

in this issue...

- Fishing Video Links
- Glenelg Breaming
- Shallow Water Barra
- Sooty Grunter
- Hinchinbrook Hijinks
- Rigging Tips - Area 51 Slick Jig
 - New Tackle Tactics Website
 - New ZMan Gear

Angler: Cameron Cronin

Species: Bream

Jighead: TT Lures Tournament Series

Lure: ZMan 2.5" GrubZ



www.ttlures.com.au
info@ttlures.com.au



www.z-man.com.au
info@z-man.com.au

Tackle Tactics E-Mag #9

Welcome to Issue #9 of the Tackle Tactics Fishing E-Mag!

Hopefully you've all been catching a few fish or at least getting out on the water. Thanks for opening this issue of our E-Mag and a massive thanks to those that have passed a link to the E-Mag onto other fishos, much appreciated.

With the temperatures down in southern regions, this issue has a very northern feel... with many anglers making their annual trip north to escape the cold and target some tropical species. Target species include barra, sooty grunter, queenfish, mackerel and more, but never fear Owen Mcpaul takes us on a southern breaming adventure and we have plenty of southern stories in the next issue. We have also been out filming with a few of the Tackle Tactics Pro Anglers, so keep an eye on our FB pages and in the next E-Mag for some more cool video links.

Until next time we hope you enjoy the read and may all your snags be on the barbie!

Cheers, Team Tackle Tactics

Some cool links...



SEQFA give you some tips for chasing jewies, threadfin and tailor on TT & ZMan



The guys from Coastal Fishing TV get stuck into some flathead on ZMan plastics and TT Blades



TT Pro Angler Vinnie lands his first fish from his new yak on a TT Lures 1/4oz Switchblade





New from ZMan this month are 3 colours in the 2.5" GrubZ, which are already proving to be dynamite on bream, flathead, redfin, bass and a range of other small to medium species.

With many anglers loving the 10X TOUGH, yet super-soft and flexible tail action of the GrubZ we had heaps of requests for something in between the 2.5 and 9". Here it is the 5" GrubZ and the results already have been awesome with quality mullet and flathead already finding this presentation irresistible. Definitely a versatile plastic - flathead, mullet, snapper, barra, reefies...



Shallow Water BarraZ

Words & Pics: David Granville

I was recently fortunate enough to join a trip to the Archer River south of Weipa in the Gulf of Carpentaria. I was a guest of Kekoa Sports Fishing Charters which is a first class mothership operation. When the 56ft O'Brien gameboat isn't fishing the Great Barrier Reef for marlin it forms the ideal mothership for barramundi charters in the Gulf. Kekoa carries two 4.1m CrossXCounry dories on the bow so it is the perfect setup for four anglers, two on each boat plus a guide.

Not surprisingly I had a good selection of lures in the arsenal and stocked up on a healthy supply of ZMan plastics and TT jigheads before the trip. The majority of my barra fishing over the years has been done with hard bodies so I was pretty keen to give the ZMan plastics a fair go on this trip.

The tides for our trip weren't what you would call 'classic' barra tides so rather than working the drains and exposed timber the majority of our time was spent up on the flats and in and around the spider roots. Often we were only fishing in two to three foot of water.

I started with the new 5" Grass KickerZ rigged weedless on Area 51 Snake Heads. This allowed me to get deep in the timber and work a jerky retrieve much like a hard body. This did work although most fish were caught either on the drop or during a slow retrieve back to the boat. This made me think that the barra were more turned on by that beat of the paddle tail rather than the erratic motion of a jerky retrieve.



Donald Cook with an average size flats barra

This made me change over to a 6" SwimmerZ in the Gizzard Shad colour. Well I'm glad I did because this became the standout lure of the trip and definitely out-fished the hard bodies on our boat. The beauty with the SwimmerZ is that they are so easy to rig and use. I had mine rigged on a 1/4oz TT Tournament Series jighead with a 7/0 hook. It was simply a matter of casting into the snag, engaging the reel and letting it drop. If you didn't get bit on the drop then a slow roll back to the boat was all that was required to get the bites.

