



AUGUST 2009 NEWSLETTER (Newsletter No 14)

Hi Everyone!

Since our last newsletter in mid June we've had a steady stream of clients enjoying some fantastic winter kingi action here in Tairua, plenty of nice snapper and a few surprises too!

We've also spent an awesome week overseas fishing Vanuatu recently. With a week of easterlies blowing at the moment its time to sit down and recount some of the action - yep, there's plenty to read about in this newsletter!

Jarred nails a Thirty!



The first day back from our Vanuatu trip, we had regulars Mont Lozano and Jarred Christie together with their mates Choo Khoo, and Karl T on board. Mont and Jarred are regulars on the boat, I will never forget Mont and Co's first trip with us, they were lying on the floor of the boat shattered after an hour, but are back every couple of months for more, and their PB's have been getting

bigger all the time. This day the fishing was pretty slow as the smaller fish have moved out, but typical of mid winter fishing, you know when you finally hook a fish it is going to be a good one, and you had better be ready for a tustle!

Jarred had picked a 'bite time' on the drive down from Auckland of 9am, and sure enough on the strike of 9 something massive had his Tica rod bent in half and line started screaming from his PennTorque reel. These reels don't really have the power to stop a decent sized kingi with drag alone and so Jarred had both thumbs on the reel slowing it down and the rod, which was fairly light as well for this sized fish, pointing straight down. He did everything right and as soon as he could, he got a few very short winds on with the rod pointed down. With a fish like this even just a quarter of a wind will turn the fishes head enough to keep it off the reef.

Soon enough Jarred had the fishes turned, he got the rod butt in the gimbal and then the big task of lifting a monster from the bottom began! We were lucky the fish headed off the reef and we followed it with the boat and after much huffing and puffing we saw the huge shape appear beneath the boat, the gaff went in and I knew it was a big fish as I could only just lift it into the boat. It lay there about as stuffed as Jarred and we called it for over the magic 30kg mark.

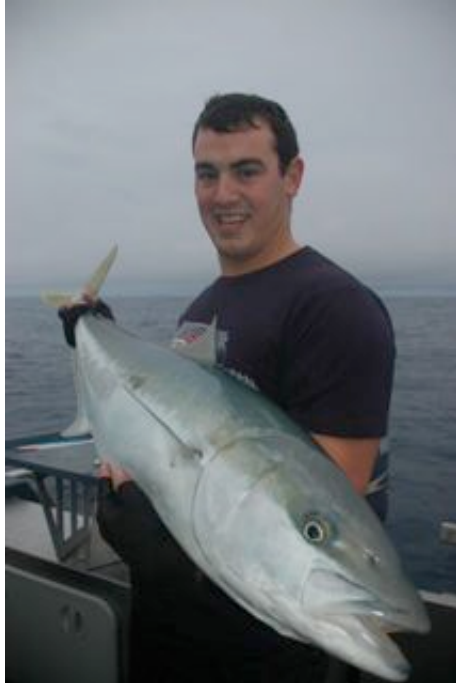
I booked a courtesy weigh in with the game club, it is easy to call a fish for 30kg but we wanted the proof (!) and later that day it went exactly 30.00kg. Awesome stuff Jarred!



Behind this fish there is one hell of a big smile – Jarred Christie with a 30kg kingfish!

Packing three days into one!

Back in late June Mike, Hayley and Pete flew over from Australia to join us in Tairua for three days of fishing. I usually try and encourage guys flying over especially to fish with us to come for a bit longer than this (usually a week) so we can guarantee them some good time on the water. Sure enough the weather decided to pack a sad and throw a big storm at us, and the forecast the day before they landed showed that we were only going to get one of the three planned days in.

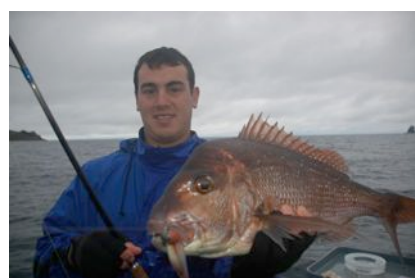


Not to worry, after arriving at 2am in Tairua, it was up again at 6am to go and pack three days of fishing into one very big day!

