



# GFAA Newsletter

November 2020

## From the President

Welcome to the November edition of the GFAA Newsletter.

With restrictions beginning to ease, after what has been a difficult year for us all, most of us finally have the chance to get back out on the water to enjoy our sport. Unfortunately there are some rules still in place that have resulted in some clubs being unable to run events and this may well continue for some time to come, but it is great to see tournaments up and running again, no doubt with participants enjoying the competition and camaraderie involved.

As many will be aware, interstate travel restrictions resulted in us having to have a virtual AGM this year and it was somewhat disappointing having only to announce the winners of the national awards and junior tournament without many of them being present as would normally happen. A full trophy list is included in this edition and again, my congratulations go to the winners and all who participated.

There are a number of interesting articles in this edition and we hope you enjoy them. We welcome contributions from members, so if you would like to become involved and submit an article, please contact us through our hard working Secretary and editor Peter Coote at [secretary@gfaa.asn.au](mailto:secretary@gfaa.asn.au). Also, if you would like to be added to the newsletter mailing list, please click on the link to subscribe and mention it to your friends.

With the holidays approaching, I hope you are all able to get out onto the water, to enjoy time with family and friends and that you have a safe festive season.

Tight Lines

President

## Contents

<b>1</b>	President's Note
<b>2</b>	Annual Meeting
<b>3</b>	Annual Awards and Trophies
<b>11</b>	Corporate Membership
State News	
<b>12</b>	New South Wales
<b>17</b>	Victoria
<b>18</b>	Western Australia
<b>20</b>	National Juniors
<b>23</b>	Records and Rules
Feature Articles	
<b>25</b>	Hervey Bay and Fraser Island
<b>26</b>	Special Shots from FNQ
<b>27</b>	Tasmanian Broadbill
<b>30</b>	Weipa Tournament
<b>33</b>	Fuel Tank Corrosion
<b>35</b>	FAD Deployment
<b>36</b>	About this Newsletter

## 2020 Annual General Meeting

The 2020 AGM was held by videoconference on 31st October and was attended by 27 executives, delegates and observers from all states.

The major items to come out of the meeting were:

- Development of a plan for GFAA members in the post Covid-19 recovery period.
- Support for research into sailfish genetics covering Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australis
- Extension and enhancement of the Record and Release program for sailfish covering areas where shark depredation of the species is troublesome.
- Increased communication efforts for the benefit of clubs and anglers
- The Annual GFAA Awards were announced

*Cooper Rudd with a 104cm barramundi – measured and released*



Cooper, 11yrs, is a junior member of the Darwin Game Fishing Club. He caught this 104cm barramundi on a recent trip to a remote river in the Northern Territory trolling his 'secret lure', which he sources and then modifies to suit the conditions. It's a lure that also had great success for him last year.

The fish was caught after a short fight time which minimised the stress on the fish and was quickly measured, photographed and swim released to live another day.

This is Coopers second barramundi over a metre. He is a passionate fisherman and will go to any lengths and travel any distance to catch a fish and spend a day on the water. At 11yrs old he is already planning what his first boat will be and the car that will tow it.

Photo courtesy of Coopers dad.

## GFAA Annual Trophies 2019-20

In the absence of a Presentation Night Dinner in 2020, the Annual Awards were announced at the Association's Annual General Meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October

---

**NEIL PATRICK TROPHY:** Awarded to the angler who tagged and released the most other game fish in Australian waters.

Hayden Steinemann  
GFC of South Australia  
90 Gamefish



---

**JOHN & ANNE BROOKER TROPHY:** Awarded to the angler who tagged & released most southern blue fin tuna in Australian waters.

Rolf Czabayski  
GFC of South Australia  
46 southern bluefin tuna



---

**GRAHAME A. WILLIAMS TROPHY:** Awarded to the angler who tagged and released the most sharks in Australian waters.

Peter McMahon  
Eden Sports and Game Fishing Club  
33 Sharks



---

**TAILORED MARINE TROPHY:** Highest point-scoring boat tag & release in Australian waters.

Get N Any  
Weipa Billfish Club  
44,000 points



---

**PETER BENNETT TROPHY:** Most meritorious tag & release achievement by a GFAA junior in Australian waters.

Max Grasso  
King Bay Game Fishing Club  
98 gamefish – 14 different species



---

**GEOFFREY WOOLLEY TROPHY:** Awarded for the most meritorious tag & release achievement by an adult angler in Australian waters.

Sandy Gorecki  
Jervis Bay Game Fishing Club  
654,750 tag points



---

**BOB LOWE T&R TROPHY:** The most meritorious tag & release achievement by a GFAA affiliated club in Australian waters.

Game Fishing Club of South Australia  
420 GFAA line class tags – 9 GFAA species



---

**PETER GOADBY TROPHY:** Awarded to the angler who captures the heaviest shark in Australian waters.

Jason Hewitt  
Newcastle Game Fishing Club  
515,2kg Tiger Shark



---

**TOM BELL TROPHY:** Awarded to the angler who captures the heaviest game fish (excluding sharks) in Australian waters.

Tara Rowe  
267.5kg blue marlin  
Port Macquarie Game Fishing Club



---

**SIR GARRICK AGNEW TROPHY:** Awarded to the angler who tagged and released the most billfish in Australian waters

Darryl French  
Weipa Billfish Club  
80 billfish



---

**DAVID LITCHFIELD TROPHY:** Awarded to the Highest Point scoring boat for tag & release marlin in Australian waters

Reel Crazy  
Sunshine Coast Game Fishing Club  
28,400 points



---

**JOHN O' BRIEN TROPHY:** Awarded to the highest tag & release point scoring GFAA club

Weipa Billfish Club  
181,255 points



**SHIMANO**



= 2020 RELEASE =

## SARAGOSA

THE SARAGOSA SW HAS BUILT AN INCREDIBLE REPUTATION AND THE NEWLY RELEASED 2020 MODEL TAKES IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL. PACKED WITH UPGRADES TO DELIVER GREAT CRANKING POWER AND UNMATCHED DURABILITY, THIS IS THE PERFECT REEL TO TACKLE THOSE BIG OFFSHORE BRUTES.



### 8 NEW MODELS

5000XG | 6000HG | 8000HG | 10000PG  
14000XG | 18000HG | 20000PG | 25000

**RRP FROM \$399<sup>00</sup>**

Check your local Shimano Stockists today.

