

Reel Life

SCGFC CLUB MAGAZINE



FEBRUARY 2017

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Ray White

Brent Higgins
0414 775 133
brent.higgins@raywhite.com



Welcome to the new year and new Reel Talk! There has been a great bite and it's awesome to see so many new and old faces on the water. I'm sure all the fishing activity will be covered by the other reports and stories. Now that we have the Christmas party out of the way it is time to get back into the tournaments coming up.

SCGFC Classic
Briefing Thursday 30th March – 2nd April

Back to Tangas 9
3rd March – 5th March (SEQ Championship qualifier)

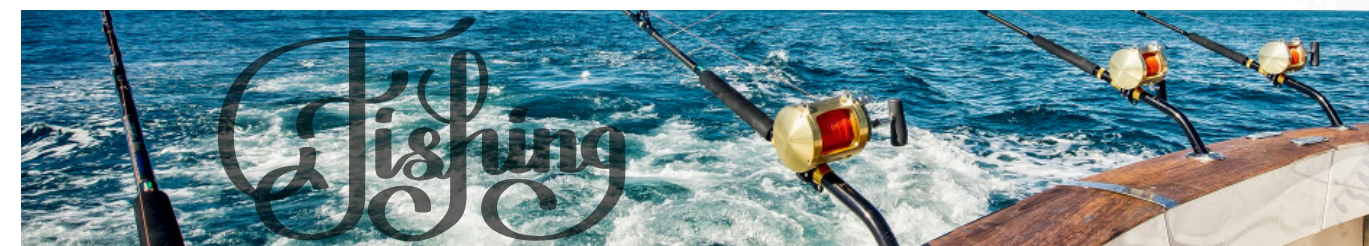
GCGFC Heavy Tackle
7th April – 9th April (SEQ Championship qualifier)

MGFC Billfish Bonanza
22nd April – 23rd April

We will be working on having another kids day towards May/June and will send out emails regarding that. Also would like to note that a fair percentage of the pics in this issue have been taken by David Granville Photography. He has allowed use of them for Reel Talk and we welcome him back as a sponsor of the club.

Thank you to Annie & Tim Massurit for putting together this edition of Reel Talk.

See you on the water,
Alanna Tuckwell



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Sunshine Coast Game Fishing Club Inc.
P.O. Box 998 Buddina Q 4575
www.scgfc.com.au

events

MARCH GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 7th March
@ Kawana Waters Hotel

BACK 2 TANGAS 9
Moreton Bay Game Fish Club Ltd
3rd to the 5th March 2017
mbgfc.com.au

SCGFC CLASSIC
30th March - 2nd April 2017
scgfc.com.au

GCGFC HEAVY TACKLE COMP
7th - 9th of April 2017
gcgfc.com.au

SCGFC FAMILY/KIDS DAY MAY/JUNE
Dates TBA

president's report



Happy New Year, does it get any better than the club tagging over 100 Black Marlin in January 17? Brent will advise the accurate number in this edition but the season is well and truly firing and he is under the pump with entering tag cards. I am sure Candice moved to the Sunshine Coast to chill out, not be the secretary to the Club Captain. Thanks for your effort team and thanks to all of you putting in the hours on the water.

Whist on the subject of the ladies, it is good to see the social aspect of the group humming along as well as our active fishing females gracing the leader board. There have been some exceptional results for the ladies from as far north as Cairns in the Ribbons Tournament right down to Hervey Bay. Add to this our juniors who are getting amongst it and the club has a very diverse range of fisherpeople.

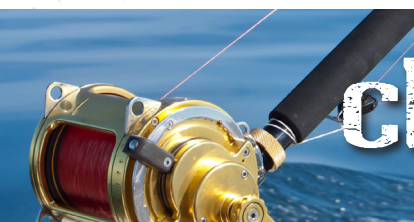
Unfortunately we did not get many boats down to the Redcliffe Australia Day Tournament for the second round of the SEQ Championships but were proudly represented by the team on Moose. The fishing boundary to the north was Point Cartwright and the bite was at the Hards so it was difficult to convince people to not fish up north. Fortunately the next round is the Back 2 Tanga's Tournament held at Tangalooma in March. Traditionally well supported y by SCGFC, I am sure we can have a good showing there.

I am genuinely overwhelmed by the amount of new faces I see at the meetings and new boats on the water. The camaraderie of the club is also excellent and the information sharing about the bite and what is going on has been fantastic. From seasoned veterans to people catching their first, it has been brilliant. Keep up the good work team, that's what makes a great club.

From a committee point of view, Ben Campbell has finished the pontoon so along with the dredging we now have a great, safe facility to do raft ups. We have also been working on the upcoming tournament, some day to day running items and generally making sure the club remains the fantastic place it is. As this is Barto's last year on the committee, as part of our succession plan, we need someone to assist him in organising and then running the March Tournament. This person will then go onto the committee for the next season and, with the committee's help, become the Tournament Director. It's not as daunting as it sounds, we just need someone in the role to make sure it all comes together. Please speak to myself or Barto if you are interested.