Luckily, the kingis followed the script and on the first drift Mike, Hayley and Pete were all hooked into some solid kingfish. Pretty much every drift we were hooking into solid kingis and there were woops, hollers and high fives as the guys enjoyed an awesome New Zealand kingfish bite.

When the fishing finally quietened off for a little bit Pete rigged up his secret weapon, with a Sluggo rigged on a three way swivel 2m above his jig. The theory being to provoke some competitive spirit in the kingis and it worked – a 20kg king was not having a bar of the jig beating it to the Sluggo and three cranks up from the bottom Pete got nailed by a monster of a fish. With his Daiwa Expedition, one hell of a reel, cranked to full drag Pete got pulled to the side of the boat by the fish, both feet came up in the air, but he deftly dug into the side of the boat! The Mustad work hook held well even at such a high drag setting and fifteen minutes later we had a 20kg kingi on the deck, ready for a few photos and release.

From there we snuck out of the building easterly wind and hit an awesome snapper softbait bite in Shark Alley, where Mike especially nailed some very nice fish on 7" Gulp baits. Turned out the guys needed that day off to rest their arms, and a dip at the fabulous Lost Spring hot pools in Whitianga were the answer the next day. Of course, we indulged in a fair bit of freshly cooked snapper and kingi sashimi while they were here



too! The guys are chomping at the bit for some more Epic action and are heading back soon!

A wee surprise – Slender Tuna hit Tairua!

They're not the biggest fish in the world, but we have been catching quite a few Slender Tuna over the last two months.

These are normally caught way down south off Fiordland and Dunedin, so are far from a common catch here in New Zealand.



Slender Tuna on JM Alien 400gm jig



Not knowing what they were the first one, caught on a softbait, was cut up for bait, but after identifying it online and reading about their amazing eating qualities, the rest (all caught on jigs) have been cooked up.

I enjoyed tasting the last catch with Australia anglers, Darryl, Nando, Tom and Sarah on their recent trip. Cubed and rolled in soy, brown sugar, sesame and macadamia oil, then seared quickly on a hot plate it was probably the nicest tuna I have ever tasted!

YeeHaa – Epic fishing action!

The good guys from YeeHaa fishing tackle in Panmure spent a lot of time on our boat over June and July! They've had about six groups of customers down recently trying out their new jigging gear, and they've all struck some amazing fishing.

Good thing there is heaps of reserve buoyancy in the Stabicraft, because these trips usually see a few hundred jigs piled on board the boat (at an average weight of 300gm they soon add up!). It is fantastic to have some of the latest

new rods and reels on board for everyone to try out and a huge array of jigs to try as well.

A huge **Happy Birthday to Tony from YeeHaa who turned 30** last month, and also well done to both Tony and John who manages the shop for this month for **YeeHaa has just turned One Year Old!**

It is great to have an upmarket tackle shop which specializes in the best jigging, popper, softbait and gamefishing gear, supporting our charter operation. Plenty of my time on rough days is spent in Auckland oogling at all the shiny gear, and John and Tony do a great job of making sure we are kitted out with the right gear and that our reels are in tip top condition!

Here's a few highlights from their recent trips!



Ken with a nice fish on a Blue / Pink JM Alien



Alan Le getting pulled to the rail on a 20kg kingi. JM 400 spinning and Stella 20000



Tony and another happy customer bloods his new rod from YeeHaa



JP test out his new Daiwa Extreme and Stephen with some solid fish from 23 June



Epic Adventures on the ITM Fishing Show

Back in January we hosted Matt, Kerren and the wider team from the ITM Fishing Show in Tairua us for a couple of days as part of their Great New Zealand Road Trip. In my mind they've done a huge amount to keep fishing top of mind not just with the NZ public over the last five years, but also promoting NZ abroad through their shows, DVD's awesome videos (and a few stunts here and there), so it was a pleasure getting to see them at work, not to mention getting to fish myself for a couple of days!

Kerren filmed from our boat, and on board was Justin Pilkington from Cathedral Cove Macadamias and Glenn van Hellemond. Matt and crew fished and filmed beside in their 759 Stabi. We got into some awesome action, just minutes from base, and the footage should be pretty cool, especially some of the underwater footage of the kingis rounding up bait balls in the shallows. It was a fun couple of days getting fishing myself for a change!

