



GFAA Newsletter

April 2020

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This giant trevally was caught off Cairns not far from the infamous marlin factory "Linden Banks" at a spot known as St Crispin Reef. The angler was John Munro and the photographer Brett Munro. They were fishing out of their 7.8 metre Seafox centre console. The lure was a TP Kustom Lure purchased at Hooked Bluewater Sportfishing Tackle. The day was a glass out and fusiliers were everywhere. This GT was travelling with a similar sized mate and hit like a soviet tank. The Shimano Stella 14000 tamed the beast even in the shallow three metres of water.



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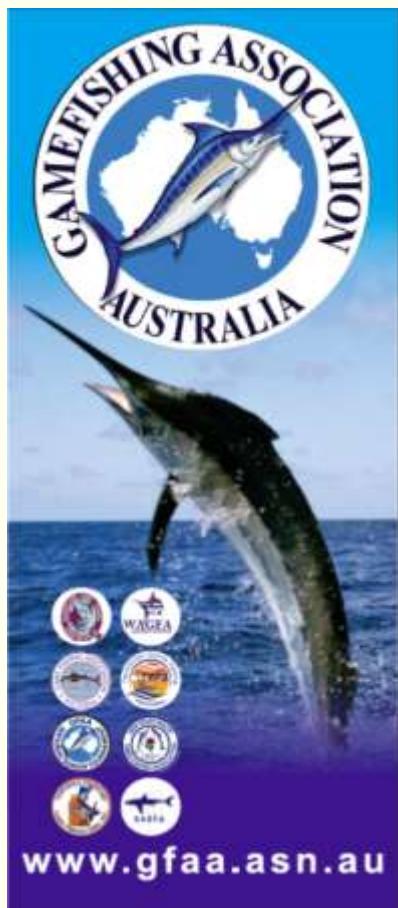
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From the President

Well what a year we are going through. First it was devastating bushfires and now Covid19.

The fishing has been great in so many places over the past few months and following the hardships faced following the fires, there was a sense that fishing could help return us to some form of normality. The efforts of people in rallying around to raise funds and support communities devastated by the fires were incredible and inspiring, the Association helped where and when it could and our thanks go to all for their efforts.

One highlight amongst the gloom was the news that Pat Gay AM, a former GFAA President and Life Member, has been honoured by the IGFA and is to be inducted into its Hall of Fame in September. Pat has been a great supporter of game fishing in Australia and particularly in Queensland, having served for a number of years as QGFA President. He was also a great supporter of the Cairns fishery, an angler of note and charter boat owner, spending many days on the water over many years. He joins a number of Australian members of the Hall of Fame. I'm sure you join me in congratulating Pat on being awarded this great honour. See page 5 for more details

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The Executive is looking at getting things moving as soon as we consider that restrictions have eased sufficiently to restart scoring for national awards, but it is unlikely to happen until all states have eased restrictions, to keep things fair to all. We're also looking at alternatives to the AGM and Presentation Dinner, which is scheduled for October 24th in Melbourne. Hopefully this drama will be well and truly over by then and we can go ahead, but we are currently looking at options to holding the meeting as a video conference, which may mean that the presentation dinner does not go ahead, although of course, the winners will still receive their awards.

There has been plenty happening in the background to keep us busy while we can't fish. Currently the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is developing a resource allocation framework which will eventually see the recreational sector receive formal allocation of catch in a number of key species and fisheries. It is vitally important that our

From the President (continued)

voice is heard, GFAA has been working on a detailed response to the discussion paper and all are urged to support our efforts by responding to the survey which is still open. There's more on Page 12, or follow this link: haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/sharing-fisheries-resources.

Another survey that is vitally important is the National Recreational Fishing Survey being undertaken by ABARES at present. This is the first time in many years that a comprehensive survey has been offered to the sector and it is a great opportunity for us all to have our say. We are gaining a better voice inside the corridors of power and I urge you all to spend some time doing the survey and giving your views while you have the chance. The link to the survey is: www.nationalrecsurvey.com.au

Here's hoping we can hit the water again soon, in the meantime, stay healthy and safe.

Tight Lines

Ian Bladin.
President



NEW Shimano Stella SWC

Click on the image for more information.

Click for a great video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIAn77uPN9U&feature=youtu.be>

News

About this Edition

The first edition of the GFAA Newsletter for 2020 was prepared against a background of bushfire disasters affecting the communities of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. This second issue comes with a background of the ravages of the Covid-19 virus which has affected boating and fishing enthusiasts even more. We can only hope its life is short and the damage is limited.

Help for Bermagui and Kangaroo Island
Out of the aftermath of the New South Wales fires, Bermagui Big Game Anglers Club and GFAA partnered in a fund raising exercise running raffles with charter boat fishing expeditions as prizes. GFAA's Junior Coordinator Kevin Oates was responsible for seizing the opportunity for GFAA to be involved. The success of this is described at right.

SAGFA has been able to source considerable funds from its member clubs to support the relief efforts on Kangaroo Island, half of which was burnt out. GFAA contributed a matching \$2000 to the KI Lord Mayor's Fund all of which is used to assist residents to get back on their feet.

R&D, Fisheries resources
GFAA's activities in support of research and development and the recreational fishing sector continues with a major grant application for the study of sailfish movements in northern Australia that was submitted in March. A submission on the Commonwealth fisheries resource sharing framework – sharing between recreational and commercial fishers – is being submitted at the end of April.

