

# CAIRNS BLACK MARLIN SEASON 2007

**Update # 1 : 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

## **Sir Reel has a new name "Ningaloo"**

For those of you who have not heard, "Sir Reel" has had a change of ownership and a change of name. She has been re-christened "Ningaloo". The name may of changed, but the 47" O'Brien is still the wonderful fishing boat that most of you had the chance to fish on last year.

We also have the same gang back for the 2007 marlin season. Laurie and our 2 top crewman, Dave Cassar and Jarad (Dingo) Boshammer.



**Update # 2 : 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

## **Port Hinchinbrook Fishing Classic**

Today is the start of the Port Hinchinbrook Fishing Classic. This year the girls (Alva, Ruth, Jenny and Sandy) are back again and determined to win this tournament. After being pipped at the post the last 2 years in a row, the team are determined that 2007 is going to be their year.

On the first day of the tournament, Ruth had a mammoth fight on 12# test with a fiesty 90# black marlin and after 4 and 1/2 hours she broke the line. Several other boats also lost their fights with the tough little blacks.



The second day of the tournament and Sandy released a small black marlin approximately 60 pounds and Ruth caught a large sailfish in record time. Much appreciated after her mammoth fight with a small black the day before.

Even though the weather has been absolutely perfect (10-15 knots) days 3 and 4 of the tournament produced no fish.

Congratulations goes to the Collins brothers. A well deserved win after fishing the light tackle tournaments for the past 30 odd years and having never won one. Just goes to show persistence pays off.

**Update # 3 : 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007**

**Team Accurate Armed and Ready**

More bling than Tiffanys'.

David and Doug Nilsen and Ben Secrest from Accurate Reels in California and their Australian distributor, Gary Howard rode along with us on our annual bait fishing excursion to Cairns following on after the Port Hinchinbrook fishing classic. It was pretty bright with 15 plus beautiful silver reels on board. We used the Accurate Boss 665 wides as our bait reels all last season and they stood up to the test of a professional crews bait reel on the reef admirably. We tried a new 2-speed version on the trip up and these were awesome winding in a medium planing board and a string of scad with ease.

It was also a great opportunity to test out their small jigging reels and the new 12# and 20# Twin spin reels catching coral trout, rosey jobfish, all manner of GT's and trevally, scaley mackerel, longtail tuna and yellowfin tuna and spanish mackerel as well as a host of other species. Not once did any of the reels let us down and it was full on debrief at the end of the days fishing on what could be done to improve the reels. From what I saw there isn't much improvement needed but David and Doug are always looking to make their product even better.

We ran the big 130# two speeds for a few hours on our last day before coming back to Cairns to make sure Dave and Dingo had everything ready for our heavy tackle season starting next week and David caught his first Aussie black of 250#, well done David. The boys were suitably impressed by the GBR and the fishing and are definately coming back for another testing session before to long.

Have a look at the Accurate home page at [www.accuratefishing.com](http://www.accuratefishing.com) for a few more photo's.



**Update # 4 : 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007**

**Cairns Hall of Fame 2007 Inductees**

A wonderful night of celebrations for the Cairns Hall of Fame awards was held at the ShangriLa Hotel on Sunday September 30th. Inducted into the 2007 Hall of Fame was the Captain Peter B Wright and Daphne Neilsen. Along with 3 of last years inductees, respects were paid to the new inductees by many of their industry peers. Some wonderful old video footage and black and white still photos were correlated to together by Mark Louez from WIN Television to make the night very nostalgic.

**Ningaloo wins CPGFA one day jackpot tournament**

Laurie and the crew headed out to the reef early Fishing in 20-25 knot winds the team on "Ningaloo" took out the Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association one day black marlin jackpot tournament with a nice 300# fish for angler John Philips. There were five fish caught in total with Captain Laurie winning the day on countback. The team on "Release" caught a fish estimated at 1,100# after four hours.



