



## Christmas Newsletter 2008



### Thanks for an Epic year!

Hi Everyone!

It's our final newsletter for the year and we wanted to extend a [big thanks](#) to everyone who has supported us this year. All those people who have been fishing with us, from near and far. All those people who have helped to grow the business over the last year and helped out behind the scenes. We hope you have an awesome Christmas!

In the meantime here is another collection of [epic fishing tales](#) from the last few months - there have been plenty of great fish. The two pics above say it all, Sharyn's snapper above caught on her third cast with us, and Greg's first ever kingi on his first drop of the jig first thing in the morning, they are just a few of the great fish and good smiles that have stuck in the mind over the last few months - it has been a fun time on the water.

We're looking forward to another cracking year of big fish, good seafood and fun times out of Tairua in 2009. We've included a few hints as to what to expect in the New Year!

All the best

Carl, Belinda, Bella and Oscar

## Surface Kingfish Action

For the large part of the last few months we were fishing a spot where the kingfish have been holding real high in the water column. I'm presuming this is primarily because of what they have been feeding on and also because the kingfish have just been going through their annual spawn.

We've been filling all of our jigging reels with Jig Star rainbow braid, with colour separations every 10 metres and it has made it pretty easy to target the fish because you know exactly how much line you have out at any given time.

We simply find them on the sounder, then it is a matter of keeping the drop vertical, and dropping jigs exactly to where the fish are holding. The kingfish have pretty consistently been at a depth of 20-30m so the call basically goes out "three colours", to drop to 30m.

However there have been bursts where the kingis were pushing bait right to the surface and we'd have hundreds of big kingis crashing on bait right around the boat.

Jonathan Watts (JW) caught kingi's with us using four different techniques on a day like this - the kingis were all over the surface putting on an awesome display.

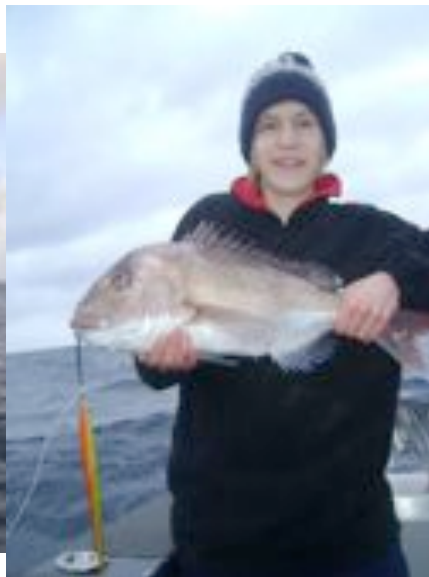
After catching plenty of kingis on jigs, JW cast out a Bozo's King Kruncher that got nailed right beside the boat right in front of our eyes. We had filled the livie tank with small kahawai on the way out that morning and well it would be rude not to swim one of those out behind the boat as well wouldn't it! Didn't take long for that to get whacked as well! Finally a surface popper was given a few casts and once again we had some spectacular takes right beside the boat.



*JW with a nice Popper caught kingi!*



*Ryan Rapana with a kingi that hit a jig at 5m! You want some steady footing when a kingi hits just under the boat!*



*There have been plenty of snapper hitting jigs too! Orange jigs have been popular with snapper.*

## **Time on the water with two lure makers!**

It was an absolute pleasure recently to spend time on the water with two of the worlds top lure makers.

First up, we had [BONZE](#) with us for three days on Epic Adventures, where four lucky people each day joined us for a [gamefishing seminar](#) with the man himself imparting his immense knowledge of marlin fishing. Bonze had just come off a season where he caught something like 130+ Blue Marlin in six months skippering in Cape Verde and the Azores, so there are not many people in the world who have caught more blue marlin than him in the last year. Yet the guy was very modest and down to earth and very willing to share his secrets.

Bonze is back in New Zealand for summer making his world class range of marlin lures and we'll be running a good spread of his marlin lures this season and putting into practice many of the principles he was talking about.

Of course we had to make sure Bonze got into some Epic kingi action while he was here as well!



*Bonze taking a break from talking about marlin fishing – catching a few kings on the jigs!*

A few weeks later we had a Japanese film crew from [Shimano TV](#), and Shimano's lure maker Mr Sasaki. He is the man that designed Shimano's lucanus style [slow jigs](#).

Shimano Japan TV were in New Zealand filming a DVD and internet clip for their New In-chi-koo style slow jigs, designed specifically for targeting snapper. As usual with a film crew on board the pressure was on the skipper to find the fish!

The slower jigging style is often very productive on big kingfish with the bigger long jigs, and so it was very interesting to see these new jigs (which are a mix between the lucanus jigs and a metal jig) being fished. It didn't take long to get amongst some good fish and we managed to put Mr Sasaki on to some nice snapper and kingis on the slow jigs.