The business end of the season is fast approaching, the categories are wide open, the fish have turned up and records look set to get broken. Stay safe, play hard and remember you are part of the best game fishing club around – SCGFC.

Crossy.



club captain.

Well what a great first half of the year with over 130 Billfish tags in January alone, with 47 anglers and nearly 30 boats amongst the action. Our YTD total has raced to 325 Billfish:

	Black Marlin	236
	Blue Marlin	73
	Striped Marlin	12
	Sailfish	7

The membership is thriving on a mix of new energy, rapid skill development due to exposure to lots of fish and experience being passed down. The camaraderie and open communication between everyone to ensure we make the most of bites goes to show we work best as a team. It was fabulous to speak at the Feb meeting about kids as young as 7 through at the statesman Ed Martin at 92 tagging fish over January.

Our monthly winners were:

Ben Massurit – Jnr champion (**also overall**)

Jeff Oates – Senior champion (*welcome back Phil*)

Chaos – Over 7m

Never Home – Under 7m

The continued bite since Xmas has been just what we needed after a few hit and miss seasons. Hopefully now they have stuck around for 6 weeks we will have a prolonged season and see them in numbers for our Ben Campbell Building Group Classic in late March. It seems we are in the midst of one of the most competitive seasons in ages.

Other recent highlights include a solid round 1 and 2 effort for All Ports. We pulled together one of the larger fleets we have had and have tagged 5 Blues, 18 Blacks, 1 Yellow Fin and 3 Mahi Mahi.

Ben's pending record small fry record of 32.7kg on 6kg line is now with QGFA and GFAA. We hope it all goes well.

Mick Reed also enjoyed a recapture off Chaos, a Black Marlin tagged at Fraser Island and recaptured off Rainbow Beach after 141 days at liberty.

As we look toward March & April we can only hope for a jackpot of blues, blacks and potentially sailfish. With competition so tight in our Sunshine Coast Waters Zone we most likely will also see the season finish on a competitive note at Fraser Island in our Qld Waters Zone.

On a final note please keep the activity sheets and tags coming fully filled out, just a few tips:

- fill all the boxes in on activity sheet & tagcard
- If a special event write on activity sheet (*Rally Day, All Ports etc*)
- Write the Zone - Zone 1 under 80m, Zone 2 80-150m and Zone 3 150m+
- Please remember Zone 2 8kg = 800 points
- Refer to Club website for points & zones

On a final note IGFA rule changes are in play, two of interest include charges to backing and Angler assisting rules, have a look at these rules here:

<https://igfa.org/News/ruleschange2017>

Please note that these rules haven't been adopted by GFAA so continue to fish under our Australian Rules.

Thanks again for a great ride this year, I'm proud to Captain such a dedicated bunch of anglers of all ages and experience.



treasurer's report



As at 31st January 2017

Now that we are over the half way point in the year and with one Tournament down and one to go our finances are looking pretty solid with no notable exceptions during the year so far.

Summary of Transactions for 1st July 2016 through to 31st January 2017:

All Income	\$67,440
All Expenditure	\$61,901
Net Operating Profit	\$ 5,539

Financial Members:

Financial Members: 193

Bank Balances:

- Cheque Account: \$25,135
- Investment Account One: \$10,817.68 (Matures 06/03/17 @ 2.70%)
- Investment Account One: \$20,000.00 (Matures 08/04/17 @ 2.55%)

Total cash: \$55,952.68

Trade Debtors: Nil

Trade Creditors: Nil

Regards – **Craig McCulloch**



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SCGFC CLASSIC

**MARCH 30 -
APRIL 2, 2017**

Well, we are here again where the SCGFC Committee puts together in my opinion one of the best run comps around. We are fortunate enough now that the comps have stayed in the same format other than a change of fishing days so it really makes the organising relatively straight forward. In saying that the biggest job is firing everyone up to fish, the running around with sponsors to collect the prizes and co coordinating with the Kawana Hotel the running of the weekend. A massive shout out to all of our sponsors for their association with the SCGFC and with them all involved we have some cracker prizes for categories along with last man standing for both senior anglers and for a separate junior last man standing as well. The last number of comps have been contested well and with such a competitive bunch the Calcutta can get to a total of easily over \$10,000 so the champ boat has often walked away with a \$4000 chq just from that. Along with over \$3,000 in category cash prizes, Shimano 50's, Tiagra 16's and Tynos 20's galore, winners are certainly

going to be grinning after a long weekend. The Last Man Standing will have a top prize from Garmin followed by an ARB Fridge Freeze Pakula lure rolls, Evakool eskis and the list will go on & on. The Junior last man will be smaller but all the entrants will be in it whether they catch something or not. Brisbane Marine have donated a boat & engine package and this will be the main prize in the last man standing and Moreton Island Fishing Charters have donated a charter for an adult & junior as the category prize. With the way the juniors are going this year it will be very competitive to the end. We have some great looking shirts done up by Switchbait & skippers bags donated by Penrite so there is something for everyone in this great event. I would imagine over \$10,000 in cash and well over \$10,000 in product prizes available to win so get your crews together and put the weekend aside. The more the merrier as the raft up is a one of a kind and often some fun is had by all.

