

APRIL 2008

A large, close-up photograph of a shark's head and open mouth, showing its teeth and tongue. The shark is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its head angled towards the left. The background is a dark, choppy sea with white foam from the shark's movement. The text is overlaid on this image.

The 2008
AIBT
&
Billfish Bonanza
April 26th – 27th

On the web... 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

With only a week until the Bonanza, I hope everyone has sharpened the hooks and oiled the reels for what should be a great tournament. As you know, this Bonanza will be run in conjunction with the Australian International Billfish Tournament (AIBT). The committee has been working hard to organise and promote this event, and we already have several boats from far a field as Cairns, Townsville and Port Stevens. Even a team from the GFAA has chartered a boat to participate. The question has been asked, can Kellie Jensen win a hat-trick of champion female angler awards and her third Camdons pearl at our home club tournaments? Some good news is that following a ruling by the Court on the Mooloolaba Yacht Club premises, we should be able to use the club house for the event.

Congratulations to the Animal crew with victories as Champion boat in the Bribie Island and Redcliffe tournaments in consecutive weeks. Word has it that there are some anglers rifling through the Jensens' bins to see what they've been eating. Congratulations also to the crew of Phantom and Rene Walker for again taking out the Gold Coast Tournament champion female angler. This is the fourth year running that this boat has had the champion female onboard. The girls must have been in the ear of regular deckie Daniel Walker who jumped ship to fish on Pacemaker, where, on a nag free ship, he took out the champion male angler with 2 black marlin. More winners in our club with Sue Douglass on board Luna won Champion female and well as champion other species at the Little Ships tournament.

At note about the message board on the web site. We have a happy hacker who gets his kicks out of registering fictitious characters from around the world. While they are denied access to using the message board, the names still appear on the register until deleted. If you or you know someone who has not been able to register, it's probably because I've suspected them to be a spam registration and denied access. When registering, use your real name instead of some weird handle and it will probably be accepted. If in doubt, phone me on 0428 434582.

And By The Way

The Loving Husband



A man and his wife went on vacation to Jerusalem. While they were there, the wife passed away. The undertaker told the husband. “You can have her shipped home for \$5,000 or you can bury her in here in the Holy Land for \$150. The man thought about it and told him he would just have her shipped home.

The undertaker asked, “Why would you spend \$5,000 to ship your wife home when it would be wonderful to be buried here and you would only spend \$150?”

The man replied, “Long ago a man died here, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead. I can’t take that risk.”

CLUB CAPTAINS REPORT:

If you have not heard by now you're either partially deaf or sick of going fishing and not catching anything. Wondering what I am talking about? Well the billfish have arrived. Normally we see the little black marlin first followed by sailfish followed by blue marlin. We missed the early run of blacks however the sails have arrived followed by the blues and both are in good numbers at the moment. I was lucky enough to be out on the water the day it all started; fishing some old marks onboard Luna. That day we raised 8 sails, hooked 4, tagged 2, broke 2 off and the rest looked fairly hungry even though we did not get hook-ups. It was a great day on the water and I was lucky enough to get the first sail for the club and the first billfish for Luna this year. After such a great day comparatively to the early season efforts I am pleased to say I have the fire back in my eyes and a new found hope I lost a few months ago. After fishing for the next 3 days straight I was wrapped to tag more sails and many other species. But the hope does not stop there reports are coming thick and fast with boats from around the north and south coasts having similar days on sailfish and some dreamy days of blue marlin. The best report I have heard was earlier in the month boats having over 10 strikes from blue marlin out wide. Thankfully we had one of our club boats out there in the action the brilliant 51ft Riviera "Phantom" who ran across a nice blue and with only skipper and angler, husband and wife team Ian and Rene Walker tagged the first billfish for their new boat the first blue for the club but more importantly the first blue for Rene after an illustrious career in fishing well done from everyone Phantom. Personally I have tackled with a number of these fish and they are tricky at times for even the most professional boats with multiple deckhands little own 2 people onboard total.

Within the club the points are beginning to rack up with 8 billfish being tagged in March and I can imagine this is only going to increase with the remaining months this season and increased participation by more club boats. What a great time to head to sea before our next tournament on the 26th and 27th of April. Honestly if you miss this one you need your head read because the reality is that in the clubs history the AIBT was never held and we have been blessed with 2 of them one last tournament and this one will be the last for awhile.