**Update # 5 : 7th October 2007**

**Alabama Slammer**

Vince Kilborn, along with his son Douglas and friends Jeff Sport and Pat James started out on day 1 of the week charter with Vince releasing a 900 pound black marlin.

Lots of activity in the blustery 20 knot winds on the great barrier reef, with the guys also releasing a large bull shark and plenty of action amongst the yellow fin tunas.

Day 2 they managed to raise 2 fish but could not get either fish to take a bait. Day 3 the fishing had slowed on the Bank with most boats reporting not even seeing a fish. The gang had to stay at the bottom end of the reef due to refrigeration problems on *Ningaloo*, and they waited for Rossi on *Top Shot* to deliver out a deep freeze so that they could keep the precious scad chilled / frozen that they need for bait.

Day 4 they decided to make ground and lure fished there way north to try to reach the Ribbon Reefs and find the big fish. Jeff managed to release a nice 200 pounder on a purple and black senior wide ranger lure.

*Photo courtesey of Dingo*



**Update # 6 : 14th October  
2007**



**1100 pounder plus for Tony Hedley on the first day of his charter**

After 10 marlin seasons of fishing with us, firstly coming to the Great Barrier Reef to chase world record black marlin on fly, Tony Hedley releases his biggest fish to-date at an estimated 1,100 pounder plus. After Air New Zealand lost his baggage somewhere between LAX and Cairns, nothing could daunt Tony's spirits and Day 1 fishing at No 3 Ribbon Reef proved to delight.

At approximately 4 pm today Tony tagged and released his biggest black ever. Caught on a scaley mackerel in the corner of the mouth on a circle hook, after a text book 10 minute fight and numerous jumps she lay beside the boat for the perfect photo shoot. To be tagged and released, heathly to live another day and perhaps be caught again in the not too distant future.

The Texan members joining Tony's fishing party also had a great day fishing on board *Kekoa* with Captain Luke (sister ship to *Ningaloo*), with John Murray tagging and releasing his 1st black marlin, estimated at 800 pounds. Both fish were caught, tagged and released at # 3 Ribbon reef with many other boats reporting great fishing. The team on *Tradition* were still fighting a nice fish well after dark.

Day 2 was totally different..... no one saw a fish. *Ningaloo & Kekoa* both had a completely different day. Reports from Capt Tim on *Calypso* said that the fishing was exactly the same at # 10 Ribbon Reef. The third day of the charter and no luck for Tony and John fishing on *Ningaloo*, however the the team fishing on *Kekoa* managed to tagged and release a spectacular 900 pound black marlin for Heffner Appling, after a 10 minute fight. This is a record catch for Heff and his first black marlin. With most of the fleet positioned in the middle ribbons, there has been patching fishing, but the marlin caught have all been big fish. Day 4 again was a completely different day. Heff and John Murray fishing on board *Kekoa* had only one bite, but Capt Luke reported marking plenty of fish, but just could not raise them to the baits. Whilst *Ningaloo* had a bite out of small fish early, but it was not until that infamous late bite that the team managed to catch and release a 600 pound marlin for angler John Waldrup. Caught on the scaley mackerel with a circle hook, the fish was released at 6.15 pm just in time to celebrate with a signature cocktail on board our hospitable mothership *Sheer Delight*.

Day 5 & 6 of the charter has been hot, sultry and slick calm, and has therefore only produced some small fish that have either been marked on the sounder or have just looked uninterestingly at the baits. A change in weather conditions with the winds predicted to increase to 20-25 knots with a southeasterly change, will hopefully bring the big fish back to edge.

Sunday Oct 13 is the start of the Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic. Good luck to all anglers and crews participating.

Day 7 and the final day of the charter. The southeasterlies ran true to form with the winds blowing 20-25 knots, but who cares when it brings in the big fish. *Ningaloo* with Tony Hedley first up in the fighting chair, tagged and released another fabulous 850 pounder. It was a 45 minute fight and the big black towed them around to within stones throw of the outer barrier reef and into depths of 30 metres of water.

