

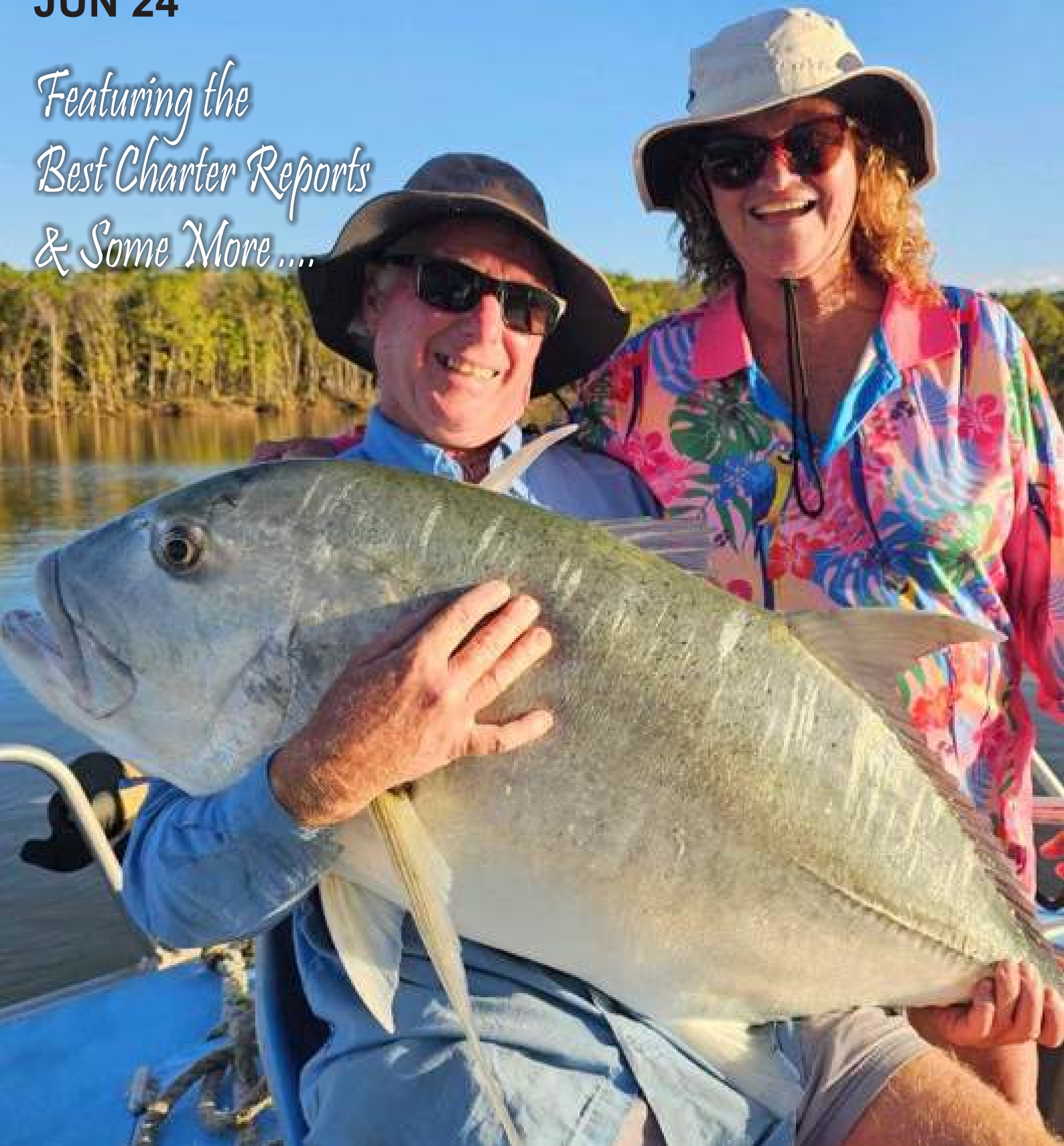
LINEBURNER

VOLUME 281 PRICELESS

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JUN 24

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Fishing Port Douglas News

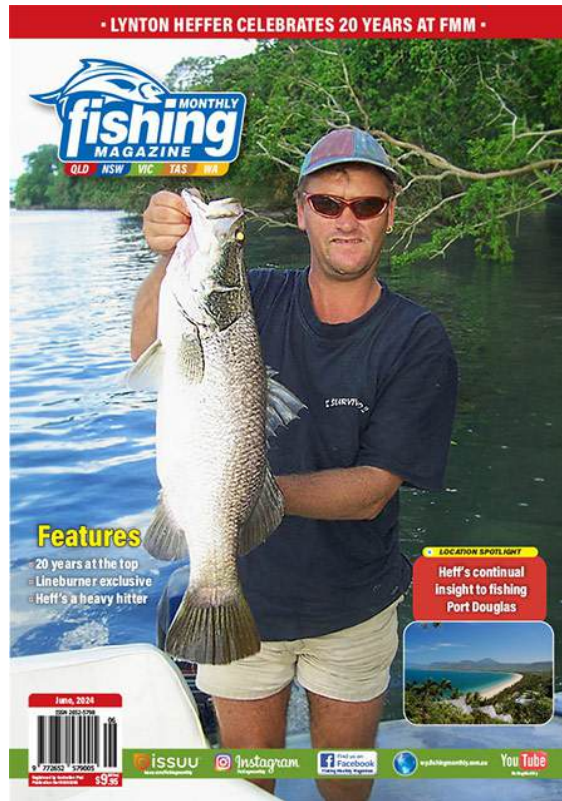


with Heff

Doesn't time fly, it was a nice gesture for the national fishing magazine, Fishing Monthly to forward me with this mock up for 20yrs of service. Since 2003 I been doing monthly reports for the Port Douglas region and have enjoyed each and every report I've written. To be honest it hasn't been that hard especially when we live in my opinion the best overall fishery on the planet. 1200lb marlin, 1m barramundi, 12kg red emperor, 1m queenfish, 12kg large mouth nannygai, 90cm coral trout, 35kg giant trevally and 30kg spanish mackerel are just some magnificent species I've been privileged to have witnessed and report on. It's moments like these which make it an addictive lifestyle to pursue.

On another matter, Tony Perrot the Shadow Minister for fisheries conducted a meeting just recently in Yorkeys Knob with charter and commercial operators with skin in the game. It was attended by 80 attendees and according to all Tony Perrot ticked a lot of boxes for a change in government from a fishing point of view. It has been well known that the current state Labour government for over a decade has been on a left wing 'Green' agenda to slowly shut all forms of fishing including encroaching on basic recreational liberties.

Tony Perrot admitted that the current power people that run the Fishery department are under the firing line. This further extends to the various groups that provide questionable data with a 'Green' propaganda which the Labour government has deliberately followed and



made legislation that will be hard to remove.

The Liberal Party are committed to righting a lot of wrongs and will work more closely with those within the industry which have been responsible gate keeper's of the Great Barrier Reef. The QLD Fisheries department is in for a big shake up and justifiably so in the next election.

IF YOU ENJOY YOUR RIGHT TO GO FISHING YOUR VOTE IS CRUCIAL IN THE NEXT STATE ELECTION !

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Fishing On the Daintree

with Jamie Beitzel



G'day again from the Daintree River. I'm very happy to report that it has been a pleasing period for fishing one of our great river systems in FNQ.

