



Welcome to our Spring Newsletter for 2008!!

We said last newsletter to pack the winter woolies and get stuck into the winter fishing and for those that did they were rewarded with the best three months of fishing we've had! It was simply epic!

A huge thanks to all those who have supported us and braved the winter conditions, we had a really productive season. With the days getting longer and the weather more settled we're now buzzing about what spring and summer have in store!

Top Fish of Winter!

Goes to Kerren Packer, who joined us on a primo day at the tail end of winter. Kerren has seen no shortage of big fish, usually from behind the camera putting together New Zealand's popular ITM Fishing Show. Together with a bunch of mates, they got into a heap of kings with us but the biggest by a country mile was this horse of a fish!

The fish was hooked on a Jigging Master 250 rod, and the lighter action of the rod put a bit more action into the jig on a



day when the fishing was a little on the tough side. Kezza did a wicked job of keeping this horse of a fish under control on the lighter jigging gear and a whole lot of colour greeted him under the boat at the end of the fight! After a few quick photos Kezza didn't flinch in putting the fish back to fight another day.

We didn't get a chance to weigh it but estimates on the day put it somewhere between 25kg and 30kg, looking back at the photos I would put it somewhere near the latter. His previous best was a 26kg fish and he reckoned this one kicked all over it so there you go!

Working out for the Kings and Puka!

Rikki, Mont, Neil and Jun have fished three times with us over winter. Their first outing was an experience they'll never forget and after the first two hours they were completely shattered having caught and released plenty of kingis.

They swore they'd be back and sure

enough a month later they hopped on board, this time with plenty more jigging gear – it seemed they'd got the bug! They'd also been to the Warehouse and invested in a set of dumbbells each to train for the next trip. They ended up with a few new PB's and also a Hapuka on a jig – a Zest curved slider.

Their last trip saw some great fish and Rikki and Mont both cracking the 20kg mark, with some very fat fish. The biggest fish weighed at 23kg. It has been a pleasure fishing with these guys -they have a lot of fun in the process!

On the last trip the guys stayed in Tairua for the night and we finished the day off with a feed of kingfish sashimi and macadamia crumbed kingfish not to mention a few quiet beers! See ya again soon guys!



Braving the Winter Conditions – Part One!

Evan and Wai headed over the Tasman from Sydney where Evan works as an account manager for Daiwa and Wai runs a local tackle store, Global Tackle.

They arrived in the midst of winter and were greeted with pretty average conditions, in fact while they were here we had some pretty major floods, but having a bit of time up their sleeve, we simply fished the windows of weather in between the storms and made sure they got stuck into some good fish.

We hit some hot bites on the snapper with plenty of nice snapper in the 8-15pd mark coming to the boat. This is where softbait fishing comes into its own in winter, straylining in 30 knots of wind is almost impossible with the boat swinging around everywhere, but with the sea anchor out on the drift we got a great line of primo snapper on softbaits, especially the Nuclear Chicken Pogys.



We managed two short sessions out wide on the jigging grounds early in the morning before the wind got up and both times we experienced red hot bites, the first day we got a fish that would have gone close to 30kg to the boat that was only just hooked, we got it on video beside the boat and sent it off to fight another day. The next session both Wai and Evan got some great fish and Evan boated a 25kg fish which we weighed and took some snaps before releasing.



I've got to say that I had a new appreciation of how effective spinning reels are for jigging after seeing the way Evan's Saltiga reels accounted for these kingfish.

And he tells me they've been using for them for marlin back home.....now that has me thinking about the coming game season.....stay tuned!!!

Braving the Winter Conditions – Part Two!

The weather wasn't flash either for Brett, Geoff and Ged when they arrived from Sydney. In fact it was hard to keep our footing as I showed the guys the beach and where we were destined to hide out of the wind for the first few days. We caught some nice snapper on softbaits not far from the harbour on the first couple of days as well as bagging a few crays for dinner too. We ended up getting wide twice and all the guys battled plenty of kingis, Brett's best fish went 22kg. We had a classic double hook up of a mako and big kingfish, and no sooner was the mako released than he was back hunting and took the tail off the big kingi! We'd released all of the other fish, so this one became sashimi! Once again despite some average conditions we made sure the guys got what they came for!



YeeHaa – A New Fishing Store in Auckland!

Tony (Ye) Huang has fished with us a number of times now, and knows his stuff, especially when it comes to jigging, softbaiting, flyfishing and gamefishing!

