

# REELTALK

SCGFC CLUB MAGAZINE

JUNE 2016



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# welcome

Welcome to the June Reel Talk. This time around we have an update from Kylie Hombsch on their Costa Rica & NT Barra trip, Rod Clarke with a NZ fishing trip and an overview of a few events past and coming up.

Again, huge thank you to Red Livermore of Red Man Designs for the amazing Reel Talk he delivers each and every time. We have some awesome sponsors of our fishing club and we couldn't survive without them, please take the time to check them out and support them as much as possible.

We have a good few months coming up with our presentation night and the SCGFC Spring Shootout dates confirmed for the Queens birthday & footy grand final long weekend, read on for more info.

I have now taken on the role of Reel Talk coordinator, if there is any information you want to see or input or have any feedback, please do not hesitate to contact me on [alanna@vehiclemanagement.com.au](mailto:alanna@vehiclemanagement.com.au) or 0455 559 997.

Thanks again to all our sponsors, members and committee. Looking forward to another great season coming up.

Regards,

**Alanna Tuckwell**  
*Reel Talk Coordinator*

Fishing

## COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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## events

### JULY CLUB MEETING

5th July - 7.30pm  
@ Kawana Waters Hotel

### AUGUST AGM

2nd August - 7.30pm  
based from the  
@ Kawana Waters Hotel

### SCGFC PRESENTATION NIGHT

6th August - 6.30pm  
Please see ad in the edition

### SCGFC SPRING SHOOTOUT

30th Sept - 3rd of Oct 2016  
Grand Final Party on Sunday.  
Based @ Kawana Waters Hotel



# president's report



***Welcome to the next edition of the SCGFC Reel Talk which is jam packed with exciting stories from adventures from members that have taken them all over the place. It is great to see so many members out and about wherever they can find the fish of a lifetime and then to put the effort into sharing their stories with us all. I would like to take the opportunity to thank our many sponsors both large and small, and to have so many long term sponsors and many of whom are actively involved in the club. Please note who they are and if you require any services that they provide do what you can to support them as they have supported us.***

Well since the last edition we hosted our Feb/March Classic and yet again February weather proved to make life very difficult for us all, so I would like to thank the committee for in many ways putting aside three weekends to finally get the right weather window on our third sanctioned date at the end of March. The comp was a great success and as usual a whole lot of fun with a good raft up and boats from MBGFC, MGFC, GCGFC & Redcliff and all competed in good spirit and sportsmanship in the close to \$20,000 in cash and prizes. Big thanks to our sponsors and to the Ben Campbell Building Group for supporting us once again. I am sure Brent will give a more detailed report over the page.

Now too a few club items that need a mention. Now that we are coming to the end of another season we can proudly say we are the second biggest club with 215 members only to the GCGFC and as the year has gone we have been able to host a number of fantastic events and informative meetings. Both of our comps were run and with all comments and feedback fun and well run, our monthly meetings have been fantastic and it's so good to see such a strong core of the regulars that make it each month having an average of over 50 members to each meeting. A big thanks must go out to Brent as he is in contact with some very well respected figures in our fishing community and to have Chris from Rip Charts, Julian Pepperell & Sam Williams, Peter Pakula to our

meetings shows we have a good name and these well recognised figures are happy to help when they can. We will continue to work on providing to the members these benefits, as we do this for us all. As a committee we have also been discussing boundaries for some years now and many members have also been involved in these discussions with pro's & con's for both sides so we came to a compromise to add the same and equal prizes for a Sunshine Coast area and a QLD area. You should have seen the emails and posts but feel free to ask if you have not. This will begin in the 2016/17 season and will bring a total value of cash & prizes at the Presentation Night approx. \$10,000 so it's well worth fighting for. On that note, the Presentation Night for this year will be hosted at Mykies by the Bay on Kawana Island, on the 6th August. Further details in later pages and I look forward to a fun and entertaining evening.

The committee also decided to get the dredger down by the pontoon as the bigger boats were touching the mud, so from now on they won't. We will also look at getting another pylon for extra strength and will look at redoing the timber on the pontoon to ensure as a club we can provide a great facility for our members and guests, as always suggestions are welcomed. We are also actively looking and discussing sponsorship opportunities for the future to ensure our great club stays as strong as it currently is, so if anyone has any ideas or contacts please come forward and let us know. With the clubs AGM coming up in August we are always looking for fresh faces to drive the club forward for the years to come as its getting close to some of us old faces to have a change. Hint, hint, hint... If anyone has an interest in assisting with the running of the club and would like to discuss what happens at a committee level please contact any of us to discuss.

Everyone, enjoy the read and big thanks goes out to everyone that has been a part of the 2015/16 season and to the success of this great club we all belong to. I look forward to catching up with you very soon.

**Barto**







# club captain.

***Well the 2015/16 season is drawing to a close and is finishing the same way as it started with hot fishing at Fraser defining the first and last billfish trophies and the major point score. Chaos, One Way, Raise A Bill, Pole Dancer and Finatic have all made the journey in recent weeks for great Blue Marlin and Juvenile Black Marlin fishing.***

In reality the local waters never really got going other than 2 Blue Marlin bites in October and March. The March bite was particularly rewarding for the boats that got amongst them, great to see the traditional Cape Moreton grounds firing.

