

# JANUARY 2008



There's a lack of Billfish, but there are still other the pelagics to challenge us, like this whopper wahoo of Nathan's estimated at 30 kg plus

On the web... [www.mgfc.com.au](http://www.mgfc.com.au)

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Monthly meetings are held at the Mooloolaba yacht club on the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise notified.

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## FROM THE EDITORS DESK



**LOST:** Billfish of any description. Please report any sightings to club members via message board.

The picture says it all. At the time of writing, only 1 black marlin for the club caught in our waters. Well done to Kelly Jensen for that black, estimated at 80kg plus on 8 kg line, would have been an Australian ladies record had it been weighed.

There has been some billfish action up North as Ian Walkers' report (p.13) describes. With our Bonanza a couple of months away, lets hope blue marlin don't desert us.

Note photo on last page; Club flags available. Order now ready for the Billfish Bonanza.

### **And By The Way**

#### **THE JOY OF AGEING**

- Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?" "98," she replied. "Two years older than me." "So you're 96," the undertaker commented. She responded, "Hardly worth going home, is it?"
- Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure."
- I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes; I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends but, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

- I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. By the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.
- An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her preacher she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Coles. "Coles?" the preacher exclaimed. "Why Coles?" "Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week"
- The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs.
- My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.
- It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffeemaker.
- These days about half the stuff in my shopping trolley says, "For fast relief."
- THE SENILITY PRAYER : Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.
- Now, I think you're supposed to share this with 5 or 6, maybe 10 others. Oh heck, give it to a bunch of your friends if you can remember who they are! Or don't send it on at all as they probably can't read it anyway. Oh and I've just found an Easter Egg!!!!

## CLUB CAPTAINS REPORT:

Merry Christmas everyone! I hope your stockings were full of fishing gear and you have been putting it to good use.

Over the last couple of reports I have whinged about the lack of fish and the poor sea surface temperate, however on average both are increasing. The boats that actively fish our waters are starting to be rewarded with better waves of pelagic fish. As a result building their knowledge of the waters and how best to work them in scarce conditions. This has proven to be fairly beneficial when it comes to tournament time and just finding fish when all others cant. But the reality is unless you are extremely lucky and stumble across 'good water' those that fish regularly or semi regularly will out fish you time and time again. Our club boat "Animal" has been given a new lease of life with a fresh lick of paint (that looks stunning I might add) and various other tweaks. They must have also rejuvenated their love for fishing because they have been out on the water more regularly than most and have been rewarded with some great fish and numbers of fish considering what's been out there in recent times. This is just the sort of thing I was talking about getting out there reading the conditions and building another database of information for the 07-08 season and Steve Jensen does this very well. "Going Off" skippered by Geoff Harris is getting amongst things as well with some great captured fish and raising billfish. He is another that reads the conditions well and searches for water and fish – not just marks on a GPS. I would like to add a few more names to this list but I haven't seen to many activity sheets and tag cards so I am guessing not to many are venturing out maybe due to bad weather maybe due to lack of interest.

On a pleasing note Kellie Jensen tagged the first billfish in our waters an estimated 80kg Black Marlin on 8kg during the month not a bad effort, that's a 10:1 capture rate which is very good going especially on light line. If that doesn't excite you, may be you are dead or you could be looking for a feed and there has been a few good table fish captured over the past month. Here is a list to prove there are fish out there at the moment and consider 100% of these have been caught in the last 2 weeks of December from 3 boats you might want to have a go yourself.

Species tagged and captured this season by MGFC members are as follows: Mac Tuna 3, Wahoo 4, Black Marlin 4, Striped Tuna 1, Dolphin Fish 14, Yellowfin Tuna 6, Cobia 9, Snapper 5, Samson fish 1, Spanish Mackerel 1, Shark Mackerel 1, Snapper 6, Flathead 27, Estuary Cod 1, Grunter 2, Mangrove Jack 1 and Yellowfin Bream 12.

With half the season gone and the heavy tackle action looming let me tell you this season will be closer than any other I have been involved with for over 10 years. Looking forward to seeing you all out on the water as the fishing heats up, have a good one and catch plenty.

