



33RD NATIONAL ANGLING CHAMPIONSHIPS AND CONVENTION

NEWSLETTER No. 5, MARCH 2013

It's now around 170 days to go to the 33rd National Angling Championships and Convention on the Sunshine Coast. By the response I have been receiving, I am obviously not reaching the right audience with my newsletters and this tells me someone is not doing their job. I am not going to stop trying, for eventually I am going to get my message through. Just like to fill you in on a few things that have been happening since my last newsletter.

Sponsorship – I am happy to announce that the Sunshine Coast Regional Council has come on board and will be assisting us in a big way with the promotion of the Carnival and it is great to have them on our side. In just those little things that we have been unable to cover, they have come to the fore.

How are you getting along with accommodation? If you are having a problem, go the QAFCA web site, look up AAA and you will find a "Book Now Banner" that will cover your every need for any type of accommodation on the Sunshine Coast. This is just one of the things they are providing to help visitors who come to the titles.

We also spoke with David from Fairseas apartments and he has plenty of accommodation available. I know us fishermen have shied away from going into apartments in the past for a number of reasons, the main one being somewhere to store all our precious fishing gear, but David assures me there are a number of lock up garages available where you hold the key. They have ample parking spaces as well, and can cater for any number of boats. These units are situated at 68 The Esplanade, Golden Beach, not all that far from the headquarters, the Caloundra Power Boat Club. If you would like more information simply look up the web site at Fairseas Apartments, Golden Beach.

Floods in Queensland – How did we fare in the recent floods? Well a lot of areas, especially Bundaberg, got absolutely smashed and our hearts go out to those people who have really suffered. In the south east corner, we were extremely lucky. We had a lot of water and a number of homes were inundated, but not as many as in 2011 and it is getting back to normal; well, at least the water height is. I don't know if we're ever going to get rid of that murky brown water and from all reports, it's still everywhere.

It didn't seem to stop the catches of fish though, as a number of clubs fished last weekend with some astounding results, with quality fish especially coming from the Sunshine Coast area.

One report said that the bag limits of whiting caught in the Maroochy River were the best quality fish ever seen. The Pumicestone Passage did not have the numbers, but the quality was still there. It seems a good flush out has done them the world of good. From experience, the season after a flood is always a bumper one.

Junior Fishing Day – We had good intentions for this day to proceed, but the person who proposed the event, and was going to run it, is no longer available and try as I might, I have

been unable to chase up any other volunteers. I seem to get a road block wherever I go, so this event has now been taken off the program. For that, I apologise! I do hope the next time someone gets these bright ideas, they make sure the organising committee is onside with it before advertising it all around.

Intention to Attend – I know you are going to say, ‘He’s at it again,’ and I am. I must say I am extremely disappointed by the response I am receiving. It makes me think that the state secretaries are not doing their job and sending the information on to their member clubs. Officially, we now have 4 nominations from New South Wales. If someone was going to give us a run for our money, I was sure it would be them, but I have heard a pretty poor excuse that there is no fish in Queensland and it’s prime fishing time at home. I think someone has forgotten what the AAA is all about. Yes it’s great to win, but I find it very rewarding to meet people I haven’t seen for the past 2 years and catch up with what’s happening around the states. I definitely warn you, you will be surprised at the numbers of fish that will be weighed in during this competition. And anyway, it takes just one big fish to win the competition sometimes. Just ask the guys who won the offshore event in the weeklong State Titles in 2010 and 2012.

If anybody is interested, we do have the carnival cloth patches available if intending competitors would like to have them early so they can be affixed to their jackets.

At the end of the day, we are only trying to save you time and frustration on the registration days. If I can get those forms in early, I will be able to have the paperwork done along with name tag, bag tags – just ready for you to pick up.

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