Light tackle was inconsistent and unrewarding considering the hours put into local waters by a energetic fleet of dedicated anglers. It just wasn't our season but good news looms, El Nino is forecast to be on it's way out and we will welcome La Nina's increased rainfall and nutrient flush which forms the cycle of life and hopefully with return of the mighty slimey schools to our grounds. The only downside of the La Nina is lesser Blue Marlin numbers typically occur.

February rolled around and passed again without the Classic being run. Ultimately on our third attempt we got to go fishing and saw 24 boats in attendance and 70+ anglers. Light tackle wasn't a viable option so the majority of boats headed east to the wide grounds. The eventual outcome of a win for team Sea Star was a crowd favourite, Gary had endured a terrible run of health and to tag 3 Blue Marlin on the first day was a fitting result. Combined with a club stalwart, Evan Jones, taking out Champion Angler with two Blues made it a memorable weekend. Dave Trask and team on Big Business continued a season of being on the podium but not quite on the winners list, coming second with 1 Blue. SEQ is a busy location for other club comps and it's great to see so many anglers getting around and taking part in other clubs comps, and winning as well. Firstly to Jay and the team on Chaos at the Back 2 Tangas comp with Matt Hubbard taking out champion angler, Max and Troy Proctor on Dragon Lady for taking Junior and under 7m boat, Lachlan Tuckwell who was runner up angler on Kaizen and Ben Massurit tagged his first Sailfish.

We had 5 boats competing at Back to Tangas - Outside Edge, Dragon Lady, Reload, BEAT and Chaos.

Due for some time on the water Alanna headed down to both the SPGFC & GCGFC tournaments and was champion female angler at the GCGFC competition, well done representing the girls! Josh & Dale fished MGFC comp on Assassin and the Clark boys fished the Redcliffe comp. We are certainly flying the flag around the SEQ comps.



For the fourth straight year we have had members fish the OWC in Costa Rica's incredible waters where sailfish are plentiful. This year Kylie & Colin Hombsch made the journey and Kylie has a report in the following pages. In 2017 the team from Sea Star will be representing so watch out Costa Rica, Evan is on his way!

Good luck to Glen & Bev Fennel with their upcoming adventure to Hawaii for the HIBT and our guys that make the trip North to the GBR to chase big girls in October and November.

The next big event is the prize giving and the last year of the Tweed – Bustard Head boundary. I personally look forward to the new format which is designed to reward both those that fish from home and for those put time and effort into our greater Queensland waters. I look forward to see many of you at the Annual Presentation and hope we amass a few more points before end of June to feature in some of the QGFA trophies.

**Brently**

# treasurer's report



As at 03 May 2016

## Significant Transactions

**\$972.00** Rebate paid by the Kawana Waters Hotel. *Please keep using your cards.*

A few minor expenses.

## Financial Members:

**Financial Members: 214** Financial Members. (Finished last season with 214 members.)

## Bank Balances:

- Cheque Account: \$24,801.43
- Investment Account One: \$10,661.81 Matures 06/09/16 @ 2.90%
- Investment Account One: \$20,000 Matures 08/10/16 @ 2.90%

**Total cash:** \$55,463.24 (increase of \$705.85 since last report)

**Trade Debtors:** Nil

**Trade Creditors:** Nil

**Un-presented Cheques:** \$600 approximately.  
*Please get these banked ASAP*

**Unaudited SCGFC Profit (Loss) 01/07/15 – 07/06/16:** \$12,161.90

Cheers – Jay Graham



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# the secretary

**What a successful kids day we had! With about 18 girls & boys at Chambers Island for the annual Kids Day Sponsored by Princes IGA. Thank you for everyone who came on the chilly winters day, and especially to Princes IGA for supplying the food & drink and BCF Maroochydore for the awesome prizes.**

Also to Colin & Kylie Hombsch for the donated reel as a prize. The girls absolutely nailed it, taking out most categories:

**Most Fish** — Alley Campbell

**Most Bream** – Grace Fleming

**First Fish & Most Whiting** – Joel Smith

**Last Fish** – Leilani Lameree

Ending in a friendly game of footy with the dads, it was a great day out for all.

**We have the SCGFC Presentation night is coming up on the 6th of August, at Mikeys by the Bay, Kawana Island from 5pm.**

**Adults \$45, kids free & welcome.**

**Please RSVP to the committee and please pay in advance. See all the details on the full page ad in this edition of Reel Talk.**

The SCGFC Spring Shootout dates have been set Friday 30th September – Monday 3rd October 2016. Briefing Friday night, fishing Saturday & Sunday with our presentation Monday morning being the Queen's Birthday long weekend. Don't forget we put the footy grand final on the Saturday night at Kawana Waters Hotel.

I have been lucky enough to head down to fish two of the recent Gold Coast comps. The Surfers Paradise comp I fished on First Priority (Gondola to some) where



we unfortunately didn't turn a reel and weren't the only ones with not many fish showing up. The second comp we had a huge win with Champion Female & Runner up Champion Boat. This one was a bit special tagging my first blue (about time, I know). Massive thank you to Ben & crew on First Priority for having me down there, the many laughs and good fun! The messages of congrats I received from all people was really appreciated as well. Looking forward to getting on the water more next season.

