

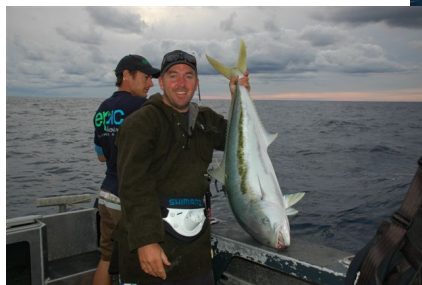
Hi Everyone!

It has been a great start to the year! Since our last Christmas newsletter we've been getting into some awesome snapper and kingfish on most days, a few puka and we kicked the year off with one of the few Yellowfin Tuna to be weighed into Tairua this year. We've competed in a few competitions too to keep us on our toes, with some great results. Thanks to everyone who has come out with us and made it happen over the last few months. At the moment we have a crew over from Sydney and they are getting stuck into some nice snapper and kingis. Anyway, read on and see what an epic couple of months it has been!

Epic Adventures Team Champions in 2009 NZBGF Nationalists!

After a good first attempt at the Nationals last year we decided to have another crack at it this year. A gun crew of past anglers on Epic rejoined us for seven days of kingi madness in the last week of February. The team topped 5000 points in the kingi section and took out the following honours:

- NZ Champion Team – Kingfish 5100 points
- Most Tagged Trophy by an Angler – Kingfish (Anthony Honeybone – 60 kingis!)
- Most Tagged Kingis by a team – we tagged 183 kingis to 23kg!!
- Champion Angler 15kg line weight – kingfish – Brett Collins (18kg kingfish)
- Champion Angler 10kg line weight – kingfish – Anthony Honeybone (10kg kingfish)
- Champion Angler 8kg line weight – kingfish – Anthony Honeybone (16.2kg kingfish)
- Champion Angler 15kg line weight – Snapper – Brett Collins (8kg snapper)



A big thanks to the gun team who came and fished that week, Anthony Honeybone, Brett Collins, Sean Cummings, Scott Bellette, Weimin Gan (Max), Gang Liu (James) and John Pellew. Special mention to Sean who came in and got us off to a blistering start tagging 28 kingis in the first two days!



And a big thanks to YeeHaa Fishing Tackle in Panmure Auckland who made sure we were decked out with the best possible equipment for the job!

All our line weight fish that we weighed were caught on either dead or live baits, freshly caught that morning –



either jack mackerel or koheru, and even live trevally accounted for some nice snapper and kingfish as well. We had our fair share of bust offs on the light stuff but Anthony and Brett persvered and eventually it paid dividends for them.

We did a fair bit of jigging as well for most of our tagged fish and it is fair to say some of the boys were complaining about sore backs and arms after accounting for over 180 kingis during the week!!



New Years Yellowfin!

The first week in January is always going to be the best chance of getting a yellowfin tuna off our coast. With that in mind I put the word out to Tony from YeeHaa fishing tackle in Panmure to join us for a couple of days just after New Years. Also on the boat was Sean Cummings, Max, Sabrina and James who fish with us a lot .

We mixed the days up jigging for kingis and trolling for tuna and accounted for some real nice alberts to 10kg and some pretty good jigging as well. After a few days on the water we had a pretty good guage on where the best action was, unfortunately Tony had to head back to the shop with the others but Sean stayed on with us. We spent the next morning jigging and livebaiting for some nice kingis for Neill and his father who had joined us that day, before heading out to the 200m line and setting the lures where we had seen the best yellowfin sign the day before. Sure enough on arrival there were dolphins everywhere and gannets circling up high – prime sign that there were yellowfin around!

In addition to the BONZE Darter, homemade Daisy Chain, Black Magic Jellybean and Pacific Genesis, Sean stuck out a cockroach pusher on his Stella 20000FA spinning reel and popping rod. 5 minutes in and which rod went off? - the Stella of course! After initially looking like another Albie all hell broke loose as the Stella howled on a nice fish which peeled out line at a great rate of knots – YELLOWFIN!! Sean had the line back in no time and we played the fish within sight of the boat for most of the fight, the Stella really dealt to the fish proving it is as worthy opponent for gamefish as it is for fighting kingis. So much so we originally called it as a fish of 20kg, but when we got a close look at this fish it was every part of 45kgs! We gave it a bit more time beside the boat and eventually stuck the gaff into the huge fish before hollers and high fives erupted around the boat!! ...Check out the conditions!!!



More Competitions

We fished the Shimano Stand Up competition out of Tairua, targeting the kingi section and took out 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

We also fished the Tuna and Light Tackle Tournament in early February and Leon Wickham (opposite) took out 1st kingfish with us, a great fish on 10kg line which went around 15kg from memory. Well done to Leon!

ITM Fishing Show Visits us in Tairua

Matt Watson is quickly becoming a worldwide fishing superstar, catching marlin from jetskis and surfboards and recently appearing on the Letterman Show. He is well known in New Zealand for making what is easily our number one fishing program – the ITM Fishing Show. So we were pretty stoked to host him recently in Tairua.