Nathan



There is still some good fishing about in the estuaries and dams;  
Dan Edwards with a nice Estuary Cod

## Progressive Point Scores: Anglers

| ANGLER               | GAME    | BRE    | FRESH  | TOTAL   | OUT AREA | HEAVY TACKLE |
|----------------------|---------|--------|--------|---------|----------|--------------|
| Nathan Douglass      | 578.43  | 275.48 | 174.00 | 1027.91 |          |              |
| Mark Jensen          | 1003.75 |        |        | 1003.75 |          |              |
| Frank Jensen         | 671.87  |        |        | 671.87  |          |              |
| Steve Jensen         |         | 507.00 |        | 507.00  |          |              |
| Kellie Jensen        | 300.00  | 30     |        | 330.00  |          |              |
| Dan Edwards          |         | 168.16 |        | 168.16  |          |              |
| Sue Douglass         | 100.00  |        |        | 100.00  | 750.00   | 850          |
| Dan Walker           | 50.00   |        |        | 50.00   | 750.00   | 750          |
| Michael Jongejan     |         | 36.66  |        | 36.66   |          |              |
| Barry Breddin        |         | 16.88  |        | 16.88   |          |              |
| Jacqueline Longhurst |         | 14.80  |        | 14.80   |          |              |
| Rene Walker          |         |        |        |         | 300.00   | 300          |

## Progressive Point Scores: Boats

| BOAT        | SIZE    | SKIPPER         | POINTS  | HEAVY TACKLE | OUT OF AREA |
|-------------|---------|-----------------|---------|--------------|-------------|
| Animal      | Over 7  | Steve Jensen    | 2144.37 |              |             |
| Luna        | Over 7  | Wayne Douglass  | 728.43  | 100          |             |
| Tinny       | Under 7 | Nathan Douglass | 564.94  |              |             |
| Baby Animal | Under 7 | Steve Jensen    | 92      |              |             |
| Phantom     | Over 7  | Ian Walker      |         |              | 1800        |

### Angler of the month winners:

November: Sue Douglass

December: Mark Jensen 8



# Mooloolaba Billfish Bash and Australian International Billfish Tournament Report.

A total of 29 boats arrived at Mooloolaba Yacht Club with high hopes of becoming the 2007 duel Billfish Bash and AIBT champion. After a traditional briefing and Calcutta spirits were high both emotionally and in Dougie's glass, as a successful first night came to a end EVENTUALLY.

Over 25 knots of easterly greeted the fleet as we cleared the harbour for a 10 knot 2 hour plus trip to the grounds with even the big boats down to trolling speed in the horrible weather. Fishing reports leading up to the tournament were poor all the way up the coast and with cold water of around 23 degrees pouring into Mooloolaba it would always be a struggle to find the fish. Over at the Banks ANIMAL had a double hook up on Dolly's followed by another soon after which had us believing we had come to the right spot. The day went VERY slowly for all boats with another couple of Dolly's caught, 1 for Hard'nUp and 1 for Splinter making it probably the worst fishing day in BILLFISH BASH history. Day one closed with ANIMAL leading over Hard n Up and Splinter with no Billfish caught.

After crews getting flogged all day in the horror conditions a barbeque and a few drinks was all that was needed to rock everyone to sleep, a new plan on day two. Day two dawned rough again and after the poor showing on the light tackle grounds the day before some boats braved the conditions and ran to the heavy tackle grounds where they felt was their best chances of finding a Billy. Water temperature had not changed and in some areas had actually gone down. Some boats ventured over the Barwons looking for warmer water all to no avail. On the good ship ANIMAL the crew were in two minds one was the possibility of winning the BASH section of the Tournament with "two Dolly's" and secondly how ordinary that would have been. After lunch Russell Fairy caught another Dolly which put him and the boat Hard'nUp in first place. Then news over the radio of a hookup and successful tagging of a BLUE by Reelax in rough conditions and in appeared the Tournaments was theirs. Soon to follow with a Sailfish on light tackle was Connor Lynch on Triton 4 and on count back they would have runner up and under 7 mtr in the bag. BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE.

Reelax upon re-checking their gear found leaders over length and in a show of great sportsmanship disqualified themselves before tying up. Although the fishing was poor "to say the least" it was a great tournament and a credit to the committee under trying circumstances with lots of phone calls after, thanking the club for a great time.

**Tournament Results:**

|  | <b>Anglers Name</b> | <b>Boat</b> | <b>Club</b> | <b>Points</b> |
|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|

**Champion Angler**

- |    |                |            |       |     |
|----|----------------|------------|-------|-----|
| 1. | Connor Lynch   | Triton 4   | SCGFC | 750 |
| 2. | Russell Fairey | Hard 'n Up | BIGFC | 150 |

**Champion Male**

- |    |                |            |       |     |
|----|----------------|------------|-------|-----|
| 1. | Connor Lynch   | Triton 4   | SCGFC | 750 |
| 2. | Russell Fairey | Hard 'n Up | BIGFC | 150 |

