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SEP 20

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Daintree Croc Tours



Lynton Heffer (Heff)
Owner / Editor



Jase Teelow
Gunnell Rod Australia



Jake Collette
Master V Skipper



Jamie Beitzel
Fishing On the Daintree



Ethan 'Choppa' Scott
Junior Reporter



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Front Cover:
Chris Ramsay
with a one of
many classic
Barra caught up
in Lakefield
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Breathing in the Saltaire

TOURNAMENT WIN By Damian Collete



In a period where literally we lost all our October and November bookings within a couple of days due to the shutting of our QLD border, again, we did have a shining moment through all the despair. But before we get to this mini highlight we were on target for one of our strongest domestic trades in many a year with Australians encouraged to travel within our wonderful country. Well that went to the wall with the incompetence our state governments have shown collectively, with the exception of NSW in my opinion. Now we are going to be left to pick up the bread crumbs in the coming months.

Now, onto our feel good take on things. It was a last minute decision to enter the Cairns Bluewater Classic light game tournament in the 3rd week of August. We had just lost several bookings prior and decided to take up the offer with a couple of local boys to do the angling for us for the scheduled 2 days of fishing. Now with so many tournaments cancelled across the entirety of the nation this year, this was a great effort by the Bluewater Club itself to get it up off the ground and we felt the need to support it. For us it turned out to be a ripper and another notch in the belt for the Saltaire boat taking out the Champion Boat & Male Champion categories. The first day started with the sail past out of the Cairns harbour with 14 vessels entered. Now there's a couple of options we had as to where we would fish for the small black marlin. The first was up around the Fitzroy Island southern grounds, or head to the wide grounds north east of our departure

point. I had been watching the current pattern inside the reef and thought the wide grounds north east would hold better bait and thus the bill fish. A couple of other boats thought as much as well and fished similar grounds.

This decision proved to be the difference and where I suspected the bait to be holding, the small 'blacks' were hunting in packs. Over 2 days we hooked up to 27 marlin and successfully completed 14 tags at the back of the boat. With a bit more luck we could have easily bettered the completion rate. It was however, really top notch fishing with something always happening behind our spread of lures mainly consisting of skirted outfits and skipping garfish.

Small black marlin fishing is such a thrill because it is all comparative because of the lighter line class we use. These little stallions carry on 'like a pork chop, dancing and parading all on the surface. They spend more time on top of the water than they do fighting below, so it is visually an absolute spectacle for angler and crew. ▶



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Over the many years we have won this tournament in various categories as a team on several occasions so it was another satisfying result. In a normal year this tournament is held out of Fitzroy Island over 3 days with a mass gathering of boats and people back at the resort each night. It's a big party to put it politely! Normally there is well in excess of 30 boats or more and great times. This year with a modified format we caught up with and rafted with a couple of other vessels behind Oyster Reef on the middle night which turned out to be just as much fun. The presentation night was held back in Cairns this year at the Hemmingway's Brewery which was well enjoyed by all the participants. Hopefully next year we are back to normality and return to the old format but well done to all involved to get this rare tournament occurrence happening this year.

**Telstra Business Centre Cairns Bluewater
Billfish COVID Crisis Tournament Results**

14 Boats - 11 Over 7.5M & 3 Under 7.5M
41 Anglers

61 Tagged Billfish (All Black Marlin)

Heaviest Game Fish Day One - Claudia Georgouras 10kg Mackerel - Illusion
Heaviest Game Fish Day Two - Jake Pagano 8.5kg Mackerel - Flying Fisher

First Bill Fish Tagged Day One - Ben Monck on Black Ops
Last Bill Fish Tagged Day One - Trent Killmore on Ofishal

First Bill Fish Tagged Day Two - Drew Dibden on Flying Fisher
Last Billfish Tagged Day Two - Lily Sims on Bounty Hunter