As you delve deeper into the traditional winter period you normally have a suspicion that the fishing will become tougher but that has simply not been the case. In fact I've caught a lot of great fish and there's variety with the type of species. The main contributing factor is that the days have remained mostly bright and sunny and water temperatures have been optimal for all species. We are now starting to see some pretty big tides around the moons and if you can avoid these the fishing is very amicable. The live supply is still quite healthy and this goes a long way to providing productive trips.

We'll run through the different types of species that have played a significant role starting with the barramundi. Despite the time of year I've been able to produce them on a regular basis. Plump sized barra to 80cm have been mostly active on the bottom end of the tide and when the sun is high giving the water temperature that extra boost. This subtle difference is keeping them active for the moment.

On the incoming tides the start of the run in has seen some nice golden trevally down near the mouth on the sandy floor base and also cruising up onto the flats. Solid fish to 60cm have done well for me at this part of the tide. Across the flats have also been some cracking javelin fish to 55cm and a fresh slab of fish fillet is a preference of theirs. Also another species that popped up this

month was some big blue salmon in similar territory up to 90cm. Not overly common I must say in this system, but one tough fish to deal with showcasing extreme power and speed.

As the tide builds there's been a few kilometre stretch where we've started to see the big 1m queenfish make their presence and they are growing in numbers. The deeper sections with a drifting sardine in the current has done the trick. Once I know they are in the vicinity a popper lure skipped across the surface will also attract them into an aggressive mood. I know I keep banging on about these big queenfish but they are a heap of fun to catch. I will also bang on about that they need to be handled with extreme care and released very quickly.

On top of the tide my fingermark spots have been my go to fish and they rarely let me down. Quality fish to 60cm have been the ideal fillet to take home for dinner. Being a member of the mangrove jack family they can't resist a juicy live sardine tickling right under their nose.

My monster catch for the month was down near the mouth and entailed a 45 minute fight to boat. You'd be surprised as to what will come into this river and on this occasion it was a 120cm giant trevally tipping the scales just shy of 30kg. We are not quite set up to tackle a fish of this size but smart tactics and patience prevailed in the end. This a fish of lifetime and my clients were very happy with me that's for sure.

I'm feeling a mild month ahead on the cards and this is going to help my cause and continue to produce some top notch charters.