**Cheers**

**Alanna Tuckwell**





# Albert & Pauline Threadingham

# TROPHY

For the 3rd year the SEQ Club Championship has been run as participating clubs compete for the prestigious Albert and Pauline Threadingham Trophy. It has taken a couple of years but the SCGFC has finally won the trophy after the Gold Coast and Mooloolaba GFC have both shared in the spoils.

This 4 round competition is moved each year from club to club to encourage boats to travel to other events, represent their own club and participate whilst enjoying the comradery of fellow fisho's.

For the 15/16 season the tournaments contested were the SCGFC Spring Shootout, RPGSFC Australia Day comp, MBGFC Back to Tanga's and the MGFC Billfish Bash.

Be sure to keep an eye out on the SCGFC Facebook page and emails for the upcoming 16/17 dates and support a fantastic cause in honour of our own Albert and Pauline Threadingham. The work this star duo do is famous worldwide and we are very lucky at they call the SCGFC home.

**Crossy**



***A while back I was lucky enough to be part of a trip with the Tackle World crew courtesy of Shimano to visit their reel factory in Malaysia and then go on a 3 day fishing trip to Rompin testing out some product on Sail Fish.***

The gear we used were all spin outfits ranging from 5000 to 8000 sized reels that retailed from \$165 to \$285 in price on rods that retailed for no more than \$250 each. The way these guys fished for them was buy sight., no trolling, we would pitch a live bait at them and if we didn't get a take quickly we would then attach a balloon and float them out, sit back and wait. This was all done from a dead boat they weren't really skilled in backing down or chasing these fish so needless to say the drag pressure

we put on these reels to stop from being spooled was considerably more then what they were designed for, in fact on one day on our boat we had 4 double and one triple hook up so we really tested those reels out.

It was a great experience to fish these fish rich waters and would encourage anyone if the opportunity arises to go, nothing better than seeing a pod of Sails finning on the surface pitch a bait to them and watch the take.

Over the 3 days at best count between us 303 sail fish were caught and released with quite a few bust offs. Hooks used were all circle. Awesome fun!

**Dingles**





# tournament report

## Moreton Bay GFC's Back 2 Tanga 8 04-06th March, 2016.

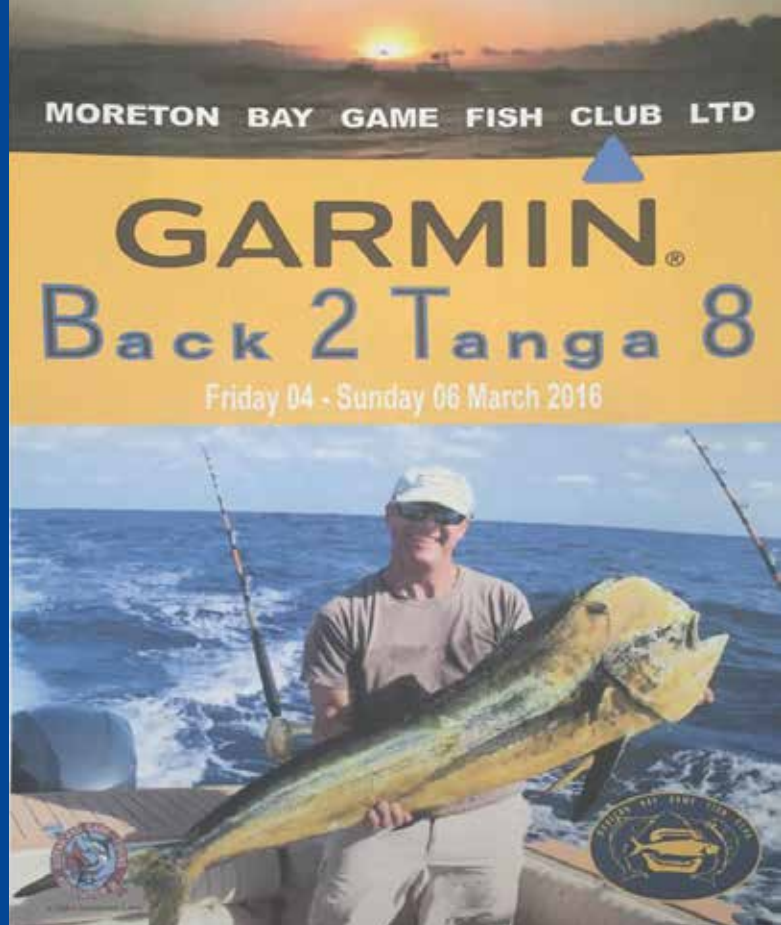
*The Sunshine Coast Game Fishing Club was well represented with 5 boats out of a total of 31 boats at the Moreton Bay Game Fishing Club's "Back To Tanga 8" tournament from 4th-6th March 2016. BEAT, Dragon Lady and Reload represented the under 8 metre category, whilst Outside Edge and Chaos represented the over 8 metre category. The SCGFC also had Lachlan Tuckwell angling on MBGFC boat Kaizen and Clinton Hicks on MBGFC boat Black Habit.*

**Day 1** met the fleet with some less than pleasurable conditions but the fishing was pretty good particularly on the heavy tackle grounds with lots of blue marlin bites. Chaos got off to an early start with 2 blue marlin tagged on 37kg both to Matthew Hubbard but didn't manage to stick another 5 bites. The boys on Kaizen got off to a great start with 4 blues tagged and angler Lachlan Tuckwell accounting for 2 of them, 1 on 24kg and 1 on 37kg. The crew on BEAT battled the weather and managed to catch a first Sailfish on 8kg for Ben Massurit which he was stoked about!