Champion Team Under 7.5M - Ofishal on 10 Tagged Billfish
Champion Boat Over 7.5M - Saltaire on 14 Tagged Billfish

Champion Male Angler - Ethan Moses on 6 tagged Billfish - Saltaire
Champion Female Angler - Gina Cleaver on 7 tagged Billfish - Ofishal
Champion Junior Angler - Lily Sims on 6 Tagged Billfish - Bounty Hunter



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The Dragon's Den

By Steve Adamson

Being an indifferent year it has been an indifferent past month, with a trickle of tourists around and a bout of some bad weather thrown in. I sense we'll see a bit of a run for a week or two during the QLD school holidays but that will be about it as we'll sorely miss the business from VIC & NSW. We are seeing a small bit of trade from SA which is appreciated but it's hard to sustain a business model on their visitation.

The QLD government recently reached out to those of us who have to deal with private marinas along the coast, such as ours, with a small grant which was a token gesture in the scheme of things. To my knowledge some of the Gold Coast, Whitsunday's and Port Douglas were the main charter businesses eligible with this roll out. All you had to do was prove that you had been able to pay some rent since March. The government owned marinas along the coast such as Cairns have had a free ride since the since the onset of the Corona Virus. It all comes down to your place of business unfortunately.

I'll keep things upbeat because the fishing to be honest has been mostly tremendous. We've seen some ripping days of red emperor come aboard with multiple catches each day in excess of 6kg per fish. You have to remember their legal size limit is 55cm which is a lump of a fish to begin with. The explained reason is that they don't reproduce sexually till around this size. Even at the bare legal size they fight well above their weight and more often than not a requested catch by our clientele. This we cannot always achieve,



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however good sized large and small nannygai and coral trout has easily pleased them equally and in handy enough numbers.

Outside of this we've seen a few good bursts of spanish mackerel taken on the float as well as some great spangled emperor, reef mangrove jack and sizeable sweetlip. The week or two of challenging wind conditions really dictated as to where we could fish and bring back home in more recent times. After a good run of weather in early August I thought we might be in for a better run but the south easterly winds won't quite abate just yet.

Moving ahead, as mentioned we'll see a quick spurt of activity over the QLD school holidays but it is very much an unknown for the remainder. There is speculation about a full re-open by Christmas but the way these state politicians play their games I'm taking it with a grain of salt. There's not a lot of confidence there and I'm quite concerned if our current QLD premier gets across the line in the up and coming election. We could be closed well into next year!

All I can say, if you get the opportunity to get up to Port Douglas you won't be disappointed and the fishing is good. ■

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Re-Locating Vessel to the NT

By Damian Collete



With the sale of the Nitro game boat based in Cairns to be ultimately re-located to WA, I was called upon to get it half way across the country for it's next chapter with a new owner. Back in 2018 I was employed to go to the Phillipines by the original owner, who owns motels around the world, to do a re-fit on the 65ft Hatteras. Then via PNG we took it to one of the smallest countries in the world, Palau which is located in Micronesia. Then it eventually ended up in Cairns. So this big game boat has seen it all. With the recent sale it was on its way for another epic journey - some 1200 miles to Darwin to get it part way to Perth.

With all the Covid protocols this was not a simple process to cross state borders. In fact it was arduous to say the least. I had full intention to get it all the way to Perth but they have a complete lock down in place. The only reason why I took it to Darwin was because I eventually was granted an exemption not to quarantine when I flew back into Cairns. trust me though this was a painful process.

So recently we departed with Cairns with the owner's son Troy, my lad Jake and myself. With very ordinary conditions of around 20-25 knots it was a run north at around 8 knots by the 2 x 1550 Caterpillar engines with no stopping. At least we had the wind up our bum. After 3 days with alternative 4hr shifts at the

helm we arrived at Thursday Island. We did have lines out the back to keep us entertained and caught multiple spanish mackerel to the top end of the Cape. At Thursday Island we stayed over night, refreshed, re-filled the boat, as well as re-filled the 2 x 1000 litre pods we had on the back deck.

