

NSWGFA Junior Team

Hunter Davies

Port Hacking 100 weekend on Team Tantrum.

What a weekend I had fishing on board Tantrum fishing the Port Hacking 100 with the NSWGFA junior team!

On Friday afternoon we met up with Grahame and the other lads after we met, had a short team talk, given our team shirts we went down to the RYMC and to the boat where we met Glenn, Karen and Giles on Tantrum. We got to know the boat and watched some DVDs of them catching big Blue Marlin to get the hype up.

After that we went back to the club house, met Grahame where we went to dinner then the briefing and then back to the motel where we stayed the night ready for day one.

Day one.

We got up at 5:30 am got ready and Grahame drove us down to the club at 6am. We got in the boat, had some breakfast and left the berth at 6:30 am.

It was a bit soppy but the 43ft Riviera ate it up so it was a comfortable ride out. We put lures out bang on 8am which was start fishing time (on the shelf and headed east)

It looked good out there - birds, bait we even marked a fish on the radar where we got a hook up on the shotgun around 8:45 am for Hugh Thomas to pick up the rod and wound in a Mahi Mahi around 60 cm. We got the hook out and safely released the fish.

Then got back to trolling, the 9:40 am sched was extremely quiet with only a few dollies caught. After that sched we decided to do something different and headed away from the other boats, we trolled for around two hours when we got our first proper hook up in 1,000 fathoms.

I was the only one on the deck at the time as all the other boys were asleep, Karen and Glenn were up on the fly bridge. I watched the Marlin come in and harass the shotgun where it finally committed and nailed it.

I jumped on the rod and watched as the thing was tail walking out the back straight away the team knew it was a good fish the way it ate it and jumped. But I only thought it was around 100kg where I get proved wrong as the fish goes deep 5mins in and the fight starts.

One hour in fighting this fish it mainly stays straight up and down taking little runs here and there for the next two hours it was the same until the three hour mark we saw a glimpse of the fish then it took off back down deep.

Around the six hour mark we saw the fish once again, it was around 30m away. The water was super clear so we could see it just swimming along and then it went back down. Glenn put the boat in gear and the fish started to come up around the 6 1/2 hour mark. The fish was slowly coming up until it finally came up beside the boat just on dark.

Giles grabbed the trace and muscled the beast over. Karen and Isaac sunk the gaffs into the fish then we pulled it into the boat. We all celebrated then measured the fish to be 2.67m short length. We got it on the boat deck at 6pm (hooked it at 11.10am) just under 7hr fight.

We then stormed back in to Port Hacking club to weigh the fish. The Blue Marlin weighed 174.5kg on 15kg line after the 7hr fight!! One of the best days of my life, after we weighed it, the scientists took samples then my dad got the bill and the tail. Then we went into the club to have some dinner and then Grahame drove us back to the motel ready for day 2.

Day 2

We got up at 5:30 am in the car at 6 am and Grahame dropped us down to the boat where we had breakfast (egg and bacon roll) and we left at 6:45 am and headed out. We put lures in at 8 am on the shelf and headed East once again, it was super quiet at the 9:40 am sched. Just as the sched finished we had a run by a Marlin on the short rigger which come off. Later that day the wind (NE) came up and then it was a bit choppy. The 11.40 and the 1.40 sched was a bit fishy with a few marlin caught then bang the shotgun went off and ripped 50m of line off the reel, however the fish came off, then bang the short rigger went off but before Taj had enough time to pick it up the fish dropped it, then bang the long rigger (my rod) went off where I grabbed it put myself in the chair watching the fish splash out the back and then it came off again! We got pack attacked 4.1.0 so we kept trolling for the last hour and then headed in. Once we got in we had a shower and went to the Tournament Presentation, had dinner and then it was announced that we had won Champion Boat Capture, Champion Junior Capture and also Heaviest Marlin over 150kg Prize.

A dream come true so big thanks Team Tantrum, Karen, Glenn and Giles for making this possible and special thanks to Grahame for organising the event and being our chaperone.

I had the best time ever!