Submissions of these natures consume considerable volunteer resources but if successful will benefit GFAA members and the recreational fishing community as a whole. Each of these programs will require further input if successful.

The efforts of Tyrone O'Connor in Bermagui to raise funds for bushfire relief have been outstanding. Here is a summary of the outcome of his efforts.

Total raised was \$22,687 from two raffles and an auction.

The proceeds were distributed as follows:

\$7,560 paid to Nerrigundah Agriculture Bureau to help support the Nerrigundah community. Nerrigundah is a small village that had approximately 95% of its homes/town destroyed in a three pronged firestorm.

\$5,000 paid to the Cobargo Community Fund to help support the community following the devastating firestorm.

\$2560 paid directly to Bermagui Rural Fire Brigade. These proceeds are so the Bermagui RFB crew and their spouses/partners can all enjoy a night out as a show of appreciation for the enormous/outstanding work they performed during these past months.

\$7,567 paid to the Bermagui Chamber of Commerce to help support Bermagui small businesses that were severely impacted throughout the horrific fire season.

Corporate Membership

GFAA now offers corporate membership to organisations who want to showcase their products, services to the broader GFAA affiliated membership – members of all game fishing clubs throughout Australia.

For a complete rundown on the benefits partnering with GFAA, please make contact with Publicity Officer Doug Sanderson on 0411 641362 or doug@green-group.net

GARMIN is our first. Visit garmin.com.au



Become a Corporate Member of GFAA



Your company has a unique opportunity to become a corporate member of The Game Fishing Association Australia

For further information contact:

Doug Sanderson | 0411641362 | doug@green-group.net



IGFA recognises Pat Gay



Patrick Gay, AM

Patrick Gay is one of Australia's best-known anglers, has held many Australian records and has several IGFA World Records to his credit. He is the founder of Gay Constructions and the Gold Coast City Marina and Shipyard. Gay began fishing at an early age and, in 1979, purchased and put into charter the famous Sea Venture, captained by the legendary Captain Dennis "Bratzakka" Wallace, recipient of the IGFA's Tommy Gifford Award. Gay was an IGFA Representative in Queensland for 28 years and has held a number of government-appointed positions, including that of the Director of the Queensland Fish Board. Gay was also president of both the Queensland Game Fishing Association and the Game Fishing Association of Australia, served as an original Board Member of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, and was the founding Governor of the Pacific Game Fish Research Foundation. In 2007, he was awarded the Order of Australia (AM) for his services to the construction industry and the sport of game fishing and was inducted into the Cairns Game Fishing Hall of Fame in 2016. Reprinted from IGFA International Angler March 2020

State News

State News is compiled with a different state heading the section in each edition.

Western Australia

John Cramer
GFAA Executive Officer WA South



Leading up to mid/late March, three of the six affiliated southern clubs held tournaments during this current summer season. These included, Perth Game Fishing Club, Fremantle Sailing Club Game Fishing Section and Geraldton and Districts Offshore Fishing Club. The Naturaliste Sport and Game Fishing Club's main tournament for the year had to be cancelled and unfortunately reports and photos from any of these events are yet to be received.

Perth waters were only just beginning to show signs of billfish activity with four fish raised during the FSC Blue Marlin Classic. One blue marlin was tagged. Poor weather on the last day resulted in the event ending just as the anglers' enthusiasm was reaching another level. PGFC's event was influenced by poor weather which in turn affected the results. GDOFC's annual event held at the Abrolhos Islands was reasonably successful, with a fair cross section of fish being caught and more billfish raised than in past years.

Further good news. WAGFA has welcomed a new southern club member at this year's AGM, held in February, the Cockburn Power Boat Club. Although in its infancy, the addition of a new club and the potential to broaden and influence the club's membership toward game fishing within WA is exciting. Fortunately, the club has a few prominent members who are or have been, very proactive through other member clubs within WAGFA. There is already a positive agenda which includes holding topical information nights and other events. All of course on hold, due to the current corona situation.

One of the other less active Clubs in the past, Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club (MAAC), has a new WAGFA delegate, Dean Williams. Dean brings to the table a renewed enthusiasm and a background in oceanography. He is both a keen diver and fisho.

Recfishwest has deployed new FADs in the south west out from Albany, Cape Naturaliste to Two Rocks. Assessment of the benefits will probably not really be known this summer due to the recommended restrictions on the fishing fraternity. However, the feedback Recfishwest has received and the introduction of new FADSs can only be regarded as a positive step forward in the future.

New South Wales

Grahame Williams OAM, GFAA Life member,
GFAA Executive Officer, NSW.



The 2019/20 game fishing season has been one of the hardest ever in my memory with many southern towns ravaged by devastating bushfires and then floods from the Christmas period to early February. These events caused many clubs to cancel or postpone their tournaments and then in early March COVID-19 hit. So as things got worse and the government brought in many restrictions the NSWGFA Executive had a phone hook-up with the outcome being that as of midnight March 26th we ended the coastal waters season-long competition for State Trophies, along with suspending all fishing for records or any other trophies until further notice.

Events that were scheduled to run recently during January or February but were cancelled or have been postponed due to the bush fires, floods or dangerous sea conditions included the Batemans Bay Tollgate Islands Classic, the Eden Open Tournament, the Shellharbour Annual Open Tournament, the Bermagui Bluewater Classic and the Lake Macquarie Big Fish Bonanza. Seven clubs have since cancelled their tournaments, the Jervis Bay Billfish Shootout, the Shoalhaven Open, the Broken Bay Invitational, the Sydney Peter Goadby Invitational, the Kiama Blowhole Bigfish Classic, the Ulladulla Don Goswell Big Blue Memorial and the Port Hacking Shimano 100. At this stage it is unknown when start the NSWGFA fishing season will be restarted. We just have to wait and see what and when the Federal and NSW State Governments do about removing some of the restrictions that are in place.