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Akula Sportfishing



with Jason Knack

The month of June was a lot more conducive to a lot of our trips we had scheduled for some great fishing. It didn't always go to plan with some pesky south easterly winds hanging around but when they behaved it was all systems go.

There definitely has been a shift in the winter pattern with more favourable currents and wind direction when the star's aline. The old saying goes 'we can't control the weather' however when it does work in our favour the winter period is fantastic for coastal and reef fishing.

Some of our outer reef experiences were categorically full on. No word of a lie we were catching to the boat up to 60 fish per day. Naturally the majority of these were released but I've never seen south of Lizard Island this impact of fishing in over 30yrs of fishing our local waters. I had to work my butt off so hard dealing with the carnage of activity. Seriously at times the anchor was not even deployed as we drifted over the hot bite zone with quadruple hook ups every time. These moments were a combination of large mouth nannygai and trevally but they were all in the heavy keg category. To be honest I was surprised the clients kept up with pace and wanted to go back for more arm wrenching action. Physically I was shagged just de-hooking and releasing fish for them. It's occasions like this that make your job so satisfying.

We are now offering a Cairns to Port Douglas trip



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with return transfers back to Cairns as part of the trip. A couple of these trips have produced the outstanding results we are referring to. There's roughly 25-30 mile of outstanding ground to follow and for the winter spell a wonderful option with a following sea and currents all working in tandem.

As to be expected with the onset of school holidays we are dealing with a lot of half day coastal trips with families. This is an ideal way to give the younger ones a taste of the angling world. Sometimes we catch some whopping fish but mostly it is your 35-45cm range of species. Still good fun on lighter gear and if the right size a good little feed to take home at the end of the trip. We are finding more and more that our 4-5hr trips fit the holiday program and also people are in the current day, are a bit more budget conscience. For us they are generally an easy task to perform and clients understand that we are fishing along the coast which is considered a nursery for our wonderful fishery. You also can't beat the visual beauty of our mountain rainforests as a backdrop to your fishing experience.

No matter your style we have a range of trips to suit.

Saltaire Charters



with Craig Newbold

Currently our business is spread eagled along the Great Barrier Reef from Lizard Island back down to Port Douglas. Our 35ft Saltaire game vessel is catering the for the Lizard Island resort guests doing every thing from fishing, diving, snorkelling and sight seeing experiences. Our commitment here is till mid August, however we are still catering for private reef and game fishing charters out of Port Douglas in association with another local vessel for the interim.

Our Escapade mothership is in preparation for a busy second half of the year starting with a 7 day trip catering for a Kite Surfing trip up to Lizard Island and back. It is a new market we are looking to expand into and look forward to the first trip at the start of August.

It has been a little while in the pipeline but as of July we are ready to offer our 7.5m Sportfishing vessel catering for coastal and outer reef fishing adventures. Below are the details.

Bluewater Sportfishing Charters - based from Port Douglas fishing locations include surrounding coastal inshore reefs, headlands, islands and Outer Great Barrier Reef. We specialise in all facets of angling. Our small numbers ensure A1 service and superior fishing opportunities.

Offshore / Coastal targets can include mackerel, giant trevally, tuna, coral trout, red emperor and nannygai just to name a few plus many more quality table eating species.

It is a 7.5m Custom Sportfisher vessel with a lot of fishing deck room. We are powered by a 250hp 4 stroke engine, Raymarine Electronics and this boat can travel very quickly and comfortably. There is a

marine toilet on board. Inclusive of the latest high quality sportfishing gear, all tackle/bait and soft drinks. We do encourage sustainable fishing. Iced esky supplied for BYO lunches and alcohol. We are offering a couple of styled trips:

Coastal/ Reef Private Charter 6hrs - \$1200

Maximum 5 pax. Can include lure fishing across the reefs, trolling lures, surface popper fishing, jigging, fresh bait fishing.

Outer Reef Private Charter 8.5hrs - \$1650

Maximum 5 pax. Can include lure fishing across the reefs, trolling lures, surface popper fishing, jigging, fresh bait reef fishing.

Shared 6hr trip - \$280pp

Shared 8.5hr trip - \$330pp

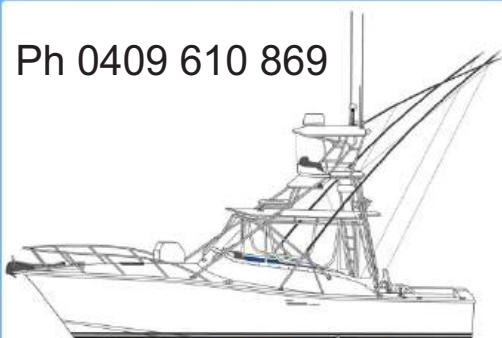
Shared trips are subject to required numbers.

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www.fishingportdouglas.com.au for further viewing.



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