*Shimano Japan lure maker Mr Sasaki with a few of the nice fish he caught with us on In-chi-koo style jigs while filming for Shimano TV.*

## Another Epic Adventure to Vanuatu!

After last years awesome trip it didn't take long to fill up our November trip back to fish with Pete and Leanne on [Shogun](#) in Vanuatu. November is usually a good time for big yellowfin in the 50-70kg range and we came across some huge surface workups of yellowfin while we were there. We had mutiple hook ups including a quadruple hook up on big tuna and the biggest tuna went 62kg to Euan MacLachlan,

Other fish of note were a 52kg sailfish and a 25KG GT and we had plenty of great tasting mahimahi and yellowfin to keep us very well fed very well during our trip. There will be a write up in Fishing Coast to Coast magazine next year, so keep an eye out for it. Apart from the superb fishing the trip is an experience in itself, journeying to outlying islands rarely visited by tourists, and the hospitality of the local village we stay with on Epi Island is second to none.

We're heading back to Vanuatu next year on the following dates:

27-31 July and

17-31 August

If you are keen on a winter getaway focused around some tropical gamefishing next year then put your name down now!!

*'Bushie' and a 25kg  
Giant Trevally*



*Eaun and his huge  
yellowfin*

## Recipe of the Month - Decadent Hapuku!

As far as fish for the table goes it doesn't get much tastier than Hapuku. We've been getting a few lately and prospecting some new 'Puka spots.



*A double header of puka recently – one on a jig and the other on fresh skipjack tuna.*

Rolled in some sea salt and flour and then straight in the pan it doesn't get much better...or does it...

This recipe takes a bit of beating:

- Take a nice thick slab of hapuku (skin on)
- Roll in sea salt
- Roll in sweet chilli sauce
- Coat in breadcrumbs
- Pan fry in macadamia oil
- Brown all sides of the puka
- Place a slice of tasty cheese over the top of the fillet
- Pour some wine into the bottom of the pan, close to lid and finish so the middle of the fish cooks through and cheese melts over the top.

Enjoy with a nice glass of wine!

## Plenty of Kingis In Close!

Over the last month the kingis have moved inshore with the bait and all of favourite kingi spots in close are holding good sized kingis. We've been filling the livie tank easily each morning and that makes life a lot easier.

There's nothing quite like catching a kingi in the shallows - the balloon getting dragged underwater, the scream of the reel and the scrap a nice kingi gives you in close quarter fishing.



*After two years surviving UK weather and no fishing, Gez was just a little bit happy to see this kingi!*

*It was caught on a live jack mackerel in 10m of water at 7am on Gez's second day back in Godzone.*

For more on livebaiting in close, also check out Carl's article in the latest Fishing Coast to Coast magazine.

## Jigging Talk at Counties Manakau Fishing Club!

Together with Tony and JP from YeeHaa Fishing Tackle in Panmure we did a talk on jigging at the Counties Manakau Fishing club last month.

Carl wet the guys appetite with some photos and video footage from the last year and Tony and JP took over and talked about the technical and gear side of things.

We've had a few guys come out and give it a go, including these two nice fish caught by Gibbo (21kg) and Brad Morris recently



## More Fish from the last few months.....



*Mark Edwards and a 20kg kingi caught on his brand new JigWrex and Trinidad reel*

*MacFlasher rigs have been working on the big snapper out on the deep fowl*



*His tackle collection includes over 100 rods and reels and a fair few of them have been loaded aboard Epic on Boulders monthly trips with us. Boulder has got into plenty of good fish himself.*

## What's Coming Up?

The yellowfin and marlin will be off the coast from the next few weeks through until March. We've just got two new 50W Shimano Tiagras from YeeHaa fishing tackle to add to the collection of game Penn game gear and plenty of new Bonze lures to wet. We'll be doing a few days cubing for yellowfin and livebaiting for marlin as well. If you are keen to give the gamefishing a crack tand get the fish of a lifetime then let us know.

There will be plenty of kingis in close to shore over the next three months, making it easy to do a half day to chase them if you want a quick trip on the water.

We have plenty of jigging trips lined up for next year as always. April and May is when the jigging really starts to fire up so make sure you get some dates booked if you are keen!!

We're looking forward to all those who are traveling over from Australia and further aboard for a week with us next year. Keep an eye on our website for how the fishing is going!

For those keen on a bit of action over New Years and January we still have a few days free so get in touch if you are keen to get out and into it!

Until then...  
Tight Lines!!

All the best  
Carl, Belinda, Bella and Oscar



*The cleaning crew  
In action!*