Tournament's that were run

The Whitesands Tournament run by the Jervis Bay GFC was held over the weekend of the 30th November to the 1st December 2019. Unfortunately, the predicted and actual weather conditions were unfavourable, so the participating boat numbers were down to only 12 crews. Catch included three tagged and released mako sharks, one tagged and released yellowtail kingfish, another yellowtail kingfish captured but not weighed and a 254kg tiger shark on 24kg line weighed.

The Coffs Harbour Undertow Hot Currents Tournament was held over the same weekend as the Whitesands Tournament and included an additional. This tournament has been out of operation for the past three years due to the closure of the Deep Sea Fishing Club of which Coffs Harbour Game Fishing Club was a division. Since then the club has been reformed as a separate identity and changed its name to the Coffs Coast Game & Sport Fishing Club. Given that this event is one of only two events in the far north of NSW, it is great to have the event back in operation. 31 crews participated. Catches tagged and released included 16 mahi mahi, three each of yellowtail kingfish, yellowfin tuna, shortbill spearfish and hammerhead sharks, two tiger sharks and striped marlin. Weighed were yellowtail kingfish of 15.5kg on 15kg line class, 31.5kg on 24kg, a 36kg yellowfin tuna on 15kg and a 206kg mako shark on 15kg.

The Botany Bay Bill Heyward Memorial was to run on the 18th to 19¹⁹th January. The first day was lost to bad weather so it became a one day tournament. There were 41 boat entered of which 40 fished with the result being five striped marlin, one blue marlin, nine mahi mahi, two tiger sharks and one whaler shark tagged and released. Captures were a tiger shark 113.5kg, two mako sharks weighing 111kg and 138.4 kg, a mahi mahi of 15.5kg as well as a mahi mahi and a striped marlin that were captured but not weighed.

The Port Macquarie Golden Lure was held over four days from the 11th to 17th January with a Ladies Day held on the 14th. There were unfavourable sea conditions on the first day of the event with the second day postponed. Sea conditions were good for the remainder. Of the 55 participating crews, 28 fished the Ladies Day. Over all four days of the event and the Ladies Day, tagged and released were 38 hammerhead sharks, 27 black marlin, eight striped marlin and mahi mahi, seven each blue marlin and whaler sharks, four yellowfin tuna, one shortbill spearfish and one wahoo. There were seven yellowfin tuna captured and weighed with the largest at 58.4kg caught on 24kg line class by a junior female angler. There were also two blue marlin captured and weighed with the largest 122kg caught on 37 kg line class. Five mahi mahi, two wahoo and a yellowfin tuna were also recorded, some of which were not weighed.

The Ulladulla GFC Hisway 82nd Annual Jess Sams Game Fishing Bush Fire Appeal tournament was held on 1st February. Day two of the event was cancelled due to unfavourable weather conditions. There were 34 participating boats entered but due to poor weather on the first day of the event six boats returned to port within the first hour of fishing. Catch included 12 striped marlin, 9 black marlin, one mahi mahi and a whaler shark tagged and released. There were also two captured yellowfin tuna: one that was not weighed and the other weighing 15.8kg caught on 15kg line class. This event raised just over \$30,000 and was donated to their local NSW Rural Fire Service.

The Bermagui Big Game Anglers Club Shimano Bluewater Classic due to be run on the Australia Day weekend was one of the tournaments postponed due to the fires, however in the lead up, some of the boats had already arrived in Bermagui. They decided to hold their own friendly competition. The Bermagui BGA Club held an auction for one of the tournament prizes raising \$8,500 so with those funds plus another \$2,500 donated by the club itself \$11,000 was donated to the Bermagui Country Club who had set up as a refuge centre and had been hosting and feeding the fire victims that had left or lost their homes. Bermagui BGAC also then donated another \$800 worth of goods to the local RFS.

NSWGFA Central Zone which is made up of seven clubs being Lord Howe Island GFC, Wollongong GFC, Port Hacking GFC, Botany Bay GFC, Sydney GFC, Broken Bay GFC and Central Coast GFC run a small interclub competition each year and during the fire disaster Central Zone Chairperson Craig Kermond decided to run an online auction for a fishing trip to the Abrolhos Islands in WA. The auction event was held between members of the Zone clubs in early February. The result was \$8,500 which was donated to the Salvation Army Bushfire Relief fund.



The Newcastle & Port Stephens GFC ran their Garmin Billfish Shootout on the 15th to 16th February out of Port Stephens with 162 boats entered. The major Awards were \$12,500 each for the boat scoring most points tagged and released, heaviest marlin over 150kg and heaviest capture of a shark over 350kg. There was the special category prize of \$200,000 for the heaviest pacific blue marlin exceeding 258kg.

The weather was not kind with the bar at the heads being very difficult; many boats stayed in port, however both days were fished with 145 fish tagged and released. Day one tagged and released were 14 black marlin, three blue marlin and 52 striped marlin. Day two tagged and released were 76 marlin, 16 blacks, six blues and 54 striped. There were also three captures, two blue marlin, 157kg and 124.8 kg and a striped marlin 95kg.

