many a possible.

We have had a super busy period with lots of people and many are extending their stays as future accommodation bookings have opened up with cancellations. No body from interstate wants to go home and with good reason. Talking with many on the phone this exercise may cost them a small fortune but it is better than getting home and being forced to sit and watch four walls in self isolation. This scenario has helped out the accommodation section to no end. Caravan Parks and the like are in the highest demand they've ever experienced. This has helped keep money within the local economy no doubt.

However there are always two sides to the coin and I'll explain it from a tour operator point of view. We typically up here experience a 1-2 week turnaround of visitors with a new batch coming through

our doors regularly. It has happened very swiftly but that supply has dried up overnight. Whilst extended stays have helped considerably, the reality is they have already done their priority experiences such as visiting the reef, rainforest, fishing, golfing and eating at fine dining restaurants for example. These extended type stays are now more budgeted, eating at home, walking the beach and chilling by the pool.

I manage several fishing charter operations and I've seen the full spectrum of changes in recent weeks. We have seen tens of thousands of dollars of cancellations over the past two months but seemed to have been able to pull back. Now this train has come to a grinding halt. Within just a handful of days the emails and phones went deathly quiet and we wait with baited breath as to what comes forth.

I suspect we'll see some fight back in late August and early September. As for NSW we have clients already cancelling for mid September as they have come to conclusion they are a lost cause when it comes to travelling. All travel plans for anyone is like rolling the dice and I don't blame people for not committing.

As for Port Douglas and local tours I'd be bracing for some very quiet times ahead. The simple solution is to roll out vaccinations ASAP. It has already been mentioned, no vaccination and you may not be able to cross a border let alone gather in numbers within your own state.

After such a promising hit back it has all fallen by the wayside for the moment. We tend to be a glass half full in FNQ but this will be tested once again. ■



**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**  
naturally the best choice  
**timber**

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

**FISHING**  
Port Douglas

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

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



**Download your  
Line Burner  
now online**  
[www.fishingportdouglas.com.au](http://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](mailto: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](http://marinerescuedouglas.org.au)  
**As essential as a Bung in Your Boat**

# Let off the Hook

**By Heff**

Last month, we living and operating on the Great Barrier Reef received a shuddering announcement from UNESCO saying that the GBR was to placed on the endangered list for world heritage listed locations. Well didn't that create quite an uproar from local stakeholders and government. The proposed announcement was delivered with little thought or favour purely based on the carbon emission achievement achieved by the Federal Government to date. In fact no representatives from the main body had even visited the natural wonder of the world in question in recent years. This debate remains hotly divided by many. This was the response forwarded by UNESCO to the entire world:

Australia on Friday 23rd July 2021 avoided having the Great Barrier Reef listed as an endangered world heritage site by UNESCO, despite extensive climate change-fueled damage to the ecosystem's corals.

After a concerted lobbying effort by Canberra, members of the World Heritage Committee, including leading fossil fuel producers Russia and Saudi Arabia, voted to give Australian conservation efforts more time.

The group brushed aside UNESCO experts' recommendation that the reef's World Heritage status be downgraded because of dramatic coral decline, instead telling Australia to report on the reef's status by 2022. The 2,300-kilometer-long ecosystem has suffered three mass coral bleaching events since 2016, which was caused by rising ocean temperatures due to global warming.

Areas once teeming with vibrant corals have become lifeless washed-out wastelands, and two-thirds of the reef is believed to have been damaged in some way.

Despite the damage, the reef remains a vital tourist draw for Australia, which had feared an "in danger" label could deter post-pandemic visitors.

Australia's environment minister Sussan Ley had flown to Paris earlier in July to personally lobby member states on the committee, while key local ambassadors were invited on a reef snorkeling trip.

On Friday, Ley welcomed the decision, thanking "esteemed delegates for recognising Australia's commitment to protecting the Great Barrier Reef."



Environmental groups decried the decision as a political stitch-up as one would expect.

"This is a victory for one of the most cynical lobbying efforts in recent history," said Greenpeace Australia Pacific CEO David Ritter.

"It is a day of infamy for the Australian government."

A decision on the reef's status had already been postponed from 2015, when Australia successfully waged a similar diplomatic campaign and committed billions of dollars to reef protection.

"This is history repeating itself," said Climate Council spokesman Will Steffen.

"Australia must stop censoring science, and start taking the steps we know are required to help protect the reef," he added.