Later in the day Reload tagged a blue for Lee Hitchings and pulled the hook on a second fish close to the boat early in the morning. Outside Edge and Dragon Lady rounded the day out with a few other species tags between them for the juniors on board.

Standings after Day 1 had Ben Massurit leading champion junior angler with his Sailfish and Kaizen in 1st Place with Lachlan Tuckwell leading the angler category. Chaos in 4th place overall with angler Mat Hubbard in 2nd or 3rd place.

**Day 2** met the fleet with some even worse conditions to start off with and made for some wet crews on the run out in the morning. Luckily it got a little better through the day. Father and son team on Dragon Lady Troy and Max Proctor went searching for some fish after a slow day on day 1. They found the black marlin on some good bait down near Deep Tempest and had a ripper of a day with young Max tagging 3 black marlin on 8kg and Troy accounting for the other fish. It was a day that will stick in Max's mind for a long time! Combining these 4 tags with the first day's other species tags, rocketed Dragon Lady to



first place in the Under 8 metre category and also Max to champion Junior Angler. Outside Edge tried their luck on the heavy tackle grounds and hooked up to a blue marlin soon after start fishing only to pull the hook just before the fish was in tag range. By mid morning, Chaos had found a couple of fish up to the north away from the fleet and managed to tag 2 blue marlin in quick succession to Mat Hubbard which pushed him up the leader board. Shortly after the radio crackled with news that Lachlan Tuckwell on Kaizen had tagged another blue marlin on 24kg. Shea McLennan opened his account for the comp on Reload with his first blue marlin on 37kg. Two blue marlin virgins were broken in on Reload for very proud skipper "Brent Higgins". Awesome achievement in some very trying conditions.







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Alistair McClashan







By lunch time the boys on BEAT made their way out to the shelf and were into the action straight away hooking up right beside Chaos but unfortunately jumped the fish off while chasing it down. They hooked up again shortly after but gear failure unfortunately saw this fish lost also. Meanwhile aboard Chaos, Mat Hubbard hooked up to a blue marlin on 24kg and while clearing the gear another blue followed the teaser in. Mick Reed tossed it a lure and it piled on straight away. Mat lost his fish on 24kg but shortly after the tag was in on Mick's blue marlin. Deano got Chaos the field goal they were looking for put to them into 2nd place with a tagged Striped Tuna on 37kg.

The final standing for SCGFC teams and anglers were as follows:

<b>Champion Junior Angler</b>	Max Proctor
<b>Champion Junior Angler R/U</b>	Ben Massurit
<b>Champion Boat Under 8m</b>	Dragon Lady
<b>Champion Boat Over 8m</b>	Kaizen (Lachlan Tuckwell crewing)
<b>Champion Boat Over 8m R/U</b>	Chaos
<b>Champion Angler Overall</b>	Matthew Hubbard (SCGFC)
<b>Second Place</b>	Ethan Harrington (RPGFC)
<b>Third Place</b>	Lachlan Tuckwell (SCGFC)

***The team on Chaos would like to make a special thanks to Club Marine. The team was the recipient of the Rally Day Prize for 14/15 season sponsored by Club Marine.***

The Sunshine Coast Game Fishing Club would like to thank all the teams who represented us at Back to Tangas 8 and congratulate them on their achievements.

We would also like to thank Moreton Bay Game Fishing Club for hosting a fantastic event and look forward to competing again next year.







# OWC 2016

*We arrived at Quepos on the 13th April 2016. We chose to stay at Los Altos Resort amazing is the only word to sum up the resort. We organised a pre-fish with Captain John Brennan on a 45ft Viking Portafino. Being that Colin and Myself didn't know their style of fishing we were quite nervous at first, but Captain John was an amazing teacher and we went 13-13-9 on our pre-fish. We had such a blast that day we didn't want it to end. The wild life in Costa Rica is out of this world, you only have to look outside your window and there are monkey's and sloths everywhere.*





The next day we did our team registration and camera checks etc, we also ran into some Americans that fished the HIBT last year and got to catch up with them again. We did our boat draw and at first glance we thought not too bad until we got on the boats. Our A grade boat Scatterbrain was awesome we were also lucky enough to have an Aussie deckhand. Fishing was very hard this year with not many fish around. We released 18 sailfish in our time at Costa Rica which is a pretty cool. We had some really funny guys staying at our resort from many different countries, it was good to get know them and have a few drinks and laughs.