[shimanofish.com.au](http://shimanofish.com.au)   Shimano.Fish   shimano.fish   ShimanoAustralia

**JOHN DUNPHY AWARD:** An encouragement award for Juniors who have achieved an IGFA, GFAA, State or Club record, a notable fishing capture or T&R achievement, exceptional contributions to the sport of game fishing and/or outstanding example as a role model for other juniors.

2020

Mia Wright

Sydney Game Fishing Club

2 Australian Records (same day) blue marlin

99.80 kg (15kg line) short bill spear fish 25.7kg

(15kg line)



**SHIMANO**

The John Dunphy  
Young Achiever Award



*For outstanding achievements in the sport of game fishing  
during the 2018-19 fishing season.*

Game Fishing Association of Australia

## GFAA JUNIOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 2019-20 - NATIONAL JUNIOR WINNERS

**Tom Roche Junior CAPTURE TROPHY:** Highest Point Scoring Junior Angler in Australian Waters

**NATIONAL  
CAPTURE  
AWARD**

Jessica  
Hornhardt

3730

King Bay GFC



**Tom Roche Junior RELEASE AWARD TROPHY:** Highest Point Scoring Junior Angler in Australian Waters

**NATIONAL  
RELEASE  
AWARD**

Bryce  
Bartleson

12390

Sunshine  
Coast GFC



**SHIMANO**

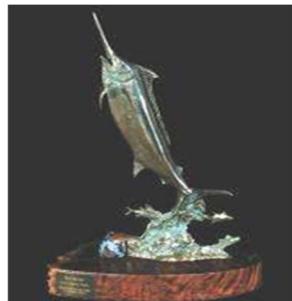


**TACKLE  
WORLD**

**BlueWater**  
Boats for Rotating  
[www.bluelwatermag.com.au](http://www.bluelwatermag.com.au)

## GFAA JUNIOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 2019-20 STATE JUNIOR WINNERS

State	Name	Points	Club
<b>CAPTURE AWARDS: Junior Male</b>			
QLD	Ryan Meads	1122	Mackay GFC
NSW	Oska Davis	1119	Central Coast GFC
NT	<i>not won</i>		
WA	<i>not won</i>		
VIC	<i>not won</i>		
SA	<i>not won</i>		
TAS	<i>not won</i>		



### CAPTURE AWARDS: Junior Female

QLD	Elise Flynn	164	Moreton Bay GFC
NSW	Mia Wright	1268	Sydney GFC
NT	<i>not won</i>		
WA	Jessica Hornhardt	3730	King Bay GFC
VIC	<i>not won</i>		
SA	<i>not won</i>		
TAS	<i>not won</i>		



### RELEASE AWARDS: Junior Male

QLD	Bryce Bartleson	12390	Sunshine Coast GFC
NSW	Oska Davis	920	Central Coast GFC
NT	<i>not won</i>		
WA	<i>not won</i>		
VIC	Martin Oosthuizen	180	Warrnambool Offshore & Light GFC
SA	<i>not won</i>		
TAS	<i>not won</i>		



### RELEASE AWARDS: Junior Female

QLD	Emmi Roberts	1800	Weipa Billfish Club
NSW	Kaitlyn Schofield	700	Bermagui BGAC
NT	<i>not won</i>		
WA	Chloe Hornhardt	750	King Bay GFC
VIC	<i>not won</i>		
SA	<i>not won</i>		
TAS	<i>not won</i>		



## GFAA JUNIOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 2019-20 - NATIONAL SMALL FRY WINNERS

**Tom Roche Small Fry CAPTURE TROPHY:** Highest Point Scoring Small Fry Angler in Australian Waters

### NATIONAL CAPTURE AWARD

Max Grasso      4083

King Bay  
GFC



**Tom Roche Small Fry RELEASE AWARD TROPHY:** Highest Point Scoring Small Fry Angler in Australian Waters

### NATIONAL RELEASE AWARD

Max Grasso      3525

King Bay GFC



One of Emmi Roberts' two sailfish tagged in the Weipa Billfish Tournament this year - Emmi was awarded Champion Junior.



## GFAA JUNIOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 2019-20 STATE SMALL FRY WINNERS

State	Name	Points	Club
<b>CAPTURE AWARDS: Small Fry Male</b>			
Qld	Tyler Barnes	447	Newport GFC
NSW	<i>not won</i>		
NT	<i>not won</i>		
WA	Max Grasso	4083	King Bay GFC
Vic	<i>not won</i>		
SA	<i>not won</i>		
TAS	<i>not won</i>		
<b>CAPTURE AWARDS: Small Fry Female</b>			
QLD	<i>not won</i>		
NSW	<i>not won</i>		
NT	<i>not won</i>		
WA	Mia Grasso	243	King Bay GFC
VIC	<i>not won</i>		
SA	<i>not won</i>		
TAS	<i>not won</i>		
<b>RELEASE AWARDS: Small Fry Male</b>			
QLD	Daniel Bennett	1750	Mooloolaba GFC
NSW	Taj Mossman	400	Central Coast GFC
NT	Nate Saunders	600	Darwin GFC
WA	Max Grasso	3525	King Bay GFC
VIC	JP Oosthuizen	200	Warrnambool Offshore & Light GFC
SA	<i>not won</i>		
TAS	<i>not won</i>		
<b>RELEASE AWARDS: Small Fry Female</b>			
QLD	Maggie Mitchell	400	Townsville GFC
NSW	<i>not won</i>		
NT	<i>not won</i>		
WA	Mia Grasso	325	King Bay GFC
VIC	Ivy Marland	5	South Gippsland GFC
SA	<i>not won</i>		
TAS	Leah Tadman	20	Tuna Club of Tasmania

Corporate Membership - Doug Sanderson  
Publicity Officer and Past President GFAA



Following the successful agreement with **Garmin** to become the Association's first Corporate Sponsor, we are very pleased to advise that **Shimano** has confirmed its intention to take up a similar arrangement.

There will be a lot more about Garmin and Shimano products in future Newsletters.

