

# REELTALK

CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR THE SCGFC

APRIL 2014

child's  
play

sunshine coast  
game  
fishers club

# Ord Minnett Sunshine Coast

Ph 07 5430-4444

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

## Investment Themes for 2014

A number of investment themes present themselves in 2014.

It is worth noting firstly, that Janet Yellen, the incoming Federal Reserve Chairman is focusing on reducing US unemployment and ensuring inflation remains in check. It naturally follows that for unemployment to reduce that the US economy must strengthen.

Assuming we have a strengthening US economy, which should manifest is a stronger global economy, we should see the gap between perceived growth and real growth narrow which is favourable for developed markets.

Additionally, with less artificial sweetener in the system the \$US should improve against global currencies, including the \$A. There is no doubt the Reserve Bank of Australia would be satisfied with this outcome as it would provide support to our exporters. In relation to imports (goods & services) we should see an inflationary effect which RBA would look through initially.

The above story should result in improving developed economy stock markets.

For the anticipated upside to be met the Federal Reserve will need to ensure that US bond yields remain in check. If we see borrowing costs increase the awaited returns on equity and property markets will be muted as the 'cost of doing' business will increase.

All in all, central banks globally still have significant influence on market returns and their co-ordinated behaviour will greatly determine the outcome for equity and property markets. None the less, it is important to find the significant themes, determine the most efficient means of access and then to execute the trade. Sounds easy.

*Chris Harris is an Authorised Representative (no 435773) of Ord Minnett Ltd, AFS licence 237121. This article contains general financial advice only and does not consider your personal circumstances; you should determine its suitability to you. Before acquiring a financial product you should consider the relevant product disclosure statement. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Chris can be reached on 07-54304444.*



# welcome

## **Welcome to the March 2014 quarter edition of the Sunshine Coast Game Fishing Club's Reel Talk Publication.**

This edition is packed with recounts and reports from members' recent fishing trips including fish caught in south-east Queensland, south of the border in Port Stephens and even some sportfish caught over the other side of the world. Added to this are updates from our esteemed committee, who are set to announce some new club initiatives and recently, with the support of members, ran the club's February Tournament.

In addition, we have some more information from Sam Williams on the Black Marlin Research Project, a recap of the season that's been from new member Neville Martens plus there are plenty of photos in this editions' brag board. Rumour has it, it's a tie at 55cm a piece for

the largest Jack (released) caught under Mooloolaba pontoons utilising left-over live baits. Maybe we'll hear more on this in our next edition?

With continued reports of Black Marlin and Sailfish being caught on the local grounds and the anticipation of a Blue Marlin bite out wide, the 2013-14 season continues to look strong. Should you wish to form part of our Reel Talk contributions team, please get in contact with me on 0410 758 244 or [mholland@mcgrathnicol.com](mailto:mholland@mcgrathnicol.com).

*Don't be shy and jump on-board.*

*Regards*

**Mark Holland**

Reel Talk Coordinator

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## **events**

### **MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING** **06/05/2014**

**7:30 in the Cocktail Bar**  
**@ Kawana Waters Hotel**

**Contact: Brett Barton 0408 607 344**

### **MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING** **03/06/2014**

**7:30 in the Cocktail Bar**  
**@ Kawana Waters Hotel**

**Contact: Brett Barton 0408 607 344**

### **SCGFC JUNIOR DAY**

**Details will be**  
**announced shortly!**

# president's report



## MARCH 2014

Another three months of the season have flown past, the February Classic was won and lost and our club is continuing to develop with new members and plenty of boats on the water at any given time. Currently we are sitting at 196 members and working on breaking 200, which is something we have not done in some years. Personally I put this down to the great spirit in the club and the willingness of members to get involved and enjoy the competitive and social aspect of Game Fishing. I want to thank the committee and every member who has contributed to ensuring we are one of the top performing GFC's in the country.

*"At this stage of the season the race is well and truly on for every trophy category so you can only expect the competitive nature of our members to heat up right to the end in three months"*

A big thank you must always go out to our current, past and future sponsors because as always our club would not continue without your support, so please members, if you are in these businesses make yourself known. As a club we are always looking for new and innovative ways to stay modern and I guess, stay up with the times. As such, we are currently upgrading our website to be fully integrated with QGFA's Gamebase which will in turn cut the current and future committee's workload down and result in an easy transfer of information. We are also talking about a club "You Tube" Channel so that members can transfer clips to that as well as their own personal accounts. This will also be great for marketing, demo's, our members & sponsors, so watch this space....