We are planning on going back to Costa Rica in Feb next year and fish with Captain John Brennan and hopefully experience the abundance of fish.

After we got back from Costa Rica we had a one day changeover before we headed to our annual Barra fishing week on board Kekoa out of Weipa with Luke & Kelly Fallon.

No words can explain how awesome the fishing is off weipa, We caught over 200 barra and 30 jacks in 4 and half days. There were times when my hands were cramping up from the amount of lure casting and fish we were catching. It doesn't get any better than when you can pull 80 barra off the flats in a morning session.

***This is one those holidays where you never want it to end.***

***Kylie and Col.***







# CHARTER REPORT

- By Robert Smith

On charter this past period the mackerel never showed in any numbers, just like the billfish. It was a very disappointing pelagic season. The inshore tuna were ok though, both mack tuna and longtails, the best year for a couple. Around Easter they were the main thing I chased on half days.

I am yet to really crack the snapper offshore. I have been getting a few in super close on plastics. So far amberjack and kingfish are dominating with a few pearlys. The next few months will be the peak reef fishing time of year.

I didn't hear of any good Grass Sweetlip bites at all this autumn. Maybe they are linked to the mackerel, cleaning up the scraps underneath. Hopefully this winter like a few of the guys I will get in a few trips off Double Island Point for something a bit different. It sounds like plenty of crews are going to be hitting up Fraser Island until Christmas too. Well worthwhile unless we get a traditional Spring sailfish bite which we are well overdue for.

## **Tight Lines - Smithy**







# SUNSHINE COAST GAME FISHING CLUB

## 2016/17 Season Boundary Change

### **Members,**

As discussed at our May General Meeting the club will trial a boundary/zone change for the 16/17 season. The committee felt a vote to change our constitution/bylaws was not a good idea and will instead implement the following to create a greater member benefit whilst also recognising efforts from skippers and anglers, state-wide.

The 2016/17 Season will see two zones that cover the whole of QLD to reward members for their efforts. It is IMPORTANT to remember that all fish tagged, regardless of zone, will count for our own SCGFC Trophies along with QGFA and GFAA Points/Trophies.

**Sunshine Coast Waters Zone** – Fishing between a line due east of Double Island Point south to a line due east of Point Lookout.

**Queensland Waters Zone** – Fishing in QLD waters north from a line due east of Double Island Point and QLD waters south from a line due east of Point Lookout to the NSW border.

### **Trophy List will be awarded for BOTH Zones;**

Champion Angler Overall

Champion Boat Overall

Champion Senior Male

Champion Senior Female

Champion Junior Male

Champion Junior Female

Champion Tag and Release Angler

Champion Light Tackle Angler

Champion Heavy Tackle Angler

Champion Angler Other Species

Champion Angler Capture

Champion Angler Weekends

First Billfish

Last Billfish

Champion Boat Over 7m

Champion Boat Under 7m

Champion Boat Heavy Tackle

Champion Boat Light Tackle

Champion Boat Weekends

***Trophies may be subject to change  
at committees discretion.***

The categories Champion Angler Rally Days and Champion Boat Rally Days will only be awarded for fish tagged inside the Sunshine Coast Waters Zone. This falls into line with our Club Marine Sponsorship and their willingness to promote the Sunshine Coast region only through our club.

Regards,

**SCGFC Committee**



# tournament report

## SCGFC Classic

31st March - 3rd April, 2016.

*This is how our weekend went aboard "Sea Star", Garry Ohlsen's 40' White Cap during the 2016 Classic. We had a couple of tackle afternoons leading up to the February dates with Troy Rumbelow doing a fair bit extra living directly across the canal from the boat and having fished on Wayne Finlay's "Keneka" a fair bit he knew the lay of the land fairly well so to speak as they are essentially sister ships. The crew in the lead up had one light tackle trip to the Trench for one Spanish mackerel and we jumped off a black marlin on a minnow the one trip and didn't turn a reel heavy the next.*

On the actual date of the rescheduled tournament Garry was flying into the country from Hong Kong so entrusted Troy and I with the boat. Troy knew it more intimately than me with the Max Sea software running through a computer so he eased us off the dock tournament morning whilst Evan and I readied the tackle and Lucas got the drill on how things would pan out if we had a fish on. We had gone for \$250 in the Calcutta which everyone was happy about. Garry, Troy and I had planned on fishing Hawaiian style with long doubles to a snap swivel then long leader. I think we settled on 15' leaders for Garry's gear but all of the gear Evan bought was setup for wind-ons. We were checking the drag on the last reel as we rounded Pt Cartwright on the plane.

With no Garry we couldn't find his A-Team lure swag and luckily Evan, Troy and I had all bought ours along. Troy dropped us out over the shelf at "Bills Bank" right on start fishing. We ran one of Evan's Black Bart Pelagic Breakfast lures in pink/blue/silver on a 60kg outfit at long corner with a single Mustad 7691S stiff rig. At short corner we had my black/purple/silver Mold Craft Bobby Brown with 2 x Assassin Assist hooks Pakula shackle rigs style and a 12' lure leader to snap with all of the other lures on wind-ons. Short rigger we had one of Troy's Topgun slant heads in black/gold over dark purple with 2 x Jobus which is a great short rigger colour as far as I am concerned. Long rigger we had one of Troy's Joe Yees in a blue/yellow long rigger colour. We backed over this one clearing on the first fish! Doh! At shot gun we had a blue/silver with purple tips Topgun slant head of Troy's with 2 x Assassin Assist hooks.