Tune into TV3 this weekend and at the following times to catch the action:

Saturday 15 August: We're on after the first ad break for the rest of the show

Saturday 29 August: Whole show is with us in Tairua.

And then half of the following show – I think, **5 Sept.**

We're pretty stoked to be getting that much coverage on TV, especially on a top notch show like theirs – a huge thanks to Matt and Kezza for that!!

Ants nabs another trophy!

Back in February Anthony Honeybone cleaned up the Nationals on our boat with the most tagged and released kingfish for the tourney, and took out a few line weight sections as well.

The New Zealand Big Game Fishing 2008/2009 trophies have just been announced and Ants has just been awarded the **Peter Saul Trophy for most gamefish tagged for the 2008/2009 season**, with 60 fish, all caught with us in the Nationals.

Well done to Ants – might be a big night on 5 September when our club has its prizegiving!

Ants with a kingi he knocked off on light line earlier this year - he's a fishy bugger alright!



2009 Epic Adventure to Vanuatu!

The last week in July saw us jetting off to fish the sunny shores of Vanuatu. We run a trip over every year and the great thing is you never know what to expect. The first trip we did it was all go on the Blue Marlin and Wahoo front. The second trip was Yellowfin madness and on this years trip the Dogtooth and GT's were definitely the highlight!

We've got a full report of the trip up on our website, so get on to our site and have a read and I'll leave you with a few of the better photos from the trip.



Above: Sabrina with a 20kg Giant Trevally caught on a Yo Zuri Sashimi popper casting a mint reef outside the Maskelyne Islands

Below: Tony with a 25kg Giant Trevally caught further out on the Maskelyne Seamount





Jules with a 20kg Yellowfin - one of three taken from a triple strike on the Emao seamount. Tasted very nice as sashimi that night!



Mike Wessels with a 15kg Dogtooth tuna, one of a few we caught, and there were some serious smokings as well by dogies we estimate were up to 60kg, and we learnt a lot for next years trip!!! Wire, wire and more wire.....The doggie got voted ahead of yellowfin in the sashimi stakes!



Team BCF Hit Tairua!!

Boating Fishing Camping, otherwise known as BCF is a huge outdoors chain in Australia and we were lucky to have Tom their Sales Manager, together with the manager and assistant manager (Nando and Sarah) from one of their Sydney stores over fishing with us recently. They had heard about the great fishing from Darryl Smedley who was on the Sydney Angler trip earlier in the year, and with a last minute pullout Darryl actually managed to sneak his way back over on the trip as well.

Due to a heavy schedule back home the guys only booked two days in with us, and they were lucky with the weather, two pretty nice days out at the Aldies! The first fish we hooked was an absolute monster, on our Stella 20000 and Smiths rod, and Sarah who was on the other end of it got pulled to the side of the boat as line started to howl off the reel at full drag!! This was a huge fish, probably as big as the 30kg fish we had caught the day prior. Sarah did real well just to hold on to the rod, and slowly she started to turn the fish and get some line back! The fight went on for half an hour and at one point a container ship passed within 50m of us, we weren't going anywhere as a kingi dogged away under the boat! Finally with 20m of line to go the hook pulled aaaaahhhh! First words out of Sarah's mouth were "they are not all going to be that big are they?"



Nando with a nice snapper on 7" Gulp Nuclear Chicken



The remaining two days saw some awesome fish landed and plenty of new PB's. Tom got a 20kg kingfish the first day, and topped that off with a 23kg fish the next day which peeled 40m of line of our Ocea Jigger 4000P at a heavy drag setting on its first run, and had us backing into the seas to retrieve line.

A couple of awesome winter scraps on the kingis! Nando and Sarah both caught their PB kingis and Darryl managed to top his snapper personal best as well as two monumental smoking's on both kingfish (I have never seen a Jig Wrex 400

bent like that!) and snapper. Darryl was hooking into a long line of great snapper in the shallows at the Aldies on Atomic Guzzler softbaits – one I haven't seen used before but the Electric Chicken pattern sure did work well, in fact probably the closest I've seen a bio-bait come to matching Gulp on shallow water snapper.