The last Reel Talk was out just before the new year with details of the SCGFC February Classic and the continuing tournament season throughout SEQ. As per many comps in the past, the weather was not on our side and this certainly reduced the boat numbers at our Classic (amongst other SE Qld comps on the calendar). There was 13 boats braving the conditions and the fishing was hard for most entrants, Brent will give a better wrap up on this but again, thanks for those that were a part of it. Throughout the past few months we have had SCGFC Boats at the Gold Coast GFC, Back 2 Tanga's & MGFC's comps which is always a positive look from the other SEQ clubs, thank you and I'm sure you all had fun.

Moving forward with the year it looks like a few events are coming up on the calendar with a junior day set for May, Club Presentation in July, Tackle Demo day in September and then back to the October Shootout on the long weekend in October. We are looking at getting some great guests/presentations at our monthly meetings to keep them exciting and informative so keep an ear out and suggestions are encouraged. I thank the committee for their ongoing support with these events.

At this stage of the season the race is well and truly on for every trophy category so you can only expect the competitive nature of our members to heat up right to the end in three months, who knows what may happen out on the water. Stay sharp everyone and continue to hone your skills as we strive to continue to be the best Game Fishing Club in Australia.

On a final note I am sure this edition of Reel Talk will be out while I am away with Jay, Brent & Heath competing in the IGFA Offshore World Championships in Costa Rica and we will be all thinking of you....

*Over and Out*

**BRETT "BARTO" BARTON**







# club captain.

Well the year is flying by, summer has been and gone with reasonable fishing with out being red hot. The top days have belonged to Reel Capture with 9, Catapult with 7, Capricorn 6 and Misty with multiple 5's, otherwise most trips have averaged 2-3 tags per trip. It is the close contest between Reel Capture, Misty and Catapult for overall honours so it should be an exciting end to the season.

Year to date the club has tagged 181 Black Marlin, 14 Blue Marlin, 1 Striped Marlin and 54 Sailfish, totaling 250 so far which is quite a good season. The expected run of Blue marlin through April/May should help keep the heavy tackle anglers happy and typically April is quite consistent for Black Marlin and as the pillie schools build Sailfish should be a more regular occurrence.

This season the bait, more so its inconsistency has been a major challenge. Slimeys have been quite nomadic with schools showing up on the regular grounds then disappearing as quick as they arrived. Pillies have shown their presence at times, usually signaled by birds circling or dolphins milling around. Unfortunately they can be an impressive show on the sounder then by the time you do a u-turn their gone. The good old Yakka has certainly been a mainstay this season, mostly due to them being a dependable bait source, mind you they have been quite hit and miss at time as well.

We have had a reasonable season for recaptures with around 6 with the most impressive being Fadil's released Sailfish (25kg) on My Way 26/09/2010 being recaptured by Lachlan on Jubilado 28/09/2013 (45kg) after 1098 days at liberty, just over 3 years and the fish was tagged just 7 miles apart. Mike Holmes also tagged a Sailfish on board Zeus in the October Shootout 06/10/2013 on the 8 mile and it was re-tagged 40 days later by Ben Collett on Run at Fraser Island, 132 miles north 40 days later.

The Ord Minnett Scgfc Classic 2014 was conducted in trying conditions this year. Reel Capture prevailed with Craig, Coops and Brent onboard with 3 Black Marlin and a wahoo. Double Trouble was runner up with a Black Marlin. While the conditions were tricky it was a highly social weekend and the Saturday night at the hotel created many headaches for the presentation breakfast. The club has also had teams fish the Gold Coast and Little Ships Tournaments. At the recent Moreton Bay tournament Grant Cooper placed 2nd overall onboard Outside Edge, well done Coops

We had 8 teams register for all ports round 2 which is a solid effort, unfortunately both the weather and fish didn't cooperate and the teams worked hard to get together a fairly meagre score, but hopefully enough to be

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*"As I write this I prepare to depart in a few days for Costa Rica to join the Kamikaze team of Heath Irvine, Jay Graham & President Barto to represent the club and country at the Offshore World Championships, we are all a tad excited."*

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competitive. Capt. Glen on Whitehorse was top boat for the weekend with 3 billfish tags. Needless to say he was a very chuffed captain.