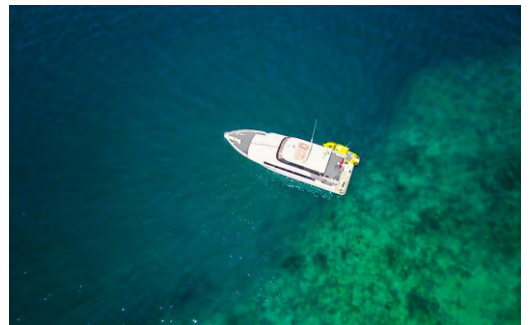
Though Australian government scientists say corals have shown signs of recovery in the past 12 months, they admit the reef's long-term outlook remains "very poor."

The reef is also susceptible to damage from cyclones and outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish, which eat the coral.

Canberra faces criticism for refusing to commit to net zero emissions by 2050.


The government has said it hopes to meet the target "as soon as possible" without harming the country's fossil fuel-reliant economy.

This style of attack is all one way and it is obvious the Australian Government will have to focus a lot more energy to keep the left movements at bay. It is hard to fathom that for those of us who have worked the local reefs for decades in many cases, are amazed at the external driving forces. Locally we have seen very little change and in fact promote our waters have the most vibrant and coral reef systems on the planet. There's plenty more to come out of this one that's for sure. ■




**FUEL • OIL • SEAFOOD • BAIT • ICE**

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



**COCK & BALL TAVERN**  
"Famous for Value"

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

**"Friendly Water Hole"** Cnr. Grove & Digger Streets



## The Dragon's Den

By Steve Adamson

The slippery slide of Covid continues as we were on the verge of having a very big month booking wise and it evaporated towards the end in the blink of an eye. For the first 3 weeks we were riding on the crest of a wave then in the last week our bookings fell away at the threads with mass border closures across the country. I fear the next couple of weeks ahead will be very slim and it begs to differ how the hell we find ourselves in a terrible bind once again. I believe now a full frontal attack on everyone getting vaccinated is the only way forward. It will quite possibly get to the stage that if you can't produce a fully vaccinated certificate you won't be able to cross any border. The NSW situation is beyond anyone's scope at the moment and we are experiencing mass cancellations right into September, yet alone the huge amount that we have already had to deal with. We are just one little business which has seen tens and tens of thousands fall by the wayside. It is a very precarious situation to be a small business owner in the current situation especially in the tourism industry.

Well we can only control what we can and that has been our fishing ability and providing everyone who boards a great time. We've had some big moments of brilliance but glad to say it has been very consistent overall. The weather has played an important role allowing us to operate at our discretion which has been a bonus for a July period. The weather pattern has seemed to have settled and we are hoping for even better days ahead.

Back to the main point of catching fish and we've seen some cracking days catching quality spanish mackerel on the float at the back of the boat. At one spot we nailed 5 rippers and lost a couple as well. Every trip has produced mackerel at some point and they are evenly divided into the community chest. Other than it is every person for themselves taking home



**DRAGON LADY**  
PORT DOUGLAS

Certificate of Excellence  
2019 WINNER

**0429372466**

what they can catch. That hasn't to been too hard even for the beginner with coral trout in abundance, the large mouth nannygai have tuned in when we required them to and we landed many high end red emperor as well. They are a highly requested species to catch and even though they can be elusive, we are glad to say we ticked that box in the past few weeks.

When you start to add to any given day's catch the likes of big spangled emperor, maori seaperch, small mouth nannygai, cobia, gold spot trevally and cattle dog cod then you are really giving extra value on top of the above mentioned species.

For the most the winds have been coming from the south east which is line with the currents and makes for easy anchoring and landing upon our spots which has seen us with good results. We did have one day where we experienced north westerly winds and this is literally unheard of at this time of year. Admittedly it was our quietest trip for the month. We had a couple of troublesome episodes with those pesky sharks but that seems to be of the norm nowadays. We do make special note when this occurs and don't return to these spots for quite awhile.

We did do a private dive charter with the Blue Dive company and they were very impressed where we suggested to dive with customers swimming through canyons of reef. It is our secret spot and we'll keep it that way. No one else visits here.

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

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](http://www.fishingportdouglas.com.au)



5 / 12 Grant Street, Port Douglas

[www.thebarbershopportdouglas.com.au](http://www.thebarbershopportdouglas.com.au)



barbershopportdouglas



barbershopportdouglas

Group bookings for wedding parties or events  
[bookings@thebarbershopportdouglas.com.au](mailto: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](http://www.icit.com.au)

## Breathing in the Saltaire

By **Damian Collete**



Well where do we start because it has been a super, super busy month for our 35ft Saltaire and 60ft Shaka game boats.