Spectacular jumps were captured by every video camera on board. Next up in the chair was John Waldrup who hooked up to a feisty 350 pounder just as the GBR Helicopter (whom had been filming the daily events of the Lizard Island Tournament boats) flew over *Ningaloo* when they hooked up at the bottom end of #4 Ribbon Reef. So pilot Chris circled around and got some excellent footage of the total fight... all situated about 50 foot from the flybridge. Laurie's ears will be throbbing for days.

Not too be out done, fishing on *Kekoa* with Luke, Heffner Appling tagged and released a spectacular 900 pounder and John Murray also caught, tagged and released a 400 pound black. Great fishing had by all.

With the southeasterlies expected to blow for at least another 4-5 days, I am sure we will see the big fish tailing down sea.

*Photo courtesy of Dingo*

**Update # 7 : 19th October 2007**

***Cairns provides big fish for American angler, Richard Benn***

His first adventure fishing the Great Barrier Reef and American angler Richard Benn had been set the challenge of Australia's east coast howling southeasterlies. But he realised that the long journey to get the Land Down Under, proved to be everything he envisaged. Late in the afternoon of the first day of his charter and he hooked up to a fiery 700 pound black marlin. After a 20 minute fight and tonnes of jumps and aerial leaps behind the boat, the crew tagged and released Richard's first marlin.

With the fleet fishing the Lizard Island Tournament and most of the gameboats dispersed along the Ribbon Reefs, the two 47 O'Briens *Ningaloo* & *Kekoa* enjoyed having the fish to themselves again. Fishing south from Pearl Reef down to Escape Reef, Laurie found the smaller fish and caught 2 wirey blacks out of 4 bites. One each for Richard Benn and Ben Moses. Whilst Luke, fishing light tackle specialist Gary Carter, raised a nice 700 pound black on 16 pound test line just as they entered the pass at Escape Reef. After some explosive manoeuvring, they jumped this marlin off right at the boat.

With a lull in the SE winds, (in between to big high cells moving across the Australian continent) on the 3rd day of the charter the *Ningaloo* crew managed to hook up to a nice 400 pound black for Ben Moses. Dingo and Dave had the cameras wizzing on the aerial acrobatics of the fish on the wire and hopefully I can post some of these on the web site next week. Tomorrow should be very interesting with the new high moving into the Tasman Sea and winds predicted up to 30 knots.... Just as well Richard and Benn are seasoned anglers.

Well the gusty 30 knot winds did not phase the guys from the Carolinas. Plenty of small fish around at the bottom end of the reef and on the 4th day of their charter, Richard managed to tag and release a fiery 150 pounder out of 3 bites.

With conditions not easing even for the last day of the charter, They raised a couple of small blacks and released another rat. Not including the weather, a great fishing trip was had by all.



## Update # 8 : 29th October 2007

### Poms take revenge on the marlin for their world cup loss

Finally back from a fun filled week, where I was fortunate enough to be able to join Laurie, John and Gary for a weeks fishing on board *Ningaloo & Calypso* and our great mothership *The Boss*. We departed Cairns on Mon 22nd Oct and had the long run to the Ribbon Reefs from Cairns where we met up with Capt Tim on *Calypso*. Weather was still 15-20 knots, but not uncomfortable.

With John and Gary rotating boats daily between fishing on Ningaloo with Capt Laurie and Calypso with Capt Tim. The first 2 days we saw lots of small blacks and both boats raised double and triple headers. The frustrating part was that sometimes there was a big black mingling amongst the smaller males, but not particularly interested in eating.

