



JULY NEWSLETTER

New Boat!!

With a tear in our eye we sold the trusty old Stabicraft 580 a few weeks back, but were pleased to see it go to a good home down in Wellington.

The great news is that we have replaced it with a bigger, comfier Stabicraft 659 Supercab. There is more room in the comfy cabin, a bit more juice in behind with a 150HP Yamaha Four Stroke, and stacks of room for fishing and diving gear.



You'll notice in the pic that the boat was the gate prize in the Boat Show this year. The winner sold it to buy the next model up with a friend.

So...if you're keen to get out on the water in the next few weeks, we'll have completed all our survey requirements and a few other chores by the end of this week and will be ready for charters in the new boat this coming weekend ie 4 August.

Our first trip (& a trip of firsts!)

Needing to give the boat a good run in, we spent a full day on the water yesterday testing everything out. It was one of those magic winter days, with the ocean as flat as a pool table, no wind....and great fishing! The local Butcher, Brett (smokes all our fish) and local Gardener, Aaron (takes good care of our lawns while we're busy fishing!), put their hands up to help christen the new boat.



We were in the water at 6.15 am, and endeavored to catch a few livies for the bait tank. Brett landed the first catch for the new boat on a squid jig and we had fresh calamari for dinner!

With the livie tank full, we bolted out past the Aldermen Islands. We were nice and cosy courtesy of the canvass canopy we have at the back of the cabin and there was enough room in the cabin for the three of us to rig up all our jigging rods for the next spot. It was nice to get to the Aldermen Pins a little quicker than usual!

The plan was to get Aaron his first Kingi, and then to get Brett a snapper on a softbait as he had been trying for a few weeks and was dubious as to whether they worked.

We pulled up at the pins and it took about 5 mins to find where the kingi's were holding. Aaron was hooked up first of all, and landed a solid kingi first up, a great effort for his first kingfish!



We motored back to the waypoint and the next drop, Aaron hooked straight into the next fish, this time it looked a lot more solid, and Aaron was soon grunting as he struggled to get line back on the fish. He did a great job and 15 mins later we had an awesome 18kg kingfish boatside! Not bad for his first two fish that's for sure!!



The Butcher was the next to hook up, and made quick work of a nice king that went 14kg back at the clubhouse. We stuck around the pins for another hour and hooked another 6 kingfish up to about 16kg, which we released to fight another day.



The Aldermen Island kingfish are probably in the best shape of the year, they are big and fat for their length, and now is the time to get into some great jigging action!

With the kingi's accounted for and Aaron well and truly breaking his kingfish virginity, it was time to go and get Brett a snapper on softbait. We've been having some great snapper fishing on the new GULP softbait and one spot in particular you can almost guarantee a few nice fish on the first drift. What is better, it is only five minutes from port.

Brett hooked up to the first fish, which went three pound but was outdone by Aaron whose line screamed off on a big fish. A big snapper is great fun on the 'little' rigs we use and Aaron played the fish for about 5 minutes before a nice 12 pound snapper came boatside – Aaron's first snapper on softbait, his first time trying them out!!! As you can see Brett was pretty adamant Aaron had poached his fish!!!



A big thanks to Brett and Aaron for helping to break the boat in and for a great day out on the water!!

Winter and Spring Trips

The calendar is booking up quick, and we'd love to get everyone who fished with us in the old boat back out again soon. Right now is a great time for big kingfish out wide (weather permitting) and big snapper in close. There are also plenty of Hapuka being caught.

Get in touch with us on email info@epicadventures.co.nz if you'd like to get out on the water soon.

Summer

There are a few weeks that are already booked out over summer, so let us know if you are interested in a trip over summer. We have access to a couple of baches here in Tairua if you are interested in an extended stay, and a few days on the water.

VANUATU!!

Thanks to Lonnie and Ian who have signed up for the Vanuatu trip. We are all booked in, and still have a spots or two available. Think giant Blue Marlin, ballistic wahoo, fresh tuna on the BBQ, great hosts, a few Pina Colada's and nice warm weather.....if you're keen to join the trip, you'll need to sign up this week.

We've had plenty of interest for next year and almost have a full trip locked away for next year.

Belinda and Bella's recipe of the Month

FISH CHOWDER

A nice hearty recipe for this time of year, and a good way to make sure that nothing goes to waste!

1. STOCK

Bring a large soup pot of water to boil. Boil up 4-5 snapper heads/frames together with some lemon slices and bay leaf for 10 mins. Give the occasional stir and break the heads up along the way. Strain off all the bones and chunks, until you have liquid left over – your stock. Save 1/2 the stock for curries or another batch of soup.

2. CHOWDER

Replace half of the stock back into clean pot, top up with same amount of hot boiled water to double the liquid level. Add curry powder, sweet chilli sauce, rice (1-2 cups), frozen sweetcorn, fish sauce, salt, pepper, parsley, a packet or two of creamy potato and leek soup mix. Once rice is cooked, top up with milk and two cups of parsley and add diced fish and/or shellfish just before serving so it is just cooked through.