



**BIG ANGRY FISH**

**MAY NEWSLETTER 2011**

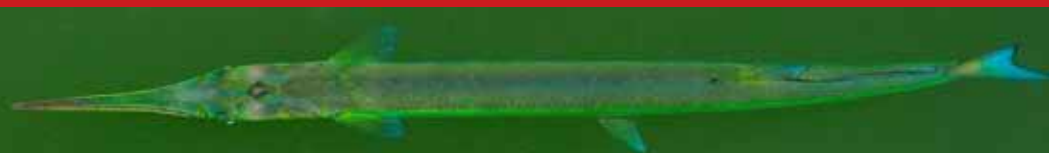


**MAY 2011.**

Japan has been one of the most amazing moves Karen and I have undertaken, not only was it hard to up and leave but with the events at the beginning of March (Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear plant) its all really starting to play havoc on the brain. Its very hard to make decisions when you dont really know the big picture and being brought up in NZ means that you have an innate fear or anything nuclear, and that there is no good radiation. I think we are all kind of living in false facts, as we are all scared to death of nuclear radiation, however some of us quite happily except dangerous UV from the NZ sun, eat unhealthy, smoke, drink excessively, don't exercise etc which are all known to increase our risk of illness etc. What really is killing us? Who knows, is it the polluted rivers and air that we all contribute to every day, or the seas that our governments are depleting and polluting day in day out. Nobody really knows what is worse, or what to be scared of the most and this has made our decision to stay in Japan so much harder. What really is the threat of low level radiation compared to everything else we serve our bodies. No one know's! Life has always been a big question, I think we just need to stop worrying and enjoy the precious time we have, its amazing how the little things can stop us enjoying this amazing thing called life. We only have one so we really have to make sure we deal with the things that matter, and love life to the fullest.

When all the dramas were unfolding in Japan, I wanted to remove Karen and myself from the situation so we decided to head to Guam for ten days just to chill the brain as it was working over time. I wouldn't have called it a holiday as both Karen and myself had a ton of work to get out, but it was nice to feel safe and ponder how to move forward. It gave us some time to breathe and just enjoy life again without worry and to take in some of the local wild life around Steve and Karen's home in Guam. Guam truly is one of the most chilled out places I know and its great having family nice and close.

Since our return its been back to normal here in Japan, the inside gardens are starting to flower and take hold and everything is still charging on in NZ. Nikolaj is still hard out guiding and we are both still working on getting "Big Angry Fish" to air. The Bounty Hunter Fishing Tournament is coming along nicely and ticket sales are going well. Nathan has started his next round of filming with Spartacus and he has been out on the water with Little Miss mustang fishing hard and dealing with the tricky conditions in the Coromandel at present. He has caught some interesting fish for the gulf and is getting taught that catching kingfish in the Coromandel is not always that easy.





STEVE & KARENS BACKYARK







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**MUDDY MUDSKIPPER (FISH).**



These fish defy all what we know about fish, preferring to live on land than in water, they still have to stay in a moist environment as they must keep themselves wet to be able to breathe though their skin and mouth. They also store a bubble of air in there enlarged gill chamber, which releases oxygen into the blood much like a dive tank works for us humans when diving. The other cool thing is they use their fins for feet and skip along the mud, and have the ability to skip over 2 feet.



**saltflyer**







**SALTFLYER:**

When you see some of the fish coming across the side of Saltflyer in the last couple of months you can understand why I talk so highly of Nikolaj as an angler and a guide, he has the ability to put people on monster fish time and time again. With summer coming to an end Nikolaj has started to move North with his clients as this time of year the far north really starts to produce large numbers of big fish. The fishing is very changeable but if you know how to read the weather patterns, it can produce some incredible fishing. Most of Nikolaj's fishing is saltwater fly but if you ask him nicely he always brings some big spin reels along to swing on some of the amazing fish that live in the Far North areas, the Hardy's boys came out to test fly rods, but they still found time to really stretch their arms on some massive bronze whaler sharks and rays up in the harbours. Nikolaj's passion in life is catching massive fish and he has the same desire for his clients, if you want to experience some of the best fishing this world has to offer, give Nikolaj a ring, you wont be disappointed.



