

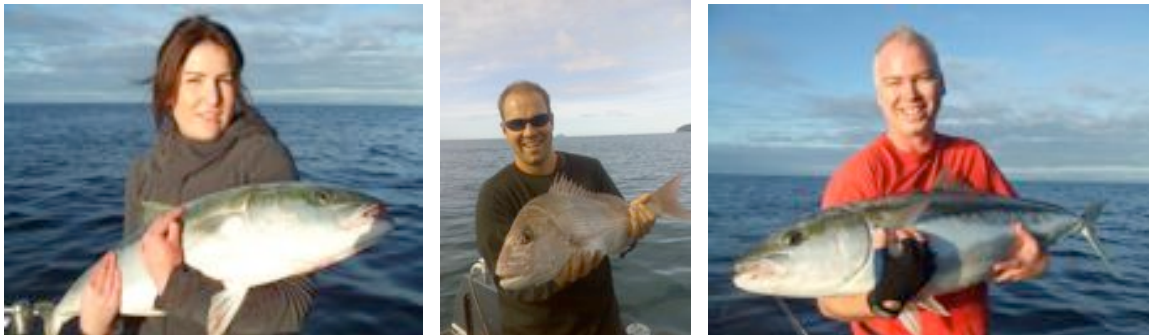


Winter Newsletter June 2008

Pop on a beanie, slip on the thermals and pack the jacket cos we're now into one of our best times of the year for fishing – **Winter!** Sure the days are a bit cooler and a bit wilder at times, but it is worth braving the elements, the fishing is often better than most other times of the year.

First day of Winter

The conditions on the first day of winter – 1 June - were hardly typical– flat seas and plenty of sun as you can see in the photos.



Brother and sister Emily and Simon, together with their mate Mike nailed a triple hook up on hard fighting kingis at 8am in the morning, the best one of Simon's going 18kg.

They got stuck into plenty more kingfish over the rest of the day, all but two fish were released to fight another day, then a nice line of 8-10 pound snapper on softbaits near the end of the day.

The Epic Trifecta!

Maurice, Malcolm and crew from Te Awamutu were on stand by with us for a nice spell of winter weather and got the call up 5 days out from a big high approaching New Zealand. They joined us on one of those beauty winter days, a light 10 knot southwester dropping out to glassy calm.



The guys nailed the perfect winter trifecta of kingfish (about 25 kingis on jigs which we released in the morning to 20kg and one each for the bin), hapuku and finally snapper on softbaits on the way home. Hapuku are a prime eating New Zealand fish, and the one pictured was caught on a whole squid while drifting over one of our favourite hapuku grounds.

Hot jigs over the day for the kingis were our favourite Katch1 blue spear jigs and also the green and gold or orange Zest hardys.

Big Winter Fatties!

Our latest kingfish expedition saw us outside the Aldermen Islands where Paul Stoddart, Carl Sanders-Edwards and Steve Gilmour all nailed kingis over 20kg, Paul's going 23kg from a triple strike! As you can see it was a big fat winter fish.



We were fishing over the full moon, which is always a great time to catch the bigger kingis

on the jigs. Paul's fish had over half a dozen red snapper in him, so had been feasting up large over the full moon.

Talking to the other boats fishing similar grounds the same day, no-one caught any fish over 15kg, so the guys had their jigging action down to a fine art, with half a dozen fish between 18 and 23kg. The best three fish fell to a blue Katch1 jig, a



green Katch1 jig and a purple Zest curved slider. Well done fellas!

Cover Boy Ants!

In our last newsletter we mentioned our epic week fishing the Nationals in February. Well a pic we took that week made it to the cover of the Fishing Coast to Coast magazine. The pic is of Anthony Honeybone, who got the Trophy for the most kingfish tagged and released in the tournament, and for those that have fished with us, the coastline just south of Pauanui might look a little familiar!



After we sent our last newsletter in March, we had some awesome autumn fishing, I certainly can't remember an Autumn on the Coromandel like it..and who would have thought we'd be catching.....

MahiMahi in April!

Just after the last Fishing Coast to Coast magazine made it to the shelf sporting Ant's photo, I spotted a window in the weather and invited the editor, Mike Rendle out for a fish with us. Mike has been keen to come out and do a review of the boat for a while, and having a nice still day always helps when you're under the pump to find some good fishing action.