The \$200,000 prize did not go off, The Cuban from Port Hacking GFC took out the \$12,500 for the heaviest marlin over 150kg. The heaviest shark prize did not go off and the \$12,500 winner of the boat with most tagged and released points was won by Zorro from Broken Bay GFC.

The next tournament was the NSWGFA Interclub Championships which was again held out Port Stephens the week following the Shootout. The weather and seas had cleared by mid-week so it was four fabulous days of weather, seas and tremendous fishing. 109 boats entered the Interclub with 496 anglers. Ladies day was Thursday the 20th February with 30 of the boats taking ladies fishing and what a great effort put in by the ladies, skippers and crew who made it a fun day. The fishing result for the day was 31 striped marlin, 14 black marlin, two mahi mahi and four whaler sharks tagged and released. Two fish were weighed, a 17.5 kg mahi mahi and a 72.8kg striped marlin.



*Winning boat -
Capture - Cuban*



*Tackle checking at the
weigh station*



Anglers signing in before briefing

The Interclub followed immediately on Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd. Again three perfect days with fabulous fishing, The results were 440 fish tagged and released comprising 181 black marlin, 222 striped marlin, six each blue marlin and mahi mahi, two striped tuna, a yellowfin tuna, two each of hammerhead and mako sharks and 18 whaler sharks. 28 fish were captured including seven each black and blue marlin and 10 striped marlin. This year certainly made up for the wipe out last year for the first time in history of the Interclub.

Some of the major awards were Champion Boat tag and release - Smartbill from Sydney GFC, Champion Boat Capture - Public Enemy from N&PSGFC, Heaviest Marlin, a blue of 139.5kg by Josh Hallam on Kill Tank from Central Coast GFC, Heaviest Shark, a 240.2 tiger shark by Chad Kavanagh on Reel Crazy from Lake Macquarie GFC and Heaviest Other Game Fish a 25.9kg shortbill spearfish. Champion Clubs were Capture - Newcastle & Port Stephens GFC Team 2 made up of Public Enemy, Critakill and No Excuse. Tag and Release - Sydney GFC Team 4 made up of Smartbill, Eagle and Alhur.

The last Tournament run before fishing was closed down was the East Coast Classic hosted by Newcastle GFC fished on the 7thto8th March. This tournament offered a \$50,000 cash prize for heaviest blue marlin over 250kg however that prize did not go off. 35 boats entered with 49 tagged and released and three captured for the tournament. Tagged and released were black marlin 21, striped marlin 9, blue marlin two, mahi 12 and five whaler sharks. Captures were a 25.5kg wahoo and two mahi, the heaviest being 16.4kg. Winner of major prize which was \$5,000 cash plus trophy and products, was Born Free from N&PSGFC.

NSW Science.

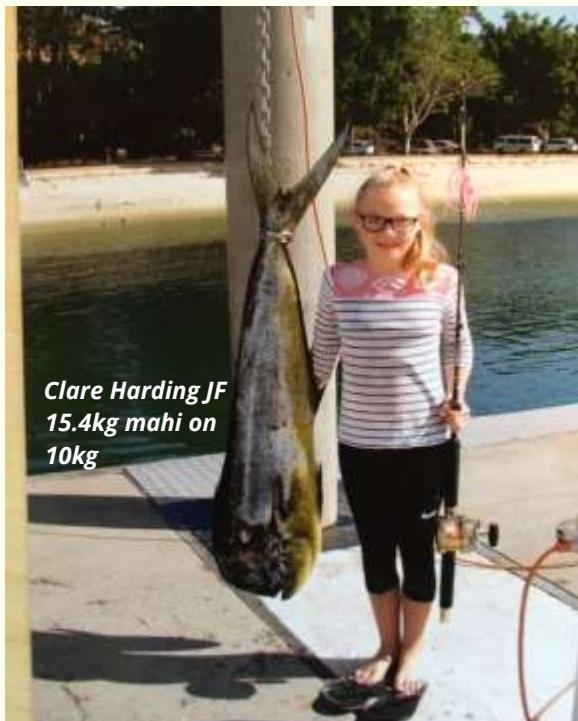
The NSW Game Fish Tournament Monitoring Program run by Danielle of Ghosn Consulting which NSWGFA, GFAA and The Fishing Museum co- sponsor along with NSW DPI Fisheries Saltwater Fishing Licence Trust has attended and taken statistics and reports from every tournament that has been run since last November with great support from all the NSWGFA Clubs, their boat skippers and crews. This information collected is very important for us to use to protect our sport and our game fish and now Commonwealth resource sharing is back on the table the information will be used to help us negotiate our fair share of the fish resource especially in the ET & BF Fishery including sharks and other game fish.

The other game fish funded programs by the Saltwater Fishing Licence Trust are the Tag Program including the cost of providing tags to all game boats in Australia.