I lost count of how many barra we caught but I reckon around 50 per boat per day would be a conservative estimate. Not to mention the jacks, threadies, queenies, trevally etc.

I ended up only using two SwimmerZ in four days fishing. Every time the plastic would look a bit tattered I just added a dab of super glue and sent it back into battle. Indeed one lure that I eventually retired would have caught well over 50 barra and a dozen jacks. Pretty cost effective fishing!

I did catch my biggest fish of the trip in deeper water on a hard body and while they still have their place it was certainly interesting to see how dominating the paddle tail plastics were – particularly up in the shallows. To read the full feature article on this trip, check out the Sept/Oct issue of Australian Travelling Angler Magazine.



The 6" SwimmerZ in Gizzard Shad was the go-to lure for the author on his trip



Barra bycatch - jacks don't mind eating SwimmerZ either



Check out how far the Zman SwimmerZ stretch during the fight and yet they're good to go on the next cast!

Getting Grubby in Glenelg

By Owen Mcpaul





My latest adventure had me flying down to Melbourne to meet up with my great friends Tony, Joel and Jacob from Weflick Fishing to target black bream and estuary perch. Our destination was to be the Gippsland region but due to heavy rainfalls and flooding a couple of days prior to my arrival we were forced to find a new location that had been less affected by rain. We decided to make the long journey down to a beautiful little town on the SA / VIC border called Glenelg.

Anticipation levels were high as we all talked it up on the long trip down and we arrived at Glenelg late into the night, rigged our rods with light TT Tournament Series Jigheads and ZMan 2.5" GrubZ and got a bit of shut eye.

We headed out at first light the following morning onto the cold glassed out waterway of the Glenelg River and it wasn't a long run from the ramp to our first location. The boys were quickly onto the fish, pulling them in left right and centre on the GrubZ. After a short period of time I was informed that a more finesse approach was needed to tackle the blacks as they feed much differently to the yellowfin I am used to catching.





I didn't take too long to readjust my technique and soon found myself catching some healthy blacks and holding par with the boys. Our approach was to target high cliff faces with 4 to 7 metre drop offs straight into the water using 1/20oz TT heads rigged with ZMan 2.5 inch GrubZ. We were casting them hard against the ledge, before letting the tails work their magic to the bottom. Once on the bottom we were giving them a couple of slight twitches of the rod and watching for any movement of the braid in between to strike on.



This was a very effective retrieve that saw us pulling great numbers of bream and the odd EP (Estuary Perch). Our colours of choice were Amber, Motor Oil, Violet Sparkle and Chartreuse Sparkle, with Amber being the number one stand out of these colours.

The day was nearly over and it was time to head to our accommodation. I was over the moon, catching my first ever black bream and EP and the boys were just as happy that they had been able to get me onto the fish.

We followed the same steps over the next two days, working our way a little further up the river on each trip. We had to work hard to get onto the fish, but with small moves were able to find where they were holding pulling anywhere from 5 to 10 fish over each small stretch of bank.



On the final day we had a short 2 hour window to fish, as we needed to take the long journey back to Melbourne for me to catch the plane home. We headed out and I was hoping I could improve on my best fish of the trip at 38cm. We pulled the boat up just fifty metres from the ramp and on my first cast with the ZMan GrubZ in Motor Oil I had an almighty clunk as soon as the lure hit the water, before a nice run from the fish had line peeling as it tried to make its way off with my lure. After a short fight we landed the fish and it was a solid 43cm to the fork, my personal best and the biggest bream of the trip.

This had me wishing that I had a couple more days to spend on the water, but unfortunately all good things must come to an end and it was time to get home to my beautiful wife and kids. A special thanks to the boys from Weflick Fishing for sharing their waterways with me and getting me onto the fish. I am very much looking forward to catching up again later in the year for our next adventure to Gippsland. Thanks again to the team at TT and ZMan for once again having the goods to make my trip a most memorable experience.



Tips for the Sooty Hunter!

By Wayne Harvey

I'm sure many people will agree with me that going fishing is one of the best ways to unwind and what better way to do this than to go and target sooty grunter in mountain stream run off. There is something about fishing mountain streams that almost takes me back to when I was a kid. The smell of nature's fresh air, the vibrant colours of the plant life, the cool animals that you don't see every day and the crystal clear water that flows through the ranges all help to make up the complete package of fishing in harmony with nature.