The run cross the Gulf of Carpentaria was not kind with 25 knots to contend with the whole way. Again we had lines out trolling and caught that many northern bluefin or long tail tuna it was insane. We also caught queenfish and trevally often on double hook-ups.

Once around the top of the NT the seas were a little better. So after 7 days we arrived at Cullen Bay in Darwin whereby we had to wait for the tide to be appropriate to go through the lock at the marina. To my knowledge it is the only main one in Australia, and an interesting process despite the wait. Cullen Bay is a wonderful spot with a thriving and vibrant brand, which is the pearl of Darwin.

With cancellations coming through left, right and centre in Port Douglas with Saltaire, it was an opportunity to pull some bucks back through the doors. It was good feeling to arrive back home having delivered the boat to Darwin with no issues despite the tough conditions. I wish the old classic the best for the remainder of this epic journey she's taken in the past few years. ■



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Holidaying within QLD itself

By Heff

Very recently a few mates and I took the opportunity to visit the Sunshine Coast for 4 days, a section of the state I'd never visited before. There's only a handful of high profile tourist destinations within QLD which also include the Gold Coast, Hervey Bay, Fraser Island, Whitsundays, Cairns and Port Douglas. Well you can definitely add the Sunshine Coast.

The Sunshine Coast is a stretch of coastline of approximately 66km with fantastic beaches and vibrant townships including Caloundra, Mooloolabah, Maroochydore, Coolum and Noosa. We were based at Mooloolabah which is indigenous for Snapper Fish.

Besides the magnificent surf coast and golden sands there are many, many estuaries, canals and tributaries that are ideal calm water fisheries and each suburb has a system as its heart beat. Down there the main target species include monster flathead, bream, dart, whiting, trevally and mangrove jack. There is rumour that even the barra may have found its way down further south to the area. Mud Crabs are also a popular targeted species. Charters are readily available for inshore and offshore fishing.

The region also has a significant commercial trade with the prawn trawlers offering some of the best produce in Australia. To put it in a nutshell the Mooloolabah harbour has two different marina hubs, the first consisting of waterfront dining and tourist vessels and

another down near the Spitwater consisting of commercial and private vessels. On top of this a lot of the waterfront homes have their own pontoons. It really is an attractive stretch of water.

Besides the aquatic aspect there are numerous world class golf courses in the area, a horse racing track, Australia Zoo and the iconic Glass House mountains to visit amongst many, many more tourist attractions. There's some of the best dining opportunities in the country and the Surf Clubs themselves are a pillar of each township. The Sunshine Coast is in my opinion a subtle version of the Gold Coast with a lot of merit for a fun holiday.

Being only an hour from the Brisbane airport it is like driving from Cairns to Port Douglas but via a freeway. Nowadays you can actually fly in from Cairns direct to Maroochydore with the Alliance group which is highly appealing. With Covid 19 only really allowing us Queenslanders to holiday within our own state for some time to come, I'd highly recommend a stint on the Sunshine Coast if you want a break. There are 'oodles' of accommodation options with resort and Air B&B's but you will need a car. We utilised a fantastic Uber driver, named Michael for entire trip and you can find him via Sunshine VIP services.

Thumbs Up for the Sunshine Coast!! ■



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Idiots Guide to Fishing Novel



By Heff

Recently I had a phone call from Drew Howell, family member of the legendary AFL household name, the Daniher's. For those in the know of AFL it is one of the most famous families to ever play the game. Neale, Terry, Chris, Anthony and now currently Joe, have all played the game at its highest level.