# GARMIN®



## GARMIN® quatix® 6

The **quatix® 6** multisport GPS smartwatch with specialised marine features includes comprehensive connectivity with compatible Garmin chartplotters and other devices to offer autopilot control, data streaming, sail racing assistance, Fusion-Link™ entertainment control and much more. It supports optional BlueChart® g3 coastal charts with improved chart presentation. It provides advanced fitness features for all-day wearability. Other features include built-in activity profiles and performance metrics for water and land sports, smart notifications, enhanced wrist heart rate, and access to Garmin Connect™ and Garmin Pay™ contactless payments.

More Information.... <https://buy.garmin.com/en-AU/AU/p/725447>

New South Wales – Grahame Williams OAM,  
GFAA Life member, GFAA Executive Officer, NSW.



The 2020-21 fishing season commenced in August with Sydney GFC hosting their Geoff Woolley Memorial Monster Mako Tournament, a 15kg line with circle hooks only. 20 boats fished the two days in great conditions and smooth seas, overall not a lot of fish, however everyone had a great time. All anglers abided with the COVID-19 restrictions at the weigh station and in the clubhouse. Fishing results were T&R 6 blue sharks, 6 makos and 1 tiger. Captures were 5 makos between 110 and 157kg. A 55.1kg yellowfin tuna was weighed by Obsession from Sydney GFC.

The winning boat for captures was Royale from Wollongong GFC with a 157kg mako and the winning boat for T&R was Markoo from Sydney GFC with 3 makos and 1 tiger.  
Below photos of a couple of fish weighed during the Tournament.



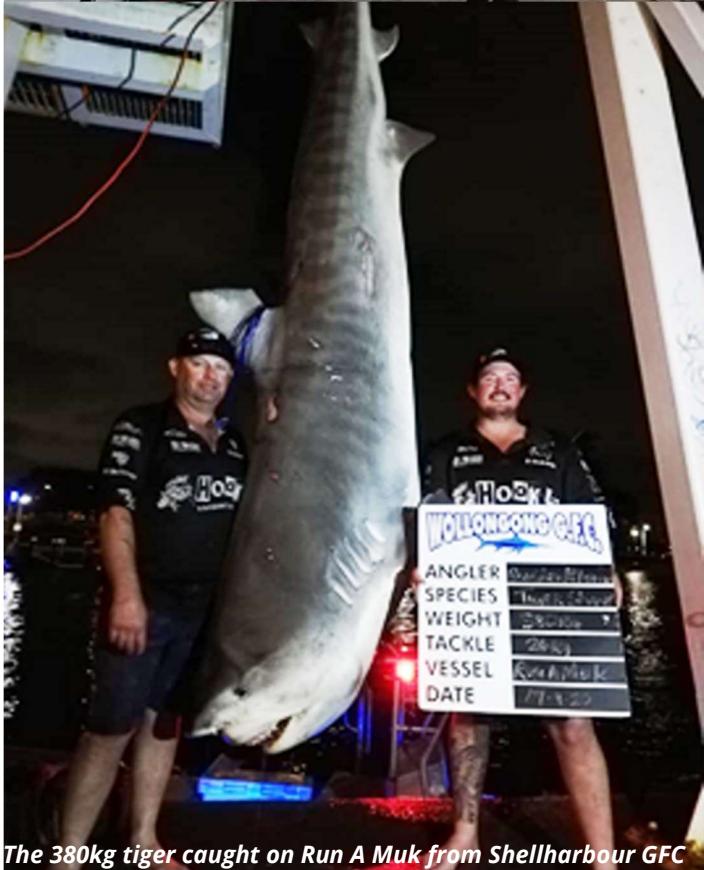
The next Tournament was the Wollongong GFC Open run on the 19<sup>th</sup> September. This Tournament had a \$10,000 prize for a mako over 250kg, so everyone was fishing for sharks in the hope of winning that prize, 19 boats fished in great weather and good seas with interesting fishing results for one day. T&R results were 2 mako, 6 blue sharks and 1 tiger. Captures were 3 makos, 168.4kg, 236.4kg, and a \$10,000 one of 310kg. Also weighed were 2 blue sharks of 145kg and 160.8kg, then an unusual capture for NSW waters, a 115.2 thresher shark.

Sad story: for the heaviest fish of the tournament a 380kg tiger, unfortunately the skipper took too long getting in and missed the deadline time for the close of tournament.

Below photos from this tournament.



The money bag above being held by skipper and angler at the presentation.



The 380kg tiger caught on Run A Muk from Shellharbour GFC

Royale from Wollongong GFC. 115.2kg thresher shark for angler Daniel Anderson



The last tournament was the Jervis Bay Whitesands Tournament which was held on the 17-18<sup>th</sup> October. 21 boats fished this tournament. Considering the conditions, a great result with 28 albacore, 3 blue sharks and 2 makos tagged and released. Captures provided plenty of food for all. There were 3 makos weighed from 112.4kg to a very impressive one of 327.8kg caught on the Run A Muk from Shellharbour GFC. The table fish were 22 albacore, and 1 mahi mahi caught but not weighed due to NSWGFA minimum size limits. Weighed were 8 yellowfin tuna from 30.6kg to 46.2kg. The winner of T&R was Reel Crazy from Lake Macquarie GFC with 6,000 points and the winner of capture was Run A Muk from Shellharbour GFC with their 327.8kg Mako earning 20,328 points and \$1,500 for the effort as well as the trophy.

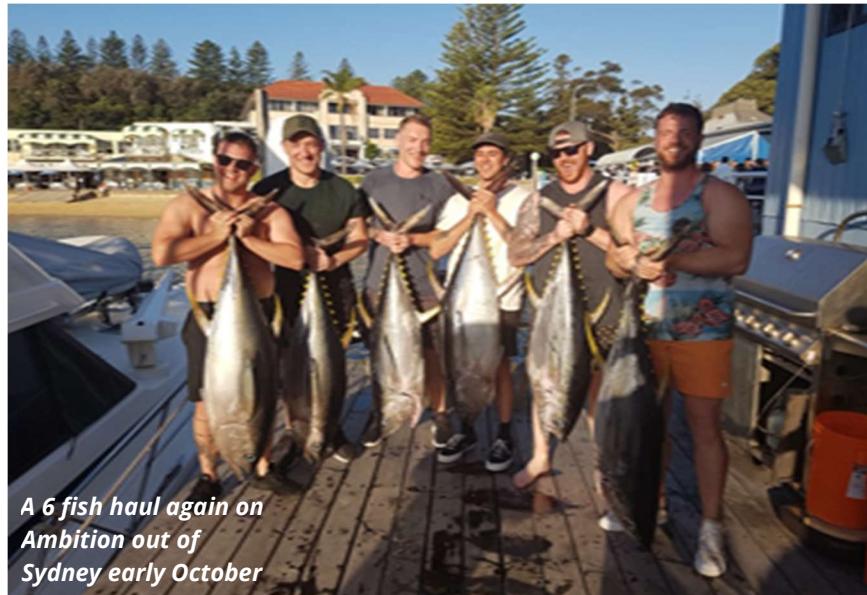
The policy of NSWGFA is to have marine biology students and scientists at all tournament weigh stations if possible, to take samples for their studies and specialties. As well as a representative from the NSW Game Fish Tournament Monitoring Program to collect the Tournament data. This practice helps us by showing we are practicing good citizen science to assist in the future of game fish stocks and also to give the scientists samples of fish that they would otherwise not be able to obtain easily.



