

DARWIN BLUEWATER CHARTERS NEWSLETTER

The Magic of Arnhem Land

It was only four days after the threat of Cyclone Ingrid hitting Darwin that we departed in the opposite direction to head for Gove. There was a good sized swell and remnant winds for the

A magnificent Arnhem Land sunset.



first day or so which eventually flattened out to a complete glass off for the remainder of the trip— what a godsend!

We did some hard traveling to get away from Ingrid and into the awesome Wessell Islands where we spent a few days having a *horrible* time catching more trout, trevally and queenfish than we thought possible! The weather was fantastic and therefore the fishing followed suit so we moved on to Buckingham Bay and the rivers it contained in the hope of a few barra and mud crabs.

Unfortunately the rivers were a bit of a let down, most likely due to the poor wet season experienced by the Top End this year. Yet it was still interesting coun-

try to see with all the beautiful cliffs and rocks everywhere and there were at least a couple of fish and crabs about to keep us amused. Luckily we were anchored up at the newly named Warwick Island (one of our clients, Warwick, was the first one to catch a fish there) which had an abundance of HUGE trevally and queenies. It was great fun with many triple hook ups and a lot of dancing round the boats!

There were many other headlands and islands that we fished on our way into Gove as well which made the whole trip a real adventure and voyage of exploration but the time eventually came when we had to leave behind the whole trout for dinner and eventually drop anchor in Mellville Bay, Gove Peninsula, for the first time in our six week stay.

Gove is an interesting place to say the very least! Only 2000 people live there with the vast majority employed by the bauxite mine. The Woolies supermarket is a laugh, with Australia's oldest trolley's and handwritten notes on the fridge doors explaining that there is no milk because the barge has been delayed! We had to cut deals with the local hotelier to use their industrial machines to do the washing as there is no Laundromat in town and quickly became well loved by the bottle shop with our \$1000

plus spending days loading up all the booze for the next trip. They even took a photo of the car with over 20 cartons stashed inside for their next brochure!

We had a great laugh with the locals and really appreciated all the help they gave us. The Gove Yacht Club in particular were fantastic to us so a big thanks goes out to them. (I think they liked our clients more than us though with the amount of tips they threw across the bar it's not surprising! The bar maids were all arguing about who would work the next shift when we came back in to town!)

The next three trips we did were all fantastic too, We decided after another foray up the rivers to not make this a focus point because there really were so few fish to be found as opposed to the wonders of the islands and all the coral trout. I mean, who catches coral trout on lures?!!!! Were we in heaven or what?!!!! The weather wasn't as kind to us either which made for a few interesting crossings between islands and some "green" looking human cargo! There was still plenty of great fishing to be had though, many laughs, copious amounts of coral trout to be eaten and the odd 4 dozen oysters and a couple of crayfish to whet the appetite— Arnhem magic!



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!



Inside this issue:

The Wessell Islands	2
The Voyage Home	2
The Jockey Hat	3
Secret Recipes	3
Skippers Tales	4

"If there's no fishing in Heaven....
I'm not going!"

Another cray for the Skipper!



The Wessells are an awesome part of the Arnhem experience in more ways than I can say—weather permitting!

Number one on the list is the Hole In The Wall, an 80m wide channel between two of the Wessells' largest islands where the tide rips through at up to 8 knots. This is a spectacular piece of water where we were lucky to witness a trawler coming in from the treacherous gulf to relatively calm waters. Mind you, we didn't know whether to

focus on that or the massive GT that Gary caught at the same time!

Along with the "Hole" was Cumberland Strait—an inaccessible piece of water at the best of times— and lest we forget the magnificent coral trout caught along the way. It was no surprise to us to meet a couple who nearly lost their yacht in the strait during a bad rip. (If in need of an anchor or other items, call Mal for co-ordinates!)

It seemed to be a unanimous decision most days to throw the skipper over the side and not let him back on board until he had at least a couple of crays in hand. There were a lot of stories of the ones that got away so we just threw him in for more—easy to do when you are the one doing the supposed croc-spotting!!!

All in all, you just can't beat the Wessells' for an awesome scenery and fishing experience—we loved it as always!

from massive fish, great barra and huge muddies to broken ribs and big tide rips, we had a voyage like no other!

The Voyage Home

This was a true voyage of exploration—from massive fish, great barra and huge muddies to broken ribs and big tide rips, we had a voyage like no other!

Some places were well known to us like the Wessells and others were only new on the scene but the guys were willing to explore with us which was great. The closer we got to Darwin, the more impressive the barra and mud-crabbing became therefore making Elcho Island one of our favourite places and a hopeful future departure/pick-up point for other charters.

two!!!! (This is why we provide you with beds but you all seem to insist on sleeping where you will!)

