

Hi Everyone!!

It has been an awesome summer, and we've got lots of cool photos and fishy tales in this jammed packed newsletter. A huge thanks to everyone who came on an EPIC ADVENTURE with us over the last few months!

KINGFISH CITY!

It was the summer of kingfish alright! We've got that many photos of kingies caught over the summer it was hard to pick which ones to use in the newsletter. But the standout day was with Michael Garrick of Australia.

Michael's first cast and he hooked a freight train on the other end of the 4kg Berkley Dropshot rod, and we spent a good hour chasing down a 20kg kingi on light gear. Apart from

a bit of a break on the beach at Slipper Island, Michael spent the majority of the day hooked up on big kingis, about twelve in total!!

The rest were all on 24kg braid, pretty much every drift Michael hooked into a big kingi, as they snorted down live jack mackerel caught from the bait ball they were feeding on - the best kingi going 21kg.



BACK TO BASICS!

Bill Hart from the UK is used to tackling monsters, traveling to Canada each year to fish for giant 800lb sturgeonfish and salmon. He was chomping at the bit to tackle a few of our NZ sportsfish. On a day when all our usual tricks live softbait and livebait didn't work, and the sea was too snotty to go jigging, we went back to basics, fishing big whole mackerel baits down a burley trail, and look what it produced.



This primo 10 pound snapper screamed off with the bait in freespool and Bill was that enthralled with feeling the line peeling off the reel under his thumb I could have sworn it took a good minute or so to strike it!! Great to see someone who gets a buzz out of straylining for snapper.....you can't beat that screaming run of a snapper when it takes the bait!!!

NATIONALS CHAMP!

We've got an epic story on the Nationals in the next issue of the Fishing Coast to Coast magazine so I won't recite too much of it, but Anthony Honeybone, Paul Brown and Brett Collins made up the Epic Adventures team for the NZ Nationals.

Anthony came away with Nationals trophy for most yellowtail kingfish tagged in the tournament, (WELL DONE MATE!!!) and we came second overall team in the kingfish section. We caught a LOT of kingfish, and filled in a LOT of tag cards!!!

Those of you that have done some jigging wide of the Aldermen Islands with us know just how awesome it can be out there, and we had a few days where they

were at their absolute best, although challenging when we were fishing 10kg and 15kg line most of the time. Expecting a lot of kingis out there that would be nice and easy to tag in the 7-10kg range we kept hooking into 16-20+kg models – damn!! Anyway a lot of good fun was had over the week, but it would be fair to say it took a wee while for the body to recover afterwards.....



And after a jam packed week of releasing lots of kingfish, it was on to doing the same with snapper!

A WEEK OF SOFTBAITING FOR SNAPPER

Dene Moore spends as much time as he can fishing for bream in southern NSW, and joined us in March for a weeks softbaiting for our famous snapper, along with his nephew Cameron.



Well targeting snapper was the plan, but you know that kingi's love GULP too!

Dene and Cameron went home a couple of nights complaining about rather sore arms from wading through the kingi's to get to the snapper!

Deep down, I know you guys enjoyed it!!

We picked up an endless line of pan sized snapper in close, but it was the Aldermen Islands that produced the good fish like this nice kelpie.



Dene pulled a great line of fish like this on softbaits from the wash.and every single one of them went back to fight another day. In fact the large majority of the fish the guys caught through the trip were released, except for a feed of fresh fish cooked up at their accommodation each night.



You can't beat the Aldermen Islands first thing in the morning!!

We fished all the islands around Tairua, the Aldies and even snuck up the coastline for some of the Coromandel famous scenery



and a feed of Scallops at the Mercs (you can't beat them fresh out of the water!!!)



The Mercs produce some great softbait fishing as well, you have to love moving from one island to the next, a change of scenery all the time, and every stop you're hooking into nice fish like these, this time to Cam



MARLIN MADNESS!

Thomas and Inger from Denmark spent a week fishing for kingis with us, including this primo 18kg fish hooked in close to the Aldermen Islands. We hooked them left right and centre on the Dogger Bank the first morning of fishing too. But a lull in the kingi fishing saw us chasing a few tuna down at lunchtime one day, the lures weren't set before the first fin turned up behind the lures, not a yellow one, but the dorsal of a decent



striped marlin. We hooked three marlin in three hours, all within spitting distance of the Aldermen Islands, and while all three dropped off, it made for a very exciting day!! All three fish were spotted by Inger first in the lures and it wasn't until we circled back around that we had a strike and hook up. Great to know that the motor puts out the right noises, but we've been that busy with the kingi fishing over summer to have a decent crack at the marlin. They are still out there though.....

UPCOMING TRIPS!!!!!!!!!!

SLIPPER ISLAND OVERNIGHTERS

We're off to Slipper Island for a few overnight trips in the coming months. Autumn is a great time to fish for snapper and kingfish in close around Slipper Island and we're making use of the great accommodation on shore as our base for breakfast, lunch and dinner – perfect for real weekend fishing getaway. Stay tuned for a write up on a few of the trips in the next newsletter.

FISH THE TROPICS!! VANUATU TRIP 08

Now that summer is over we have a bit more time at the computer and phone we're finalising a couple of overseas trips for the winter. We'll be back to fish the remote Vanuatu island of Epi, gamefishing for Blue Marlin and Yellowfin Tuna, jigging for dogtooth and popper fishing for GT's.

The crew who came with us last year described it as “the trip of a lifetime”, full of great fishing, primo local food, and an authentic outer islands experience. If it sounds like something you might be keen on to break up winter, let us know and we'll send you details of the trip.

WINTER JIGGING FOR BIG KINGIS

We're stocking up on plenty of heavy metal for the jigging season! From now through until Sept we're into our best jigging for kingfish. The outer seamounts start to really fire and fifty kingis in a day is not out of the question, especially on a nice day.

And of course winter is when softbaiting for big snapper really comes into its own, so there's no reason not to get out there fishing as the weather cools down – the fishing can be legendary. Some of our best snapper last year were caught on softbaits last minutes from the Tairua harbour. So you can be sure we'll be out there as much as we can over autumn, winter and spring.

EPIC ADVENTURES TO 'THE BARRIER' AND 'MERC'S'

Stay on a 42ft launch and experience a real getaway, cruising the remote islands of the Coromandel – Great Barrier and the Red Mercury Islands. Fantastic winter diving for crayfish and fishing for snapper, hapuka and kingis. You simply can't beat getting away and staying on the water for a few days, so grab a few mates and let's go!! No, we haven't gone and splashed out on a new launch (a

few more years maybe...) but we've teamed up with the best of the bigger local boats to deliver a mutli day offshore experience you'll never forget.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Nothing fancy this time around! It is back to basics. Things taste pretty good with a bit of smoke thrown into the mix, and last week we cooked up a bunch of crayfish we'd caught over an open fire on the beach. Grab a bunch of driftwood, pile up some rocks and lay a grill tray on top. Split the crays in half and lay shell down, rub a bit of butter over the crays, squeeze a bit of lemon over them every so often, and cook until the flesh starts to just turn white. A dollop of wine splashed over them while they cooking doesn't hurt either. I tell ya I don't think I've had much better for a long, long time!!

ALL THE BEST, WE HOPE YOU'RE ALL WELL

CARL, BELINDA, BELLA AND OSCAR!!