As I write this I prepare to depart in a few days for Costa Rica to join the Kamikaze team of Heath Irvine, Jay Graham & President Barto to represent the club and country at the Offshore World Championships, we are all a tad excited. With boats out of Quepos and Los Suenos regularly tagging 20-30 Sails and the occasional 40 - 50's days it looks like a hot tournament. By coincidence we have chartered Spanish Fly for a pre fish who happened to release the albino Blue Marlin recently. Steve Lindemann will also be back fishing with the PNG team as they were runners up last year and automatically received invitation to this years event, cant wait to see you on the water Steve. If I do go next year with the Reel Capture team it will make it 3 straight for me, hopefully by then I've got the fishery figured out!

On the junior front both Darren Martens and Bryce Bartleson have been highly active on the water and both have been rewarded with monthly awards from GFAA. Well done guys, keep up the good work.

Finally the club is well positioned to win QGFA champions again this year and it's no time to take the foot off the pedal. In reality we still could have a 350+ fish season if all goes well through April & May. Keep up the great work, the club has a fantastic group of people in it and there is no shortage of talent, surely another 100 fish is a sure thing :)

In my absence through April Smithy has stepped in to help with tag card entry's and distribution of tag cards and activity books. Great to have you as a back up Rob, thanks in advance.

*Tight Lines – Brently*

# treasurer's report



**As at March 2014**

## **Significant Transactions since our December report comprise: (\$200+)**

- \$2,500 received from Ord Minnett for its third installment of FY14 sponsorship funds. A big thank you once again to Ord Minnett.
- \$385 paid to LePrint for re-branding of our old comp shirts.
- \$1,000 expense for the SEQ Club Championships.
- \$3,230 paid to Kaizen for sponsor expenses (fuel).
- A loss of \$1,416 on our SCGFC Classic, which was severely impacted by low attendance due to bad weather.

## **Financial Members:**

- 190 Financial Members (an increase of 30 since last report).

## **Bank Balances:**

- Cheque Account: \$16,643.
- Term Deposit: \$10,000 @ 3.70% p.a. Matured 6th March 2014.
- Term Deposit: \$20,000 @ 3.90% p.a. Matures 8th April 2014.

**Total cash:** \$46,643. This is a decrease of \$3,306 since last report.

**Trade Debtors:** \$600 in sponsorship funds.

**Trade Creditors:** Nil.

## **Un-presented Cheques:**

\$150 worth of monthly prize cheques from last season. Please get them banked as soon as possible.

**Unaudited SCGFC Cash Profit (Loss) 01/07/13 – 04/03/14:** \$3,150

*Cheers – Jay Graham*

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MARK HOLLAND

# Fishing the COLD

This year I welcomed in the New Year in the cold. Sub 5 degree temperatures, rain, ice and winds fresh to frightening blowing from a desolate place somewhere in the north-pole. But despite this, my three week trip to Ireland and England over the Christmas and New Year period was great.

Whilst my trip was characterised by catching up with friends and family, consuming numerous pints of Guinness, nips of Jameson Whisky and being fed enough food (namely potatoes) to feed a small army, I did manage a couple of days of fishing.

## **Ireland, County Tipperary**

Whilst organising my trip in mid-2013, I researched what fishing was available in Ireland over the December and January months. Unfortunately, the Atlantic Salmon are out of season and it's generally too rough (and cold) to fish offshore in the Atlantic Sea for saltwater species. As such, I was largely limited to Irish Pike or Trout, unless I wanted to try a bit of course fishing for Roach, Carp, etc. But realistically, who wants to travel to the other side of the world to catch a noxious specie swamp monster....? (Paul Jones puts up hand here.....)



Having remembered stories from my mother, where during her childhood, her brothers would spear Atlantic Salmon in the family farm creek, whilst watching big Pike eat water rats and anything else that moved, a big Irish Pike sounded like the go. Accordingly, I did a bit more research and came across Irish Pike angling guide Al Rawlings.

Being largely limited in where I could go, Al decided that we'd fish the River Banagher, about 40 minutes from where I was staying at my aunty and uncle's place in Nenagh, County Tipperary (two hours south-west of the capital, Dublin). Unfortunately prior to my arrival, the area suffered an immense amount of rain resulting in burst river banks and a raging river.