**Champion Female**

- |    |              |        |      |     |
|----|--------------|--------|------|-----|
| 1. | Kelly Jensen | Animal | MGFC | 100 |
|----|--------------|--------|------|-----|

|  | <b>Boat</b> | <b>Club</b> | <b>Points</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|---------------|
|--|-------------|-------------|---------------|

**Champion Boat Over 7 metres**

- |    |            |       |        |
|----|------------|-------|--------|
| 1. | Triton IV  | SCGFC | 750    |
| 2. | Hard n' Up | BIGFC | 256.25 |

**Champion Boat Over 7 metres**

- |    |            |       |        |
|----|------------|-------|--------|
| 1. | Hard n' Up | BIGFC | 256.25 |
| 2. | Animal     | MGFC  | 206.25 |

**Champion Boat Under 7 metres**

- |    |           |       |     |
|----|-----------|-------|-----|
| 1. | Triton IV | SCGFC | 750 |
|----|-----------|-------|-----|

**Strikes, Hook-Ups, Tags & Captures**

Strikes: 47      Hook-Ups: 39      Tags: 3      Captures: 9

**Fish Species**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Mahi Mahi    | 9 |
| Striped Tuna | 1 |
| Sailfish     | 1 |
| Blue Marlin  | 1 |

## RECIPES FOR LONG LOST FISH

### Moroccan Baked Mahi Mahi with Roast Vegetable Salad

#### Fish

4 large fillets of Mahi Mahi

1 tub of char-grilled eggplant dip.

100gm semi sun-dried tomatoes chopped

1 bottle Moroccan seasoning

1 bottle Dukkah mix

Plain flour seasoned with salt & pepper.

2 cups of Turkish bread crumbs

Lemon zest

Melted butter

- Dust fillets in Moroccan seasoning and flour
  - Cook fish on 1 side only.
  - Mix bread crumbs, Dukkah, lemon zest with melted butter until moist.
- Continued over page



- Spread onto uncooked side of fish with eggplant dip, and top with semi sun dried tomatoes.
- Press crumbs on to fillet.
- Bake in hot oven (220<sup>0</sup>C) until brown. Test fish to flake.

### **Roast Vegetable Salad**

½ small pumpkin

1 large sweet potato

2 red onions

1 zucchini

1 red pepper

1 punnet cherry tomatoes

1 small eggplant

6 garlic cloves

1 small punnet button mushrooms

1 bunch of broccolini

1 bunch of mint

1 bag rocket spinach

- Roughly chop Potato, pumpkin, red pepper, zucchini, eggplant & Onion.
- Add to baking dish with Olive Oil and garlic
- Roast until just tender
- Wok toss or pan fry cherry tomatoes, mushrooms and Broccolini.
- Toss in roast vegetables & keep warm.

### **To Serve**

- Toss roast vegetables with rocket and spinach.
- Drizzle with dressing of choice
- Top with torn mint leaves.
- Place baked fillet on warm plate and salad on side dish.
- Finish with lemon garnish

## PHANTOM ON THE HIGH SEAS Mark two

As many of you will know Rene, myself and the Phantom are finally back home, arriving at Mooloolaba lunchtime Friday in time for our Billfish Bash Tournament.

So to follow on from our previous tails we had about a 10 day break while waiting for our next charter so our daughter Jess flew up with the plan being to head off to the reefs for some R & R and the chance of a big black for her. Unfortunately the weather went foul so she didn't get to go out. This corresponded with the week of the Lizard island Tournament which featured some really bad weather with very few fish. I think the winning boat had 9 fish from 5 days fishing, not a patch on the normal result.

A couple of days after the Lizard Island comp. Daniel arrived to run the back deck, we had 2 days to take the boat up to Cooktown for the next charter and the weather went from bad to perfect, how good was that. We set off and went to work catching baits then had a fish at Linden Banks and Opal Reef. I told Daniel and Rene to pull in the baits and I watched as Daniel had the big skipping Scaly in to about 6 or 7 meters from the boat while Rene started to bring in the swimming scad.



While waiting for Rene to catch up Daniel started mucking around with the scaly, pulling it to see if it would swim. Suddenly a 450 pound Black came shooting out from under the boat and flashed past the bait scaring the heck out of all of us (see pic previous page). Immediately I put the boat into gear and Daniel dropped the scaly back and in came the lit up black to nail the bait. Unfortunately it didn't hook up but the sight of that fish flashing out from under Phantom will stay with me always.

We spent the night behind Ribbon Reef 5, had a great night then ducked back out between RR 4 and 5 early for a continued fish. This time we raised another 450 pound fish and it hooked up perfectly for Daniel to catch and release his first Barrier Reef Black before 11.00 am in the morning.