I joined John on the 3rd day of the charter and we spent the day on *Calypso*. The weather had finally dropped to a pleasurable 10 knots NE. Had a couple of bites out of tiny little blacks (one Tim and I actually nicknamed a Mahoo as it was only about 60 pounds and looked more like a wahoo than a marlin) and managed to catch one. Then we spotted a nice fish (800 pounder) tailing down sea (how I do miss a tower) and managed to get the fish to take the scalley mackerel big bait. She just lay there in indigo blue water lit up and munched down the bait. All looked good, but something spooked her and she took off all fouled up in the leader and managed to disentangle herself after a few text book jumps. The team on *Ningaloo* also raised a couple of small blacks and had a really nice fish (well over the 1000) hangin around the little males. Had her up behind the baits for about 2 minutes until she lost interested and faded away into the depths.

Day 4 was non existent with neither gameboat even seeing a fish. Day 5 and Gary and John both caught small fish and John had a long fight on *Calypso* with another 800 pound black that was foul hooked. After a couple of hours of hauling her up from the depths they pulled the hook at the back of the boat. Day 6 and more small fish and again John had another chance a nice black, this time on *Ningaloo*, but pulled the hook after a few jumps. The last day of the charter and again both boats raised small blacks and Gary managed to release one estimated at 150 pounds.

The best fishing story for the week was from the *Bossettes* (hostesses Sam and Jo) whom went fishing during the day on the little tender to the Boss and managed to keep both *Ningaloo & Calypso* in big baits for the week. Large scaley mackerals, bonitos, mack tunas and spanish mackeral. Even managed to catch fish when the mothership was moving house from one Ribbon Reef to another with Ben and Dave crewing as their deckies. Great work..

*Photo thanks to Dingo (again)*





**Update # 9 : 4<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

### **Texan's return for another marlin season**

After a quick change over in Cooktown, all boats headed back out to #8 Ribbon Reef and our mothership *The Boss* headed for the bottom of #9. Laurie had Dan Hughes and Chuck King fishing on *Ningaloo* and they raised 4 small fish. One being a double header where they managed to catch a 250 pounder for Chuck and pulled the hook on the other small fish.

The reports all up and down the reef are of mostly small blacks with the occasional large fish mingled amongst them. Some of the fleet have headed off shore as the longliners reported seeing a lot of marlin, along with pilot whales, in a line from the seamount to MacDermotts Banks. With the southeasterlies due to return to 15-20 knots this week, hopefully this will push the fish further in towards the reef?

Day 2 of the charter and the crews were only tempted by a couple of marlin tailing down sea as the weather whips up bigger seas. Day 3 everyone decided to move south to the middle Ribbons and Dan and Chuck fishing on *Calypso* had the best day releasing a 350, 750, 800 and 900 pounders. Looks like the fish are on the move again.

Day 4 and another very rough day on the GBR, but *Ningaloo* managed to catch John Saunders his first ever black marlin. The next day with John again fishing on *Ningaloo* and he had a second first, by releasing his biggest marlin ever. Being a 700 pound black. Dan and Chris on *Calypso* had a great day also with Dan catching a 650 pounder and Chris a small fish estimated at 150 #.

Day 6 of their charter and it was Chris Moses' turn for the big fish. Ben (captain of the Boss) was riding along for the day and spotted the big fish tailing down sea. Laurie positioned *Ningaloo* so that he would present the baits to her and she chose the scad. After a nice work out in the chair for over an hour Chris caught, tagged and released his biggest fish for this trip estimated at 750 pounds. The final day of the charter was quiet with Chuck and Chris on *Ningaloo* only seeing one tailer and could not get the fish tempted by a bait and Dan and John fishing on *Calypso* managed to jump a small fish off. Also the fishing was cut short as the boys had to get back to Cairns to catch their flight back to the USA.

But they will be back for the 2008 season.