*Science at work at the weigh station at Jervis Bay. Photo of scientist Tristan Guillemin from Macquarie University taking samples of a yellowfin tuna and determining the fish's sex.*

Generally fishing has been reasonable over the past 5 months for those who have ventured out, obviously with the COVID-19 effects on jobs and income, game fishing in general has been down on previous years. Things in NSW are improving all the time so hopefully boats will venture out more soon and we should see more boats and anglers fishing for their clubs and entering upcoming tournaments, especially starting in 2021.

On the next page, some photos of fish caught off Sydney recently.





Shimano Australia has recently launched a great new range of product that will be available in your local tackle store soon. The iconic Saragosa has undergone a significant upgrade with the new SWA series, the new Vanford spinning reel will replace the Stradic Ci4+ globally and there is a great range of Fishing Bags and Luggage on the way. There is also plenty of other great tackle, so make sure you check out the Shimano Tackle Tour video to learn more about the new range.

This link will take you to news page for the products:

<https://www.shimanofish.com.au/content/fish/oceania/au/en/homepage/product-news.html>

An outstanding video, well worth viewing: <https://youtu.be/eLpwS5QCkbU>

# SHIMANO

## 2021 Journal

The 2021 GFAA is well underway. It will be posted to members in January and will also be available to download from the website [www.gfaa.asn.au](http://www.gfaa.asn.au). Anglers are asked to update their clubs with any changes of address as a matter of urgency. [CLICK HERE](#) to join the email mailing list for the Journal and be the first to get it.

Journal content this year will include a fascinating article by the Association's historian John McIntyre about the Charlie Chambers a successful game fishing skipper over three decades as well as the usual rules and records information.



With Covid cases declining, the restrictions have eased after a several months and fishing is once again allowed. This time of the year traditionally sees a spring run of jumbo bluefin tuna or hearing of the epic reports of anglers returning from Cairns or Fraser Island but Covid restrictions forced us to have other plans. Seems like most anglers' attention turned to targeting bread and butter species in Vic and there has been no shortage of good fish turning up for a feed. While gummy shark, squid, King George whiting are on offer locally, this time of year sees the traditional run of snapper in the bays and some great catches have appeared early.

The two main bays for metropolitan anglers are Port Phillip and Westernport bays. While these bays are in close proximity to each other they are vastly different. Port Phillip has low tidal flow (with the exception of the far south) and a relatively flat, mostly mud and shale bottom with the deepest parts around 22m. Westernport is very tidal, lots of weed and reef structures and many drop offs and mud banks present. We normally hear of larger snapper taken earlier in Westernport as the water temp rises a bit quicker. Exposed mud banks at low tide heat up in the sun and the incoming tide warms the water up.

Reports of great catches with boats anchored in as little as 6m of water along the eastern side of Port Phillip Bay catching snapper up to 8kg, while in Westernport the numbers may not be as high, but the catches seem to be of higher quality.

As I write this, we anticipate a capture of a 100kg plus bluefin report to come in any day now but many wondering if they had already slipped past while in lock down. Next on the list will be mako sharks and kingfish as we get closer to Christmas. The last few years have seen massive schools of bluefin in the 8-12kg bracket, some even entering our bays for a swim!

Whatever it is that you target most importantly we hope all to stay safe over the holiday period and trust we all enjoy our great country once again.

Tight lines  
Anton Vogiatzis



## Western Australia South

- John Cramer WA South Delegate
- Peter Coote – Perth GFC President - GFAA Secretary



Warm water associated with the emerging La Nina event is already beginning to have its presence felt. Strong south setting currents off the metropolitan coast are bringing bait and juvenile southern bluefin tuna down the coast as well as striped tuna of a size rarely seen in southern waters. These are accompanied by large bonito. As usual getting hook ups on a northerly wind is difficult but the trailer boaties are having a ball on 1 and 2kg tackle. October through to November has seen progressively more light tackle oppoportunites.



The southern clubs in WA are slowly coming out of hibernation and encouraging member to dust off the winter and Covid restrictions that have dulled fishing and social activities. Both the Perth Game Fishing Club and Fremantle Sailing Club Game Fishing Section have been proactive over the past few months ensuring their respective members are entertained and informed with social and 'topic' nights.



PGFC's recent social gathering was conducted at a local boutique brewing company called "Little Creatures" in Fremantle. Voted by many of those who attended as the best social night in years, more than 30 members came along to meet others for a chat, a drink and the opportunity to welcome new members and those that hadn't been along in a while. Pizzas complemented the beverages; mixing and camaraderie between members created a great club atmosphere. As a trial it was highly successful and can be expected to be repeated in the new year.

## Western Australia North

### Exmouth Game Fishing Club 2020 Sailfish Shootout

Ben Knaggs - EGFC



Principally timed to coincide with a unique annual aggregation of large numbers of sailfish inside the shallow waters of Exmouth Gulf, the Exmouth Game Fishing Club's Sailfish Shootout tournament (formerly Billfish Bonanza) follows a PRO-AM format which is designed to allow for a more even contest across local charter boat teams and those made up of purely recreational anglers.

The 2020 event also transitioned to a wholly sailfish focussed tournament, with existing sections for marlin removed so as to prevent the prize pool being diluted by supplementary sections that had not been actively contested in previous years, and to make the reason for the event (that being a seasonal aggregation of sailfish) more apparent to potential first time competitors.