When fishing for sooty grunter the first thing to learn is which creeks and rivers they inhabit. The easiest way to find this out is to ask one of the local tackle shops. They can let you know which creeks and rivers hold sooty's and give you a good idea of where to start looking for these hard fighting, lure crunching thugs!

These fish are great fun to catch; they are strong and very aggressive at times and fishing for these guys can be very similar to chasing jacks. When fishing for sooty's, I have witnessed mates getting stitched up on 20lb braided line in the blink of an eye, so choosing the right rods, reels, lures and terminals can mean the difference between a bruised and battered ego and landing a 50cm plus 'Football'!





Rods: When looking for a rod I like a fast action, somewhere between 2-6kg or 4-14lb.

Reels: As far as reels go, somewhere between a 1500-3000 size should do the job nicely.

Line class / Leader: Line class and leader is a personal choice; I mainly fish 4-10lb main line, but have had to resort to 15lb on the odd occasion. I usually fish a leader from about 12-20lb.

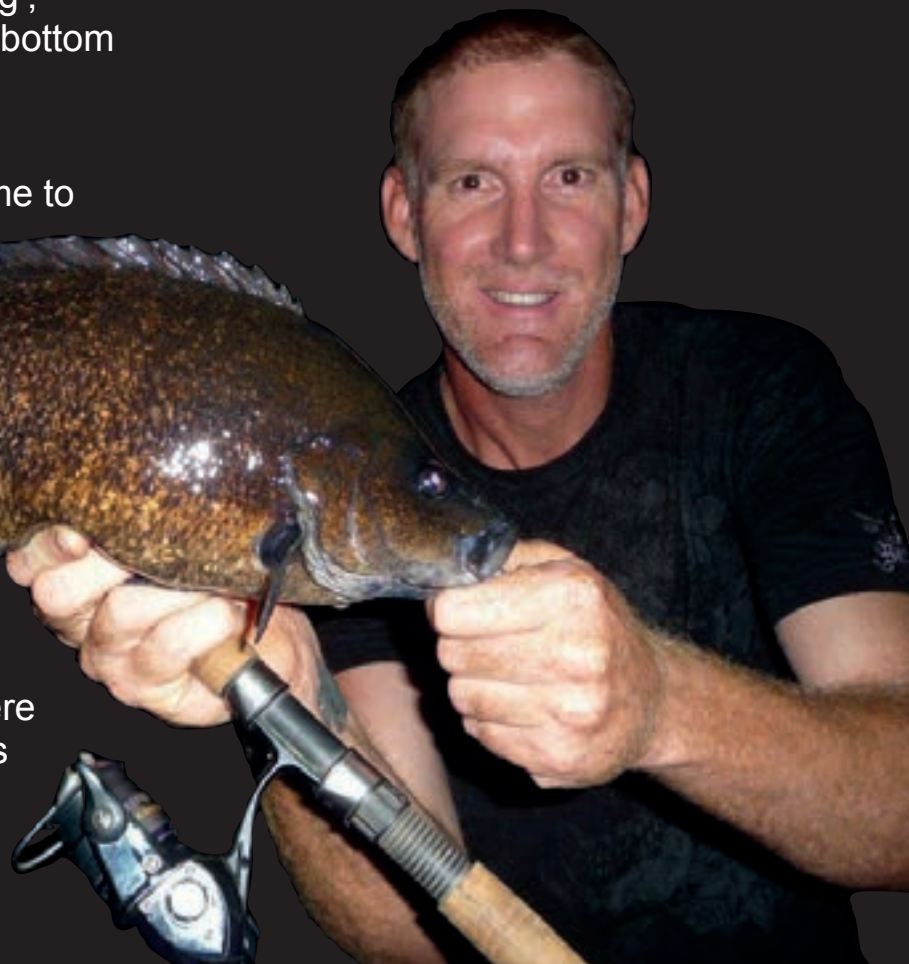
Choosing the right lure to tie on comes down to the time of day, season and appetite. As a general rule of thumb, surface and sub-surface lures around 50-75mm fish very well early morning and late afternoon and leading well into the night. During the heat of the day, even though the water temperature doesn't drop that much, sooty's tend to seek out deeper water or a dark shady bank. This is the prime time to tie on a spinnerbait, soft plastic, blade or deep diver around 50-75mm in length.