Since we last reported Shaka did a 5 day trip exploring the expanses of the GBR fishing and general cruising. With more elderly statesmen travelling it was a very relaxing and enjoying experience. Lots of fish were caught and we visited the best of the best locations we could offer. If you ever want to tick a bucket list experience our Shaka live aboard vessel is the best charter boat to do it from with absolute high end service and accommodation to suit.

The real busy one for us though has been our 35ft Saltaire boat which has worked more days than not during July. Hard core fishermen to family days have kept us on our toes. With a lot of favourable days to work with we have been able to achieve the very best of fishing at this time of year.

First off the cuff is the brilliant run of spanish mackerel this year. They have regularly turned reels over on a regular basis whether we have trolling hard body lures our using berley techniques to get them frisky whilst at anchor. We've seen the whole range of them from the 6kg range right up to 20kg. No matter the size they never let the client forget they gave them one hell of a tussle. I must say it has been one of the best 4 week periods ever for this highly sort after speedsters of the ocean and one of the best eating to put the icing on the cake. With plenty of consecutive days on the water we were able to establish where the hotspots were happening and clients didn't have wait too long to have their arms stretched.

We did a lot of old fashioned bottom fishing on the outer reef as well and for good reason. Our deeper nannygai spots were very productive securing quality fish up to 8kg and we were able to throw in a good supply of coral trout up in the shallows. There wasn't a day where we weren't able to source solid numbers of fish for our clients. You then start to throw in the likes of trevally and big chinamen fish and then you know you've had a serious day on the reef. These species act like theirs no tomorrow and will zap the energy quickly even for the most seasoned angler.

We've had a few keen clients willing to put in the time and cast poppers for big Gt's across the top of the reef. There's often a limited time to effectively target these classics on the right side of the tide. These efforts were well rewarded with hard fighting fish up to 15kg. It might not sound a lot but pound for pound they are the 'Thugs of the Sea'. The fight of a 15kg giant trevally is comparable for example to 25kg cod or a 80lb small black marlin. Of course they are different but you may get the picture.

Our popular snorkelling sessions were very well received with beautiful clear waters and vibrant coral systems and fish life to take in. Often taken during a lunch break on a private reef system in between fishing, it really tops off a unique and wonderful day on the reef. We also did a couple of private dive charters which we have started to introduce and they have been extremely successful. These personalised charters are becoming increasingly popular which is a new avenue for us as a business. ■



**SALTIRE 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

# On the Daintree Charters

By Jamie Beitzel - The Local Huckleberry Finn



Welcome to our July report from our magical part of the world just a short drive north from Port Douglas. 40 minutes in fact to our meeting point and the people who I have on the boat keep saying they are so glad they made the trip. And so they should because we explore and fish the most expansive river system in the region which is Heritage listed, we are on the doorstep of the Daintree Rainforest, there's lots of wildlife to see including crocs and the fishing is great.

These past few weeks has probably seen me busier than ever in all my 30yrs of running my operation. Averaging 6 days of charter a week has kept me on my toes and to be honest I'm loving it. Being on the water is what I love sharing this special place. Sure some home & office duties have been neglected in this busy period but I have been able to re-adjust and cope just fine.

The July period has seen some really great conditions overall considering it can be a bit of a tough month weather wise. We only saw the odd overcast and drizzly day but otherwise there's been plenty of sunshine and some really flat days allowing us to explore along the coastline.

I'll begin my journal with the few trips we did along the coast fishing the wrecks, inshore patches and fishing in the proximity of Snapper Island. We saw some great things occur which saw us tangle with the mighty Giant Trevally and typical sized nannygai. I enjoyed one magical trip which happens every so often where we caught and released 15 one metre Queenfish on popper. They were schooled up in one

piece of water and they were ballistic. As soon as the lure hit the water and with a few bloop they were clambering over it amongst themselves. One metre Queenfish have to be one of the most exciting fish to catch with acrobatical displays on top of the surface like very few fish. High, leaping jumps and cartwheeling 360 degrees are just some of the images that stick with you. This was a one off because the very next day they disappeared from this spot like a ghost - that's fishing!

Because there was a lot of extra activity from others along the coast I was more than happy to seclude myself most times in the river offering a more personal experience. With my extensive knowledge of the tides I was able to hit my hot spots on a timely manner. Thumping Golden Trevally to several kilos and also big Fingermark were a regular feature on many trips. With families with kids I was able to entertain them easily catching Grunter, Sicklefish, Feather Bream and others using simple methods with the rod and reels kept busy. At times we also laid some mud crab pots and they produced handsomely with big buck full of meat at this time of the year. The abundant croc spotting with these big critters wasn't overly hard as they are mostly basking themselves on the mud banks.

