

DARWIN BLUEWATER CHARTERS NEWSLETTER

The “MV Hyland C”

In April this year Darwin Blue-water acquired a new vessel to run as our mothership, the *MV Hyland C*. In many ways it was sad to see the old *Gambler* move on—the crew did shed a

Darwin Bluewater Charters’ new mothership, the *Hyland C*.



tear or two—but all that was forgotten when we laid eyes on what is now affectionately called “*The C*”.

This fantastic vessel has every-

thing we could have asked for and it’s purchase has negated a nearly twelve month wait had we decided to build from scratch.

So far all our clients have been thoroughly impressed with all that the big girl has to offer including airconditioned beds, big showers and toilets that you can fit your bum on! But that’s not all. *The C* is a very spacious boat—we have beds for sixteen in three large cabins—with plenty of deck and saloon space to kick back and relax or wind in a big one. There is heaps of refrigeration, a large galley complete with stove and oven (woohoo! Hot pies for lunch!) and a great sound system with TV, DVD, video and CD players.

Let’s not forget the top deck which, thanks to our large

crane, holds our three dinghy’s, the *Graper*, the *Gobbler* and our newest addition to the fleet, the *Gherkin*. No more towing! Now we can just pick up the boats and go where we need to be without all the hassle.

There have been a few opportunities for us to test the seaworthiness of the boat and she has come through with flying colours! This boat loves the big stuff—unlike poor old *Gambler* which used to cringe at the slightest ruffle on the water.

For those of you who haven’t yet had the pleasure of traveling with us on *The C* we know you will love it as much as we do.

Hopefully we’ll see you on board soon!

What is a “sporrán”?

The “Angler of the Day” award tradition continues on the *Hyland C*. But this time the trophy is the sporrán.

No, it’s not one of those brushy things you hang in front of your you-know-what if you’re a Scotsman—it’s a hat!

Scary, I know, but a lot of fun and, yes, you are still required to dance to the beat of Macho

Man if you don the sporrán for the evening!

Let’s not forget the runner-up rasta for a laugh as well! But we’ll keep that one under wraps—you’ll have to come fishing to find out.

It’s all part of de fun, mon!



Merry Christmas!



Darwin Bluewater Charters specializes in...

- > Extended charters to remote locations
- > Spectacular bluewater fishing
- > Barramundi seafaris
- > Small groups—6-8 people
- > Great fun times and lots of laughs!

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Sunset Jew found at a new secret location...



A couple of visits to Barra Base in Port Hurd on Bathurst Island in May and September were just further reminders of what a fantastic anglers paradise it truly is.

There was plenty of barra and mangrove jacks as well as the usual plethora of cods, trevally, salmon, queenies and so on.

We had some bumper crab catches with one pull of ten pots providing twelve BIG crabs plus a number of jenny's and tiddlers. Just add Naomi's se-

cret chilli sauce and you have a recipe for a disgusting but VERY tasty mess on the back deck!

Due to one group of clients choosing to fly home from the Island we had the opportunity for a bit of research and development on our own after they left. This was great because we have now found new grounds to fish full of snags, gutters and even a nice little jewie reef with some not so little jewies sitting on it!

We love fishing barra base for a

number of reasons but especially because it's a fishy place and a perfect anchorage. It's close proximity to Darwin makes it ideal for a four to seven day trip away. And with the airstrip right there on top of the fish it's hard not to opt for a flight at least one way to cut out all the travel.



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Around the Cape

It was early April when *The G* departed Cairns to head for it's new life working as a mother-ship in the remote Top End. The weather was none too nice but it was a case of now or never, so off we went.

From Cairns to Gove there wasn't much stopping—we had to cover some miles but a short stopover at Hamm Cay pro-

duced a monster ten kilo red emperor and a bag of Queensland sized coral trout.

Once around Cape York and into the wild seas of the Gulf we managed to hook and unfortunately lose a small black marlin but with many miles yet to cover and a crew to pick up in Gove there was no time for tears!

It was a pity that the weather wasn't kinder for this leg of the journey but it did open our eyes to how well the boat copes in big seas. We also discovered that the skipper does get seasick but you have to hang him upside down in the engine room for an hour and a half to change a bilge pump first!

Arnhem Land

What an incredible place!

From Gove we traveled through the Wessel Islands to Hutchinson Straight, then on to the mighty Blyth River, Junction Bay and the King River. The fishing was fantastic—everything from GT's to barra plus all the good stuff in between.

We found gigantic mud crabs in

one spot, hundreds of crays in another (well, we got a fair few!), snags you could fish off for hours and all the remote beauty you would imagine on a coastline such as this.

In 2005 we will be spending the first six weeks of our chartering year based out of Gove covering all this country again. And we can't wait. It was pretty

hard to pull the anchor at the King River and keep heading for Darwin. None of us wanted to leave—we just wanted to keep finding more spots to fish and more species to catch.

