



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year All!

Well, January has been an epic month for us and a great start to the year!

Nice settled Coromandel weather, lots of friendly guests from around the world, lots of fish on the bite (and on our table!) have combined to produce some very memorable days on the water and lots of fishy tales to share with you!

Fish of the Month

Lonnie McAlister (USA) joined us for a week homestay, fishing and adventuring around the Coromandel. In his first few hours fishing with us he managed to hook every Kiwi's dream – a snapper over 20 pounds.

We'd been fishing livebaits targeting kings at the Aldermen Islands and had missed a few strikes. A bit bemused at missing these fish, we finally worked out why when a red tail was seen behind the next livey - so much for snapper being scary – this fish came from 20m to steal 5 liveys on the surface within 10m of the boat!



The next time around the fish got a bit cocky and wolfed down the livey, hook and all and after a feisty battle we boated Lonnie's first snapper of the trip – not bad at 23pounds! Lonnie went on to catch a few good kings up to 12kgs, some big kahawai on 2kg and loads of the schooling fish like albacore and trevally which are around in numbers at the moment.

Brett from Tairua Butchery did a great job of smoking most of the week's fish up. Lonnie will be returning back to work in Taiwan for a good steak meal having overdosed on fish for dinner every night except one during his stay!!

Battle of the Month

Dave Cross (UK) took out our epic battle of the month. Dave came down from Whitianga during his two week stay there to tussle with some Aldermen Is kingfish. During the morning we would have released close to 20 kingi's speed jigging but none of them the monster that Dave was looking for. That didn't

stop Dave from carrying on cranking that big 300gm Black Magic jig up from the deep with sweat pouring off his forehead, and we knew there had to be bigger fish lurking around the spike we were fishing....

Sure enough on our last drift before heading back into the Aldermens for the afternoon Dave hooked into a monster that tried to pull him over the side and had the line pinging off the reel!

Dave did really well to keep the fish out of the rocks as we drifted right over the 12m reef as he hooked it. After leading the fish into deeper water an epic battle ensued and 15 minutes later a big silver and green shape appeared out of the deep blue water leaving the skipper to hope his gaff shot was a good one ☺



Dave's fish weighed in just shy of 40 pound (at 17.5kg), one of the biggest kingis brought into Tairua this season and a great example of some of the fish that are just around the corner over the next few months.

Belinda and Bella's Recipe of the Month!
Cashew Kingfish

Cut up kingfish fillet into 5cm cubes. Coat in paste below to marinate and refrigerate for 20mins (time to indulge in some kingfish sashimi while waiting!!)

Paste: 1 cup Cashews, 1/2 cup coconut milk, tsp fish sauce, 1/4 cup sweet chilli sauce, tbsp soy sauce, processed. Drop marinated kingfish into hot oil and sear each side until brown leaving middle of fish red. Serve with salad and lashings of chardonnay.

"F&%@ Up" of the Month!

We were fishing for livies in the morning and of course a couple went straight out in case a king was lurking in close to shore. Sure enough 5 minutes later our bait catching was disrupted by a big kingi erupting out of the water, pouncing on a livebait who by this time was having a pretty bad morning. All was going well, the fish was under control until – SNAP! the 'new generation' ultra thin braid rod that was supposed to stop any big fish in its tracks (!?) broke in half!!! Mmm – it is always a kingi that tests you out ...

Coastal Water Temperature – 20 degrees
Aldies Water Temperature – 21 degrees

Current Air Temperature – 24 degrees
Next Full Moon – Feb 2

Fishing Outlook

The next four months are the best time to be on the water out of Tairua. The gamefishing is just about to kick into full gear with the first run of yellowfin tuna coming down the coast last weekend. Hopefully we'll see a few hooked in this weekend's Stand Up tournament. Looking back at last year's diary March and April were great months for fishing in close, with 15 pound snapper in the evening common in close to Tairua and good sized 30-40 pound kingis on the reefs as well.

And of course, its not all about the fishing – late summer and autumn are a great time for exploring the rest of the Coromandel without the crowds. Bella and I went for a swim on the beach last night and we pretty much had the whole beach to ourselves – gotta luv it! See you here soon!