It's been a crazy time but a good one if you know what I mean. It will be interesting just to see how busy we'll remain with all these border closures going on at the moment. I suspect we'll do just fine ..... ■



**FISHING**  
Port Douglas  
River - Reef - Game  
Ph: 0409 610 869  
[www.fishingportdouglas.com.au](http://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

**Rods & Reels Servicing**  
*Locally Port Douglas*  
*By 'Sharky' Shane Down*  
**Quality Parts, Best Pricing**  
**& Quick Turn Around**

**Ph 0427 012 735**

**KYE CHAPPLE**  
**PEST CONTROL**

**Call: 0423249913**

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

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



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

**Barrier Reef Tavern**

**Bistro**  
**TAB - Pokies**  
**Drive Thru**  
**Bottleshop**  
**Sky Channel**  
**Pool Table**

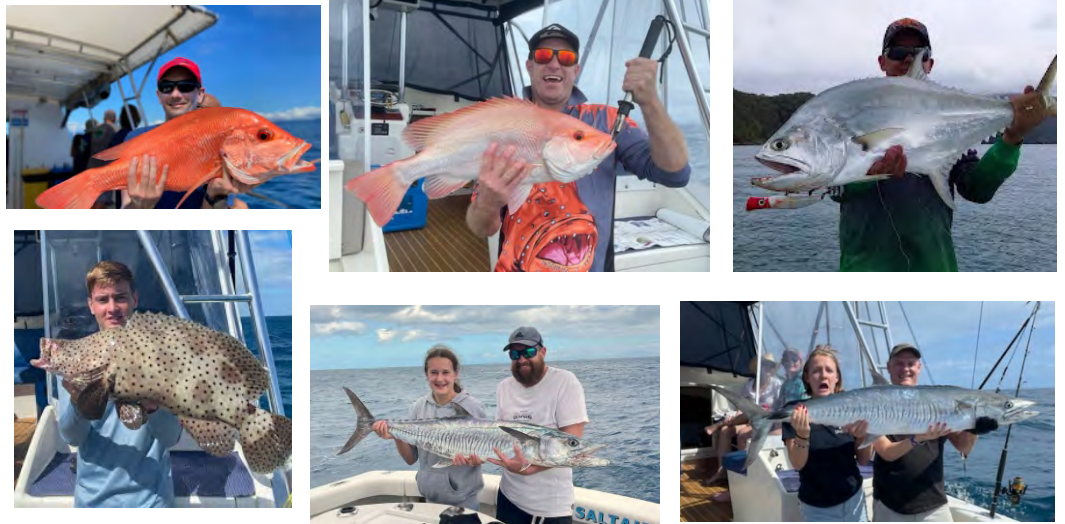


Reef St  
Four Mile  
Port Douglas  
Ph: 4099 3655

# Locally Port Douglas

## Top 6 Ranking

Dated 22nd July By Google Business - Fishing Port Douglas  
Your 367 photos posted got 44677 total views in the last month



## Reel Cooking with Mick Hart Mud Crab Sandwich



It's been a great season locally for Mud Crabs for those prepared to lay their pots and get their hands dirty. This is an all time favourite no matter your age.

**INGREDIENTS**

Locally caught Mud Crabs from our rivers, estuaries, creeks and coastal mangrove flats. Must be Male at a minimum size of 15cm across the carapace.

**METHOD**

Using a large pot brought to the boil, ideally with original salt water, place the crabs in whole and cook for 12-15 minutes.  
Once cooked place on ice to prevent the crab cooking further inside the shell.  
Once chilled now the arduous task starts to obtain the crab meat from the main shell, legs and the best part the big claws. Sturdy pliers are perfect for cracking open and crushing out the meat. It's a time consuming job and a big messy but part of the experience. Place the meat into a bowl.  
Now for the bread there are plenty of varieties available but I like a good crusty type. Keep it simple, butter, salad and / or mayonnaise if you desire and add the crab meat with a touch of salt and pepper. Keep it Simple Stupid because the mud crab meat is hands down some of the tastiest food you'll ever shove down your pie hole. It is quintessentially part of living in FNQ.



**PORT DOUGLAS** *Marine*  
Ph: 07 4223 4725

- ENGINEERING
- SALES
- SERVICE
- PARTS
- REPAIRS



**EVINRUDE**



**YANMAR**

**VOLVO PENTA**

**DIESEL - INBOARD - OUTBOARD**