Despite this, we fished two days, one from the bank and the second from the boat. However, with the current very strong, even our boat spots were limited to little eddies and protected corners. I'm told that fishing for Pike in winter is tough. Five degree water, very inactive fish, cold weather and rain make catching a good one difficult. Big dead baits were used on heavy wire, as Pike have teeth similar to a Barracuda and can cut through mono quite easily.

The first day resulted in two bites, of which, a decent hook-up was had on the later and I managed to land my first Irish Pike at 14lbs. Awesome! Even my Irish uncles thought it was a good one. Unfortunately the second day resulted in no fish, which I'm told, is so often typical of Pike fishing in Ireland in winter.



## England, County Hampshire

For the last week of our Irish / UK trip, my brother and I headed down to the south of England to Portsmouth, in County Hampshire. Club member, Roger Bayzand is a retired skipper of a charter fishing boat that resided in the Portsmouth area and upon quizzing him about fishing the Portsmouth area in winter, all I got was "are you bloody mad" in a strong southern English accent. Member Phil Reed (who also originates from the area) was a little more encouraging. The guys put me in touch with one of their old fishing buddies, Peter, and my brother and I lined up two days fishing with him.

Our hope was to get a nice weather window to head out in Peter's 21 foot boat to fish the various wrecks in the English Channel near the Isle of Wight. However, over the Christmas / New Year period, much of England was flogged (like their cricket team) with heavy rains and flooding. A constant 30+ knot wind for the week we were in Portsmouth, meant boat fishing was off limits and the pubs were a much more attractive thought.

So instead, we headed off fly fishing with Pete and another one of his mate's, Nev, to a fly and course fishing estate over near Southampton. Despite contesting with a bit of wind, the Trout were on the chew and I managed to catch eight Rainbow Trout on fly and my brother Thomas, a further two Rainbows and two Browns. Pete and Nev caught a bunch also.

The second day we went fishing, we decided to fish a big Lake for English Pike. Similarly to Ireland, we set dead baits on wire and had live Roach as well. Unfortunately, the fishing was very quiet and all we managed to catch was a bunch of Roach on a little course fishing outfit. Nonetheless, the sun was out, the temperature got to a balmy 8 degrees and it was a nice day overall, especially after a nice pint in a local pub afterwards.

Overall, it was a great three weeks in England and Ireland. I'm heading back over to Europe in July 2014, so another European day's fishing may be on the cards. I hear Amsterdam has big Zander and Pike, which could be an option.

Regards **Mark Holland**







# BLACK MARLIN BULLETIN NUMBER 4

**DECEMBER/  
JANUARY 2013**

**Samuel Williams &  
Dr. Julian Pepperell**

Despite the runs of adult and juvenile black marlin along the east coast of Australia, there has been relatively poor tag conversion, which has also returned low numbers of clips across the past couple of months. Only small numbers of black marlin have continued to turn up off Australia's west coast, but off Weipa, a pulse of fish resulted in a number of valuable samples being taken. In this fourth edition of the Black Marlin Bulletin we will have a look at bill morphology in particular malformed bills following an array of photos which I have had sent in since the start of the project. And as usual, we'll give an all-important update on our latest finclip entries.

## **The Biography of Bills**

Since the first newsletter I have started receiving a few pictures of billfish which have bent bills, no bills, forked bills or broken bills. The chances of finding individuals with different bill formations are not uncommon with many individuals being documented to have broken bills. The writings from early mariner expeditions commonly report the finding of marlin or swordfish bills embedded in the hulls of their wooden vessels. The incidences funnily enough attributed a fearsome reputation for billfishes under the assumption that they were attacking the vessels, however it is now believed that these snapped-off bills were the result of misdirected attacks on baitfish aggregating around the slowly moving ships. No doubt collisions between billfish and floating objects have been happening for centuries, such as this blue marlin bill which was found penetrating through a floating load hose



on the FPSO Girassol in Angola. This individual obviously didn't survive its fate however in many of these cases of forked or missing bills, the fish do survive and from angler accounts, appeared to behave normally during capture. However, it is quite likely that billfish with deformed or missing bills are at a disadvantage since the bill is primarily needed for maximum streamlining and hence maximum burst speed. This would mean that even though billfish carrying such injuries are still able to feed, they might not be as well conditioned as fully intact fish.