Together with Kerren Packer (Matts partner in the show and producer) and some of their team from Shimano and Hunting and Fishing we spent some great time on the water chasing kingfish. We got some epic footage very close to home, the underwater footage in particular blew me away.stay tuned for the action in June or July.

Livvie Deals to some big fish!

She's not the biggest lass in the world, so this kingi was a cracker in my mind, easily topping 20kg. Caught on a Jigging Master Powerspell 400 and Ocea Jigger.

Livvie (from Wellington) shouted her boyfriend a trip for his birthday and we nailed his first kingi on a livey in close to home in the morning.

Then Livvie took over and caught this huge kingi and was nailing all the best snapper on the day too, we were fishing softbaits in about 80m of water and all the fish were hitting high up in the water column.



We also accounted for some very nice trevs up to about 6kg on softbaits.

A nice 6kg trev caught the same day by Michael Carter!

Good Family Times in Tairua

Craig Robinson came over to Tairua from Queensland for Christmas to catch up with family over here and celebrate his cousins 21st. He was keen as to get stuck into a nice kingi and dealt to an estimated 23kg fish which was released to fight another day.



Craig was stoked to see his cousin, Samuel get stuck into what was by far the biggest fish he had been connected to!

Here is what Craig had to say about his day out

"Once again thank you so much for such a wonderful day. We all caught our biggest fish which is remarkable in itself, but to see Samuel who hadn't caught anything bigger than a 30 cm fish before catch his first snapper on plastics as well as a 17 kilo kingfish was just priceless. That is a hell of a way to celebrate a 21st!! I really appreciated the time and effort you gave particularly to Samuel who had not fought fish of this calibre before. Samuels kingfish photo is now sitting mounted in his fathers office in New York."



Shane Slays some crackers!

Shane Pemberton fished with us for two days over New Years (1 and 2nd Jan in fact!) and cracked in to some very nice fish bright and early on New Years day – a kingi around 20kg, a snapper around 8kg and no shortage of big fat 10kg Albies. We had great conditions and I couldn't think of a better way to break in the New Year while everyone else was in bed nursing hangovers!



The Karp's nail a nice kingi

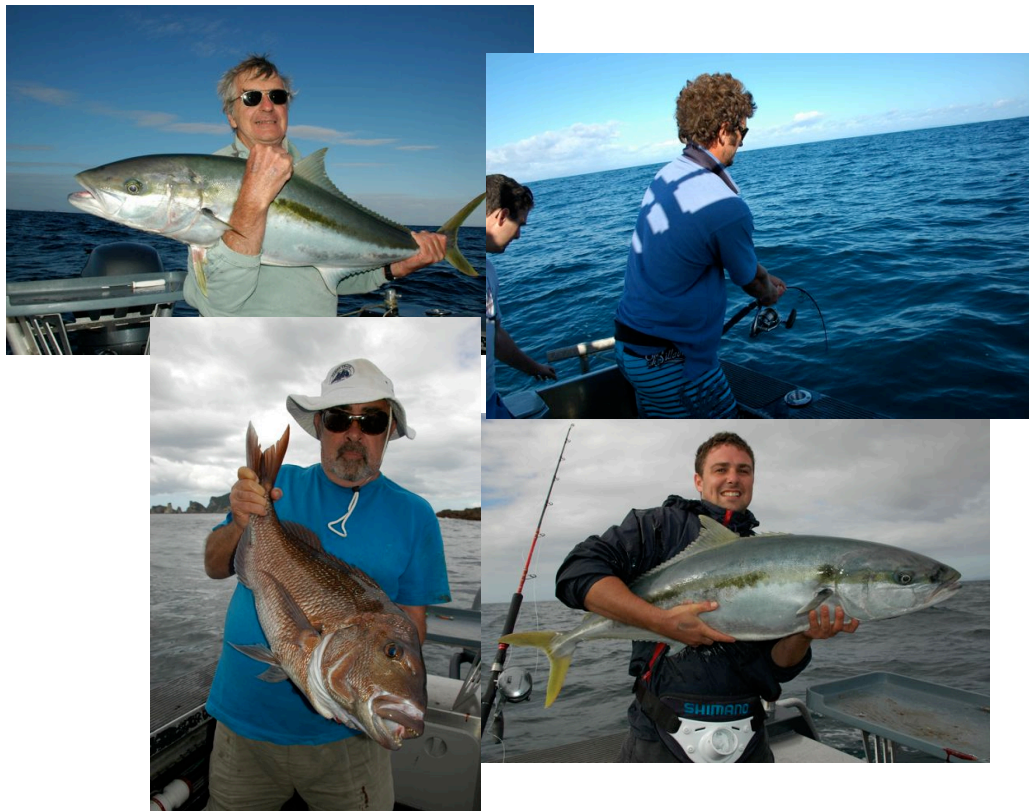
What a fish, the Karp family (always going to be into fishing with a name like that!) from USA tag teamed on this big hard fighting New Zealand kingi on the last day of their holiday in the country.

The fish was caught on a livebait at the Aldermen Islands.