As per previous years, the tournament utilised GFAA's newly legalised measure & release cards to allow competitors to 'free release' (i.e. touched leader counted as a caught fish) all sailfish hooked inside Exmouth Gulf as a means of speeding up the release process and hopefully reducing the number of fish destroyed by sharks. The issue of shark depredation of sailfish inside Exmouth Gulf has continued to worsen in recent years, and most teams expressed their gratitude to organisers for being able to 'free release' their fish. Some of the more experienced teams even commented that they thought the tournament would not be feasible without this option.

For the first time in many years, the tournament's dates failed to line up with a significant Exmouth Gulf sailfish aggregation, and as such, the fishing was generally very tough. Some teams opted to fish the waters on the western (Indian Ocean) side of North West Cape, and found enough sails using conventional trolling techniques to slowly tick the scoreboard over.

Those teams sticking to their plan of casting live baits to sails sighted feeding on bait balls inside Exmouth Gulf had a much harder time than usual, with a lot of time spent scoping out bait balls trying to find attendant sailfish. Even when fish were found, they often proved to be very finicky, and difficult to tempt with even the best presented live bait.

Still, by the end of three hard days of fishing, the nine teams had amassed a total of 44 sailfish raised/seen, 26 hooked and 19 tagged/free released. Fishing inside Exmouth Gulf for the entirety of the event, Pussee Galore took out the major two sections (Champion Team Overall and Champion Team Amateur) with their 7 fish and 2800 points, just ahead of defending champion On Strike with 6 fish and 2400 points who were Champion Team Pro.

The Sailfish Shootout will be on again in 2021 from November 4-7. For more information, go to [www.egfc.com.au](http://www.egfc.com.au)





## Junior Tournament - Kevin Oates

National Junior Tournament Coordinator

Hi everyone

Isn't it great that everyone is now in a position to finally go fishing, especially with Victoria now opening up its ring of steel allowing the Melbournians to travel to their favourite fishing grounds. All we need is some State Borders to open up and we will nearly be back to normal.

On the fishing scene, most action has occurred in northern Western Australia and along the Queensland coastline, up north as well as on the Sunshine coast.

The usual westerners including Max and Mia Grasso, and sisters Chloe and Jessica Hornhardt from the King Bay GFC have all been putting scores on the board in the Capture, T&R and M&R categories. Chloe landed a nice sailfish of 17.6kg on 3 kg and a whaler shark of 98.3kg on 10kg.

Max has also landed quite a variety of fish on ultra-light tackle as well as many T&R species.

The big point scores have been achieved out of Cairns with local teenager Lily Sims rewriting record books with both Australian and World record claims lodged. Her captures of black marlin were 15.5kg on 4kg, 12kg on 3kg, 18.5kg on 2kg and an awesome capture of 15.5kg on 1kg. See page 21 for images.

Further south near Fraser island, the small black marlin appeared in droves with Ben Massurit tagging 12 and visiting Victorian angler Tait Missen also tagging 12.

The heaviest capture for the past few months was made by Oska Davis from Central Coast GFC in NSW with a tiger shark weighing 158.5kg on 15kg

With the recent Game Fishing Association of Australia Annual General Meeting held via Zoom, we announced the winners for the Tournament for the 2019-20 season. Special congratulation to the 4 National Winners as well as all the state winners. All awards have been posted to their respective clubs who we anticipate will make special presentation to each winner. We look forward to seeing the photos.

Back in Western Australia, a Perth GFC angler has been awarded a State & National Record for his great capture of a snapper on light tackle.



Small Fry Lochlan Turrell has been awarded both Australian and State Record awards for a 7.46kg snapper captured on 4kg line class in 14m of water off Mandurah on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

The John Dunphy Young Achiever Award is the most prestigious of the junior awards made at GFAA level where competition is Australia wide.

Lochie has been awarded a commendation for his efforts. [www.gfaa.asn](http://www.gfaa.asn) has all the national awards from 2020.

Congratulations to this high achieving young angler.



*Lily Sims' record breaking efforts out of Cairns were combined with some light tackle fun as well.*



The posting of Junior Tournament Monthly awards is underway for the 2020-2021 season, winners for July, August and September have been posted on the website. We are waiting on some trophies from sponsors to arrive and when received will be posted out within the next 2 weeks.

A special thank you to all our sponsors during the Covid period, we understand the difficulties many businesses have endured during this time and we sincerely thank our sponsors for their continued support of the GFAA National Junior Tournament.

Good fishing & tight lines

Kevin Oates



## Records – Peter Babarskas

Life Member, Records Officer and Rules Committee Chair

New records from 9<sup>th</sup> July to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Category	Species	Line Class	Angler	Weight	State	Status
Female 10/1	Mako	24	Tara Rowe	327.20	NSW	Aust
Small Fry Male	Shark Mackerel	3	Dean Gates	3.95	WA	Aust
Junior Male	Mulloway	10	Michael Behrens	14.20	QLD	Aust
Small Fry Male	Gold Spot Trevally	10	Max Grasso	10.08	WA	Aust
Junior Female	Cobia	4	Jessica Hornhardt	10.62	WA	Aust
Junior Female	Narrow Barred Mackerel	2	Jessica Hornhardt	5.42	WA	Aust
Junior Female	Shark Mackerel	2	Jessica Hornhardt	6.62	WA	Aust
Junior Female	Sailfish	3	Chloe Hornhardt	17.66	WA	Aust
Junior Female	Broad Barred Mackerel	2	Jessica Hornhardt	7.36	WA	Aust
Junior Female	Black Marlin	4	Lily Sims`	15.50	QLD	Aust
Junior Male 10/1	Mako	4	Oska Davis	55.00	NSW	Aust
Small Fry Male	Brassy Trevally	8	Max Grasso	10.36	WA	Aust
Small Fry Male	Golden Trevally	4	Max Grasso	8.30	WA	Aust
Small Fry Male	Golden Trevally	3	Max Grasso	8.32	WA	Aust
Small Fry Male	Cobia	3	Max Grasso	8.36	WA	Aust
Small Fry Male	Spotted Mackerel	1	Max Grasso	2.30	WA	Aust