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## **Taking a sword to a gunfight**

This image of the small black marlin with a broken bill was taken by Chris Nisbet from Broome Billfish Charters who commonly encounters fish with malformed bills. In an email he mentions about sailfish where he saw firsthand both the damage that can be done to a bill as well as what they can inflict on predator species. As he recalled,

"We like everyone are having a huge problem with sharks and last week I saw retribution at its finest. We brought in a 15 to 18kg Sailfish & a 2-3m whaler shark honed in on him so we threw the bail arm to give him some room to get away... So what does the Sailfish do but turn around on the shark and speared it just behind the gill rakers. It busted 40mm off the tip of his bill, but you should have seen the shark take off."



Obviously this recount you could say would be less common than most, however it does bring about an interesting question of whether larger Sails may not be worried by sharks?



*The photo's above show a bill which has grown malformed into a bent shape, as well as what it looks like when you catch a bill-less marlin.*



*The photo to the left is an extract from Dr. Julian Pepperell's article entitled "rough upbringing for fork-billed sailfish", with the photo supplied by Terence 'bomber' Farrel a keen angler of Groote Eylandt who has also been trying to take samples to assist with this project.*

Anthony Tyson	1
Craige McCulloch	1
Chris Davidson	1
Duane Jay	1
Darryl French	1
Dayan Villa	1
Annie B	1
Talisha Cook	1
Darren Lee	1
Adrian Gibson	1
Joanne Tatham	1
Adam Galash	1
Paul Leijser	1
Harrison Weeding	1
Kim Anderson	1
Kim Dennis	1
Zuri	1
Chris Thurkettle	1
Graeme Fisher	1
Allan Jackson	1
Tim Richardson	1
Greg Milliken	1
Warren Tucker	1
<b>West Coast Total</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Wiepa Total</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>East Coast Total</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>91</b>

## FIN CLIPPING PROGRESS

### West Coast

From my feedback the runs of little black marlin have started to dry up on the west coast in combination with some poor weather conditions, which has resulted in not a great deal to report. If anyone has received any fin clips in Western Australia I am currently processing those samples as I write and it would be great if you could get in contact so that we can arrange shipping details.

### Weipa

The value of sample sizes for research cannot be understated and a high rate of sampling from the anglers in Weipa will fortunately allow us to treat this area as an independent location in our study with 18 samples in total being taken (15 since the newsletter began). The anglers who have taken samples over the last two months are Duane Jay, Darryl French, Dayan Villa and Ben Bright all with 1 extra apiece. Along with these efforts if you missed it, Ben Bright also managed to put together a great educational video on how to take a fin clip unassisted, which everyone should check out below!  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWtLHZXnNa4>

### East Coast

The sole sample to report on the east coast comes in from Brent Higgins who managed to take one while fishing of Mooloolaba early last week. However despite the lack of samples one of the more exciting finds occurred of the east coast recently. Greg McIlroy who is a full-time mackerel fisher and charter operator out of Rainbow Beach was dragging a mackerel bail 2 meters behind the boat while untangling the line when a school of 5 or so little blacks about 700mm in length attacked the baits. At first they weren't sure if what they saw were mackerel or longtoms, but once this little black pictured below was hooked it didn't take long. Greg sent the whole fish down to us in Brisbane and we are hoping to do a number of things with it including a daily otolith count to work out its age (in days). To give you an idea of this fish compared to past baby blacks which have been aged a 3.9kg and 4kg fish caught of Cairns were both previously ages at 142 days, dating them back to an early October spawn. While the smallest black marlin which Julian Pepperell has aged was a 45cm fish caught off Jervis bay estimated at just 80 days old.

**Remember that all participants mentioned have gained entries into the draw to win a signed copy of Dr Julian Pepperell's award winning book "Fishes of the Open Ocean" (one for each coast), which will now be drawn in early March.**



# CAPO HATTERAS

# BILLFISH SHOOTOUT

**PORT STEPHENS  
15/16 FEBRUARY 2014**

Team Game Plan, comprising skipper Dan Smith and crew Mark Holland and Conor Lynch arrived in Port Stephens at 3.00am on Friday, 14 February 2014 after driving through the night towing Dan's 5.3m Cruise Craft. The team's plan was to do a day of homework before competing in the Cabo/Hatteras Billfish Shootout on the Saturday and Sunday and coming home on the Monday. Upon arrival in Shoal Bay the team slept for an hour or two before launching the boat and making their way south-east. The weather was pretty reasonable however once on the game fishing grounds, the bait was quite scratchy at all the known marks. On this first day, Mark landed an approx. 65kg Striped Marlin that didn't jump at all, but emptied half the 15kg spool in its initial run.