TT Lures make great spinnerbaits and two to include in your tacklebox when chasing sooties would be the Striker and Vortex models. Sooty's just can't help themselves when a TT Spinnerbait is retrieved past their nose! They are my 'go to' lure when the fishing slows a bit. Another one of my 'go to' lures for sooty's are the TT Switchblades. If there is a Switchblade in the vicinity of a sooty, there is no doubt in my mind that this lure will get slammed! They are available in 5 different sizes 1/8, 1/6, 1/4, 3/8 and 1/2oz with the 1/4oz being one of my favourites. There are many colours to choose from, so it's just a matter of matching the conditions and country to your choice. The Switchblades are incredible and can be used in many different ways; 'hopping', 'twitching', 'Jigging' or a steady retrieve just off the bottom have proven to be very effective.



The middle of the day is also a prime time to fish shadow lines and dark shady banks. Look for overhanging trees, log jams and shrubs that provide shade along a bank, flick a popper or sub-surface lure right up in and under the overhang... 9 times out of 10 if there is a sooty lurking in there your lure will get belted! Upgrading lures with heavier terminals may also be a requirement, especially trebles, as sooty grunter are renowned for turning trebles and split rings inside out!





Looking for fish in numbers doesn't require too much skill, the more country you cover the better the chances are of finding quality fish. Deep bends hold comfort zones, flowing water into deeper holes can be used as ambush points, log jams and snags offer shelter, overhanging trees and shrubs provide shade, roots in and along banks give protection. These are all great places to start looking for sooty's and it won't take long before you start to 'cotton on' to where the fish are holding.

Fishing for Sooty Grunter can be very exciting at times, whether it's getting smashed off the surface, extracting big fish out of thick cover or pulling fish out of fast flowing water... they always seem to keep you on your toes! Not to mention the quality of by-catch that comes with them at times... barramundi, mangrove jack and jungle perch to name a few. So when you get a chance, or better still, make some time to trek up into our magical mountains and hills, find a creek or river that has good numbers of sooty grunter and have a crack at these balls of muscle! You won't be disappointed!



Two days, 1600kms and 800 roadwork's later towing a 6m tinnie and white line fever had definitely set in... but anticipation was high as finally we reached the Lucinda turnoff. I started relishing in the thought of finally getting to Hinchinbrook Island... thoughts of chasing winter barra and particularly fishing the jetty and surrounding Islands.

After four years of trying to tick off one of my bucket list locations and chasing XOS GTs and queenfish, could this be the year. It seems every time we arrive a 20-25 knot south-easterly will kick in and destroy all dreams of fishing the jetty. The Hinchinbrook Island area is one of those magical places in the north with the Palm Island group starting a mere 20kms offshore and the Great Barrier Reef approximately 42kms out.

Then there's the island itself, with high jagged peaks, rocky headlands, white sandy beaches and the endless myriad of creeks, inlets and swamps, which just happen to be an excellent recruitment area for juvenile fish especially the barramundi. Then there's the sugar loading jetty, the ultimate in structure and a FAD for both bait and large toothy predatory species.

With the planets aligning we woke up the next day to perfect weather with 10-15 knot winds predicted for the week we bee-lined it straight for a jetty session.

Hijinks @ Hinchinbrook

By Robbie Wells



Armed with an assortment of the usual weapons that queenfish and GTs love to munch, and with a 10 knot southeaster blowing, I positioned the boat perfectly 15m away for a quick drift past the southern pylons. I threw my first adrenalin filled cast out way short and quickly shot another cast out, landing a 150mm bell popper 30cm from the row of pylons. On the second or third bloop I had a nice queenie hooked and after the initial blistering run it proceeded with their normal aerial antics.