– **Barto**



**PROUD SUPPORTER OF
THE SUNSHINE COASTS
GAME FISHING CLUB**



WITH **STUART MACKENZIE**

“Straight or Bent butts” it’s an interesting conversation who doesn’t like to talk about butts! Of course, these conversations are very limited to the butt only. Very little thought or consideration goes into the environment they will be used in such as the boat, sea conditions, harness style, fishing style, size of the angler, ability of angler, species, size of fish, depth of water, type of reel, max drag, in board or outboards, action of rod, power of the rod. If we covered all those topics for either bent or straight butts, this article would exceed the epic novel of “War and Peace” which from memory is over 800 pages.

The focus of these articles/discussions is nearly always centred on one point and that’s “leverage.” Almost every game fisherman knows a bent butt offers a leverage advantage over any straight butt, however there is simply way too much emphasis placed on that one point. Aftco advertise their bent butt as having a 30% leverage increase. Now that figure will vary somewhat dependant on blanks action and power and the length of the rod. Even if the butt offered a 15% increase, that’s still very significant and I don’t know too many anglers that would knock that back. If all fish fought exactly the same we wouldn’t need so many rod styles, butt lengths and configurations.

One can be forgiven for forgetting there is more than just a bent butt on the market when it comes to heavier game rods. Yet when an angler purchases a new 24 kg or 37 kg rod they automatically reach for the rod with the bent butt. Aftco make straight butts in two different lengths which serve a very important role, short and long. The short is ok for rods up to around 15 kg providing you don’t use a black magic harness system. Short straight butts won’t work very well with a gimble bucket worn low as many fisherman do. Now this isn’t a Black Magic issue, it applies to any harness worn below the family jewels.

Most of the game rods I see for sale on the shelf have been designed and built using detachable straight butts. I have seen way too many of these butts on 15 and 24kg rods where the angler is literally battling to wind while trying to keep the outfit stable because the reel is too low.

The lower the reel the lower the centre of gravity, which means the outfit becomes more unstable and makes winding difficult. Short straight butts also make the simple task of pumping and winding that much harder because the reel will hit your gut much sooner than if the angler had used a longer butt, simple physics.

Unfortunately, some of these anglers may not realise the errors of their ways until they are hooked up to a good fish. It then becomes clear the butt is simply too short the reel too low. Long straight butts suite any bucket worn low such as Aftco, Black magic or Braid far better, plus it will lift the reel higher where the angler can actually wind and adjust the drag without much fuss. It will also enable the angler to get over the reel so he or she can wind faster while increasing stability.



It’s very much a case of choose your tool wisely. A single 10 mm spanner won’t fit every nut or bolt on a car so don’t expect one single butt configuration or length to work effectively on every type of gamefish. For every game rod, I own, I have a bent and a straight butt to go with it. That’s the beauty of having detachable butts as opposed to a straight through style of rod where the blank goes through the reel seat, rear grip and ends inside the gimble. In that situation, you are stuck with what you have, unless you pay someone a small fortune to cut and butcher the rod so they can fit a detachable butt.

Every species has its own unique fighting behaviours. Tuna like to battle it out straight up and down, so in this situation, a bent butt is nearly mandatory if you cherish your spine. You can drive away from Tuna however they inevitably find their way directly below you in no time. Black marlin are another unpredictable fish, they sometimes fight it out on or near the surface, yet the very next black can go straight down deep and stay there.

In my opinion it’s a bit hard to say with any level of certainty dependant on the size of the black that you should go bent or straight butt. However, if the Blacks your chasing will exceed 120kg, then I would hedge my bets and go with a bent butt. Blue marlin are another fish which can spend a lot of its time high in the water Column once hooked, however, if you don’t have the drag set correctly and the skipper takes too long getting onto the fish they will dive for the deep end of the pool and stay there. If you have a skipper that can get back on the fish fast, then a straight butt will be a much better option along with being more user friendly than a bent butt ever will. In the case where the skipper can get on top of the fish fast, a bent butt will actually become a hindrance by not allowing the angler to get into a position where by they can wind faster to keep up with the boat. In this situation, you won’t wind anywhere near as fast as you could be using a straight butt while maintaining a good tight angle from the tip to the fish.