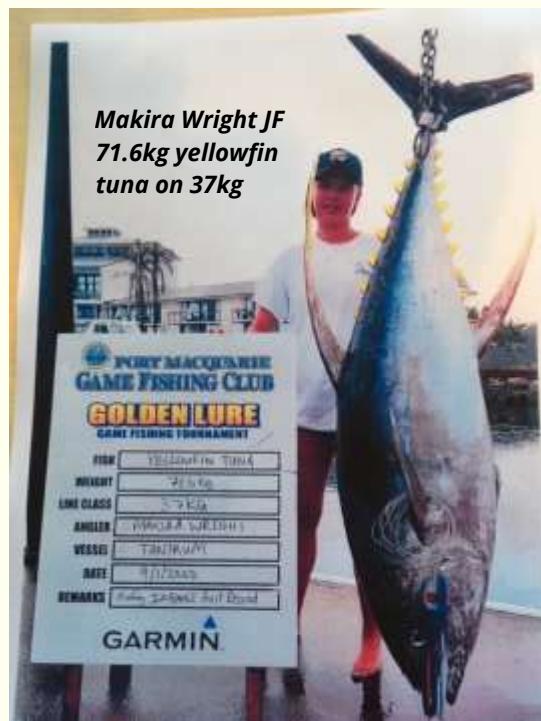
The Pepperell Consulting scientists at weigh stations during NSWGFA tournaments have also continued throughout this fishing season with again very good co-operation from all clubs and weighmasters, with the boats and skippers allowing samples to be taken from their fish. Even though this takes time all help which again says a lot for the value game fishers and our member clubs put into the science to assist with the future of game fish species and access to those resource.

The Trust also funds Julian Pepperell to analyse and summarise the Annual Published Report for the Game Fish T&R Program run by Fisheries which is again so valuable to us for science and resource sharing negotiations.

Records by GFAA affiliated anglers fishing in NSW boundary coastal waters. Fishing has been good so I have processed 14 Records up till March when we shut the season and records down due to the virus. Pictures below of some Jnr Records in January & February.



Clare Harding JF
15.4kg mahi on
10kg



Makira Wright JF
71.6kg yellowfin
tuna on 37kg

Mathew
Sandy's JM
95.7kg striped
marlin on 8kg
at Bermagui is
covered in the
Junior
Tournament
section



Mia Wright 25.9kg
shortbill spearfish on
15kg at the Interclub
Port Stephens

The NSWGFA AGM/Conference/Trophy Presentation was scheduled for the 3rd week of July to be held in Coffs Harbour, however that will probably have to be postponed to a later date when we know when the government are removing some of the current restrictions imposed on us all.

I wish all anglers and their families will remain safe and well during this health crisis. Hopefully we will be able to get back to club and competition fishing, as well as state and national trophies and records in the near future also resume normal lives at work and in social activities.

Northern Territory

Bruce Simpson - President NTGFA



The seasons are changing here in the NT as I type this, the humidity that would take your breath away is starting to retreat as the south easterly winds push dry air up through Queensland and South Australia signalling the start of the dry season. This would traditionally mark the start of some beautiful weather and of course that famous "run off" period as the flood plains empty and the marine life retreats into the permanent systems.

As some of you have no doubt experienced, this time of year in the Northern Territory is very special for both the estuary and blue water scenes, but that nasty little critter COVID-19 has made that much harder to enjoy not just for us northern folk but for us all which I have no doubt our executive committee has touched on in their sections.

So what has it all meant for the Northern Territory and fishing? It has certainly seen the action slow down in what would normally be one of the busiest times of the year for the boat ramps. The NT has its own flavour of restrictions which have limited just what we can do. The big concern was always social distancing. The need to maintain that has seen an end to taking your mates fishing, so it's family only onboard a boat or fishing land based in a group.

The NT is also divided into biosecurity zones to further protect residents especially our first nations communities from any illness where the hospital can be 1000's of kilometres away. This has meant those Easter trips to places like the Daly River, Kakadu and the Alligator Rivers, the Roper River and the Victoria River regions are off limits unless



Taylor O'Hare 110cm barramundi

you live in that biosecurity zone. This had massive effects on all those caravan parks, service stations, convenience stores and tackle stores as the flow of locals and more importantly tourists just aren't spending their money in these places.

So in turn this has had flow on effects for our clubs and their tournaments/competitions, as well with the cancellation of one of the most iconic and longest running barramundi competitions, the 39th Iron Jack Barramundi Classic, a competition that attracts anglers from all states of Australia, to compete in five days of fishing on the iconic Daly River. On smaller scales we have seen both clubs postpone other events as we wait out this nasty little bug.

On a lighter and positive note the fishing industry in the NT is doing everything it can to support their customers in this time, it has seen workshops move to a pick up and drop off

servicing model, even some doing mobile repairs of boats and trailers, tackle stores working like a drive through so you can get the staff to select what you need while you wait in the car and bring it out to you, and as always, offering friendly advice and great deals over this time. I ask all of you that when this is over, you go and book yourself a weekend away with friends and family, stay at some local accommodation, buy from their restaurants and bistros, drink in their bars, buy some souvenirs to support these local communities and enjoy the outdoors again with a fishing rod in hand. There will be some hungry fish out there!

On the fishing front, from what I have seen of those people who have been fishing locally, is that the barramundi have been hungry and the blue water is beginning to fire. The Mary River system, or as many of you would know it Shady Camp, saw some decent flows over the barrage which has allowed just about all tide access to the system. Whilst maybe not as spectacular for fish in sheer numbers the size has been there with many over the magic one metre mark hitting the nets and being released to fight again. Local DGFC anglers Josh Munday and Taylor O'Hare have been very successful fishing the mouths of the Sampan and Tommycutt Creeks over the last month accounting for many fish in the 90's and many over that magic mark.