How goods this, I thought! Half an hour and a hundred casts later and we couldn't get a follow or raise a scale. Another drift past and the Humminbird had nice shows of isolated schools of quality fish hanging a few metres off the bottom. I dropped down a ZMan 8" Streakz XL in Pearl, rigged on a 1oz TT Tournament Series XHD jighead, jigged it twice aggressively off the bottom with a mega fast retrieve, then paused it briefly halfway up and got nailed by a solid fish. As it took off toward the danger zone of the pylons my wife Sue used some trick boat skills to get me into clear water for decent chance of landing a solid queenie.

The next hour was some of the most insane plastics fishing we had ever experienced, with spooled reels and multiple brickings around the death pylons from XOS GTs. Apparently 50lb braid and 60-80lb leader, combined with ridiculously tight drags isn't enough to stop the resident trevally population as they succeeded in hosing us cast after cast.



At one stage Sue had been smoked by a 25-30kg GT as it hit a 1oz TT Head Hunter XH and Pearl 8" StreakZ XL combo. It tore across the surface from the shadow line and smashed her 5m from the boat, while at the same time I had five or six crazy queenfish fighting over my 8" Bubble Gum StreakZ XL rigged on a 1oz TT Rev Head, insane! I didn't know where to look first. After Sue lost hers we boated my queenie and then Sue dropped down a 5" Pearl Grass KickerZ, first jig zzzzzzzzzzz... ting GT and Jetty 2, Sue nil.

The initial hit and run, with arm stretching rod pulse, is something to experience from these absolute pit bulls of the ocean. Sue dropped another two ZMan 8" Bubble Gum StreakZ down almost sacrificially and I couldn't help but start laughing as another small car engulfed the plastic and continued on its way to the pylons of madness... Giant Trevally 4, Sue nil.

The sun was now high and the tide slowing down significantly, the madness seemed to have moved on so we started drifting along the the main conveyor line, flicking the pylons and picking up some small trevally and fingermark on the 5" Grass KickerZ in Pearl and Opening Night rigged on 1/2oz TT jigheads.





With no real big rattles at all we swapped jetty sides and started flicking the shadow line instead of the pylons, retrieving the plastic as if a popper across the surface. The result was instant action with Sue hooking up to an XOS queenie and after 15 minutes it surfaced... a 1.5m plus cracking queenie shimmering on the surface trying it's best for a last chance of freedom! After a few pics we swam the big queenie until it gave us that tail kick and away it went. This was a great effort on a 6-8kg Dropshot / 3000 Shimano Stradic setup.