Strip Marlin is a fish that will spend most of their time on or near the surface and as such, you don’t need a bent butt to fight them. In fact, most of the stand-up rods I send to Port Stephens have long straight butts fitted for this very reason. Those who have thought it better to use bent butts for Stripe Marlin nearly always regret it, and as such, request a straight butt. A straight butt will enable the angler to maintain better line angles, better control over the fish, change angles of the rod much faster and with no hassle, move around the deck faster and with no hindrance and retrieve line faster.

You need a specific style to keep the butts working at optimum performance. Straight butts are much more user friendly as well as forgiving, however, they both do very different jobs. Just on a side note, doing battle with any good size fish using your bent butt does require attention at all times, particularly in rougher conditions. If you have a brain fart for one second it can cause the angler to lose balance and go arse over tit, or worse still, go finding nemo, I have seen this happen. I have also

seen so many accidents where bent butts were being used, the boat lists to one side and the angler hasn’t braced himself, then I’m reaching for his legs as I see nothing but the souls of his feet going over the side. In this situation, you can drown very fast. With an outfit that weighs around 7 kg that’s strapped to your waist, a fish going berserk pulling around 13 kg or more of drag, and a panicked angler holding his breath the best he can.

A straight butt will allow the angler to stand up in a more upright position which will enhance his/her ability to wind faster. This will also give the angler better balance and a far more stable outfit which again aids in the angler’s ability to wind ever faster.

Bent butts take a bit of getting used to, it’s not something I recommend where newbies who haven’t used them before go straight out and hook into a big fish. I always recommend people practice behind an idling boat with a bucket attached to the leader. This is best done at sea rather in some protected waterway, rough water is real fishing conditions you will encounter at sea, so best you get used to it that way. There is no substitute for getting the feel of how a bent butt reacts to certain angles and pressures; plus, it allows the angler to work out the best position for him/her. There is very little room for error when it comes to bent butts.

I feel it’s important to touch on the brand I have mentioned several times in this article. Aftco is one of the best and most respected brands on the market, and this is by no means cash or favours for comment. Aftco stands alone when it comes to longevity, strength and reliability.



TACKLE TALK

WITH **STUART MACKENZIE**

I have tried many brands of detachable butts over the years and not one has stood up to the high load demands placed on them. When people buy a new rod, there isn't really much thought towards what brand of butt is fitted to the rod.

Aftco butts are swaged by using two massive dies that come together around the raw alloy stock and then as the alloy rotates, it undergoes thousands of impacts per minute compressing the alloy into its form. It's this process that makes Aftco alloy butts so incredibly strong and almost corrosion resistant. It's the same technology used to manufacture aluminium baseball bats so it's a no nonsense process. You may not have noticed when looking at an Aftco butt, but the black anodising is almost a blue-black colour, not a bright or deep black lustre. This is due to the manufacturing process. The alloy is so dense that the anodising cant penetrates as deep into the alloy, so you're left with a dull blue black colour. Cheaper brands "Copies" have a much brighter and deeper black; this is due to the alloy being less dense. When you consider just how much pressure is applied to the one point where the collet stops inside the butt, it boggles the mind just how these butts don't bend, but we can be thankful for the process in which they are made.

I won't name and shame here, but there are so many brands on the market that it's hard to keep up with. However, they all have one thing in common, they don't use the same manufacturing process as Aftco use. Some are cast while others are simply machined to shape.

I have built many stand up 130 lb game rods for the guys fishing for the Atlantic Bluefin tuna. These boys do not

mess around with these 1000 lb + Tuna. Drags on these rods will not go below 35 kg and will hover around 40-45 kg mark. When you consider the length of the rod from tip to collet nut is around 3 ft. that equates to around 130 kg of pressure on one very small area measuring just 71mm long.



On the end of the 130lb stand up precision rod is an angry 995lb Bluefin Tuna out of Nova Scotia.