Female 10/1	Cobia	2	Tameeka Dodd	20.07	WA	Aust
Small Fry Male	Shark Mackerel	4	Kalvin Gates	5.50	WA	Aust
Junior Female	Black Marlin	3	Lily Sims	12.00	QLD	Aust
Junior Female	Black Marlin	2	Lily Sims	18.50	QLD	Aust
1000lb	Tiger Shark	15	Kate Gundry	478.20	NSW	Aust
1000lb	Tiger Shark	37	Luke Ellis	494.20	NSW	Aust
Small Fry Male	Snapper	4	Lochlan Turrell	7.46	WA	Aust



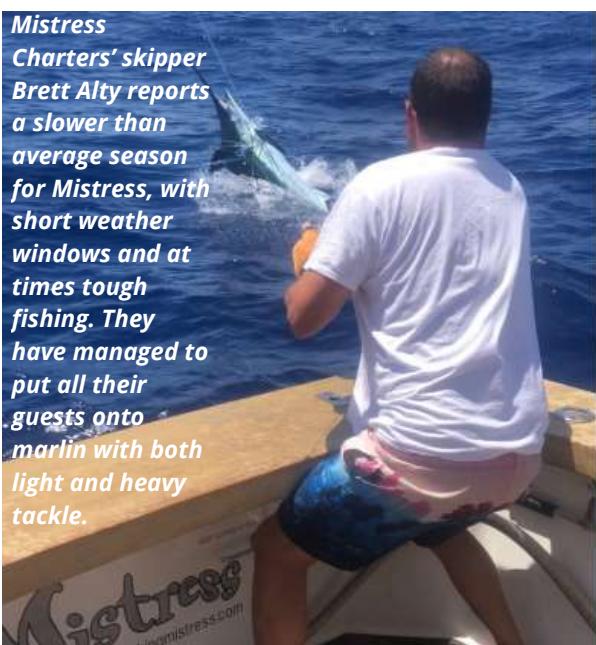
## Hervey Bay and Fraser Island

Doug Sanderson - Publicity Officer, Past President GFAA

**Jason Greer holds up a fine black marlin specimen caught at Rooney's Point inside Fraser Island**



**Mistress**  
*Charters' skipper Brett Alty reports a slower than average season for Mistress, with short weather windows and at times tough fishing. They have managed to put all their guests onto marlin with both light and heavy tackle.*



## Some Special Shots from Far North Queensland – courtesy Doug Sanderson



Topwater Sportfishing Ribbon Flats



Big Fish Down Under – Dan McCarthy – Raging Black



Big Fish Down Under – Dan McCarthy



## Tasmanian Record Broadbill

India Thompson - St Helens Game Fishing Club



*"Stories don't mean anything, if you have no one to tell them to"- Phil Hanseroth.*

Similarly, catching a fish of a lifetime is often more enjoyable when surrounded by your nearest and dearest friends and family.

During COVID-19 many states have had different responses that have led to cancelling local fishing competitions, through to prohibiting fishing all together. The value and importance of socialising within our sport is perhaps the foundation for the passion that we all share. Whether it's a local competition, sanctioned tournament or a \$50 biggest fish bet with some of your closest mates, fishing with friends is good for the soul. Some of my fondest memories about being on or around the water often have no fish present in them at all. This becomes part of the journey to catching that dream fish, making the reward even sweeter, as you can share the reward with those who came along on the journey.



In Tasmania we have a range of competitions, inland, estuaries and heavy tackle offshore fishing, take your pick. The competitions include the Australian Southern Bluefin Tournament, held every second year, which sees a large number of vessels heading to the small welcoming community at Eaglehawk Neck. The St Helens Game Fishing Classic, one of the most popular competitions for its atmosphere and large swordfish in recent years, always draws a large crowd. Other competitions have been created recently due to the change in species migration and presence of southern bluefin tuna close to shore during Tasmania's winter months. All competitions have one thing in common, a group of people who enjoy all things fish. Every year we have new entrants, participants who move to legendary status and the avid fisher who just can't wait to wet a line.

The highlight of my competition memories includes a late minute sign up to Tasmania's Easter competition held by the Game Fishing Club of Northern Tasmania. With a 15kg maximum line class it adds another element of difficulty, ruling out the drag often needed to increase your odds. We sat around the table the night before trying to develop a plan. We knew we had a choice of chasing tuna, ultimately attempting to catch one southern bluefin tuna that would go line class, or we take the biggest risk of all and endeavour to catch a swordfish on 15kg line. Some would say we are asking for a miracle, not only do we need to hook the swordfish in the morning, but we also must actually catch the billed gladiator by competition close to make weigh in. The final decision was to give it our all or nothing, as we knew the swordfish would be hard to beat in the heaviest gamefish category if landed.

The next morning came and we hit the water early to be on the shelf at 7am (start of fishing). First drop, we saw the taps on the rod that we needed, I harnessed up and started cranking. We were hooked up. At the start of the fight one of our team members asked if there was a record for swordfish on 15kg. My Dad swiftly responded with "no, no one is stupid enough". Having never been seasick my entire life this was the last thing I expected to feel. My stomach contents were coming up, while my head was over the reel, taking every wind I could. This was certainly one of the hardest



mental battles I have had. Turning around, I was handed a Ribena, now I'm not sure if they have healing powers, or if it was my Dad saying, do you want to hand the rod to someone else or the fact that I had emptied the contents of my stomach, but there was light at the end of the tunnel, I could stand and even made a few facetious remarks.

Four hours in and we still had no confirmation that it was a sword, many large bluefin and makos have been caught using the deep dropping techniques. I had no tailbeats or headshakes, the only indication I had was that I couldn't move it from its depth, which is

typical of swordfish. This fish was really starting to break me at this point before my Dad yelled "Indy, I marked it, it's at 62 metres". Now, I had some goal post, we slowly edged the fish up, we'd get two metres, it would take one and before we knew it, we finally had the fish at 20 metres. As I was slowly winching the fish from the depths, we were all placing our bets as to what species we actually had, while considering the speed we would need to travel to make weigh-in if we could raise this fish just a few more cranks.

Suddenly, the double appears with what looks like an unwinding strand. I turned to the team and said this knot does not look good; however, they quickly eliminated my fears saying, it's fine Indy just keep winding. Little did they know I heard the follow up conversation which went something like "when you get that leader, do not let it go, go in with it if you have to, because we won't get another shot on that double". The leader's up and we saw the swordfish almost float the last few metres. We had done it, we had landed a swordfish, in a 15kg sanctioned tournament.