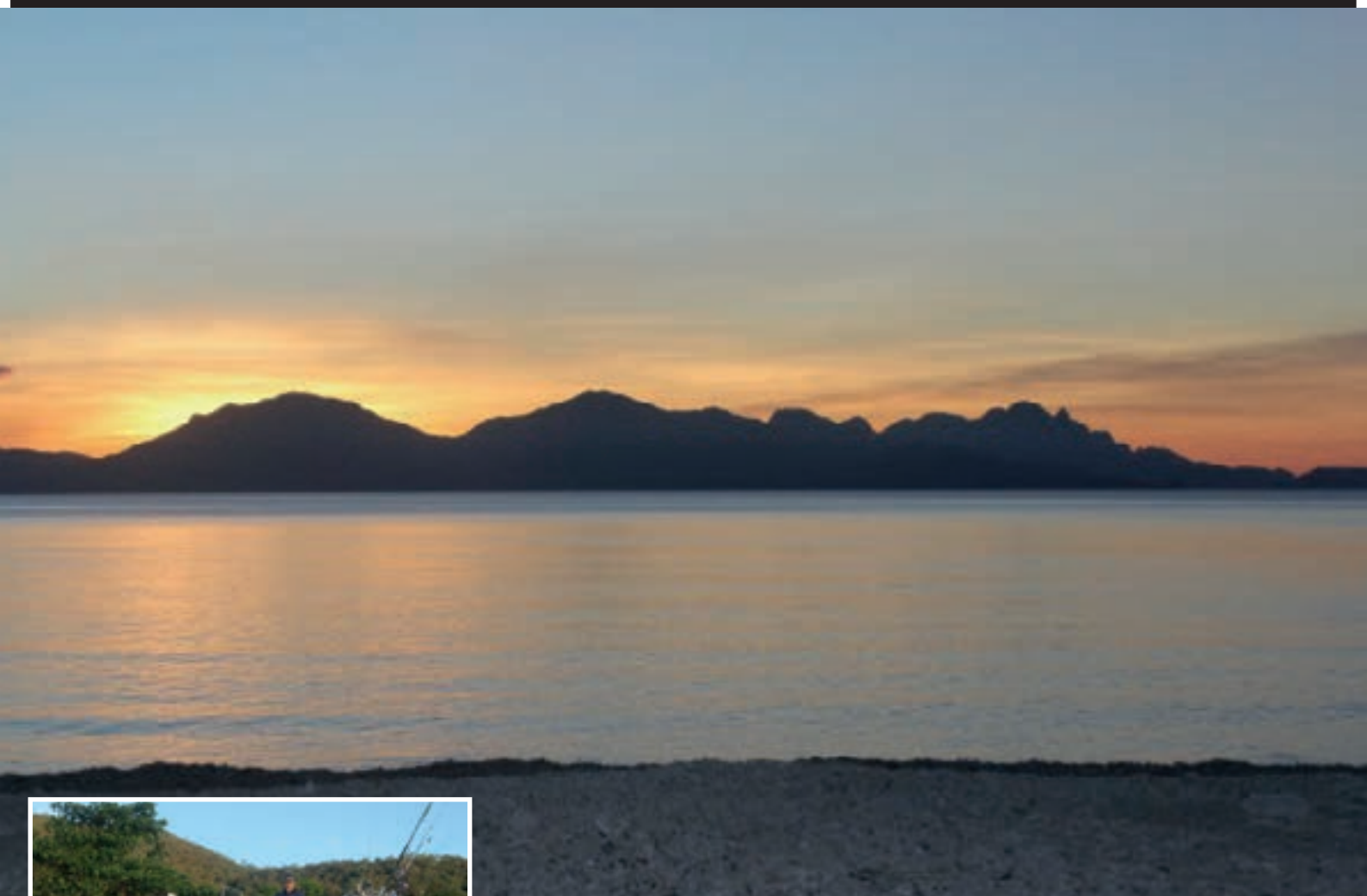
Next cast i blasted out through the pylons and quickly retrieved my plastic past the shadow line. A bow wave resembling a torpedo started to zero in on my poor ZMan. Five metres from the boat the GT turned, smashed the ZMan and headed into open water. Silly GT I thought as line screamed through my loaded runners, buckling my rod in half and I hoped I had double checked all my knots. After a few minutes of violent head shakes and crazy runs we started a bit of a tug-o-war battle and then all went slack. I quickly retrieved, but still no tension and I was thinking the worst when up pops my jig head and ZMan. On a positive note at least it wasn't my knot, it just pulled the hook, s#@t. Will I ever land one of these things... not today as things switched off and the sun was slowly sinking behind the mountains, so we called it a day and a cracker day it was!



That night I rang my mate Jeff Wilton from Lucinda, filled him in on the day's mayhem and we sketched a plan for a jetty session, followed by a wreck session around 20kms to the north east.

Always have a plan B! As we got to the jetty zone there was a lot more activity at the end, not the piscatorial type either, cranes and workers everywhere. A small tinny approached and lets us know the scaffolding team was setting up the final stage of the jetty reconstruction after the devastation of cyclone Yasi. This meant there was a 100m exclusion zone for the next few months, talk about unlucky.

So after a quick regrouping it was a convoy straight to the wreck, a quick 40 minute run. The wreck has a main structure then isolated bits where it broke up. As we approached there was a good show of bait midway and a few scattered smaller schools near the bottom. In the 35m water column a 5-10 SE breeze enabled a nice drift for dropping a few ZMans. After Jeff put us on the mark we hopped a few off the bottom. I started with a 5" Opening Night StreakZ and Sue with a Pearl 5" Grass KickerZ, both on 1/2oz TT Tournament jigheads and we started hopping them over the wreck.