Shallow Water Snapper

It took a while for the snapper to fan out into the shallow reefs around the Aldermen Islands and the Tairua coastline but they are well and truly there now. This is my favourite form of snapper fishing, mooching around the reefs and casting to parts of the reef you know will be holding a big fish. There is nothing like line peeling off the reel as a snapper hits a softbait in 8m of water, you've got to be on the ball to make sure it doesn't end in tears. This action should continue for another few months, before the snapper start to school up again a bit deeper.



Mike Cooney with a real nice snapper taken not far from the Tairua bar on a 5" Gulp Lime Tiger - a favourite for this time of year

More 20kg plus kingis

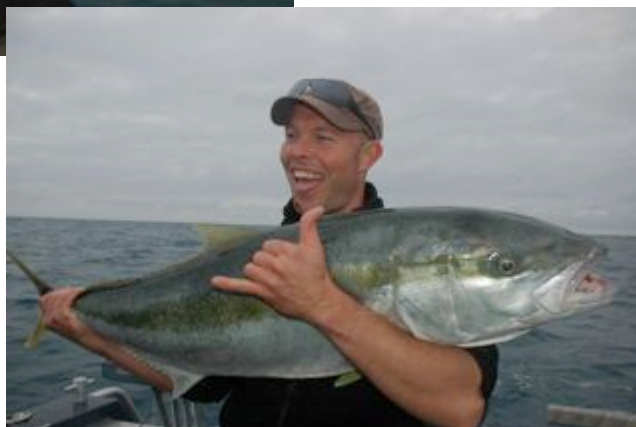
There have been plenty more 20kg plus kingis over the last two months. Winter this year has been the time to catch them that is for sure, here are a few more highlights:



Tim Brown with one over 20kg about to be released. This was Tim's fifth trip with us and he has built his way to a new personal best! Caught on our Smiths and Stella 20000 on a Blue Katch One spear.



Adam and Ants with two 21 kg fish caught on probably our best day of the last few months, with a run of big fish that kept the guys busy and hurting for a few hours first thing!!





Skirmantas Saltis with a huge kingi - mid 20kg's check the belly! Caught on his JM Powerspell 400spinning and Stella 20000 - the ultimate combo!

Work trips, client hosting and “team building”

We've had plenty of small corporate groups on the boat recently. Tackling a few of Tairua's hard fighting kingis away from the laptop and mobile is a great team building activity, whether it is with work colleagues, customers or suppliers - and it is a great excuse to get out for a fish during the week as well!

We can organize anything else surrounding your time away including accommodation, meals and other activities. Just get in touch!

Dave with a nice combo of snapper and kingfish caught on a recent trip with the Fulton Hogan boys



Fishing Coast to Coast hits 50!

New Zealand Fishing Coast to Coast mag turns 50 this month (50 issues that is!). This issue is a great read as usual with lots of good stories from the team. Well done to Mike and Barbara for reaching this milestone!

If you get the latest issue you might just see your face in their too, there are a few photos from recent trips in Carl's story "Mixing it Up – Out Deep."

Upcoming Trips

The diary is pretty busy looking ahead, so if you want to get some dates penciled in, especially for this summer or next autumn, then get in touch now to make sure you don't miss out!

Apart from our usual trips chasing kingis and snapper, here are some other special adventures which might interest you:

-Tairua Tuna Trips 4, 5 and 6th of January 2010 we will be targeting Yellowfin and Albacore Tuna, this is the best time of the year to have a shot at a yellowfin and last year we stuck to this strategy and weighed the only Yellowfin to come into the Tairua game club. Email us if you want to book a spot (or the boat) on one of these trips.



-Marlin – 2,3,4 Feb 2010 Half Share (1 spot) Available We have a German customer who is doing 12 days with us in January and February. 9 days are being spent chasing kingis but on the days above he is looking for someone to share the boat chasing marlin. If you want to knock a marlin off your list then come and put some time in from 2-4 Feb andyou never know.....

-Vanuatu Jigging and Popping Epic Adventure 2010 – 24 – 31 July (4 spots available). You've seen the photos – now join us on next years trip!

If you are coming from overseas and want to do an extended Epic Adventure with us next year we suggest booking it now as the weeks have already started filling up!