However this tournament now has a reputation for massive numbers of blue marlin from a handful of boats. With a potential 50 strong fleet there is a real possibility that we could be in for the best tournament fishing in years. On the other hand the atmosphere at this one will be the best of all time with the clubs committee spending many long hours preparing for a ripper. If I could ask personally that if you have a boat from a tinny to a titanic come down because you will only get one chance to do this tournament from your home club.

Monthly winners to March are as follows: July – Barry Breddin, August – Jacqueline Longhurst, September – Nathan Douglass, October – Dan Walker, November – Sue Douglass, December – Mark Jensen, January – Kellie Jensen, February – Mark Jensen, March – Nathan Douglass, April – (this could be you), May – (this could be you), June – (this could be you).

All the best to you all and good luck for the next few months fishing and in general. Look forward to seeing those of you that are smart enough to come to the tournament.

Regards Nathan



An Easter sailfish to Kellie Jensen onboard "The Animal". The first of a run of sails which continues to date.

Progressive Point Scores: Anglers

ANGLER	GAME	B/R/E	FRESH	TOTAL
Kellie Jensen	3550	30		3580
Nathan Douglass	2362.47	308.03	174.00	2844.50
Dan Walker	2230.00			2230.00
Mark Jensen	1803.75			1803.75
Rene Walker	1800.25			1800.25
Frank Jensen	1609.37			1609.37
Dan Edwards	920.00	168.16		1088.16
Sue Douglass	841.25			841.25
Steve Jensen		507.00		507.00
Geoff Harris	172.5			172.5
Wayne Douglass	170.62			170.62
Tom Roberts	100			100
Greg Burt	80.00			80.00
Jacqueline Longhurst		51.11		51.11
Ian Copeland	50			50
Ian Breddin	50.00			50.00
Michael Jongejan		36.66		36.66
Barry Breddin		16.88		16.88

Progressive Point Scores: Boats

BOAT	SIZE	SKIPPER	POINTS
Animal	Over 7	Steve Jensen	7131.87
Luna	Over 7	Wayne Douglass	5629.05
Phantom "51"	Over 7	Ian Walker	1550
Phantom	Over 7	Ian Walker	787.5
Tinny	Under 7	Nathan Douglass	767.83
Going Off	Under 7	Geoff Harris	172.5
Linesman	Under 7	Barry Breddin	150
Baby Animal	Under 7	Steve Jensen	92
Hot Shots	Under 7	Greg Burt	80



2008 Challenge CNC Espadon/MBGFC

The excitement was palpable as the Aussie contingent of the MBGFC challenge gathered as a team at the Brisbane airport. Chattering wildly as we boarded the Qantas 767, a minor hiccup, seats for Dave Trask and Peter Mintas (from MBGFC) seem to have been double booked. Would they have to stay home? Perhaps they could sit next to the pilot? Clerical errors sorted, the plane took off to the wild cheers and whistles from our team. After a few warnings from the hosties about excessive noise and to stay in our seats, we settled in for the flight although the noise from down the back didn't really abate to anything lower than what you might expect at a Mooloolaba night club.

This was my second challenge but the first in Noumea., I was looking forward to meeting up with the French friends I had made last year, not to mention the 3 days fishing the Noumea and the necessary socializing in between times. I had heard stories that the Noumean fleet ranged from state of the art boats with modern gear to clinker built row boats with hand lines. I was fishing with Dave Morton, how would we figure in the draw? How good would the fishing be? Would I be able to take another 2 litres of duty free alcohol back with me? How did you say "large Bundy and Coke and hold the ice" in French? These questions and more would continually occupy my thoughts for the rest of the flight. We were greeted by our hosts at the airport, and with lots of hand shaking and back slapping, were entertained by a very colourful group of indigenous singers with songs of welcome... we think!