Well, that's exactly what we'll be doing when we get back there. So look out guys—you're in for a big one in April!



It took only an hour to get all these painted crays!

Melville Island

Magnificent Melville! How can words begin to describe it!

We've had two great charters to the Island in the last month although the fishing hasn't been quite as hot as it has been in the past.

The Jessie River has performed well producing some nice barra, mangrove jacks and jewfish but the famed Rock Bar was a bit on the quiet side. The black lip oysters that you need a knife and fork to eat them certainly got the taste buds roaring at the inaugural launch of the Jessie River Oyster Bar & Grill.

Mud crabs were a bit scarce but we did manage to spear one or two and Mal went swimming with a net a couple of times, managing to get another one.

Madford Shoals (aka. Madfish) lived up to expectations with some scorching mackerel sessions and some great bottom fishing.

The Johnston River really took it out of the boys having to do the hard yards to get those hook-ups. And they certainly got them. Those big barra are something else! Getting them into the boat is an entirely

different matter!

Unfortunately there has been a lot more human activity in this remote place with a permanent fishing camp having been put in place further up river and navy survey vessels having set up a base camp on the first bend in the river.

However, these two great rivers will continue to be an awesome haven for those big barra.

Let's see what next year brings—who knows when Duck Creek will fire up!



A 23kg Spanish Mackerel from Madford Shoals.

Boat Specs

Welcome to your new home away from home, the *MV Hyland C...*

Length	16.50m (55ft)
Cruise Speed	8 knots
Propulsion	250hp Cummins
Fuel	8000 litres
Freshwater	9000 litres
Range	2000 nautical miles
Survey	18 to 200nm for 13 pax plus 3 crew
Crane	2 tonne Hi-Ab

Facilities

2 cabins each equipped with private split system air conditioner, 3 single bunks and 1 double bed.

1 forward cabin with 8 single bunks and private split system air conditioning.

Spacious, freshwater flushing, household style toilets and showers.

Saloon & Galley

Spacious, comfortable & fully air conditioned.

Multiple power points for 240V appliances,

TV, Video, DVD and sound system.

Household style fridges & freezers.

Electric stove & oven.

Rear deck BBQ & dining table.

With a 2000nm range, 9000 litres of freshwater, big eskys and plenty of storage for beer, there is no place we cannot go...



The crane at work.



The Galley.



The Saloon.

Jake the Parrot



Jake is the newest member of the Darwin Bluewater team, only having joined us three months ago.

We haven't quite been able to work out what it is that he does, and we won't know what sex he is for another year, yet he is still a valued member of the crew. And expects to be treated as such!

At only four months old he hasn't started talking yet. And after four months at sea with fishermen, we don't really know if we want him to!

He's a bit of a dude who loves the water (too much) and loves being around people so if he doesn't drown himself in the near future you'll probably see him on board on your next trip.

Merry Christmas!

Darwin Bluewater Charters
Always raising the bar.

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Skippers Tales

Well, what an eventful year! Jimmy Buffet put out a new album and we got ourselves a new boat. From clients having sliced fingertips in the freezer, bouts of Pnuemonia, to Naomi chopping half her thumb off trying to save the dolphins. Bruffy had more success gaffing punters than mackeral and I dodged more than my fair share of bobby dazzlers flying at my face. Apart from all that its been a great season. The "C" hasn't missed a beat and we couldn't be happier with her performance. If ever there was a boat made for a job, this is it.

Next year is shaping up to be a ripper of a season starting off with a month in Arnhem Land

and then moving west across the Kimberley and fishing the Broome Sailfish Tournament in July. It looks like we have sorted out our Kimberley permit issues so we can now throw in a charter or two either side of this comp into the North Kimberley region. The latter half of next year will see us back around the Tiwi Islands and again into Arnhem Land. If you are interested in any of these locations give me a call sooner rather than later as the good tide weeks are filling fast.

If you haven't got hold of a copy of Hyland Cs Greatest Hits or the legendary Darwin Bluewater Cookbook, you are all invited to our Xmas Bash at East Point on

Sat 18 Dec from 4pm onwards where Santa will be handing out all the secret recipes ever conjured up on the back deck of the good ship as well as the new Xmas album with all your favourite sea shanties. Franky steaks and sangers will be sizzling and all the left over punter grog will be "Licensed to Chill". Finally, it will be your last chance to partake in some Bruffy Gold as he is leaving us to be an engineer for a shipping company in the Kimberley's. We wish him all the best. Hope to see you all there and that goes for you Irish and Romanian fans as well... Yo Ho Ho and a Merry Xmas to the fish....

Don't forget to check out our newly revamped website....
darwinbluewater.com.au



Mal with a beautiful Coburg Black Lip Oyster.