On the blue water side it has been slow to start but I think that is more to do with the you know what than anything else. This time of year always sees the run of baby black marlin under 10kg appear in local waters; some lucky anglers have managed to find a few off the coast of Dundee. I have managed one half day trip out there and while the bait hasn't moved in yet I did witness very young fish working very small flying fish on the surface in waters to

the NW of the traditional areas. They would have been lucky to be more than 6kg in size, needless to say they showed no interest in my baits and lures more suited to fish in the 15kg plus size. The next 6 weeks will be prime time for those who can get out in the change of seasons and hopefully find some billfish



*Josh Munday 101cm
barramundi*

amongst the schools of tuna, queenfish and mackerel that can be like plagues out there.

From the NTGFA we wish all you good health, we hope this is all over sooner rather than later and if we all stick together, follow the guidelines and rules set out we can return to normal once again and move on from what will be one of the most interesting times we've ever seen. Again I implore you to get out there and support all local businesses at this time and make time for that getaway with your family and friends when it is safe to do so.

Queensland North

John Munro - Hooked Bluewater Sportfishing Tackle
<https://hookedbluewatertackle.com/>



Cairns Offshore

Over the last month there have been some glamourous days out on the water and most anglers are now taking their family members onto the water to catch a fish and enjoy what continues to be cracking weather. Most species seem to be biting with regular catches of nannygai, spangled emperor, coral trout, mackerel, GTs and more.

Local professional fishing charter companies like Reefinity (right), are taking this time to enjoy the Great Barrier Reef with their family with a mixture of exercise with stand-up paddle boarding and fishing, but most of all they look forward to sharing everything the GBR has to offer when restrictions are lifted.



Local fisherman Sam McCowan has been making the most of the favourable conditions to test out some of his own handmade lures with this one proving to be a standout whilst trying to catch a feed on the reef flats. Both this and another fish were released safely as Sam continued his hunt for a coral trout and other more desirable table fish. (Right Sam's hand-made pink lure getting the job done)



Whilst the world-wide Covid situation continues, it prevents our major charter operators from taking guests and has hit a lot of industries hard but this one is very close to home, they are unsure when they will be able to operate again, yet we are only weeks away from our light tackle marlin season starting. Our thoughts are with all the fishing charter operators, sports fishing clubs and reef tourism industries at this time and we hope to see them all on the other side of this unimaginable situation. #reefalive #fishing #greatbarrierreef.

On a brighter note the marlin have started to arrive! Here is a picture of a juvenile black marlin caught by Michael Rogan with his son Mikey Rogan skippering the boat. The marlin was caught near Fitzroy Island on a green Halco hard body lure. When speaking with Mikey he tells me this was their first ever but they are excited to catch a few more with the first one now under their belt. Well done guys.



I have also spoken Gavin Goodwin and Todd Goodwin they caught a marlin on the weekend their fish was caught near Pixie Reef using a swimming gar. They managed to hook some mackerel too. An awesome effort guys great to see.

Please be safe out on the water, be careful when fishing close to the reefs and enjoy with your family, respect bag limits and have a great time.



John Munro - Hooked Bluewater Sportfishing Tackle - 0401 601 301
<https://hookedbluewatertackle.com/>



A PERSPECTIVE ON THE FARM RUN OFF AND THE GBR

[CLICK](#) to download the video (It might take a couple of minutes)





Kevin Oates

National Junior Tournament Coordinator

Hi everyone

How things can change over 7 weeks.

I went to South Africa and Namibia on business on the 10th February and fished off the coast in Angola with my wife in early March. We fought some monster Atlantic blue marlin on 15kg spinning reels that had been set for white marlin, unfortunately both were lost at the side of the boat. Sharon did manage to tag another smaller Atlantic blue marlin the next day.

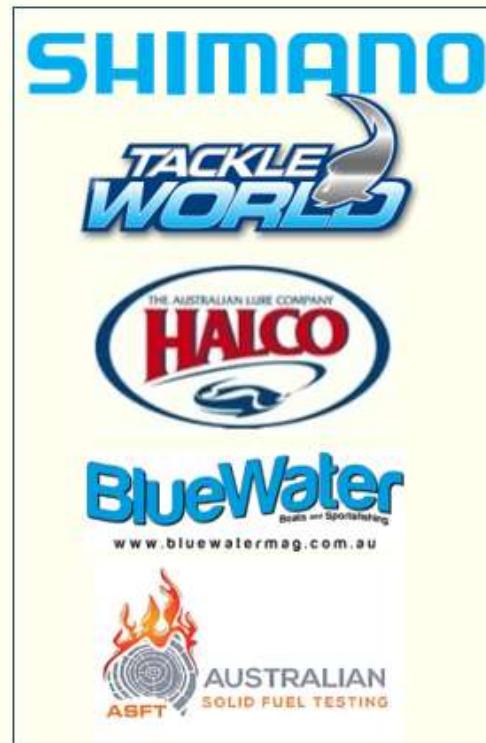
We were aware of the Covid-19 virus outbreak in China when we departed Australia and were later aware via Facebook that there had been a rush on toilet paper at home. But certainly I was not aware of the issues around the world until we returned on 16th March.

Thank goodness some Juniors were still in a position to enjoy some fishing with most results in February and March being recorded on the Australian eastern seaboard.

Quite a few striped marlin were tagged out from Bermagui, seven by the Sandy brothers from Victoria and also six by Kaitlyn Schofield from the Bermagui club. Further up the coast to the Central GFC, Oska Davis tagged three striped marlin and a blue marlin.

Over the border into Queensland and the Sunshine Coast duo of Ben Massurit and Bryce Bartleson kept their incredible year going tagging 21 black marlin between them, Tyler Barnes and the Bennett brothers also got amongst the small black marlin.