Press **PLAY** to check out Robbie & Sue's boat in action



Sue rattled a few trevors and stripies, but not too much excitement. I glanced at the sounder and we had a really nice bait ball under us about halfway down. Dropping to the bottom I commenced a jig up fast and retrieve technique. Bang; a solid hook up with nice head shakes and a really impressive first run. After 10 minutes of tormenting me with more runs we saw a long silver hue rising towards the surface. Soon after a nice Spanish mackerel somehow eluded our landing net and had a final run for freedom. We eventually boated the Spanairdo and while taking a few pics I grabbed the leader... it broke about 2' from the jighead, lucky as!



Another few Spanish and spotty mackerel were boated the same way, before the bait dispersed and of course so did the fun. Man I can't wait to get down the channel. Standout plastics for these couple of days on the water were the ZMan 8" StreakZ XL in Bubble Gum and Pearl, 5" Grass KickerZ in Pearl and Opening Night on 1/2oz TT Head Hunter XH jigheads and 5" StreakZ in Opening Night. The TT Rev Heads were also deadly, that extra bling while jigging or fast retrieving is fish candy. I can't wait to experiment with them more when I get home.

And high-speed jigging / hopping plastics through the water column, so underutilized! A lot of times you will find a good show of bait and fish, start hopping a few plastics off the bottom and won't get a touch. Start mixing it up with your retrieve and jighead size to identify what's down there and fish to suit, you'll be very surprised!

Stay tuned for the second part of our Hinchinbrook adventure in the next issue of the Tackle Tactics Fishing E-Mag.

Cheers, Robbie & Sue

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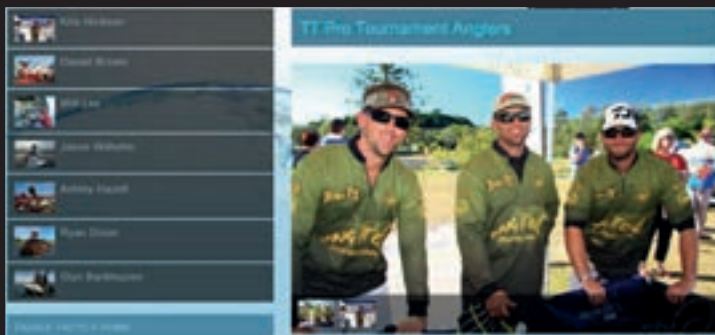
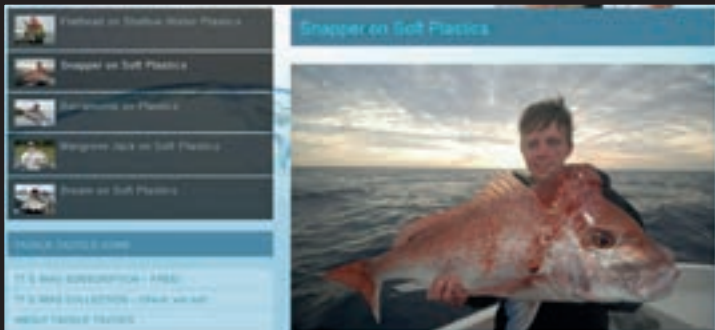
What's on at Tackle Tactics...



Species Guides - Catch Australia's favourite fish!

These PDF Species Guides contain information about where, when and how to target certain fish species.

New Tackle Tactics Website - A hub of info for anglers



The new Tackle Tactics website is now live! As well as links to both the TT Lures and ZMan product websites, the new Tackle Tactics site includes:

- Species Guides - Learn how to catch some of Australia's favourite fish!
- Gear Guides - Learn how to rig and use TT and ZMan lures for maximum success!
- Check out all the past issues of the Tackle Tactics Fishing E-Mag or subscribe to receive new issues straight to your inbox.
- Tackle Tactics TV - Links to both TT Lures Fishing TV and ZMan Lures Australia Fishing TV on You Tube.
- Pro Tournament Angler and Pro Field Angler Profiles.
- Links to both TT Lures and ZMan Lures Australia FB pages.

Plus stacks more and we'll be adding content regularly, including more Species Guides and Gear Guides to help you get hooked up!

Make sure you visit us at:

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