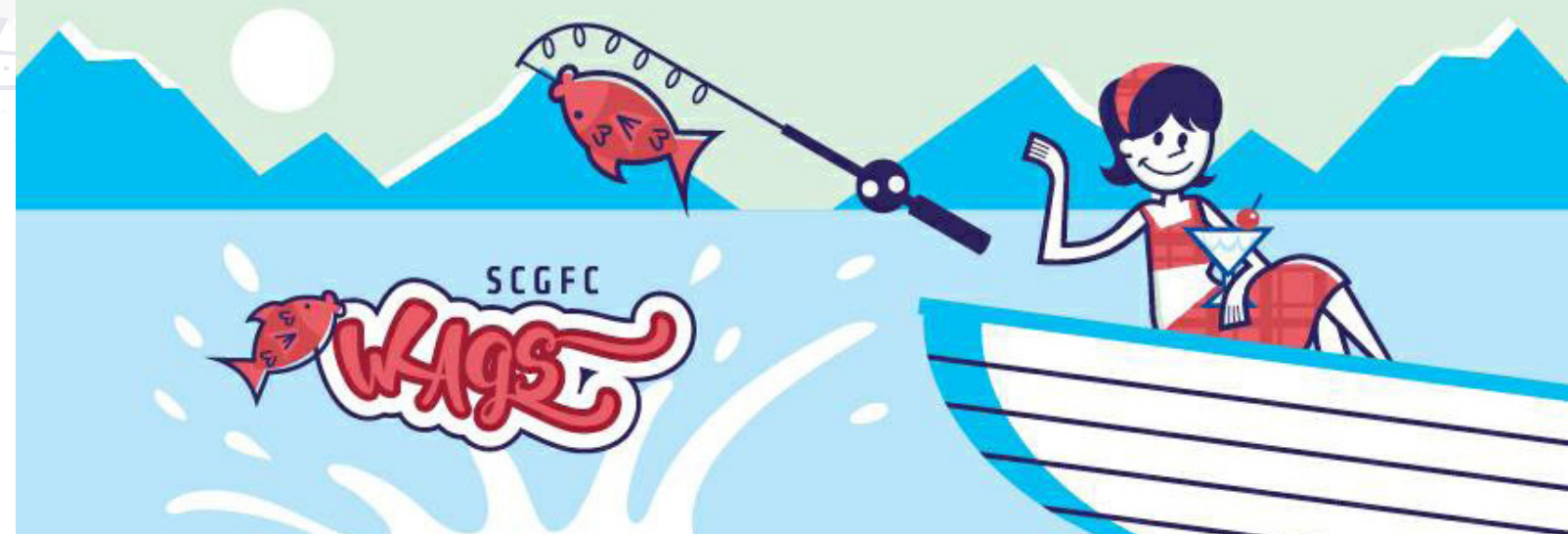
Consensus amongst many anglers is that all heavy tackle rod should come standard with a bent butt, however as we discussed above, it's simply not the case. Both straight and bent have a place in your angling box of tricks. If one style of butt would cover every fishing style not to mention species, then we should only require one size and style of fishing hook, but we don't. We use many styles and sizes of hooks to match the fish we are targeting.

Stuart Mackenzie – Precision Rods

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SCGFC WAGS is a newly formed group within the Club for all the wives and girlfriends. By organising get togethers throughout the year our aim is to build up a camaraderie amongst the ladies of the club.

No fishing knowledge required! About the only interaction with fish at a WAGS function will be if you order it in a restaurant. We like wine, cocktails too, and always love a great laugh.

There are already a number of events planned for 2017. We have tried to cater for all tastes when planning the events. Most are at times suitable for working WAGS and when fishing tournaments are on we made the event child friendly (such as a late catchup/nibbles/drinks on the beach so as the kids can come and have fun

together). There are a couple of special events at Spirit House Cooking School and Ikatan Day Spa as well. If you would like to find out more, please visit our Facebook group – "SCGFC WAGS events and planning" and you will see the complete listing. As we move throughout the year other events pop up along the way as ladies make suggestions or we discover something that we all would like to do so keep an eye on group page.

Our inaugural event just occurred a couple of weeks ago – a lunch at Alfie's in Caloundra. Nine ladies attended, a few too many cocktails were consumed, and it was a great way to kick off some lovely friendships.

We hope you will join our group and come to as many events as you can.



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At 4.30am on Wednesday 11 January 2017 Ben was woken up to go down the boat and head out for a fish. After sleeping most of the way out Tim asked Ben do you want to fish for a record or for points. Ben said he wanted points and he would rather let the fish go. In hindsight, he achieved both.

They were using skip gars with 6kg line. It was all pretty quiet and Tim wasn't seeing much out there in terms of bait, birds or other boats. Ben told him he needs to go to Specsavers because Ben could see Jay on the horizon a few miles away. Knowing Jay got fish the day before they headed in that direction. Nothing was happening bite wise until about mid-morning when at 10.30am there was a pack attack. A fish was hooked. The fish immediately went deep as they were fishing in 110 metres of water and after 15 minutes of fight the marlin finally popped, danced and it was game on!

Ben fought the fish for 1.02 minutes and it took them on a 2 nautical mile trip in total. It was hard work for the little man and he needed lots of encouragement from Tim to keep going and to keep checking his form in terms of not touching the side of the boat. He didn't want to wear the Black Magic harness as he finds them too bulky – he made do with a Daiwa bucket. Cool water was constantly



being poured over Ben's head as he was in for a long fight for a 10 year old and did suffer some exhaustion sickness but got his act together quickly to keep fighting (after much encouragement/yelling from his Dad).

The fish was tagged and it unfortunately was in very poor condition. After several attempts to revive the Marlin the decision was made to bring it in for weighing and phone calls were made to Rob and Brent.