Further north at Weipa, Emmi Roberts has had a great run on measuring and releasing some very nice sized barramundi. It has also been pleasing to see quite a few anglers M&R the new Bread and Butter species (bream, whiting and flathead) with numbers recorded in NSW, Victorian and Tasmania.



Of the few captures recorded, the stand-out two were that of Mathew Sandy from Victoria, his striped marlin weighing in at 95.7kg on 8kg tackle at Bermagui, and Oska Davis on the NSW Central Coast and his striped marlin 79.9kg on 10kg tackle.

As you would all now be aware, we have had to close the 2019-2020 National Junior Tournament as of 31st March 2020 due to Government regulations imposed because of the Corona virus. It is a shame as we know some states are still allowing recreational fishing while others are not. It was felt to be morally responsible to set an example in accordance with Government guidelines and stay at home.



No decision has been made yet regarding the presentation of the annual awards. This will be discussed by the Executive and all advised in due course. We will however have to act in line with government requirements in place at the time so planning at this stage is extremely hard to implement.

In the meantime, please stay safe, we are thinking of you all during this harrowing time.

Kevin Oates
GFAA National Junior
Tournament Coordinator

BlueWater has temporarily postponed its regular print and digital editions of *BlueWater Boats & Game Fishing* magazine. However, they're now producing of a new digital mini-*BlueWater* magazine, which is provided **FREE** to everyone – and with a new edition every two weeks.

HOT BlueWater Game

Fishing will give you news, informative articles, a laugh with 'Pirate', and full-length feature gems from their archive of back-issues.

You'll also get the latest information from the GFAA, IGFA and The Billfish Foundation, the latest in gamefish science from Dr Julian Pepperell, plus product reviews, history and more...

And as soon as the charter fleets resume fishing, you'll also get reports from the best captains in hotspots around the world.

While the industry struggles, the *BlueWater* team is also providing support for them too, keeping you informed about the state of game fishing businesses.

To get your free editions of the fortnightly *HOT BlueWater Game Fishing* mini-mags, simply visit www.BlueWaterGameFishing.com.au and register for free.

As a strong supporter of our worldwide game fishing community, *BlueWater*'s aim is to keep everyone connected and informed, which inevitably will help our whole industry to survive.



Club Season Profile

King Bay Game Fishing Club – The 2019 Season

Mick Grasso - WA Junior Coordinator, KBGFC Weigh-master



Located in the northwest of Western Australia in a diverse region bursting with game fish and small to mid-sized billfish in large numbers, a very successful 2019 season for the King Bay Game Fishing Club saw 140 fish weighed in, consisting of 17 different species. Amongst those captures we had 23 successful GFAA national records claims as well as five successful IGFA world record claims. We had 295 Billfish tagged consisting of mainly sailfish and a few small black marlin, 63 sharks tagged made up of whalers, hammerheads and tiger sharks and 398 gamefish tagged with 15 different species.

Congratulations to all the winners who received awards at our AGM. Also, a big thank you to everyone that participated and made it such a successful year.

KBGFC Awards for 2019

Capture champions

Boat	Male	Female	Junior	Smallfry
Wet Dreams	Mick Grasso	Vicki Searle	Jessica Hornhardt	Max Grasso
Big Daddy	Ryley Hinchcliffe	Joanne Tatham	Chloe Hornhardt	Mia Grasso
Reel Screamer	Brenton Cartledge	Tameeka Dodd	Cooper Hinchcliffe	

Tag and Release Game

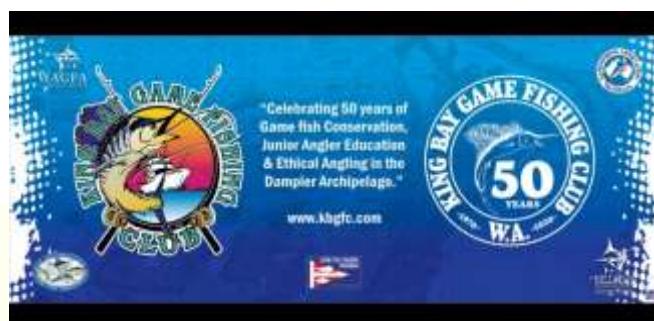
Boat	Male	Female	Junior	Smallfry
Reel Screamer	Mick Grasso	Chantelle Grasso	Chloe Hornhardt	Max Grasso
Wet Dreams	Jason Hornhardt	Tracy Brislane	Jessica Hornhardt	Mia Grasso
French Maid	Travis Brinkhuis	Jo-Anne Riley	Cooper Hinchcliffe	

Tag and Release Billfish

Boat	Male	Female	Junior	Smallfry
The Wench	Scott MacGowan	Jo-Ann Riley	Cooper Hinchcliffe	Dane Kemp
Big Daddy	Travis Brinkhuis	Tracy Brislane	Chloe Hornhardt	Munro Lannary
Blue Stuff	Luke Leech	Nikki Sharpe		Max Grasso

Tag and Release Shark

Boat	Angler (Open)
Reel Screamer	Max Grasso
Wet Dreams	Chloe Hornhardt
Big Daddy	Chantelle Grasso





Joanne Tatham with the Female 3kg line class world record longtail tuna
14.68kg



Max Grasso with the Australian record for Small Fry Male and World Male 6kg line class records.

Sailfish Research

Members can help.