A 40 minute bus ride to the hotel, we were told just to register and drop our gear in the room because we were due at the Fishing Club for the welcome night and a convoy of our hosts' cars are waiting to take us there. It was great to catch up with the French anglers I had met last year. Some could speak some English, some none, but it didn't seem to matter, it was fun sharing a drink with them, arms waving wildly and gesturing madly to try to get your story across. Then you would look into their non-comprehending eyes and there would be that moment when you both understood that he didn't have the foggiest idea what your talking about. But like typical Aussie battlers, we weren't deterred, and many such conversations continued to the wee hours of the morning. I have to say, it's amazing how my French improved with each beer, from a vocabulary dredged up from 30 years ago (when year 7 curriculum imposed this language upon the youth of the time and has long since archived into the deep recesses of the mind with other useless information).

A 15 minutes walk/crawl back to the hotel would reveal bodies fast asleep/unconscious on the beach in the rain, casualties from the many nightclubs that lined the beach front. I hoped my Aussie team-mates weren't amongst them, but I sort of expected there would be.

The next day the weather had 50 knot winds driving rain storms of biblical proportions. Still, our hosts arrived to drive us to the club for the welcome night and drawing of the boats... hang on, didn't we just have welcome night? We were rather dubious about the prospects of fishing the next day, but the forecast was good, we were told. The draw for fishing proceeded, results are detailed below.

		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
BOAT	FRENCH CREW	AUSTRALAIN CREW		
ALDABRA	Alain Millet J-Lois Bonno	Geoff Harris Dave Morton	Mick Kelly Ben Kelly	Garry Barnes Bevan Barnes
ARIZONA	Bernard Devillers Franck Devillers	Jean-Marc Solier Jean-Paul Dang	Simon Fletcher Georgie Fletcher	Wazza Patterson Fred Patterson
BLACK SHARK	Jacques Vrignaud Benoit Bazire	Michael Sneddon Michelle Fastlabend	Phil Gray Tim McDonald	Jean-Marc Solier Jean-Paul Dang
CREZZY	Jerry Mihimana Daniel Pennel	Rene Walker Ian Walker	Col Danson Barb Danson	Geoff Harris Dave Morton
CUMBRE	Yannick Berger Henri Lefert	Col Danson Barb Danson	Rod Johnston Kimberly Johnston	Simon Fletcher Georgie Fletcher
EDELWEISS	Andre Lussiez Jacques Lussiez	Rod Johnston Kimberly Johnston	Jess Walker Frank De Raadt	Paul Higgins Dave Penfold
IBIZA	Mickael Dupont Pascal Laroque	Dave Trask Peter Mintas	Noel Day Lynn timer Day	Michael Sneddon Michelle Fastlabend
KEVDAM	Robin Cornet Kevin Esposito	Paul Higgins Dave Penfold	Michael Sneddon Michelle Fastlabend	Rod Johnston Kimberly Johnston
LARNACA	Yves Armand Alain Becard	Garry Barnes Bevan Barnes	Wazza Patterson Fred Patterson	Jess Walker Frank De Raadt
MAPAVA	Alan Joop William Joop	Simon Fletcher Georgie Fletcher	Geoff Harris Dave Morton	Col Danson Barb Danson
MARI-LYNE	Claude Guerin Emilie Bel-Hameche	Noel Day Lynn timer Day	Paul Higgins Dave Penfold	Mick Kelly Ben Kelly
OLISAN	Henri Derrien Tauru Didier	Wazza Patterson Fred Patterson	Dave Trask Peter Mintas	Phil Gray Tim McDonald
REBEL	Olivier Martin Yann Bauvaix	Phil Gray Tim McDonald	Rene Walker Ian Walker	Dave Trask Peter Mintas
SUNDAY II	Xavier Siret Hubert Vahnalle	Jess Walker Frank De Raadt	Garry Barnes Bevan Barnes	Rene Walker Ian Walker
WACEI	Thierry Siret Tony Laubreux	Mick Kelly Ben Kelly	Jean-Marc Solier Jean-Paul Dang	Noel Day Lynn timer Day

Day 1 of fishing, and Dave and I were on “*Aldabra*” a 33 foot Riviera, and fishing with Alain Millet and Jean-Louie Bonno, who I had fished with aboard Luna last year. The seas as forecast were calm and apart from the occasional rainstorm. Leaving the harbour, the boats travel 8 miles across a lagoon to a passage through a fringing coral reef which surrounds the Noumean islands. There the depth plummets from 50 metres to over 2000 metres in short space. I was interested to note that Alain had a box of lures with wire leaders for targeting wahoo, which are in great numbers in close to the reef. I did tell him that most of us in Oz (Barry “*the wahoo wizard*” Breddin excluded) would drive far to avoid these lure munching vermin. Alain must have taken those comments to heart as *Aldabra* continued out well past the reef to a depth of 3000 metres according to the charts, where we began trolling his marlin lures. Gear on most boats was 24kg line on Tiagra 50Ws from portable game chairs or stand up.