At a very secret spot or two known (hopefully) only to us we managed to catch some fantastic barra up to 93cm (well done Alle) along with some great creek and queenie action not worth missing. (Not hard to miss if you're with Gnomes, since she seems to enjoy a bit of mud and hard yards—it takes a bit for the crew to win the old jockey hat!) Okay, so I had us on the rocks for a bit.... At least I admit it and the guys were the ones that kept dropping the fish!!!

exploration. There are actually a few parts of the NT coast that Mal doesn't know too well and this trip gave us all the opportunity to explore a couple of these spots in relative comfort. Long live the *Hyland O.*

It was great to be able to explore places we had talked about on the first trip across in the new boat—and most proved to be well worth it. For confirmation you can just ask the "guides guide" who would probably be happy to answer most questions!! It's good to see you guys keeping us on our feet!

With all the mud crab, barra and trout we endured on this trip it's a surprise the whole lot of us haven't died from an overdose—further proof that fishing can only be good for you!

The weather finally decided to be kind to us although one of the clients (who shall remain unnamed) managed to come flying off the lounge into the stainless poles in the saloon in the middle of a rip in the middle of the night and broke a rib or

From this secret spot we moved on to the next which was getting nearly too close to Darwin for comfort—crikey! 250nm has to be too close! This is where we started our true



Queenie up a creek—What more could you ask for?

The Jockey Hat

Whilst adventuring through the wildlands of Gove some of our clients came across a rather unusual specimen for a hotel room—a Jockey hat! This has now been enshrined in Hyland C culture in the form of being prize for the most unfortunate incident of the day... the danglers' hat... the best f#*! Up of the day!!!

Certainly an item sought after by the best of those who board the good ship, this hat is also the only one you will ever find worn by the crew. Yes, that's

right, we're not always as invincible as we think and on occasion this now leads to one of us wearing the acclaimed "Jockey Hat"! Why is it that the clients seem to find it so funny when we wear the hat for the biggest stuff up?! Maybe we'll never know but if it keeps you guys amused I've got plenty of stories about Mal throwing up and me running into reefs for a years full of Jockey Hats!

You all seem to love the daily awards ceremony so much that it's been great to spice it up

with something a little different.... I mean, who wants to bow down to all these legends all the time with the sporran and the rasta hat etc., etc? It's time we all had a good laugh at the dangler in the best of us!!!



The Sporran, The Runner-up Rasta & The Jockey Hat!



Trawler thru the Hole in the Wall

Secret Recipes

Snapper in Capsicum Cream Sauce

- 1 red capsicum
- 2 cloves garlic
- 300mL cream
- glass of white wine
- 3 finely chopped birds eye chillis
- 3 chopped spring onions
- Salt and pepper
- Butter
- Skinned and boned fillets of snapper.

Place snapper fillets on alfoil with small knobs of butter underneath. Fold alfoil up and around to form a dish and add all other ingredients then fold and seal the top. Place in oven, bbq or webber for approx. 20 mins (this will depend on the size of the fillets) then serve with salad or other accompaniments.

Check out this tasty recipe... the book may never come out!



Who did this?!



It's hard to get a good shot of Cholli Mud Crab ...



Mud Crab & Sashimi

Jake the Parrot



Just recently we discovered that Jake is actually a woman—the same day he was attacked by hawks on three occasions! Not a hugely dramatic moment after all the one crew, bird overboard drills we have done in the last 12 months!

At least he's left his mark..... He/She now has her own competition running in the latest North Australian Fish Finder magazine!

For those that haven't seen it yet, you might get a surprise..... Over 30 of our photos are in there. You might be the one!

Although only a partial talker at this point in time Jake still says hello!

Skippers Tales

Hi everyone. Well they say time flies when you're having fun so we must have had a fat time across Arnhemland and Gove coz it only feels like yesterday that we got home from our adventures in that part of the world and all of a sudden it's June 28 and we are pointing the bow west and heading for Broome and the mighty Kimberleys. We leave Darwin tomorrow and won't be back till late August... We will then spend the remainder of the year fishing our own backyard, namely Coburg Peninsula and the trusty Tiwi Islands.

Our time in Arnhemland was challenging to say the least with barra being conspicuous in their absence.

The dodgiest Wet season in 25 years didn't help matters but we still managed to dip a few fillets in the tempura batter. Coral trout saved the day and we racked up over 150 trouties over the six weeks and 90% of those were caught on lures!!!. Wind was our worst enemy whilst fishing from Gove and we managed to gain a bit of airtime with Hyland-C's 42 tone hull on more than one occasion whilst rounding Cape Wilberforce. Climbing over some rather large pyramid shaped waves kept all the crew on their toes, or off them...

Sales in the souvenir shop are doing well with all proceeds going to my holiday

fund! Those of you who have ordered shirts will be receiving them in the near future.

Anyway, thanks to all the clients that shared the Gove experience with us, and we will see you all on the good ship again soon.

Happy Fishing!

Darwin Bluewater Charters
Always raising the bar.

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Don't forget to check out our newly revamped website....
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**Skip at Home
On the bridge.**