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VOLUME 293 PRICELESS

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*Local Fishing Reports
& Some More*



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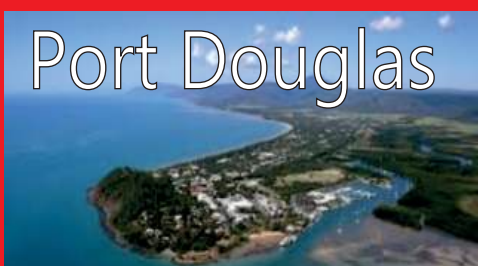
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Fishing Port Douglas

with Heff



Recently I venture down south to Victoria for a family funeral and found some time to wet a line whilst I was there.

I fished the Wimmera River in western Victoria just north of Dimboola for 4 days. It's a rich area for grain farming which has had trouble with drought in recent years. There's no doubt this is a magical and beautiful river system with plenty of wildlife including kangaroos and birdlife but the big problem is, it was in the middle of bloody winter! It's been 30yrs since I've been down south in the coldest part of the year, yes summer but not an ice cold winter. It was that fresh it would take your breath away and turn your face blue with no day rising above 10C degrees. Anyway I persisted as I do trying a variety of techniques including scrub worms, live yabbies and even flicked some soft plastic lures. I did not get a single bite even



though the river is well known for yellow belly, redfin and those pesky carp. I would have been over the moon to snare a flammin' carp for that matter. Simply it must have been too cold for all and sundry. This experience reminded why I shifted to Far North Queensland where our winter is so plentiful for fish. It re-interated to me also the fact as to why so many southern visitors vacate and travel north for their holidays from such an inhospitable predicament. Am I glad to be back up north, you betcha'!

On the local front it has been a healthy period for the town with all businesses grateful for the influx of tourists assisted by the school holidays. Aquatic activities including all boating was mostly favourable with average day temperatures of 26 degrees. I'll never take for granted again our wonderful winters we experience in tropical FNQ.

Just a reminder for the Port Douglas Marlin Challenge, it's only 2 months away which says time just gets away. We look to have 12 vessels currently competing for over 60K alone in cash then there's prizes on top. Due to presentation numbers we may have to cap it at 15 boats so be quick if you are still considering, the dates are 1st to 4th October.



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Local Fishing News

There's no doubting the region enjoyed a much needed influx of tourists during July with a combination of school holidays bolstering numbers. For the most the weather turned it on and towards the end of the month temperatures started spiking upwards again as we passed the shortest days of the year.

River & Estuary Fishing

As the days progressed with warmer temperatures at hand, the fishing did improve for sure. Up on the Daintree River the neap tides sparked up the big 1m Queenfish and they were partial to live sardines and also surface popper lures. At this size they never disappoint putting on impressive aerial displays and forging solid runs at high speed. They really enjoyed the clearer waters that the neaps provided.

With a bit of run in the tide decent fingermark amongst the snags and javelin fish across the flats provided most of the other action. For winter time action the Daintree is blessed to be able to produce no matter the time of year.

Back in Port Douglas in the local estuary there's been a run of smaller river trevally on the incoming tides, some nosy mangrove jack amongst the snags and plenty of bream to see the rods bending.

With current day and night temperatures it won't be long before we see the famous barramundi re-surfacing again which will please the punters that visit us.

Reef Fishing

As mentioned the weather has been optimal for the best part of the month to head to the outer reef. All your favourite bottom species have been up and about. Coral trout have been solid in the 25m depth range and have been rallied in the shallows as well. Large mouth nannygai have been quite consistent in the 30m plus range and the more neapish tides have suited best. Also mixed in have been some sizeable red emperor which is a real bonus. On top of this if you add to the creel a mixed bag of golden trevally, spangled emperor, small mouth nannygai, cobia, cattle dog cod, stripeys and baldy bream then you've had a great time.

There's also been a buzz around the healthy numbers of spanish mackerel that have been caught. Restricted bag limits do impede but there's been no shortage around the 20-25m depth range off the main reef with pressure points being a main holding office. Trolling shallow and deep diving lures have been highly successful with skipping garfish also accounting for numerous catches. As a bonus there's been a few spotted mackerel around for the chase as well.

If the run of good weather continues to favour the angler August will continue to be a bumper month yielding similar results.

Along the coast there's been grey mackerel, small mouth nannygai and bar cheek trout to entertain the small boat brigade.



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