I say we, because it is not just the angler. It is the team, something that many in the past few months have not been able to fish with. Then as we approach the weigh in, the support we receive from others that are just happy to see fish weighed, have a beer with their friends and tell the story of the one that got away, provides you with a sense of belonging. This sense of belonging is what brings me back to every tournament, it's a chance to forget about work, study or the things that get you down and enjoy your passion with those who can share it, live it and breath it with you.



Stories are everything, whether they are educational, humorous, or even exaggerating the size of the fish you caught. Make sure you have people in your life you can share them with, we have a brief time on this planet, spend time with those you love, doing what you love and remember, the fish

are an added bonus. The world is heading in the direction of isolation, not even wanting to know your next door neighbours. Social fishing, even if it only occurs a few times a year is designed to remind everybody to have a laugh and the pleasure that stories can provide you with, both creating them and sharing them.

The capture was a new Tasmanian record on 15kg weighing in at 115kg.

## Weipa Billfish Club - Nathan Billing

2020 Hastings Deering Weipa Billfish Tournament.



Nathan Billing is the manager of Hastings Deering in Weipa where he has lived for around five years. He loves fly fishing and regularly targets sailfish; often fishing solo. On one day last year he released an incredible eight sailfish.

Off Weipa, most fishing is with dead baits and switching is also quite popular. Interestingly black marlin are caught in a range of sizes from barely a metre long but with a good sprinkling of fish up to 450lb.

This is Nathan's description of this year's Hastings Deering tournament

*From the third to sixth of October the Weipa Billfish club celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Weipa Tournament. The tournament has grown over the last 10 years from a small group of friends to an event that now attracts anglers from across Queensland and Australia. This year saw visitors from as far afield as the Gold Coast, with Peter Pakula traveling up for the event. Across the 10 years, the road condition has improved enough that there is under 200km of dirt, and it is becoming fairly easy for visiting anglers to tow trailer boats up for the event. 2019 and 2020 to date has seen 111 sailfish and five marlin captured on light tackle from trailer boats from 4.5-8m.*

*Anticipation for the tournament was high after some red hot fishing through July and August with multiple boats boating over 10 sailfish per day. The whole COVID situation was a nuisance preventing interstate travellers and the ever changing rules making it challenging to organise.*

*The 'standard' Weipa offshore weather pattern for this time of year is a 10-15kn south easterly wind in the morning which tapers off to nothing at about 10am, then turns to a 10-15kn westerly in the afternoon. Unfortunately, this year saw a disheartening wind forecast become evident a couple of days before the tournament with a strong wind warning in place. Luckily, the day before the tournament, the strong wind warning was cancelled and the wind forecast downgraded to 20-25kn south easterlies for day one, with weather improving over the course of the tournament. The Weipa Billfish Club committee elected to run a late start, with teams to start fishing at 11am.*

*The Friday prior to the tournament is usually used for last minute preparations and loading supplies and extra fuel onto the houseboat and barge which was supplied by Weipa Houseboats for the event and becomes the base for the tournament in Boyds Bay, about 50km south of Weipa. Weipa houseboats and the committee did a fantastic job working through the COVID guidelines to make this event possible with extra sanitation and distancing protocols in place.*

*Anglers were greeted on the Saturday morning with rough conditions which made it difficult to launch at the Evans Landing boat ramp which is less than ideal (to put it politely) in south easterly winds. One team had to pull their boat back out due to some motor issues and damaged their boat and trailer due to the large wave and wind influence. I ended up having to jump in the water chest deep to try to keep their boat off the concrete and rocks or smashing into their trailer, cutting my feet on oysters in the process. After much lobbying and many near misses and injuries the government has recently approved funding for wave attenuation and upgrades, so hopefully this is the last tournament with these issues. Once boats were in, they could travel the 50kms down the coast in the lee of the Cape York Peninsula which gives a nice relaxing cruise. Once down to Boyds Bay/Pera Head area, teams veer off to their selected starting areas, with the next ~30kms less pleasurable cruising through the 1.5-2m chop.*

*Day one fishing was a struggle for most teams, with majority of boats not seeing a billfish. It was quite trying for most being smashed all day for no fish raised. Most people pounded their way back to Boyds that night and were glad for a shower, dinner and socialising on the houseboat or rafted up in the smooth protection of Boyds Bay looking at one of our famous Cape York sunsets. Louis Drake and Renee Mather on "Outta Beer" were well in front by the end of the first day with one sailfish tagged. Final numbers for the day were 2-2-1.*



The second day dawned with better weather than forecast. The majority of boats saw at least one billfish on day two, which is still rated as very poor fishing by Weipa standards. By the end of the day some teams were finding some more consistent fishing, with Tegan Witcher, Brittany Baumann, Darryl and Simone French going 4-4-4 for the day. The more successful day two anglers shared some waypoints and tips for where they found the fish with other competitors, and going into day three the competition was still wide open with multiple teams armed with more knowledge of where the fish were concentrated.

Day three saw some of the more normal Weipa bill fishing, with multiple boats raising 5-10 fish for the day, but the fish were particularly finicky, and anglers were tested in converting the raised fish to tagged fish. There were multiple reports of the fish coming up and looking lazily at the spreads, then fading away without eating. There were also multiple reports of fish gently grabbing the baits, including livies, then dropping them and swimming away. Some people were theorising it was because the fish were well fed from the readily available trawler trash on the surface, but who really knows- as they say, that's why it's called fishing, not catching.

The final Hastings Deering 2020 Weipa Billfish Tournament statistics were:  
15 boats with 48 anglers | Final tally of 44-28-19 sailfish and 0 black marlin captured.

Weipa is becoming more and more accessible, with the road anticipated to be fully sealed in the next couple of years. Weipa enjoys some red hot sail fishing that can rival Kuala Rompin or other exotic fisheries and has the bonus of being able to catch barra to billfish on the same day. If you're interested in entering the tournament, or just bill fishing Weipa generally, get in contact with the Weipa Billfish club on Facebook and they will be more than willing to help you out.



More on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yB46KSmgaoW&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2ABBeecdZH8ohirREnu2vkmfetOb8l3doboZllovxqr2bFRsm7Bo1qD0bl>

# The Case of the Leaking Fuel Tank

John Cramer - GFAA Executive WA South



Ever experienced the unwanted smell of fuel when you are out catching fish and then been faced with the agonizing question as to how to deal with it when you know the fuel tanks are inside the hull?