Every Year Jules Fantarella makes the journey from Tasmania to spend a week up the Far North with Nikolaj, this year saw Jules arrive with a massive high over the country, the wind had changed making the snapper fishing challenging to say the least but with the snapper being rather hard to hook the kingfish were in massive numbers and in the mode to feed. Most of the fish the boys hooked into were in a couple of meters of water in the harbour, with the biggest going over 30 kilos. Nikolaj told me stories of whole bays with schools of kahawia being smashed to bits by 20-30kg kingfish in only meters of water, and one fish that would easily have gone over 50 kilo's, that came up and played with a live bait while the guys were landing a 30 kg fish.....Shallow water fishing at its best.







Kim and Chuan are light tackle fernatics. They come out every year from Singapore to experience the fantastic fishing Nikolaj serves up. This year the boys arrived with another week of settled weather, Nikolaj was still based in the North and they spent their time fishing the shore lines from Parangaranga to Cape Reinga, this week the kings were on the reefs so were hard to remove with light tackle, but the snapper and big Trevally came on the feed and they had a week off catching trophy fish on the fly and soft baits, Even Nikolaj decide to wet aline and pulled some humped backed snapper from the kelp.



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## NEWS FROM HARDY'S

Nikolaj had the pleasure of taking Peter Gibson and Ben Granger (from Hardy's) out fishing in the Far North last month. Neither of the boys had ever seen or fished the top part of New Zealand, but after their first trip they have told me that they will be back, very soon. The idea of the trip was to check over and fish Hardy's latest lineup of fly rods that they have spent years developing with new materials. The concept was to create a lighter, faster and stronger rod, and they achieved this and more. The new technology they invented is called "Sintrix" and the big secret is the resin they use when rolling up the carbon nano fibres. With this new technology they got Fly fishing super star Andy Mill to design the action and componentry of the rod (Titanium recoil guides, custom made reel seats) with this came an incredible finished fly fishing machine of a rod. The amazing thing about these blanks is the strength and the weight, 30% lighter and 65% stronger than any other high quality rod on the market, leaving competitors light years behind.

We had some good fishing up North and got to abuse these rods to the extreme, catching rat kings, kahawai and snapper in the harbour with 3 and 5 weight rods, skull dragging fish to the boat in seconds, point loading rods from hook up till landing and we could not break them. I have never in my life abused fly rods to that extent and hopefully never will again. (We never broke a rod!!). These rods obviously can be broken, but Hardy's have tried there hardest to make them as durable as possible, one thing they worked hard on was impact resistance so when you dump it on the car or the boat the rod doesn't explode on your first or second cast of the day. This is great news for traveling anglers and boat fishermen as I think most fly fishermen have experienced broken rods at some stage for no real reason for the break. So next time your falling down a river bed chasing monster browns, just be thankful you purchased a great Hardy's product and you can complete your days fishing, as the next guy might not be so lucky. Both the Proaxis (the saltwater fly rod) and the Zenith (freshwater) have winning rod reviews worldwide at the moment and according to Hardy, we have only just seen the beginning of what Sintrix is capable of.

Another product from Hardy's being launched in a few months time is the new Fortuna saltwater fly reel, again leaving competitors miles behind. 35lbs of smooth, sealed carbon drag! Mine is ordered along with a big pile of Proaxis Sintrix rods! Those big spring kingfish that used to reef me over and over again better sharpen their fins! Thanks Mikolaj Mathiesen.





Peter and Ben had a fantastic time testing Hardy's new line up of fine tackle with Nikolaj. Nikolaj had great fun testing Peter and Ben against some of the far North's finest, Check out the size of the shark that came from only a few meters of water, and almost 4 hours to land.



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## KATYDID'S

Katydid's are pretty common in NZ but not to the size of 150mm plus that they get to in Guam. They get their name due to the sound they make when the male starts his mating call "Katydid! Katydidn't!". Katydids are a very cool looking insect looking more like a leaf rather than a grass hopper, they spend most of there days in trees and scrubs feeding on leaves, and have ears located on there forelegs. They are a short lived insect reaching adult maturity in only 3-4 months, when they whole focus turns to courtship and mating.