For those that are already booked for later in the year and beyond, we look forward to seeing you soon!!

JigStar 350 – the lowdown!

Chris Wong from BCS Enterprises, the man who brought Japanese style jigging to New Zealand, and distributor of some of the best jigging gear on the planet – Jigging Master and Smiths to name two of the better brands, recently loaned us a JigStar 350 to try out. By now a fair few of you will have dealt to kingis on it yourself!

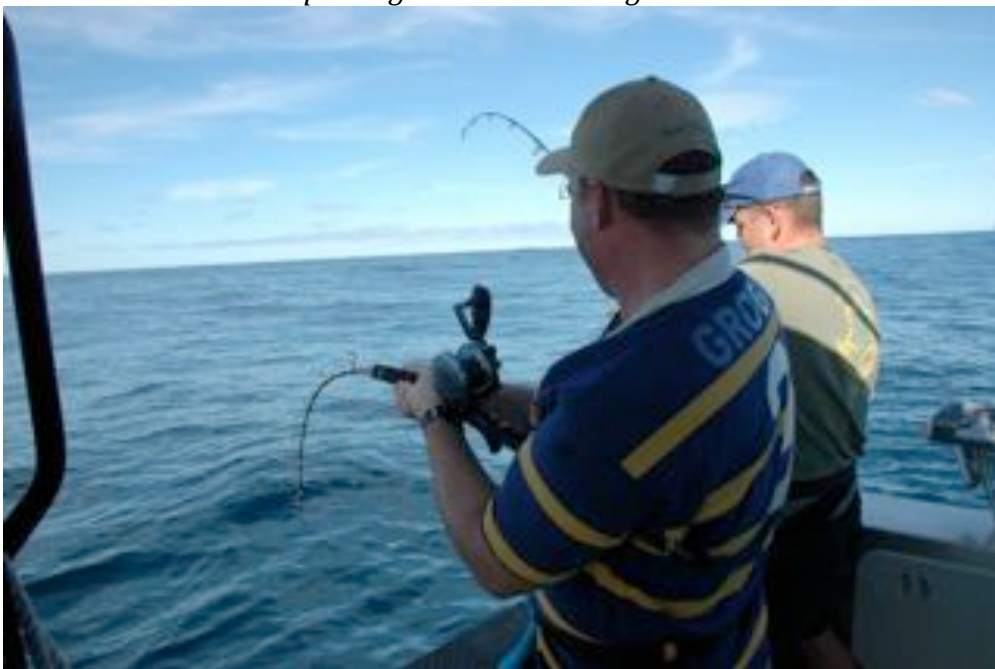
A couple of months on Epic Adventures is a pretty good test as our jigging rods are dealing to plenty of big kingis each day and often used by first time jig fisherman.

This short (5' 0") rod is in the same vein as other top end parabolic jigging rods, but at a mid range price point. If you are looking for a Jig Rod, but don't want to splash out too much then you are in luck, they retail for under \$500.

The guides are all quality Fuji components. I've found the rod is perfect for handing to those people who are trying out jigging for the first time. It is extremely light, easy to jig with and bounces everything from 250-400gm jigs just very well.

When it comes to the fight, it matches most other jig rods and has loads of grunt to deal to big fish without hurting the angler much. It has dealt to countless kingis so far on the boat. We give it the big THUMBS UP – now, come and try it for yourself!

Next newsletter: We review the new spinning jig rig YeeHaa have just kitted us out with. Custom Kilwell 300 spinning rod with a Saragosa 8000F



The hit – The Jig Star 350 loading up!!

Setting up for summer!

We've got a few things planned for the boat coming into spring and summer. The first is extending our capabilities with livebaiting. It is something we do a lot of over the summer months and we need more room in the tank! We're currently sussing out a livebait tank that will be three times the size of our present tank (which means doing away with our walk through transom), and while we're getting that done, a second rocket launcher is being added to accommodate our growing arsenal of rods that venture out with us – especially over summer where we're geared up for so many different forms of fishing. Tuna tubes are also on the agenda.

We've got a few new goals we want to knock over in the next year and hopefully you can be a part of it making it happen!!

All the best!
Carl