At 9:30 it was Troy's turn on strike so I took over on the bridge. I was just getting the sounder dialled in how I like

# SCGFC CLASSIC

MARCH 31 - APRIL 3, 2016



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it, increasing the scroll speed to 2/1 and playing with the manual range settings and the gain on Garry's FCV-1100 Furuno with 3kw transducer when I marked some bait coming up the ledge of the shelf from 500+m to 300m. At this time I also marked a fish at 70m. I told the boys down below but it was a couple of minutes before we had our first hit. I am guessing it was the fish on the sounder but it took a while to come up and then it must have followed for a while. Troy had enough time to rubber band it and send the shotgun rigger up again for the second hit and I would say the same fish. He was banding it again when it was ripped from his hands and he was on.

Troy went straight to the chair whilst Lucas and Evan cleared. Once the flats were clear I backed slowly up not seeing the Joe Yee still out. The fish then woke up so it was hammers down in reverse. Once it settled I swapped with Evan so I could do the tagging and leadering with Lucas steering the chair. We were into the dacron a bit when Troy worked out the line was coming out from under a coil of line above it. He "firewalled the drag" as Ed Martin would say and we got Evan to back up hard even though we didn't have a very flat line angle to put some line over the bad bit. We were successful at doing that and so long as the fish didn't take a bit run again we would be safe and retire that reel for the day as we had a spare 80.

The fish was honest for it's size but rolled over quick at the end and then it became obvious why when it came up tail first. I got the tag in and then got it on the leader. We expected it to be tail wrapped but it was actually hooked in the tail by the front hook. Troy's back hook was missing. Mid fight it must have come out and luckily for us but unlucky for it, hooked itself again. That put us



in second place behind "Big Business" and we called that one an 80kg blue marlin on the tag card. A good tournament fish. We were happy with that, probably getting a bit of Calcutta money paying for fuel.

For the next fish I was watching the lures from the deck when one second there was a Bobby Brown at short corner and the next second there was none plus a howling Tiagra 80. We had been working some extensive bait areas on top of the ridge in 280-300m and hooked this fish only a few hundred metres from where the first fish was. Evan was on strike for this one. We did a bit better clearing this time and all fish co-operated in the early stages of all the fights luckily, just taking a bit of line. Evan set to work on this one. We fought this one differently due to the angling styles of the guys. Troy's we sat over a bit more and let Troy fight it up on low ratio and leg pumps pulling him out of the chair. Evan wound really well so we drove off the fish and shallowed the angle then roared back winning line each time. The final moments of this fish are on the video Lucas shot and I put on the club members Facebook site. All fish were nice 20minute blue marlin fights. No protracted battles, just a little bit of fireworks and no gimmes either. A second fish and we were in the lead. A good spot to be with everyone having to get two to catch up and "Big Business" another one at least. We called the second one 120kg.

Fish number three I was on the bridge with Troy in the passenger seat. We had wandered a bit further south when I saw a freejumper. We got into the area and by the GPS we don't think it was the freejumper but the mate was pretty close by. First up he did a big windscreen wiper on the lure and missed. I saw that and called it. The lure was a lumo Lava Lure with a slant head, the first time I had swum it. It was on a 12' leader with 2x7691S Mustads Pakula shackle rig style. We had to sub it there on the other rod after retiring the rod with the loose coil. It had a funky action and I had thought about changing it quite a few times for a Pakula Sprocket but even though the action was funky, it had something about it that made you think it might get eaten. Evan in particular was itching to change it I could see. A few seconds later it piled on as I was making my way across the flybridge to get down the ladder in a big outside-in lunge and we were on. Evan was on strike for this one too. This fish was the angriest of the lot. It stayed on the surface and made for an exciting fight. We got the tag in and then it was still quite green on the leader. It sat about 9' out from the transom doing big windscreen wipers on the leader but I wasn't letting go then it popped the leader on us. We called it 125-130kg. Three from three and well and truly in the lead.





We worked this area over having got a fish, seen a freejumper plus some dolphins turning up, bait on the sounder and it was where "Site Office" had taken 5 hits in the morning and it looked extremely fishy to boot. I was in the passengers seat again on the bridge talking to "Chaos" on Channel 10 waiting for the clock to wind down when the substitute Bobby Brown with 2x7691S Mustads got piled on in an inside- out textbook lunge mid sentence. I said "gotta go" before flicking to VHF21 to call the hookup as we were after the last sked with 20minutes or so to cease fishing. Lucas was on strike for this one and it was a nice frisky fish on top early. We settled into the fight putting a nice little show on for "Chaos" then it did the blue marlin power dive thing. With good weight on it and Lucas doing a good job in the chair the hook pulled. You wonder how they can do that with about 200m of line belly in the water helping you keep the hook in. Better luck next time!