Japan is starting to settle and fishing is on the brain due to the lack of time on the water. Japan isn't what you would call a great fishing destination, but if you put the time in, do some home work, there are some pretty massive fish that live in the waterways around Japan to sink hooks into. One such species is the blue carp, it gets to over 70 kg's and a couple of meters long, they feed on snails and river weed. Big fish are not that common but they are there. I have started researching on how and where to target these monster carp so hopefully over the coming months I can start targeting these cool looking fish. In the mean time I have been spinning the Tama river with Alan for some Maruta that run the river every spring, I managed 4 the other day and a barbell so pretty happy with my first fishing mission, I was pleasantly surprised by the amount of fish life the river has.

With my sister visiting early April we headed back to Guam for a family catch up, it gave me the opportunity to fish a couple of location I have been looking at and they were full of small GT's, Guam has taken a while to work out but I think the big fish are there, you just have to have to put the time in. So from Japan that's about all, we have some cool trips in the pipe line the first in Thailand for some of the big fresh water species, then home for "The Bounty Hunter" and then hopefully heading down the South Island for the run of massive winter kingfish.







**BROWN TREE SNAKE.**



The brown tree snake is one of only two snakes found on Guam, it's an introduced species that probably arrived on Guam hidden away in cargo, from either Papua New Guinea or Northern Australia. As its name states it lives mostly in the trees and it is a nocturnal hunter. Brown tree snakes grow to about 2 meters long, they have brown yellow colourings and have no real predators on Guam, due to this they have spread fast and have started to do some real damage to the local bird life almost wiping out the whole native bird population. They also feed on lizards, mice, rats, and bats. Brown tree snakes are very aggressive and like to attack if cornered, they constrict their prey and inject a dose of poison, their poison poses no real threat to humans. Steve has been tagged by a tree snake and said it was very much like some one hitting you with a hammer.

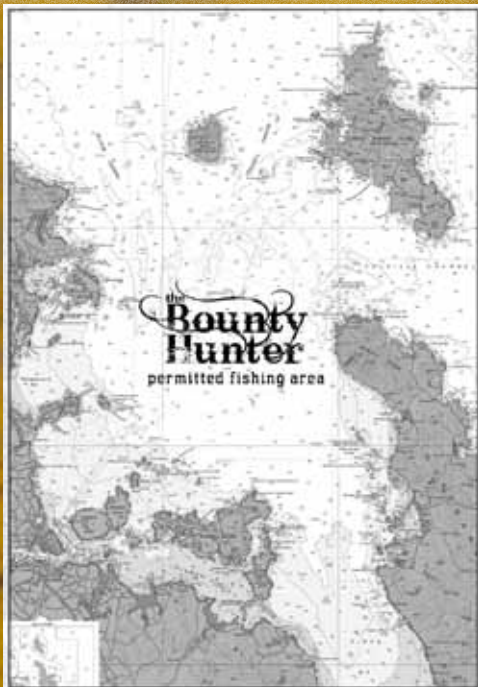






## “THE BOUNTY HUNTER UPDATE”

The first batch of Tickets are at the printers this week and will be sent out to the anglers who are coming to compete at “The Bounty Hunter”. Top catch have decided to give the competitors extra rewards for entering the tournament with 30% off Top Catch clothing & 10% off all your competition Bait & Tackle needs at Top Catch stores - valid from 30 days prior to the event. Also by wearing topcatch branded clothing at the event you may find yourself going home with additional spot prizes. The crew here at the Bounty Hunter are getting pretty excited about the Tournament, and we have everything ready to go. With weather during the winter months being either fantastic or a bit on the wild side, we have decided on a fishing area that allows anglers good safe launching spots on both coasts, this means if the westerlies start blowing Kennedy bay and Whangapoua harbour will make for great launching spots to make your way North to fish up and along the East Coast and find some isolated pockets where the trophy fish may be spending out there winters days. The same goes for the groups that head of to Great Barrier for the Tournament both sides will be open for contestants to fish giving anglers a few more opportunities and to spread out. The great thing is anglers must swipe their Card on Thursday at the Top Pub Coromandel, this brings all the anglers together so everybody is on a level playing field to start with. We are expecting large numbers of boat anglers to fish the Tournament but they will have to watch out for the land based anglers as this time of year makes the Coromandel a fantastic place to target big snapper and trevally around the shallows of the Coromandel coast, lots of berley and patience can produce some massive fish from very shallow kelpy areas. That’s the great thing about hosting a Tournament during the winter everybody has time to get out and fish, the fishing is normally a little harder but the fish are normally a lot larger and we have a great venture to chill out in the evenings.