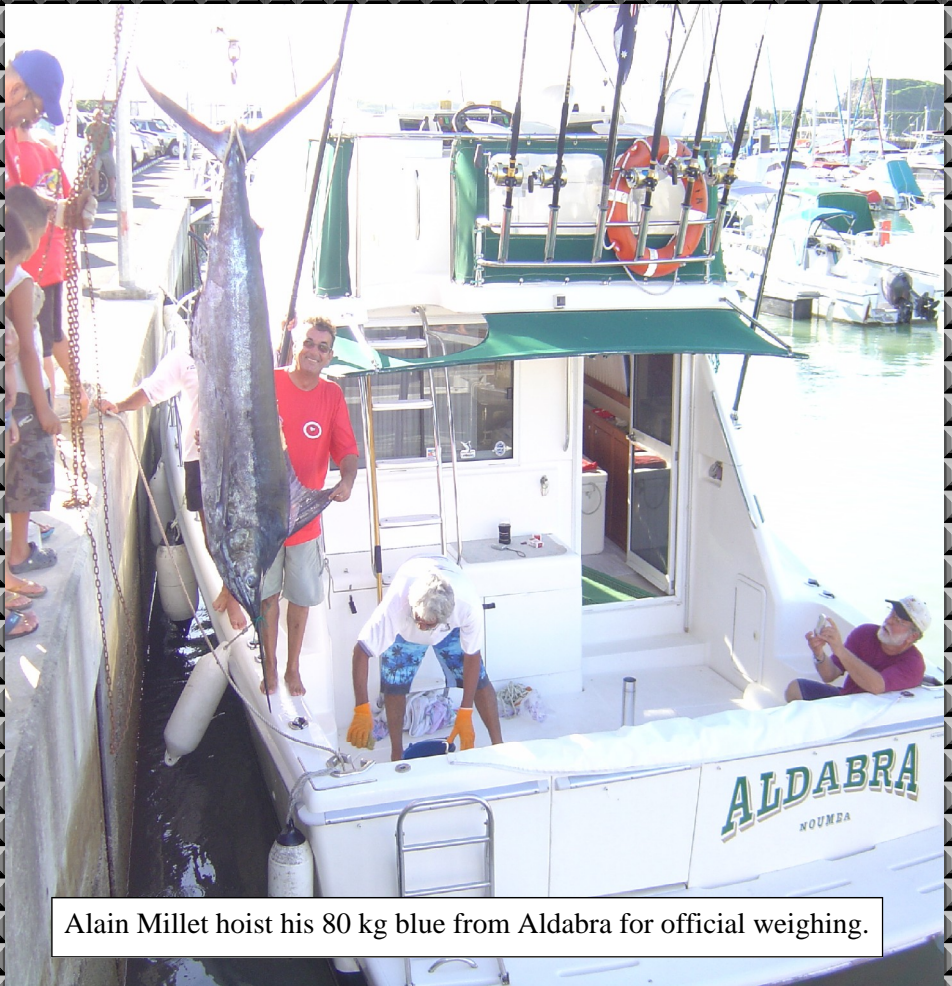
A ship that missed the passage sits fast on the reef that surrounds the coast.

The fishing was quite with the fleet reporting 1 strike on the first sked. Surely something would happen with a fleet of 15 boats all fishing hard. It was our boat with the first hook-up, a Mahi Mahi of 8 kg to Alain. It was the only fish for the sked. A wahoo in the third sked was the sum total for the day. I was beginning to understand why the French were such good drinkers. The Japanese longliners were certainly taking a toll on fish stocks. Alain had told me that earlier in the year a good run of yellow-fin tuna came in to the coast with 50kg plus specimens common. The very next day dozens of longliners appeared and the fish vanished overnight. I heard a similar story in Fiji last September when I was there.