Drew is a passionate fisherman and put pen to paper and with well known contacts, scribed together a hilarious take on the fishing game. Drew by his own admission, being not a great fisherman, but one who loves the adventure, and far more importantly, sees the comedy in the calamity of a fisherman down on his luck or a trip that doesn't go quite to plan. After a fishing trip to North QLD with mates exposed some 'deficiencies' in their fishing skill set, Drew set about creating this book to capture all of those laughable moments. The next job; craft some characters whose self-inflated confidence oozes like that of

the classic Aussie 'weekend warrior' Dad we are all familiar with, with a touch of sporting legend thrown in for good measure paying homage to the likes of Rex Hunt and ET. You'll be surprised who has contributed to this paperback. Drew relates his comedic writing style and characters back to influences of Aussie comedy greats such as Glenn Robbins, Mick Molloy, Tom Gleisner et al, with a splash of Will Ferrell outrageousness. His satirical take on an Aussie fishing guide draws parallels with the publication style of West-Queensland based parody print, 'The Betoota Advocate', and Working Dog's 'Jetlag Travel Guides' and chronicles the perceived culture of fishing as much as it does the actual means.

Drew says... "I have crossed many things off the list in my life by the age of 36, and let me tell you, I am bloody proud to be able to say I'm a published author. I really hope anyone who reads my book gets the purposeful idiocy with which it is meant. It's ridiculous, it's light, it's fun. Life is too short and far too serious. Do me a favour, put your worries aside when you pick up The Idiots Guide to Anglin' & Danglin' and feel free to have a laugh at Barry and Roy - my two lovable larrikins." ➡



Remember... *size isn't everything.*
 Our squid was delicious... their lobster looked a bit rubbery



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Drew now resides in Melbourne with his wife Bec, and owns two more boats than she would like. He is looking forward to raising a young family, so one day his kids can pick-up this book and have a chuckle as much at their old man as Barry and Roy. Drew asked me if I was able to promote it through the Line Burner and it was a simple 'yes', having him been to Port Douglas and big promoter of the area.

From Drew Howell on the book itself:
The book is meant to be fun, it's meant to be stupid & a laugh.

I have 2 characters - Barry Jeffreys & Roy McCoy, played by AFL legend Terry Daniher & media personality & comedian Anthony "Lehmo" Lehmann respectively. Barry & Roy are fishings version of Russell Coight.

Here's the little blurb from the book...
'Australia's favourite sons, Barry Jeffreys and Roy McCoy bring you The Idiots Guide to Anglin' & Danglin'. Brought to life by AFL legend Terry Daniher and comedian Anthony "Lehmo" Lehmann, Barry and Roy serve up a hot parody of the great fishing guides any Aussie proudly displays on the living room coffee table, with a splash of Aussie political satire for good measure. Enjoy cameos from some of Australia's most esteemed fishermen, including ET, Andrew Symonds, Matthew Hayden and many more, and get the low down on Roy's



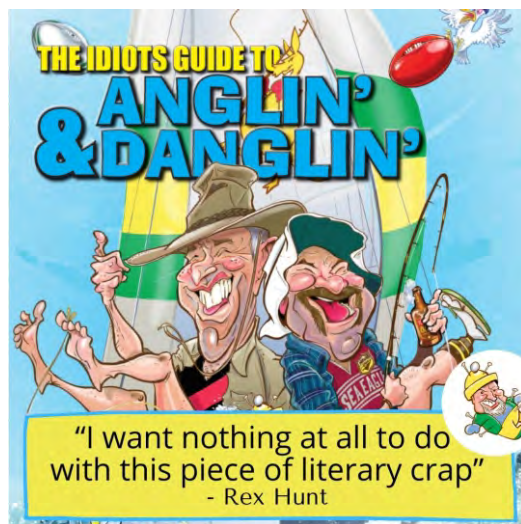
Dick Johnson & Roy have a long & not always smooth history. They patched things up with a fishing trip... the terms: Roy wasn't allowed to drive OR navigate the boat.

long standing rivalry with Rex Hunt. This 'fishing manual' contains a little bit of every Aussie battler, from all walks of life, and is guaranteed to potentially get a chuckle from every page.'