Ben's exhaustion was soon overtaken by the excitement of realising what he had just achieved. It was his first black marlin after a long time of trying.

Thanks to Rob and Brent who interrupted their day and came down to weigh and witness the catch.

The catch is pending an Australian and Queensland record for a Small Fry.

The fish was donated to scientific research and the decision has now been made to switch back to 8kg!

Proud mum - Annie M.

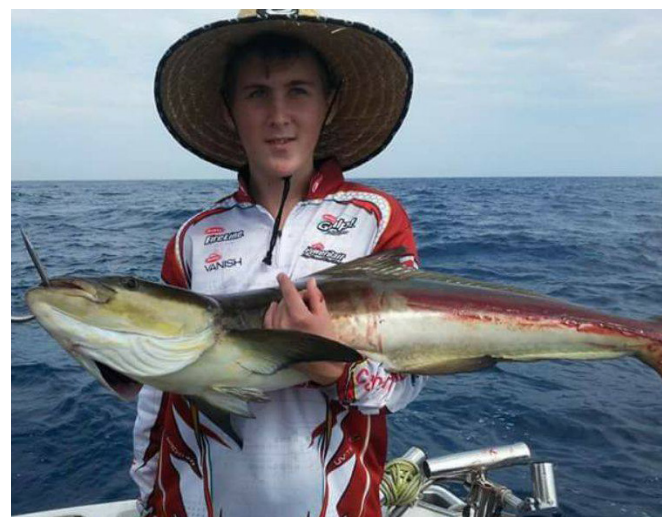


CHARTER REPORT

- By Robert Smith

Well what a funny old summer it has been so far. The spotty mackerel took until the third week of January to show. The pros have only been getting one to two Spanish mackerel a trip other than one catch of eleven I heard about and then we have had the epic black marlin bite east of the Little Ships grounds. Not very many gamefish on the usual 8-10-12-18 mile grounds. At times the bait has been there along with dolphin and bird activity, just not many fish. It was good to see a few getting caught in the Redcliffe comp in 60-90m at Wide Caloundra. That is a bit closer run than Little Ships.

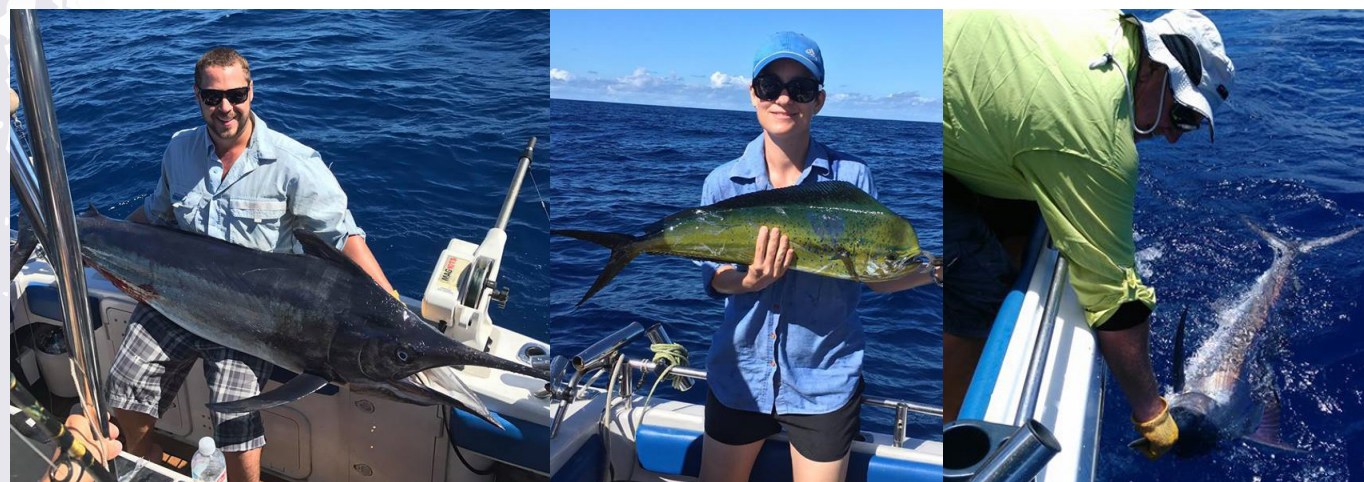
Now to the future, in between low pressure systems the next few months the fishing should be good if we don't get a major flood event. The Spanish mackerel should thicken up February to May. I also look forward to the return run of big fat spotties that have been feeding on the slimey mackerel down in NSW for a few months. It will be interesting to see if we get a run of marlin on the west side of Little Ships back to the Hards. That is traditionally a February to March bite if it happens or has it happened and all the January fish were our normal Hards fish? The blues are good from now until August. Our traditional SCGFC Classic date of the first weekend of February usually saw the start of the blues. Reef fishing wise I don't get excited until about May when the current starts to slow. Grass emperor should start biting in an around the mackerel reefs, picking up the scraps from above or on the bait grounds. Out on the Barwon Banks, tuskfish and hussar etc are my standbys. Red throat emperor bite better out there in summer but you have to get through a lot of little ones to get to the 38cm+ models but the odd cracker is out there.