At cease fishing we pulled the gear in having experienced some world class blue marlin fishing. We dropped our equipment and tag cards into Albert for scrutiny, fuelled up and got ready for the Saturday.

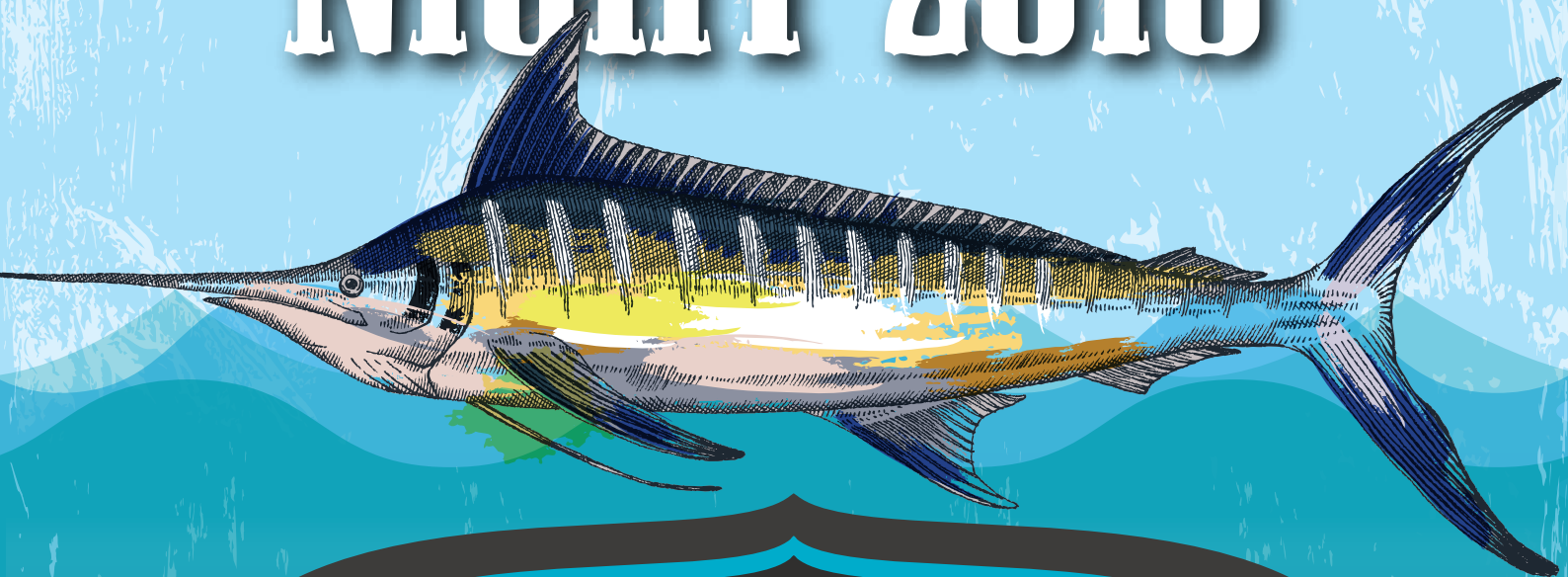
Saturday dawned flatter than Friday and we made good time getting to the grounds for start fishing. The bait still looked good but today we were marking the fish down at 120-180m. Too deep to come up. They had lock jaw. I think they were there just not chewing. At 14:00 we marked one at 65m but even it didn't come up. Only three were raised that day in an 18 boat field, Kaizen, Rough Dimond and Beat. It was good news for us but made for a boring day for everyone. The weather was great though which was a good consolation considering it was the third date for the tournament.

Thanks have to go to Garry for entrusting Troy and I with the Sea Star keys even though he was not there for the first day. He was proud as punch listening to the skeds on his hand held radio from his home apartment after flying in from Hong Kong the Friday morning. He has had success with his previous Black Watch down in Sydney but like the rest of us, has suffered some poor seasons since turning up in Queensland. Next season with a regular crew, watch this space! Well done to Evan for finally winning after trying for 26 years, thanks to Troy for steering us around the park and winding on the first fish and well done to Lucas on his first two days gamefishing. What an induction! – **Smithy**





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# THREE KINGS



*"Ok boys, six colours, jig hard, jig fast!" Anybody that has fished with Enchanter Fishing Charters would know that these words belong to Captain Lance Goodhew. Enchanter Fishing Charters is New Zealand's premier long range fishing charter operator. They have two very comfortable and equipped vessels 'Enchanter' and 'Cova Rose'.*



## **'Enchanter'**

This 5 day expedition was at The Three Kings Islands, located 30nm, NNW of Cape Reinga, North Island, New Zealand. The boat leaves from the beautiful bay side town of Mangonui, a 4-5 hour drive from Auckland. This trip was a true tri-nations feel with Aussie's, Kiwi's and South African's onboard which made for a competitive atmosphere.