With Christmas fast approaching this is the ideal Christmas gift, birthday present or anything similar for anyone involved in the great world of fishing. Purchase it via:
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On the Daintree Charters

With Jamie Beitzel



Welcome again to my humble report for the month. It hasn't been a normal run of charters as you'd expect any other year but we've been ticking over the motors on the river itself. The weather of late hasn't been overly kind to fish along the coast but the good old river still delivers for me and my clients. We've seen a few old faithful 'grey nomads' who managed to get up into the van parks and quite a bit a activity from the hustle and bustle of Port Douglas - only joking I know things are ghostly quiet there as well for their normal trade.

as mentioned we saw a bit more trail of the winter period come back for a week or two which made my task just that little bit harder. My best days saw the tide and wind rolling in together from the same direction. When the wind comes from the south east and the tide is ripping from the other direction, that's when it gets more challenging.

So overall my golden trevally mates of generous size have stepped up to the plate with a few nice big queenfish eager to swallow a bait as well below the ferry using on the spot caught live sardines. You simply can't go past them to target your premium river fish. I have concentrated a bit more across the flats using fresh dead baits which have their role at times to nail some nice

grunter along with nice feather bream and sickle fish which are strikingly beautiful in appearance and can go well on the plate. Other than this I've scratched up a few good fingermark, mangrove jack and barra, however the turn of cooler weather prevents them for the moment moving to the next gear. They should get heir act together during the next month.


The general feel from what I'm seeing and hearing is that there's a bit of hope moving forward but not with a lot of real confidence. The upside of this downside has been I've had more time than I hoped for to really take to the presentation of the boat with painting the decks and re-modelling the trailer so she'll last for a long time to come. There's always something to be doing if you own a boat and way more if it works in charter.

Other than this I've been doing my community spirit thing assisting and helping out neighboring friends that have needed it in the trying times. Quite a few now are older in life, on acreage and I've always been brought up to respect your elders.

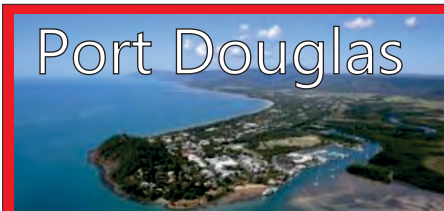
We're looking forward to a bit more of trade during the local school holidays which I'm looking forward to and I'll see you on the Daintree or nearby soon



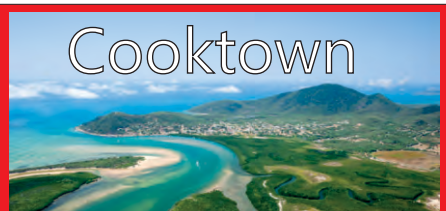
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Reel Cooking with Mick Hart

Blackened Nannygai



Blackened Nannygai is a flavourful Cajun-style main dish. It is usually fried in a cast iron pan, but you can make it on your grill. For this recipe, you will want to have your grill or pan as hot as possible. The idea is to get the seasonings to blacken before you flip the Nannygai. Once the fish is grilled, it's topped with a tasty butter sauce. It is absolutely delicious and perfect for just about any occasion.

Ingredients

2 Nannygai fillets
 1 teaspoon paprika Optional: 1/4 teaspoon cayenne (or more to taste)
 1 teaspoon salt 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
 1/2 teaspoon onion salt 1 teaspoon dried thyme
 1 teaspoon dried oregano 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
 2 tablespoons lemon juice 1/2 cup butter
 1 tablespoon parsley (minced)



Method

Mix together the paprika, cayenne, salt, garlic salt, onion salt, thyme, oregano, and pepper. Sprinkle over each side of the Nannygai fillets.

Preheat the grill or pan to high heat. At the same time bring the lemon juice to a simmer in a small saucepan or heat to a simmer in the microwave in a safe dish.