Team Game Plan was back out before sunrise on Saturday for Day 1 of the competition. Bait was again scratchy but the boys caught a Striped Marlin around 70kgs in the morning (to Conor) after it was spotted tailing on the surface. In the afternoon Mark hooked up to a Black Marlin around 70-80kgs and ended up fighting it on 15kg gear for 3 hours 45 minutes. The tag went in during overtime at 5.38pm whilst stuck in a 25 knot northerly wind and average swell and seas. Team Game Plan arrived back to the weigh station at 8:30pm to find that they were 5th overall in the comp.





CABO HATTERAS

# Billfish Shootout

On Day 2, the boys unfortunately couldn't progress their Day 1 score any further. The weather was pretty average and the bait was scratchy. The competition presentation was held on the Sunday night and Team Game Plan ended up coming 8th overall and 2nd in boat under 8m. The winning boat had 6 fish, second had 4 fish and third had 3 fish. Overall, it was a pretty big weekend and although there were a few fish at Port Stephen's, it definitely wasn't firing.







# Ed's Big Day!

– By Robert Smith



Thursday, 6 March 2014 will be remembered by me for a long time. With no definite charters in the pipeline I had been in constant contact with Ed Martin all week to take his neighbor Danny out for a marlin fish. Danny lives at Bluewater Apartments like Ed and has a single screw Mustang flybridge but is a died in the wool reef fisherman.

We started off trolling minnows over the blinker high spot at the Outer Gneerings going for a mackerel but did no good so headed to the 42m spot for live bait. The bait didn't look red hot but we jigged up two slimeys and about 8 yakkas. This was enough we thought as we would probably have to head to the Hards based on recent reports and we could bait and switch with that many baits and have a ripper day. By this stage Glen and Bev were hooked up to a black marlin straight away on the 13mile so we decided to go to the 12mile for a look.

The normal mark holding bait at the 12mile didn't have much bait on it and we could see White Horse to the north so we put the outriggers out and deployed a spread of Ed's homemade lures and a Halco 190 Laser Pro on the downrigger. Glen had also had a chop-off the same time as hooking the black just as he was setting the third lure so we thought he may have wandered into a pretty productive area. Just as we came up on them the downrigger went off and Danny was on. This turned out to be quite a good size spotted mackerel around 5kg. Dinner was sorted and it, or one of its friends, was maybe what chopped Glen off. I have since been around to Ed and Betty's place and eaten the spotty as ceviche and it was awesome. Betty sure can cook Mexican after so many years of fishing down at Cabo San Lucas.

We got out of dodge so to speak with no bait or anything exciting to hold us there and headed to the 18mile. The very first bit of bait I pulled up on was a perfect pyramid shape on the depth sounder and was only 10m from the surface with a big hole in the middle of it. I told the boys to look at this and I knew action wouldn't be too far away. I didn't sound a fish that first pass but did mark a good 20-30 that day! I set up the first drift and as the first bait went out Ed got a run and handed it off to Danny on freespool. Danny crept the lever up millimeter by millimeter and

came up tight textbook style. We fought this one and got it all on video. Ed ended up driving my boat and I was going to tag or wire. When it popped up it was easier to grab the leader which I did and I tagged it with my short tag pole boat side as we grabbed a fin clip sample for Sam Williams. I noticed the tag was missing by this stage but the boys were not concerned about re-tagging it as Danny was not a club member so we let it go.

We set up the next drift and this time Ed came up tight just as I was trying to get a second bait up. I drove on it until the last second then handed the wheel to Danny so I could tag and leader it. I think during this fight we had a sailfish free-jump right beside us that I would have captured on video if the memory card didn't fill up. During the fight I noticed one of the ceramic inserts was missing from one of Ed's guides so retired that outfit for the day. I think the next bait we had a run and then it let go and we got a crushed bait back. Danny was bringing the lever up himself now under instruction after seeing it happen a couple of times and did a good job.