## **The fishing**

The main two fishing areas are The King and Middlesex Banks. The top of the banks stand up at 40-50m, out of the surrounding depths of 1500m. With the strong passing currents pushing large amounts of food, makes this area rich in life. While travelling between spots lures are put out and weather permitting we would also drift for Broadbill Swordfish at night. The fishing was simply arm busting and seems from a different world. All anglers boated Yellow Tail King's of models bigger than 30kg and many monsters simply exposed weakness in gear, angling skill or just too big and angry to ever be stopped before the bricks. 99% of the King fish caught are sent back to fight another day.

A stand out of the trip was a monster Sea Bass of 74kg (weighed), jigged in 250m. At this depth we also caught huge Hapuka, Blue Nose and King fish. Unfortunately most fish cannot be revived after coming up from such depths and we only caught enough for the table before moving on to shallower water. Dropping 800 -1200 gram jigs into this abyss is definitely a gruelling task, but very rewarding.

The highlight of the trip hands down was the Broadbill Sword fish caught while drifting at night. This fish on 37kg stand-up tackle was an epic battle lasting almost 6 hours. For most of the fight the fish was never more than 30 meters from the boat. The angler would gain a meter and the fish would take it back, never wasting any unnecessary energy. These Sword fish are smart fighters and are in for the long run. Several times the leader was within half a meter of the deckies gloves. Going after broadbill at night is very hard work and can only be done by taking turns to guard the rod in the lonely hours of the night. It was a great team effort and we all felt privileged to be part of it.

We managed to catch Striped Marlin, Mahi Mahi, Yellow Fin Tuna, Skipjack Tuna and Albacore Tuna while trolling between spots.

It must be said that fishing the waters around the Three Kings is no walk in the park. The weather can change at any time, the days are long and the fishing hard and fast. You are be very tired at night and Broadbill fishing does not help your recovery.

## **The Tackle**

To sum it up, only take the very best gear. It is a long way from a tackle shop and could be a big downer on your trip to have cheap gear fail, not to mention, missing a photo with a true fish of a life time.

Jigging gear — There is much debate on which is better overhead or spin. Without getting into any detail about which is better, I can honestly say I like them both. You need gear with serious grunt as I recommend using nothing less 100lb braid and 150lb mono leader joined by a PR knot. Many people will say they have been to the Kings and caught plenty on lighter gear, but they never tell the stories of the monster fish still swimming around with jigs in their mouths! Trust me, go heavy. There are many types of good reels on the market, they must have a drag that can handle 17-18kg all day and the next. For



spinning setups do not bother with anything less than a Daiwa Saltiga or Shimano Stella. Too have a crack at the monsters in the deep, a minimum of 300m of line is needed as the bottom can be 250m plus.

I would personally not bother with jigs lighter than 500g for normal jigging and 800-1200g when dropping deep for bottom fish. Colour does not really matter. Kevlar assist cord is used to tie your 11/0 or 13/0 quality jigging hook. A 300lb split and solid rings, with a Jigstar Grommet is then joined to the leader with an AG Chain knot.







**Example of how hard these fish hit the jigs.**

### **Technique**

A search on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) will show you all about the jigging technique used at the Three Kings. The captain will tell you when to drop your jig and to what depth by giving you a number expressed in colours. It is therefore important to use colour metered braid. A call of "Six colours" would see the jig dropped to 60m. You should jig hard and fast, more action and effort expelled will see more fish your way. It is hard work that is for sure but nothing can describe the feeling of a big angry Kings striking your jig.

### **Broadbill Swordfish**

The area around the Three Kings is known for its Broadbill fishing and we spent two nights targeting these monsters around seamounts. During the first night we used Skipjack Tuna as bait and ended up hooking up four Mako sharks. This kept us all very busy during the course of the night with everybody very excited and hopeful with every take. During the second night, we changed tactics and put out fresh strip of King fish in order to imitate a Frost fish that Broadbill love to eat. We had to change bait a few times during the course of the nights due to hungry squid, but after putting out a fresh bait just after 0300, a feisty Broadbill pounced on the bait. Most of us heard the commotion outside, but thought that it was just another Mako and closed our very tired eyes again. Shortly thereafter, however, the fish leapt over the moon, leaving no doubt as to what was on the other end of the line.



Enchanter has caught many big Broadbill with a monster recently lost after battling it for 19 hours. The skipper estimated this fish to be in the region of 1000 pounds. I will rather not quote his explanation of how tough these fish are, but their never say die attitude became apparent during the long battle with the 'gladiator of the sea'. I have been on a boat with Marlin before, but can honestly say that a broadbill is much stronger and cunning. When the fish eventually landed on the deck, I felt as if I was looking at this alien creature from the deep. I always thought that it would be more like a marlin, but it looked and felt more like a shark with a very strange nose. It had the skin and tail of a shark and disproportionally huge eyes. Its bill was broad and smooth and not at all rough and raspy like a Marlin. Captain Lance confirmed my suspicions by explaining that a broadbill is indeed more like a shark and that it is very difficult to estimate a broadbill's weight by measurement.



### **Conclusion**

Trips to the Three Kings are booked long in advance and there is a waiting list for each trip. Visiting this almost ancient place with fellow jigging and fishing nuts is indeed a special experience. The fishery is just spectacular and is a must do experience for any keen fisho.





# THREE KINGS





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