It was a relief for us as we where fishing circle hooks on baits for the first time and after not hooking up several times where becoming rather worried, this proved our technique to be sound. We then pulled the pin to run into Cooktown to fuel, re-provision and pick up our charter group, Johnos mob.

We set off with the four charterers early the next morning bait fishing our way out to Ribbon Reef 5. Once there we set up for Marlin and raised two and hooked and tagged one for "Deano" who had been partying the night before and was rather the worse for wear let alone having to fight a 400 pound fish. Interesting to note, Deano had a bet with his mates that if he caught a Black he would have a picture of it tattooed across his whole back, his mates say he'll go through with it, it will be interesting to see!

The Phantom worked RR 5, 6, 9 and 10 for the group and we raised plenty of other Billies but either they wouldn't go through with the bite or didn't hook up. However the chatterers where rapped with the bait fishing, catching yellow fin, big eye, blue fin, northern blue as well as mac tuna and heaps of mackerel and wahoo.



Also back at Cooktown after the five day charter they unloaded four large fish boxes full of coral trout, many varied types of sweet lip and emperor and we also released a 31 Kg+ Maori Wrasse for one of the boys. Combined with all of the snorkeling they did the charterers had a wow of a time. Incidentally they sent Rene a bunch of flowers to our house just last week to thank her for the fantastic meals she provided and how she looked after them.

The cross over of charterers at Cooktown was messy, Frank De Raddt (Water rat) and David Trask (Big Business) both from the Redcliffe Club turned up a day early and had been relaxing (read drinking) since 9 in the morning. With Johnos group wanting to buy us dinner and Frank and Dave wanting to have a drink with us it was tough to get anything done so we called Cooktown Ice Works who took our provisions list and had it back to the boat first thing in the morning, excellent service. So we had dinner and drinks, saw the Cooktown ladies belly dance group perform, I'll leave how that was up to the individuals imagination, then waved Johnos group off and took Frank and Dave on board and crawled into bed.

The next three day charter was both entertaining and amusing. Dave has got phenomenal eye sight and we raised over 7 fish, hooked up two but no tags. The boys got some creditable wahoo on light tackle, 19 and 20 Kg with Frank catching his first GT and dog tooth tuna. He seemed a bit put out when Daniel said nice fish and promptly rigged it as a skipping bait! Dave was good value on the scad line, catching a coral trout which made excellent breakfast then hooking some thing that every time he tried to pull in the scad line would bite off the next hook. All in all it was a very weird bit of fishing.

We dropped Frank and Dave off at Cairns and welcomed aboard Sue, Wayne and Nathan Douglass. While we where in port we ran across John Williams from Blue Black (Bribie Club) and also Greenie and Jan Patterson from the Redcliffe Club running a 40 foot black watch “In the Black” which will soon be fishing in our waters with the Redcliffe Club.

With the Douglas’s we headed off to Linden Banks and Opal Reef. Again we raised several fish with the highlight being a 350 pounder for Sue on her Birthday, well done Sue.





Meanwhile Daniel and Nathan set out shark fishing at night and brought up some decent size critters, not that we let them take them on board.



We let Wayne be in charge of the drinking and I think the following picture says it all, anyone want this one as the cover for our next hookup? Phantom



## EVENT CALANDER 2007—2008

### Dec '07

- 1st MGFC Rally Day
- 1st - 3rd Ribbons Ladies GFC. Ribbons Ladies Game Fishing Tourn'
- 9th Christmas Party: venue TBA
- 29th MGFC Rally Day

### Jan '08

- 3rd - 6th Bribie Island Light Tackle Tournament - Bribie Island GFC
- 17th - 20th Riviera Light Tackle Masters 2008 - Gold Coast GFC
- 24th - 28th Morton Bay Billfish Challenge - Morton Bay GFC
- 29th General Meeting

### Feb '08

- 2nd MGFC Rally Day
- 26th General Meeting

### Mar '08

- 1st MGFC Rally Day
- 7th - 9th Couran Point Island Resort all Species –Surfers Paradise GFC
- 25th General Meeting
- 29th MGFC Rally Day

### Apr '08

- 22nd General Meeting
- 25th - 27th Billfish Bonanza & AIBT

### May '08

- 3rd MGFC Rally Day
- 27th General Meeting
- 31st MGFC Rally Day

### Sep '08

- 3rd- 10th Gilbert Group NQ Mining Billfish Challenge. Townsville GFC

### Nov '08

- 6th - 9th Whitsunday 2008 \*kg Light Tackle Tournament. Whitsunday GFC

EVENT CALENDAR MAY BE CHANGED AS REQUIRED

Latest event calendar go to [www.mgfc.com.au/events](http://www.mgfc.com.au/events)

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