This was the case a few months ago when returning from a day out and two of us who were sitting forward in the boat (a 7m shark cat) could both smell petrol fumes. For me, the smell of fuel is one of the worst things imaginable on a boat, so there was no thought of delaying finding out the source of the concern.

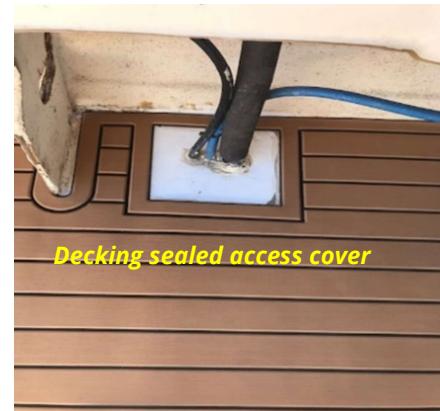
When I bought the boat there had been an issue with fuel seal seepage on top of both 140lt tanks, located about two thirds the way forward in each hull. The seals were under a plate which had three intake / output entries. The fuel intake line, the fuel line to the motors and the breather. At the time both plates were removed and the seals redone.

However, the smell of fuel fumes had returned and this time it was quite strong. After rechecking the previous work by lifting a small inspection deck plate that the lines ran up and through, it appeared that all previous work was OK. It wasn't until we removed the bungs that the issue became apparent. The little bit of water that came out of the starboard hull was clearly contaminated with fuel!

Now the second major issue raised its head. A new \$4,000 deck had just been installed and the initial advice was that this had to be lifted (could not be salvaged) to access the tank, assumed to be the cause of the fuel leak into the hull.

Fuel tanks can be made from a variety of material and on this occasion, the tanks were made of aluminium. Leaks from such tanks can stem from four primary sources as was explained to me: the seals, cracks in welds around the tank due to flexing if not mounted correctly, any other inspection locations built into the tank and of course, holes due to wearing or corrosion. The simple fact was the tank had to come out.

Fortunately, a close friend of mine and former Executive of GFAA, suggested looking into accessing the tank through the side of the boat. The immediate concern with this option was how good would the integrity of the hull be after such an operation? This was quickly allayed when I approached a recommended shipwright Paul Clark from North Shore Boats, located



in the Henderson light industrial area south of Fremantle.

Paul gave comforting reassurances that he had done this many times and that the hole created in the side of the boat would not only be reinstated without even being evident, but the strength of the repairs would be as good as the original laying up of the hull.

The tank was removed and what was found was more than a bit surprising and an education in itself.



*Access through the side of the boat*



*Upper wet securing boards*



*Hole size scale*

The tanks, when installed, had been mounted and secured in place with heavy wooden boards that had not been sealed and had no form of 'cushioning' between the boards and the tank. What had happened was, when salt water entered the hull (another story) the wood had become soaked and over time, the salt dampness in the wood had caused corrosion and subsequent pitting. See the extent of the pitting in the photo above. The main holes were located between the boards on top of the tank, however, there was also some minor pitting elsewhere on the tank surface. A new tank was manufactured and fitted.

#### Outcomes:

- When buying a second-hand boat, include in your survey an inspection of the fuel tanks if internally mounted.
- Consider all access options if you need to remove a tank from a boat's hull. Extracting through the side of the hull is achievable and can save thousands.
- Confirm the capabilities of the shipwright undertaking the work.
- Ensure a glass/seal of any wooden support structures and do not use black rubber stripping to cushion, or pack around an aluminium tank. Black rubber contains carbon that in contact with aluminium, can cause corrosion. Use white rubber.
- If you have twin hulls, don't be a miser and do both tanks at the same time, as what has happened to one, is likely to have happened to the other. This has become a new and recent regret.



# Perth Game Fishing Club FAD Report

Peter Coote – President Perth GFC



PGFC completed the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive annual deployment of six FADs at the Rottnest Trench on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Reliant on volunteers from the Club the FADs are positioned in May and recovered in November for maintenance. The recent declaration of Australian Marine Parks has resulted in three of the FADs being positioned within 30 nm of Fremantle and within the Multiple Use Zone of the park. Any breakaways are recovered quickly as the FADs have GPS satellite position monitoring.



The Rottnest Trench is a deep canyon that creates upwellings nourishing species from small bait species through to blue marlin. Catches vary from year to year dependent on the strength of the warm south flowing Leeuwin current. There are good signs already with the La Nina weather phenomenon and plump striped tuna, healthy southern bluefin and unusually large bonito appearing.

A typical season starts with small mahi mahi before Christmas with maybe a few yellowtail kings. January's mahis are starting to bulk up a bit and mackerel will appear on the coast. Flying fish are plentiful. By February, it is a good sign if wahoo are around as they are usually followed by blue marlin up to around 200kg, striped marlin and the occasional black as the water temperatures get into the mid 24° range. The season continues through May and into June after which the water begins to cool.

With the current roaring down the coast already, the FADS, which are in water depths to 230m, can be expected to attract yellowtail kingfish and mahi mahi early in December with billfish from around February.



[www.pgfc.com.au](http://www.pgfc.com.au)

Links - Click on logo to visit the state website

GFAA



Northern Territory



New South Wales



Queensland



South Australia



Tasmania



Victoria



Western Australia



Juniors Facebook



## Subscriptions

[CLICK HERE](#) to subscribe to direct distribution. Insert in your name, club and email address.

GFAA undertakes not to use, share or retain any subscriber information for any purpose other than the delivery of this Newsletter.

## Contribution and Contributors

Would you like to share your club's or members' achievements? Any club or member of a GFAA affiliated club is encouraged to contribute to the next issue of the GFAA newsletter. Articles of a general or specific nature in Word format with high resolution images are welcome. GFAA reserves the right to edit content.

Email to [secretary@gfaa.asn.au](mailto:secretary@gfaa.asn.au)

**Contributors to this issue:** Brett Alty, Peter Babarskas, Nathan Billing, Ian Bladin, Ben Bright, Peter Coote, John Cramer, Mick Meiers, Kevin Oates, Doug Sanderson, Bruce Simpson, India Thompson and Grahame Williams.