## Update # 10 : 10<sup>th</sup> November 2007

### Venezuela Sueltalo team in Australia

Three father and son teams, Rafael Arnal Sr and Jr, Gustavo Galdo Sr & Jr. and Ernesto and Armando Branger are here to fish the species rich waters of Australia's Great Barrier Reef. The first day of their charter only produced small fish and the teams fishing on both *Ningaloo* and *Calypso* managed to jump the small blacks off.

The second day of the charter at number 9 Ribbon Reef and both teams had the late bite. Rafael Sr & Jr and Gustavo Sr & Jr, fishing on *Ningaloo* had 2 bites but managed to jump both of them off. While fishing on *Calypso* Armando released a 300 pounder and Ernesto one estimated at 550 pounds.

Day 3 saw plenty of action on board *Ningaloo* with 4 bites, but the team were unable to keep them on the hook for very long. Day 4 was a great day for Gustavo Jr., after jumping off a small fish early in the day, he was rewarded late in the afternoon with his big black marlin. After a quick fight of only 15 minutes and some great photos at the transom, Gustavo Jr released a 950 pound black. This is the experience he came to the great barrier reef for. Also need to mention that Rafael Jr. (fishing on *Calypso*) released his first ever black marlin, a small fish estimated at 100 pounds.

The fifth day of the charter and Ernesto (fishing on *Ningaloo*) had a firey black estimated at 200 pounds, that did some spectacular aerial displays on the wire. While Gustavo Sr. (on *Calypso*) released another small fish estimated at 150 pounds. The last day of the charter was a little short due to the return to Cairns and the teams did not manage to stay hooked up to any of the fish they raised.



## **Solso family explore Australia**

Cummins CEO Tim Solso, along with his wife, their children and their respective spouses and even a couple of grand children are exploring what Australia has to offer. After all his work commitments in Melbourne and Sydney, Tim and Denny met the rest of the family in Cairns. The men took off (literally) for a 2 day helifishing expedition with Brazzaka from Cape York Helicopters, exploring the natural wonders of Cape York Peninsula. While all the ladies had 2 days relaxing and exploring the rainforest on a Daintree Captivations tour with Down Under by Appointment.

Now they are exploring the natural wonders of the Great Barrier Reef with a fun filled week with sister ships *Ningaloo* and *Kekoa* and their floating hotel our mothership *The Boss*. The coincidence being that all 3 vessels are powered by Cummins QSM 11 motors. The first day of the charter and the only report was from *Kekoa* with Kim Solos releasing her first black marlin estimated at 150 pounds.

Not much to report over the past couple of days at Escape Reef. Both *Ningaloo* & *Kekoa* raising a couple of small fish, but were not able to keep the hooks in them. With all the fleet heading south to avoid the rough conditions churned up by tropical Cyclone Guba (horrible name chosen by the New Guinea weather bureau) there are only a couple of boats left at Lizard Island. We are all monitoring the weather stations to see if this Category 1 cyclone deepens and where she will track too. Day 5 of the charter and Tim, Whitney and Lynn were all granted their wish with all of them tagging and releasing their first black marlin. Tim estimated at 250 pounds, Whitney 150 pounds and Lynn also 250 pounds. Congratulations. Weather is still blustery and wet out there. We are all still monitoring the cyclone. It has intensified to Cat 3 but is along way off the North Australian coast.

Day 6 provided horrendous conditions, (lots of wind and rain), but it proved to be a great day on board *Kekoa* with Margaret releasing a nice 650 pound black marlin and David one estimated at 300 pounds. The gang on *Ningaloo* were not so lucky. The last day of the charter and the weather did not ease up, with constant rain and blustery conditions. However it did not dampen Jason's spirits because he released the only billfish of the day. Lynn had a great day on the bait rod when she hooked up to an 80 pound GT and this fish gave her a tough 15 minute fight to get it to the boat.

The Solso family were fantastic to have on board.....lots of poker, dice and catch phrase and lots and lots of laughs. They were all extremely happy with everyone catching a black marlin (except Matt) but he has vowed to return with his Dad and try once again for his first black.