Mike joined us on one of those magic days, variable 5 knots was the forecast and for most of the morning there was not a breath of wind on the water. We started off catching a few good kingis on the 'Katch1' jigs from Sportsfishing NZ.

From the first drop the fishing was non stop, awesome jigging. On about the fifth fish I had a solid hook up that went slack, and I thought maybe the coutta had found us, but the next minute there was a splash behind the boat. My first thought was 'skippie!' and I thought that would be a bit of a buzz, our first skippie caught on a jig. I leant over to grab the fish to see it was not a tuna, but a mahimahi, and it was not alone, there was a school of over a hundred fish following it to the boat!

And so started an epic session at the Aldermen Pins that I will remember for a long, long time, but to be honest I can't recall exactly how it all panned out fish by fish as it was absolute bedlam! We put away the jigging gear, got the softbait rods out and both of our first casts produced solid hookups on



hard fighting mahi's.

We were joined by another boat after the first fish, and both our boats drifted side by side with a school of about three hundred fish following our casts and any captured fish to the boat. After about twenty fish in an hour we packed it in, we'd filled the bin with tasty mahimahi.

Mike got plenty of good shots of jumping fish – the mag is on the shelves next week so grab a copy and read the full story! A big cheers to Mike, some great coverage for Epic Adventures!



Epic Adventure to Slipper Island

Tim, Duane and Sully (a.k.a TAD tours), joined us for their annual 'boys trip.' Wanting to do something special for their annual trip, I suggested our Slipper Island weekender, where we fish Saturday and Sunday and overnight in a self contained cabin on the beautiful Slipper Island. We cook a mean 'nosh up' Saturday night of the fish we've caught that day.



The conditions weren't the best but we still got on to some great fishing, with everyone catching their first ever kingis on Saturday morning at the Aldermen Islands, before coming into Slipper Island to offload all of our gear.

Then it was off to the Watchman Rock just offshore from Slipper for a big burley up and snapper fish. The kingis had other ideas and we soon had the anchor up, chasing down two kingis that were hell bent on spooling us on our 6kg softbait rods.

We had an epic feed on Saturday night of kingfish sashimi, kingfish patties, and bourbon flamed kingfish burgers and recounted the tales from the days fishing, before heading out to do it all again the next day.



If you're looking for something a little different then I'd highly recommend doing our Epic Adventure to Slipper.

Boz and Deacs Epic Adventure!

Two regular contributors and characters on Fishing.net.nz internet forum, Boz and Deacs had been itching to get out jigging with us for a while, and braved the elements on a pretty average May day.

Deacs nailing a massive kingi around the 20kg mark and Boz landing a PB. Top stuff guys!



A week on the Coromandel

Simon and Alex ventured over from Hong Kong and Australia to New Zealand for a weeks fishing on the Coromandel. We had a great few days trying a variety of methods and locations. We slow trolled livies, cast softbaits in the wash, fished softbaits deep, jiggged the pins and had the odd big old fashioned burley up.

They showed their skills catching a great line of fish over four days on the water. No end of good snapper and the biggest kingi (20kg) was caught on a slow trolled yellow eyed mullet. Epic guys!



Recipe of the Month

Ralder Beer Battered Kahawai with Tamarillo and Coconut Sauce!

The good old beer batter just got better! This has to be one of the nicest battered fish meal I've had, and the fish I used was....kahawai!

Batter:

- One cup of flour
- Half a bottle of Monteith's Radler (for those outside NZ, this is a lemony/lime flavoured beer)
- Two tablespoons of Cathedral Cove Macadamia crumb

Let the batter set in the fridge for half an hour, then coat fish and deep fry in oil.

Heat a sauce to cover the fish from:

- Pulp of four golden tamarillos
- Tablespoon of sweet chilli sauce
- Cup of coconut cream
- Tablespoon of Cathedral Cove Macadamia dukkah



Epic Adventure to Vanuatu – 1 SPOT LEFT!

This year we're running our annual gamefishing expedition to Vanuatu in November. We leave Auckland airport on Nov 8, spending a week in this tropical gamefishing paradise.

November is the best time to target XOS yellowfin in the 70-80kg range. Like last year, we'll be spending four nights on the remote island of Epi, and three days at the gamefishing base of Port Vila. There's only one spot left so get in quick if you want to be a part of the trip. Big blue marlin, big yellowfin, big dogtooth tuna, and plenty of good food and good times.



All the best

Carl, Belinda, Bella and Osca