Day 2 and my boat was “*Mapava*”, the boat that had won the past 2 challenges in Noumea and had topped the Calcutta bidding. Brothers Bill and Alan Joop were the anglers with brother Warren the skipper. Expectations were high, but this day we began fishing close to the reef targeting wahoo. Bill did explain that they have caught sailfish and marlin in this close. Finally a hook-up on a sailfish to a boat named “*Creezy*”, the boat Dave and I had drawn for day 3. The sail estimated at 40kg. Then a blue marlin of about 80 kg to Alain on *Aldabra*.. Would it be that we had drawn the right boats but on the wrong days? Jess Walker was teaming with Frank De Raadt (from “*Water Rat*” at MBGFC) aboard *Edelweiss*. There French team had hooked up to a blue. Not too sure what happened, but it seemed that he fell out of the game chair while fighting the fish, line touched something and ping, the fish was gone. A number of boats had these portable game chairs, just like any other chair with four legs but with a gimbal. I could understand that on a rolling boat that the chair might fall over in the heat of battle. Dave Morton would prove on Day 3, that you could fall over in the chair just having lunch. All fish are weighed in this competition, the winning team with the greatest aggregate weight for the tournament. All fish are eaten, never wasted and I had tried my first smoked marlin the previous night. I have to say it was beautiful, very similar to the best smoked Tasmanian salmon. The fish that day were duly hung up to an appreciative throng of spectators. Other fishless and envious anglers stood looking greener than leprechaun snot.



Daniel Pennel from *Creezy* proudly displays his sail of 44 kg alongside some wahoo.



Alain Millet hoist his 80 kg blue from Aldabra for official weighing.

With all the serious fish going to the French, the Aussies were looking at a trouncing in this competition. But for a wahoo or two, the Aussie team would have been collectively “*all zeros*”.

We didn't let this “poisson” paucity get us down and that night it was everyone back to room 1406, the Walkers room was having a team meeting. The karaoke was raging and much of the duty free spirits was sampled. Things quietened down a touch after a complaint from the management at about 2am. Mercifully, the next day was a lay day.

Day 3 aboard *Creezy* with anglers Daniel Pennel and Jerry Mihimana began with a stiff 20 knot breeze from the East. This was an offshore wind and most of the fleet hugged the reef for wahoo and some protection from the seas which had picked up to about 2.5 metres. Our plan was to run down South along the reef (where the *Creezy* crew had picked up their sail 2 days earlier), then head West out deep for blues when the winds had been forecast to abate, then run back North-East to port with the swell. Our form held true with the dreaded “*all zeros*” for the day. But the team meeting did have the desired effect with some of the Aussies. A report of a battle with a *big blue* on “*Rebel*” and it was Aussie Phil Gray holding the rod and the hopes of the Aussie team. The fish was captured, estimated at 120kg, it was doubtful it would be enough to snatch victory. Then another

hook-Up, another Aussie, Rod Johnston aboard *Mari-Lyne* had what seemed to be a large wahoo. When a short-billed spearfish was hoisted aboard, it was the first billfish of any species to Rod and a first time look at this species for most of the other anglers. A rare capture in these waters with only the second reported in the clubs history. But maybe this fish would elevate the Aussie score to top spot. It would be close.



A very happy Phil (lucky Phil) Gray with his blue marlin.



Rod Johnston's short-billed spearfish was a curiosity to onlookers and seasoned anglers alike, and the fish that would take Aussie to victory for the second year running. A yellow-fin tuna hangs alongside.

The officials had kept everyone in the dark on which team had won. Could the Aussies snatch victory from the jaws of defeat and make it 2 wins in succession or would the French prove too good again? It is worth noting that in the 18 year history of this challenge, The Aussies had only won the first and the last tournaments.

As it turned out, Aussie did win... Aussie Aussie Aussie Oi Oi Oi.

With an aggregate weight of 216.86 kg to New Caledonia's 202.83 kg. At the presentation, to the music of "*We are the Champions*", Jess Walker and Barb Danson accepted the trophy on Aussies' behalf. Australia presented a didgeridoo (hand painted with a marlin) to the French team. Champion angler was Phil Gray and champion boat won by *Rebel*. (see pics next page)

Congratulations to all the organisers for a great tournament, especially to our French hosts whose looked after us all like Royalty.

Bring on the 2009 Challenge CNC Espadon/MBGFC.