Cam and Crew get stuck into some NZ Kings and Snapper

Cam Lyon, Roger Grant, Andrew Ebbett and Rhys Lyon are currently fishing with us and so far we've done two awesome days on the kingis jigging. All the fellas have caught kings up around 20kg and we've caught some cracker snapper on softbaits at the end of the day as well. Day three tomorrow and we're going to try for a moocher snapper old school styles – straylining with big baits – stay tuned



Taking your Dad fishing!

It has been a bit of a theme for summer, some of our keen jiggers bring their old fella out for a spot of kingi mayhem!

Simon Gooder put his Dad on to a primo fish jigging at the Aldies. On the way out we tried a new spot we're going to call Si's reef because Simon instantly nailed a nice hapuku around 25kg.



His puka was caught on a green and gold spear jig.

Next to bring Dad out for some fishing was Max, who is out with us a lot jigging. He had his father out with us a few times while he was visiting from China. Max's Dad was a gun on the jigging and went hard! Check out these two cracking fish, the best went 23kg!



Shallow water action

One of our favourite reefs in the shallows has produced some great fish over summer. We took out Kim Mitchell from top Tairua restaurant The Cyprus Tree to catch her first kingi and she nailed two before the sun came up over Slipper! The kingis were hitting live baits within seconds of being cast behind the boat!

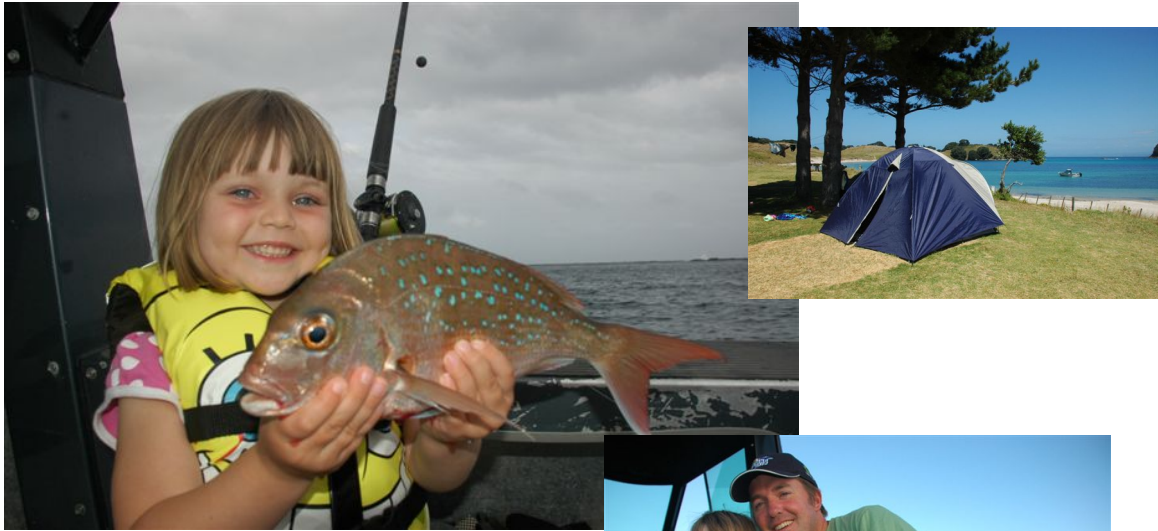


Shannon and Brendon also spent some time with us fishing the reef and were both blown away with the madness we witnessed so close to the boat ramp!



Bella and Dad do Slipper

I managed to sneak a few days in between trips this year to take Bella my daughter out for a camping trip to Slipper Island. Brett Collins and his daughter Tayla also joined us for a great few days on the island. There's not a lot better than seeing kids have a ball catching fish. Bella got her first decent snapper which we cooked up for dinner that night – it doesn't get much better!



Bella and her first snapper!

Piper does the damage for Jason

Jason MacFarlane is getting into his kingi fishing in Ozzie and came out with us during a trip to New Zealand to see what our kingi fishery is like. It was fairly hard fishing for a change and nothing except smaller kingis were taking the livies. Time to change tack, we set a cube trail and a dead piper was cast out and retrieved behind the boat.

Sure enough there was a huge explosion behind the boat and the 10kg mono started peeling off the reel. We went in chase of the fish and Jason did a fine job landing it, going about 15kg. Awesome stuff Jason!!



Pays to have a stash of piper on board as a backup!

APRIL AND MAY JIGGING TRIPS

Make sure you get out with us during April or May for some of the biggest, fattest kingfish of the year! We have heaps of midweek spots so get in touch before they fill up! The jigging will be off the planet once again!!

Come out and try some of our new jigging gear – including our nice new Stella 20000FA and Smiths Offshore AMJ 400 rod!



Vanuatu Trip 2009

We've secured two dates on Shogun again in Vanuatu this year, late July and early August. It is an ideal time of year to escape New Zealand in winter and fish a tropical fishing paradise – think big Blue Marlin, jigging for yellowfin and dogtooth and catching heaps of tasty mahimahi and wahoo.

If anyone is keen to join either of these trips let us know quickly as we will be firming up the crew for each trip before the end of March.



**ONCE AGAIN THANKS FOR FISHING WITH US &
SEE YA AGAIN SOON!!**

ALL THE BEST....CARL!