Danny must have got the next one all himself on 8kg as we were 3 from 3 early days then fell in a heap from there. Ed jumped the sail off on the bite after we had seen it free-jumping. We had one fish tangle two lines so it would have been a DQ but it jumped itself off to save us any drama. We had a mystery bust off on my 8kg outfit mid fight after surviving all the crazy jumps and all that so don't know what happened there.

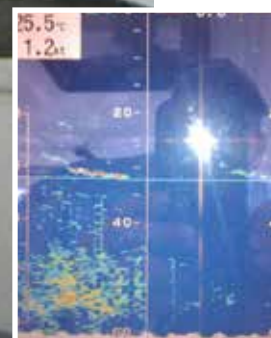
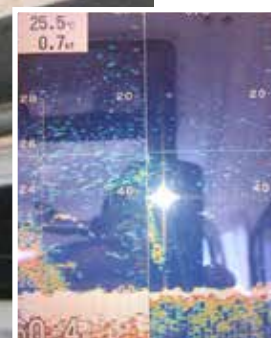
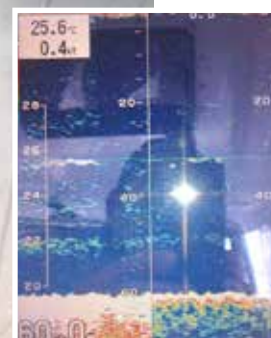
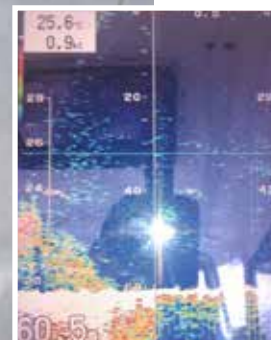
About then the wahoo chop-offs got out of control and the bait went to pieces so we decided to go on the troll and thin a couple out and find some new bait to fish and test Ed's El Cheapo lures. They are basically two skirts with a wooden insert in them and a plastic case over them a bit like an old 35mm film canister but they work well enough. We must have caught one early on for Ed on 8kg then jumped a couple off. One hit the Halco on the downrigger then sat on the short rigger with the rubber band at full stretch but not actually popping it. It didn't jump at all and we were thinking sluggish wahoo but a high tail lobe sticking out cruising downsea gave its identity away as a marlin but the hook just fell out a bit out of tagging range.

We had one pass there where three of the four outfits were hit, most likely wahoo but we ended up hooking a black during all the commotion. One bite we had on Ed's Accurate and it is about 5mm on the drag lever between freespool and 2kg of drag where we were running it on strike and it went to freespool and birdsnested so that was retired as well and we were back to one serviceable 8kg outfit and my charter 15s. Ed lost one on 15kg I remember than Danny got one on 15kg at 3:15. That was our last fish and I still had not done a full lap of the 18mile by this stage as we kept getting hit.

We trolled to the southern marks and had a look but got no further bites the last 45mins and saw no further bait. We towed a live slimey over the Gneerings high spot on the way back in but it didn't get hit so we headed in, happy in our achievements for the day. Thanks to Ed and Danny for the day. It was certainly hectic with so much going on, rerigging, dealing with chop-offs on our rigs and bait jigs, loading tags, writing up tag cards and getting samples for Sam plus fighting the fish with a single screw diesel in 12knots of breeze all day plus jigging bait once our initial ten or so baits ran out. You wouldn't have it any other way though!

Regards

**ROBERT SMITH**





# Shearwater

**2013/2014**

**season to date**

Having joined the SCGFC just over a year ago, my son, Darren, and I have only just embarked on taking our fishing to a new level.

Our family relocated to Australia in 2008 from Durban, South Africa, after the opportunity arose for me to consider building a business on the Sunshine Coast.

Back there I used to fish in a few competitions a year along the Zululand Coast at places like Cape Vidal and St Lucia. We never owned a boat and I would crew for friends who had boats.

Although we fished for similar species of fish, eg Black and Blue Marlin, Spanish Mackerel, Spotted Mackerel, Tuna etc, the methods that we applied were considerably different to the ones used over here.