We have had a good run of weather through January and it has been unusual to see northerlies going past November/December. We must be way overdue for a big cyclone. The water temps have been 27+ degrees and on the hot days, the surface temps have been heating up to 29+ degrees. It is extremely dry right on the Sunny Coast but other areas seem to be getting more rain than us.

On a personal note, thank you to anyone who contributed to the Go Fund Me campaign for our family or who assisted or sent messages of support whilst we were in hospital in Brisbane. Joel is back to 95% if I had to rate him and is back to daycare twice a week and swimming lessons like he never missed a single one. It is a 1:1,000,000 thing he has and there is not much we can do for the time being but monitor it but the prognosis is good for the future.

Smithy - Out!



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



A great afternoon/night was had by all with well over 50 mums, dads & kids were there. Sadly this was the last time we will be having a function at Topshots as Bev and Barry have sold the funpark. We, and surely a lot of other coasties, will miss this iconic attraction which has been run by Higgins family for 17 years. We have been lucky to have Bev and Barry as members in our Club for over 20 years (and Brent). They are truly some of the nicest people you will ever meet and we look forward to many more years with them in our company at the club. Also, a big mention to Grant Prince who supplied the food and soft drinks for the night, a very generous offer and I'm sure all ate well. Thanks everyone for coming along, as again it shows such a strong spirit in the SCGFC.



FRASER ISLAND BLACK MARLIN

on Finatic

I rode home from school with a fast pace fed by the fact that I would be going up to Fraser Island that night. I arrived home and Brett was already waiting with his bags packed, car ready and as excited as I was. I had a quick shower, made sure I had my GoPro and then we started the three hour drive.

After the drive we arrived at the marina and put our stuff on the boat. We met our skipper Brendan Van Ras, got some food and left the marina for the 3 hour steam to Rooney point where we would be sleeping for the 3 nights following.

The next day we woke up, ate breakfast and went straight out to the light tackle grounds and put the lines in and it started for real. We didn't see anything until early that afternoon, we had a Cobia come up and have a bite, it didn't come back and we didn't see it again. About 20 minutes later a rod started screaming and I jumped out of my chair quicker than any other time. We didn't know what we had on until it started jumping 20 meters behind the boat, it was a Mahi-Mahi. After fighting it for a bit more it was gaffed and filleted in the back of the boat. We trolled around for the rest of the day but nothing else happened so we went back to Rooneys.

The next day we woke up, got dressed and had breakfast, the same as yesterday morning. But instead of going straight out the light tackle grounds we put only two lines in, no teasers or riggers and within 5 minutes we had a fish. We didn't know what it was because it didn't jump and the fight was coming to an end, then it came up and jumped, sure enough it was a 10kg Black Marlin, my first billfish. I'd seen them caught but never been hooked onto

one so when it was jumping I paused and took it in for a second. We tagged it, bought it onboard to get a picture and then released it in a healthy condition. After this catch we stayed in Rooneys to try and get some more, we didn't get anything. So we headed out to the grounds and not long after we had hooked up another Black Marlin, this time it jumped straight away. We landed it with a tag in and in a healthy condition again. Next fish was John's, a photographer who came on board from Pole Dancer that morning. Not long after the second fish we had another rod go off, we cleared the deck and John successfully caught, tagged and released his first Black Marlin as well in a great condition. We fished the rest of the day without any more action but we went back to Rooneys with 3 filled in tag cards and a happy crew.

The next day was unfortunately our last day, we fished Rooneys in the morning with an extra crew member, Hardus from Elysium, we didn't get any fish and then we trolled the whole way back also without any fish. After we had rafted up we got all of our stuff off the boat and washed it down thoroughly. Brett and I pack up the car and said goodbye to the Finatic and Pole Dancer crew and then made our way home, the whole time we spoke of our trip and the experience.

Thanks to Brendon, John and Brett for the trip to Fraser and getting my first billfish with me, I will not forget the trip and the fish that I caught. AND because of the trip I won Champion Junior Angler GFAA for October 2016.

Thanks – **Ben Barton**



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SCGFC CLASSIC

MARCH 30 - APRIL 2, 2017



SUNSHINE COAST GAME FISHING CLUB CLUB BOATS

For the next few issues we will run a few pages on the boats that make up this great club. So you know who is who when you see them on the road, ramp and water. These are the boats behind the names talking on the radio all day...
and there is only one boat that we can start with!