Remove lemon from heat and add genuine butter. Mix well.

Oil the pan or grill well to ensure less sticking. Cook each side of the Nannygai fillets for around 5-6 minutes which should see the seasonings blacken on the fish.

On the dish plate, add parsley to the lemon butter and spoon a quarter of the butter mixture over each piece of fish.

Serve with your favourite side dish such as a garden salad. I like radish slices with bean sprouts included in the salad.

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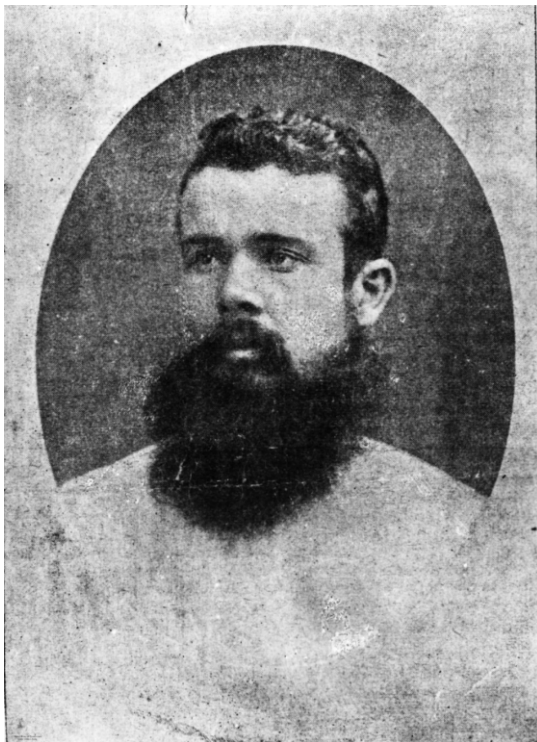
magical daintree

Local Robin Hood with Bruce Belcher

When we talk about the history of this area, around the 1870s, sometimes Christie Palmerston comes into discussion. All kinds of stories have been discussed, some even likening him to a modern-day Robin Hood. He was an Australian explorer and gold prospector in North Queensland.

We've heard stories about his adventures. How he became a great bushman and how he broke the law and was generally revered by many. We are told how he befriended the aborigines while even learning their language. At one point he even had his own aboriginal friend, a boy named Pompey, as an assistant.

I read that he robbed Chinese prospectors, not having much regard for them. Cooktown was a thriving gold mining port towards the latter part of his career in the goldfields. With all the prospectors spending leisure time in Cooktown, I believe there were brothels and that they were managed by a woman named Palmer Kate. It would seem that she gained notoriety in the Palmer River goldfields. The romantic stories goes that Christie Palmerston had an affair with Palmer Kate. With such an exciting lifestyle, no doubt there were some embellishments about his adventures.



There is some confusion about his origins whereby it was claimed that he came from a famous artistic family, originally from Europe. He claims this on his original marriage certificate. Historians claim that he was born in Victoria, in 1850, to a dairying family. He left home at 18 for adventure. It was in the early days that he landed in the goldfields at Palmer River. Although he was generally on the wrong side of the law, his good deeds towards his countrymen, earned him cancellations of his arrests. These good deeds included rescuing lost people, saving groups from ambush by natives and just being so knowledgeable of the bush. On his excursions he took with him rations but when that ran out, he was comfortable and at home with the aborigines. He blazed two tracks from the northern tablelands down to Port Douglas; the Bump Track at the Mowbray and Cassowary Creek near Port. However, these at the time were considered unsuitable. Later, this area flourished from the Bump Track. He also made tracks from the Tablelands into Cairns, but his efforts were not appreciated by the old-time residents. He eventually settled down in Townsville, married and had a daughter. His wife eventually moved to Melbourne and he followed his prospecting dreams which took him to Borneo and Malaya. He died there from Fever. See you next month.



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