

SALTY SCRIBBLES

Piscatorial tales of members' exploits. Don't wait to be asked, send in a submission, tell the club about your greatest catches and dob in your mates!

DOES IT GET ANY BETTER? PART II

From David Graham 'Stryka II'

In the November issue, we brought you part one of David Graham's tale of a bloke's R 'n' R week fishing around Great Barrier Island and based at Great Barrier Lodge. The blokes in question were David, Kevin Hall and Frank Tarry on board 'Stryka II', and Ken Stephens and Russell 'the Love Muscle' Perkins on 'Cloud Nine'. We didn't have any space to run part two of the tale in the December/January issue, so here it is now for your reading pleasure...

Tuesday morning the Great Barrier Lodge's smoker was fired up and the kahawai prepared and loaded into the smoker. It was then off on a southerly heading for a sounder exploration at Blind Bay. Well, we zigged and we zagged all over the bay to no avail so moved on to drift some soft baits over Shag Rock (36°19.0725S / 175°25.478E). Maybe we would get lucky with some big snapper and kingfish?

I was still recovering from recent surgery so was content setting Stryka II up for each of the drifts and helping Kevin and Frank net their catches. A few hours later, standing on the helm seat and up through the sun-roof of Stryka II's hard-top enjoying the view, I decided to have a wee flick or two with a Nuclear Chicken.

Four casts later I had the remnants of a well munched chook so I threaded on a 7-inch model, flicked it into the zone and immediately loaded up on what felt like the Overnighter to Wellington. I can tell you dear readers that it's no holiday standing half way though the roof-hatch without the ability to bring the rod butt into the usual position to fight such a determined brute.

Twenty minutes later a monster 6.0kg 'noddy' popped to the surface and was quickly brought to the boat. Being injured it was quickly dispatched and into the ice bin it went. After a leisurely lunch on the western side of



What a day. I took this photo from in front of the Lodge on Tuesday. That's Stryka II on the left with Cloud Nine out to the right. Now, does it really get any better?

Puriri Bay in Tryphena we headed back to Shag Rock to continue our piscatorial gathering quest, keeping only what was needed for the table.

Moored up and rafted by the sterns again back in Whangaparapara Harbour, we cleaned up and decided to taste test some more of Jamaica's finest. It wasn't long before a call for music was made and the dulcet sounds of a Joe Cocker concert swirled across this tranquil bay. The inevitable happened and Joe was joined by a few happy, if slightly off key, fishos.

A quick check of the Met Service



Heaviest fish for the day on Tuesday: David.