Geoff (sleepy) H.



Fishing over, let the party begin... as if it had ever stopped.



Phil Gray: winner champion male angler



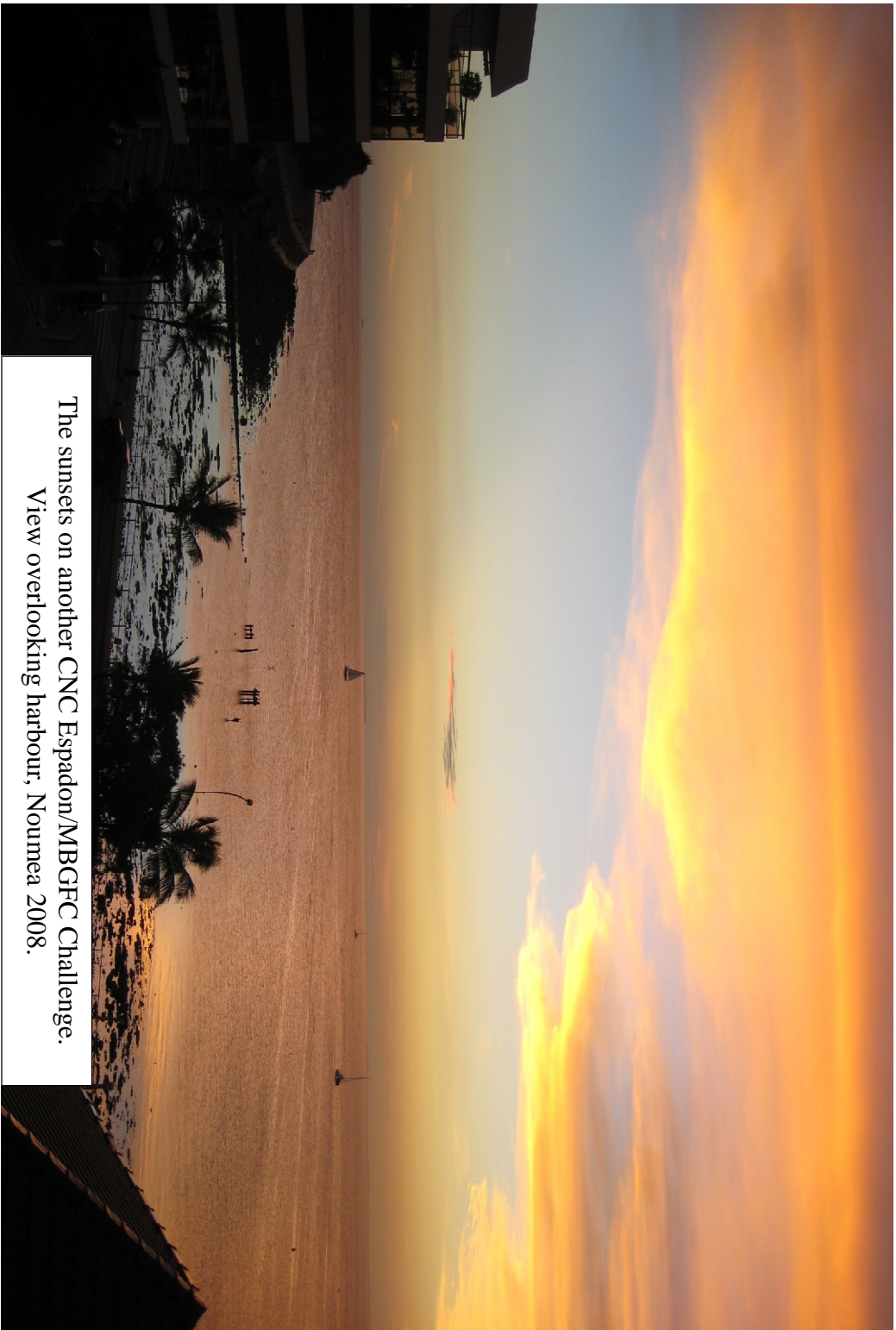
Jess Walker and Barb Danson present a didgeridoo to CNC president Henri Lefert



The Aussie anglers



The French anglers



The sunsets on another CNC Espadon/MBGFC Challenge.
View overlooking harbour, Noumea 2008.

Recipes for Long Lost Fish

Fish and limes with creamy herb sauce.