Also, one never had to travel very far off the coastline to fish. We would often catch marlin within 2 or 3 nautical miles offshore and Mackerel fishing was a mile or so offshore! Most of our launches were off the beach, through some rough surf at times, so going out through the Mooloolaba River mouth really is a pleasure, even though the fuel bill here is a lot bigger!

Darren has loved fishing ever since he could hold a rod in his hands and we'd often go down to a dam, river or the harbour and he'd fish for hours on end.

We had an opportunity to buy our own boat in November 2012 and purchased a Noosacat 2700 Walkabout with a pair of Mercury Verado 200HP motors. It needed some attention in certain areas, so the Outriggers were upgraded, the Navnet VX2 was upgraded with the Navnet TZ Touch with Chirp technology and the Maxsea system was upgraded.

Fishing tackle was required in order to chase the desired species around the vast expanse of Pacific Ocean that lies due East of Mooloolaba, so Wellsys Tackle became a worthy benefactor in this regard! Dingles at Tackleworld Kawana has also been extremely helpful in assisting us on many occasions.

Once we were set to go, the fishing started in earnest in July 2013 and Darren set his sights on trying to do the best he could in the Junior Category, seeing as it would be the only year that he'd be able to compete in this category.

On 7 September 2013 he caught his first Sailfish ever, on the 18 mile and then followed that up with another 2 later in the month. This was good enough to earn him the GFAA Junior award for September and he received a TLD 20, some lures and a certificate as a prize.

Since then Darren has added 4 Black Marlin and 2 Blue Marlin to his tally, including an estimated 350lb Blue that he caught near the Dog Leg on board Nick's boat, Old Salty Dog.





For the year to date Shearwater has tagged 14 Billfish which we are happy about, considering that we haven't been able to get out as often as we'd like to have, mainly due to the fact that Darren has established himself as a fine wicketkeeper/batsman and has represented up to 5 cricket teams this past season which means that days left over for fishing have been few and far between!

We also fished in the Spring Shootout and the Annual SCGFC Classic in February, but the weather conditions in both competitions were unfavourable for good fishing and we did not fare too well in either of them.

During the winter months of last year we were able to learn the finer art of chasing Snapper and Pearl Perch and towards the end of the season we were getting some good numbers as well as some nice size fish.

We have thoroughly enjoyed being members of the SCGFC and it is the best thing we could have done from a fishing perspective in that we have learnt so much from the blokes that we have met in the club. It is incredible how much everybody has been prepared to share with us as far as tactics are concerned right down to willingly giving us fishing marks that have produced good numbers of fish, and therefore making the fishing so much more enjoyable.

We have had the pleasure of having a number of members on board with us over the past season and that has been great fun.

Darren and I would like to thank everybody for welcoming us into the club in the manner in which they have, and for making our fishing experience so enjoyable.

Here's to a good rest of the season for everyone and let's hope that we can end up being the Champion Game Fishing Club in Australia again this year.

Yours in fishing,

**NEVILLE MARTENS**





# Team White Horse

## AT ALL PORTS

Team White Horse fished the All Ports weekend on 15 and 16 February 2014. On day one, the team headed to the 18 mile, Mooloolaba, and began trolling skipping garfish. Bev Fennell hooked up early on a Black Marlin, but it decided it didn't like the feel of an SL12 in its mouth and accordingly, spat it out. Half an hour later, Shaun hooked up and subsequently landed the fish, which opened White Horse's account for the All Ports weekend. Not to be outdone by Shaun, approximately 40 minutes after that Bev decided it was time to get in on the action once again and managed to tag another Black Marlin. 3-2-2 for White Horse all within the first couple of hours of fishing. Unfortunately, nothing else was caught for the rest of the day.

On Day 2 Team White Horse decided to return to the scene of the crime. According to skipper Glen, it was a touch of Déjà vu as Bev hooked up at about the same time as the day prior, and once again, it spat the hooks. From mid-morning, it went dead other than a couple of small Yellowfin Tuna, which went on the ice for fresh sashimi later on.

At around 1:00pm, a double hookup on little Black Marlin occurred. Shaun's fish escaped without a tag in its shoulder after a snap swivel opened and Jay's fish was tagged within about 20 minutes. Bev caught a Dolphin Fish later that afternoon to add to the team's growing point score. Overall, Team White Horse (which comprised of skipper Glen and crew Bev, Shaun, Barto and Jay) had a great weekend's fishing.



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