## PRIZE LIST

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5th	\$300 CASH
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2nd	\$2500 CASH
3rd	\$1500 CASH
4th	\$500 CASH
5th	\$300 CASH
6th	\$200 CASH
KAHAWAI	
1st	\$5000 CASH
2nd	\$2500 CASH
3rd	\$1500 CASH
4th	\$500 CASH
5th	\$300 CASH
6th	\$200 CASH
JOHN DORY	
1st	\$2000 CASH
TREVALLY	
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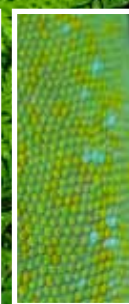




**GREEN ANOLE.**



The green anole is an arboreal lizard (Lives in trees.) and are native only to USA. I have caught these amazing lizards in Texas and Guam, these are not the same species as there is about 250 different species of anole. They have the ability to change their colour from dark brown to vibrant green, but they are not chameleons. Anole's feed on all types of insects and baby lizards, they grow to a length of 18cm and both male and female have a pink dewlap, under their head. (dewlap is the red sack under the throat). Anole's are quite easy to catch due to their very curious nature and are very territorial towards other male anole's. The green anole only has a short life span of 2-4 years.







## “COROMANDEL REPORT”

Nathan and “Little Miss Mustang” have been out most weeks fishing the waters around the Coromandel. This year the water is warmer than most and the rat kingfish are still around in plague proportions, making catching the bigger fish in the schools quite hard. Nathan has been putting the hours in and has managed to come away with some quality fish to 25kg. With the large number of small fish around, Nathan has been fishing big baits and this is what has produced his fish. Kingfish eat most things and a big live bait is a quality feed for a kingfish, so don't be scared to use massive live baits. Also check out some of the photos of the stomach contents (next page), gurnard in one and mullet in the other, which goes to show they are targeting big bait fish in the shallows and also feeding on bottom dwellers on the sand.

With the water being warmer the fishing in the Coromandel over the coming months, is going to be amazing with a lot of massive kingfish for the angler's prepared to put the time in. This warmer water is going to be great for the “The bounty Hunter” Fishing Tournament coming up, as it will hopefully keep the temperature up just a little keeping more fish in the Gulf. Another great thing about the warm water has been the abundance of tuna in the gulf, it has been amazing to here off massive schools of fish as far down as dead mans point schooling up and smashing the bait.

The snapper fishing has been amazing, Nathan has been able to catch kingfish in the morning then stop off on the way home and catch a limit of snapper, with a lot of them being 5-10 pounds (mostly in the mussel farms). The mussel Farms have been a great addition to the Coromandel, not only does it bring money into the small town, but it has transformed the fishing, bringing large amounts of food for snapper and shelter for the tons of bait fish that make the Hauraki Gulf home.







## “COROMANDEL REPORT”

The guy on the rod heaving on the kingfish is “Tom”. He is our camera man for big angry fish, and he has the secret touch when ever he picks up a rod he some how produces the goods every time. This was Tom’s second kingfish trip and both times he has landed fish around the 20 kilo mark.

The filleted kingfish below shows a 15 kilo kingfish with a 2 kilo mullet pulled from its stomach (big bait big fish). The second is a coromandel kingfish with 2 gurnard in its stomach, some days as long as you have a live bait kingfish will eat it, so dont be shy to stick bottom dwellers on your live bait hooks.





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