Capricorn

Owner: Robert Smith
Sth Qld Charter Services.

Build: Reelax Enterprises, 2003.
Built as a demo boat doing the boat show circuit and plug for future production models.

Power: 1 x 2003 model 240hp
Yanmar 4 cylinder turbo diesel

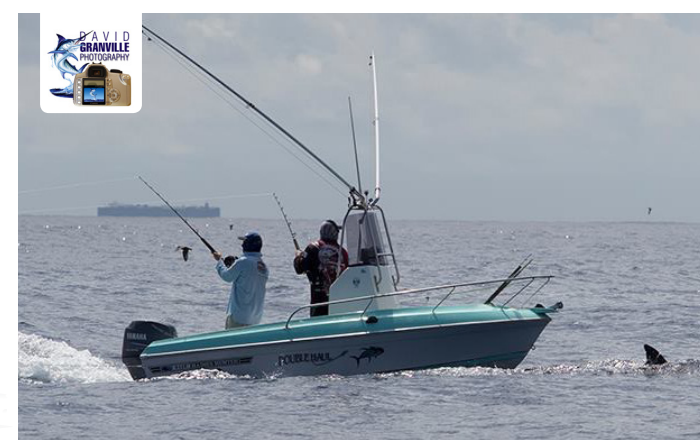


Chaos

Owner: Jay Graham

Build: 36 foot Topaz Express.

Power: Twin Caterpillar 3126 385hp per side.



Double Haul

Owner: Dave Lamree

Build: Haines Hunter 445

Power: 60hp Yamaha 4 stroke

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CLUB BOATS



Finatic

Owner: Brendan Van Ras
Build: Bertram 35
Power: Twin Cummins 6BTA - 315HP



Oatie

Owner: William Martin
Build: Sport Fish 6.2m centre cab
Power: Suzuki 140



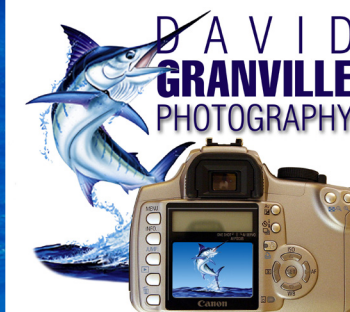
My Affair

Owner: Fadil Fejzic
Build: Cruise Craft Outsider 625
Power: Evenrude Etec



Never Home

Owner: Alex Fenwick
Build: Cruise Craft 575
Power: 150hp Yamaha



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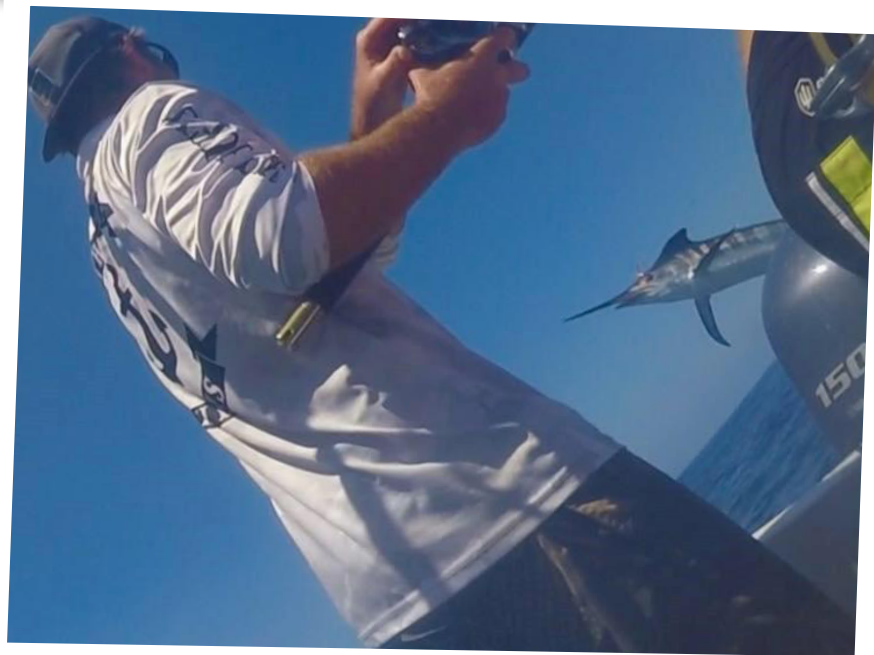
*Well Tim and Ben have been at it again!
While putting the finishing touches on this
mag I received news that the boys were
bringing in another Black Marlin to be
weighed for a potential Queensland
Small Fry record on 8kg.*

*37.20kg was the weight they had to top.
Tim was confident that they had it covered...*

62.90kg!



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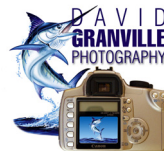
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