- Select a firm white flesh fish (600 gm) fillets that hasn't been lost too long in that freezer.
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup lime marmalade.
- 1 tablespoon rice vinegar
- 1 teaspoon fresh grated ginger.
- 3 medium limes thickly sliced.

Creamy herb sauce

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup low fat yoghurt
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped fresh mint
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh dill.

Brush fish with combined marmalade, vinegar and ginger.

Cook fillets and lime slices on pre-heated grill or BBQ until fish and limes are brown on both sides.

Combine herb sauce ingredients in bowl.

Place fish on plate and drizzle herb sauce over fillets.

Serve with limes and salad of choice.



EVENT CALANDER 2007—2008

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

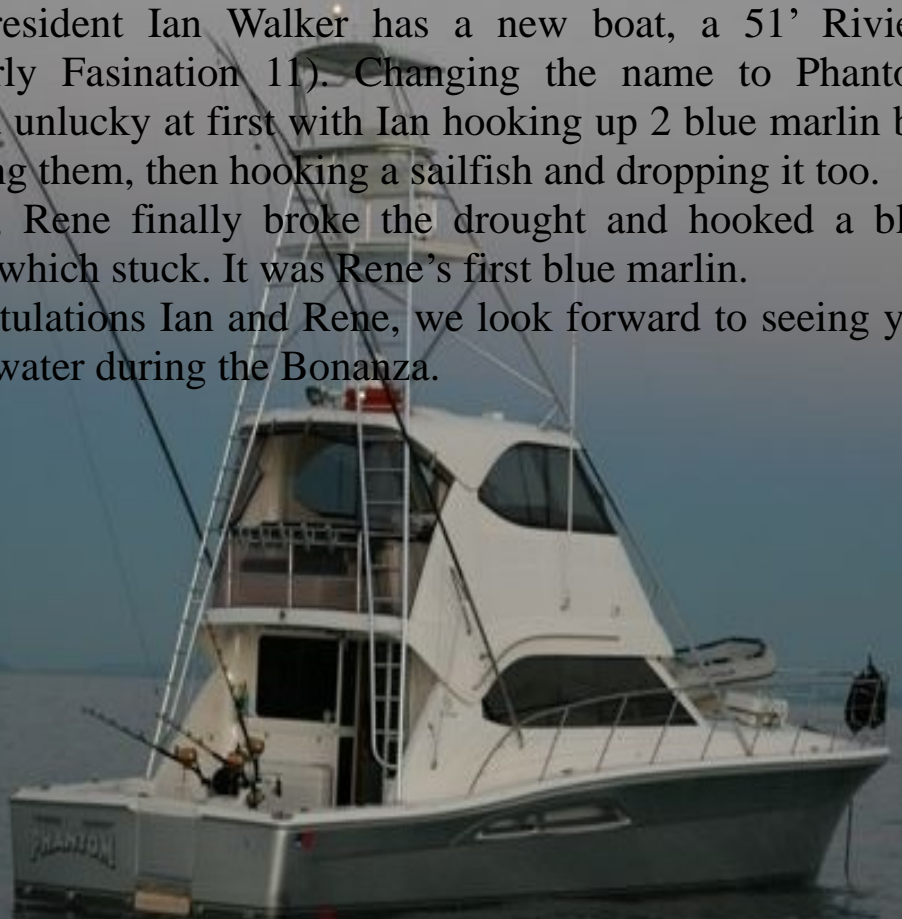
Nov '08

6th - 9th

Whitsunday 2008 *kg Light Tackle Tournament. Whitsunday GFC

The New Phantom

Our President Ian Walker has a new boat, a 51' Riviera (formerly Fasination 11). Changing the name to Phantom seemed unlucky at first with Ian hooking up 2 blue marlin but dropping them, then hooking a sailfish and dropping it too. Finally, Rene finally broke the drought and hooked a blue marlin which stuck. It was Rene's first blue marlin. Congratulations Ian and Rene, we look forward to seeing you on the water during the Bonanza.



Phantom at anchor

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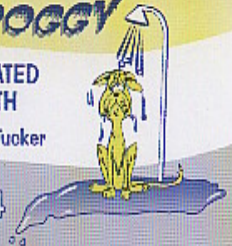
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