He's recently opened a store in Panmure called YeeHaa tackle and for anyone who has picked up the jigging bug on one of our trips, best you get in store and check out some of Tony's wares!

There's plenty of Stellas, Saltigas, Jigging Master rods and no shortage of shiny new jigs as well!

As well as stocking our favourite Katch1 and Zest jigs, Tony has developed his own line of jigs.

Tony has been bringing a few groups down to fish with us and has been getting in to some good fish, including this puka and kingi caught on one of his jigs.

If you're coming down to fish with us from Auckland we highly recommend spending a bit of time in store prior to your trip. Just mention you are coming out with us and I'm sure Tony will look after you. Tony knows the jigs and gear that works well down our way and will be able to ensure you are well kitted out for your trip.

Gamefishing Seminars – An Epic Day Out With Bonze!

We're teaming up with NZ's top lure manufacturer, BONZE, who will be on board Epic Adventures on the 4th and 5th of November. Bonze will be running a game-fishing seminar onboard specifically around how best to run his lures to increase your results in the coming season. Keen? Then email Carl to book in for either of these dates.



The Ozzies do it again!

This time Kit Barker who managed to sneak in a bit of fishing on a work trip to New Zealand and managed to pick up this superb fish tipping the 25kg mark. It was only the second fish of the day and the Katch1 spear jig got absolutely nailed by a monster of a fish. The dray slid up as far as it could go, Kit held on and boated a new PB, about four times bigger than his previous personal best kingi caught in Sydney.



...and the Kiwi's hold their own!

On the same trip Dave Perrow caught and released a similar sized fish on his new Ocea Jigger, while Dave's mate Tim caught and released a heap of kings himself.

Dave was back a few months later and bagged another fish over 20kg, this time Tim got two huge fish around 25kg.



The macadamia crew return!

Those of you who have stayed with us in Tairua will know we just love cooking with macadamia oil and using Cathedral Cove Macadamia's seafood crumb to coat our kingfish and snapper.

Justin and Hamish Pilkington, two of the team behind these products joined us on board recently for what has become a bit of an annual tradition after them working hard on the Whitianga Scallop Festival, where they served up close to 20,000 scallops and took out best stand. Last year Justin took out the honours on board with a 20kg kingfish, but this year it was all Hamish's turn as he bagged a couple of beauty and one of the new YeeHaa jigs.



..and Megan bags a beauty!

..on the same trip Megan Etherington stepped up and showed the fellas how to do it, catching the first kingi of the day, her first ever king and a very nice one at that!



Baracoutta for dinner anyone?

Hennie and his family and friends originate from South Africa and are real keen fishos. They were keen to come out and suss out jigging, and got straight into the action, everyone bagging a top kingi, not too mention a sweet puka on a jig.

To the skippers surprise the two coutta we managed to also catch on the trip were kept for dinner, almost prized more than the kingfish and hapuka that was taken home! The guys assure me that with a bit of apricot jam over the top coutta are indeed a delicacy! Maybe I will look at them in a different light the next time they come to the boat with a jig in.....then again...! I'll make sure I suss out where



the coutta are for your next trip in November guys, as long as I don't have to taste the smoked coutta you are threatening to bring out for my lunch!!



Bella and Oscar's Epic Adventure

Bella and Oscar are growing up quickly and ventured out to Boat Harbour while we had the Pilkingtons on board recently. Unfortunately we have another scallop lover and Oscar managed to wolf down most of the macadamia crumbed scallops that Hamish cooked up on the beach, professing 'more, more, more', I know what that means – less for Dad!



A Monster, a Puka and a bit of a tangle.....

The last trip before this newsletter went out saw a monster of a fish come to the boat. It was caught on a Daiwa Saltiga Expedition and THAT jig again...a Katch1 pink spear jig.



Well done to Sheio Wong who caught the fish – it was a long skinny fish that went a whopping 27kg, had it been eating for a while before hand and been in better condition it would have gone well over 30kg, as you can see here it is nearly as wide as the boat! We also cracked George's kingfish and puka virginity, and saved his nice new Ocea Jigger and Jigging Master rod from the bottom when it went overboard, thankfully with the boat end still attached to the puka's mouth!



Hope all is great with you all and we look forward to seeing you in Tairua soon!
All the best, Carl, Belinda, Bella and Oscar!

Every Epic
Adventure Has
a Hero.....

YOU!!