As some may be aware there is a three year study being conducted through the University of Queensland on sailfish DNA. It will be conducted by a new university student and overseen by Dr Sam Williams and Dr Julian Pepperell. Funding for this study is to be provided by the GFAA, QGFA, WAGFA and NTGFA with the possibility of some grant funding. GFAA applied for a grant from the Marine Parks Grants Program in February, the outcome of which is unknown at present.

The QGFA is asking for assistance from your club members in collecting sailfish samples to support this study.

What we are asking for is as follows;

1. A flesh sample about the size of your fingernail
2. Place the sample in a clean plastic bag and freeze it down
3. Record the Lat and Long location of the sailfish
4. Record the date of the sample, the name of the angler and the approximate weight
5. Once the sample is ready and the data available please contact Mick Meiers (NQEO) on 0427 804 719 and he will arrange for collection of the sample.

The assistance of your members in providing these samples for research would be greatly appreciated. If you have any further queries on the study, please contact Mick on the above number.

Have your say on recreational fishing in Australia.

For those looking for something to do while sitting at home, there is an online survey that they could jump onto and complete. GFAA advocates for the rights of all recreational anglers, whether they are club members or not, and this is an opportunity for everyone to have their say and be involved in ensuring the future of recreational fishing by participating. An opportunity that should not be missed.

The National Recreational Fishing Survey is the first such survey undertaken in almost 20 years, so it is vitally important that it is updated. You can learn more about the survey by following this link: <https://youtu.be/k3dFnpMhQRk> and the survey itself can be found by following this one: www.nationalrecsurvey.com.au

The survey is open until mid-May, it offers us all a real chance to have our say and give our thoughts on the way recreational fishing is in this country, so please, don't waste it.

Have your say on recreational fishing in Australia (continued)

This is the context in which the request is made:

The University of Canberra and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, are working with the peak body for recreational fishing in Australia (the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation) and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation to conduct a national survey to value the social and economic contributions of recreational fishers and the benefits of recreational fishing. The National Recreational Fishing Survey was called for by the recreational fishing sector to follow up on the last national survey, which was completed in 2000-2001 and is now out of date. We know for example many fishers spend more money on boats and gear than they did 20 years ago.

The Survey is being undertaken to better understand the many values and benefits of recreational fishing for anglers and Australian communities. The main survey is open until mid-May 2020, and you can also participate in monthly surveys that provide more extensive information, if you wish. The more participants, the better the result. Whether you fish one day a year with the family or dozens of times, we need you. Have your say and help support one of Australia's most popular outdoor recreational activities. Plus, each participant has a chance to win one of several prize draws.

You can learn more about the Survey here: <https://youtu.be/k3dFnpMhQRk>

Take part in the Survey at www.nationalrecsurvey.com.au

Peanuts

Peanuts are not a commercial crop in Western Australia, being mostly grown in Queensland and northern New South Wales (no smart comments required), however, Life Member and the association's Recorder Peter Babarskas, who resides on the fertile Swan River plains near the foothills east of Perth, has had great success with his first crop. Easy to grow, harvest and process,



Peter has taken it up as a hobby alongside his other fruit and vegetable crops. He says that after roasting with a little peanut oil and salt they are hard to beat.

Australian and World Records

Compiled by Peter Babarskas GFAA recorder

From 6th February to 2nd April 2020 – All are saltwater records except where shown.

Category	Species	Line Class	Angler	Weight	State	Status
Small Fry Male and 20:1	Tiger Shark	15	Jayden Millauro	314.00	NSW	Aust
Junior Female and 20:1	Mako Shark	15	Amanda Lamond	300.00	NSW	Aust
Small Fry Male	Blue Shark	10	Jye McDonough	156.50	NSW	Aust
Female	Snapper	1	Sahra Miller	5.15	WA	Aust, World
All Tackle Length	Samson Fish	4	Damien Wham	120 cm	WA	Aust
Female	Spangled Emperor	1	Anna Passmore	2.73	WA	Aust
10:1	Mako	37	Dillon Paul	376.00	VIC	Aust
10:1	Mako	24	Ron Kemna	300.00	VIC	Aust
Male	Yellowfin Tuna	60	Matt Gates	84.85	WA	Aust
Junior Female	Yellowfin Tuna	37	Makira Wright	71.60	NSW	Aust
Junior Female	Mahi Mahi	10	Clare Harding	15.40	NSW	Aust
Female	Southern Bluefin Tuna	4	Anne-Marie Oosthuizen	23.00	VIC	Aust, World
Junior Female	Black Marlin	15	Makayla Buttigieg	52.20	QLD	Aust
Junior Male and 10:1	Striped Marlin	8	Mathew Sandy	95.70	NSW	Aust
Male	Gummy Shark	3	Steve Marland	12.10	VIC	Aust
15:1	Mako	15	Sean Beardsworth	287.20	VIC	Aust
10:1	Mako	15	Max Baillie	155.70	TAS	Aust

Please note the changes to record claim fees:

For payment for Australian record claim fee \$20 or any extra fees please transfer funds to Westpac account BSB 035-304, Account # 294263 with the anglers name as the reference.

Links – Right click on logo to visit the state website



GFAA



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Western Australia



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Contributors

Thanks to those who contributed to this issue: Peter Babarskas, Ian Bladin, Peter Coote, John Cramer, Mick Grasso, Dan McCarthy, Mick Meiers, John Munro, Kevin Oates, Doug Sanderson, Bruce Simpson, Tim Simpson and Grahame Williams.

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