

## The NSWGFA Representative Junior Team 2024.

### Port Hacking Shorehire 100 Tournament 26-28<sup>th</sup> March.

The Junior Team this year was invited by PHGFC to participate in their Tournament which I greatly appreciated.

Karen and Glenn Wright from SGFC again donated their boat for the team to use, a great gesture and one that I really am grateful for. Also this year Giles offered his time to Deckie for the team. Tantrum arrived down at the RMYC Port Hacking on Friday afternoon to meet the boys and give them a run over of the boat and then join them for Dinner just before the Briefing.

The juniors and their parents arrived at 3pm at the Motel in Sylvania I had organised, once we all met I showed them their rooms, the parents left, we had a short team meeting during which I mentioned what was expected of them over the week-end and then gave each one of them their team shirts and Certificates for representing NSWGFA.

I then drove them down to the RMYC Port Hacking Marina to meet Karen, Glenn and Giles and look over Tantrum then up to the RMYC club house for dinner and the briefing.

The Team consisted of Taj Mossman from Central Coast GFC, Hunter Davies from Shellharbour GFC, Isaac Moussa from Botany Bay GFC and Hugh Thomas from Newcastle & Port Stephens GFC.

**Day 1.** Up at 5.30am then at 6am I drove the team down to the RMYC and onto Tantrum for breakfast for the boys whilst I set up the radio base as I was the radio operator for the tournament. Tantrum left her berth around 6.45am and headed out to the shelf for start of fishing at 8am. As I was not on board I cannot relate what happened on Tantrum during the day except to say that just after 11am Glenn called me on the base radio to advise they were hooked up on 15kg tackle and that Hunter was on the rod. On the 11.40 sched Tantrum was still fighting, 1340 sched still fighting, 1540 sched still fighting, 1710 sched still fighting then finally just before 6pm Blue Marlin captured and on the deck, obviously great news so I rang the boy's parents to let them know that the Marlin was being brought in to be weighed and I gave them an estimated weight of 180kg, a magnificent effort on 15kg line and nearly a 7hr struggle. Around 7pm Tantrum arrived at the weigh station and the fish weighed in at 174.5kg. Full details of what happened during the day are in the boys stories for all to read. Once the boat and all were cleaned up then up to the club for dinner then I drove the boys back to the motel.

**Day 2.** Repeat of up at 5.30am then down to the boat around 6.20am, bacon and egg rolls for breakfast then on to the boat to leave the berth at 6.45am, again read the boys stories for the fishing results for the day, however the end result for the day was no fish for the team even though they certainly had some action during the day.

Once Tantrum was safely back and berthed, cleaned up, all had showers and were ready for the Presentation Dinner. Also the parents were at the dinner as they were taking the boys home at the completion of the Presentation. Obviously all were excited knowing that the team were the only boat who had captured a Marlin during the Tournament.

Throughout the dinner Daniel Bryant, President of PHGFC presented the winners with their prizes and near the end of the Presentation called Hunter up to receive Champion Junior Capture prize, then the whole team were called up to receive Champion Boat Capture plus Heaviest Blue Marlin over 150kg that was caught on a Tantrum Lure, a fantastic effort by the team.



Left to Right. Giles Cox, Hugh Thomas, Taj Mossman, Hunter Davies, Isaac Moussa, Karen Wright, Glenn Wright.



Team on Tantrum with 174.5kg Blue Marlin. Hunter Davies and Hugh Thomas with Hunter's fish.

I was very proud of the team for their effort and perfect behaviour over the week-end. The boys were a pleasure to look after and their parents and clubs should be very proud of them.

**Thanks go to Daniel and the Committee of Port Hacking for hosting the team.**

**Also on behalf of NSWGFA and I Special thanks go to Glenn and Karen for providing their boat Tantrum and co-sponsoring the Junior Team and also thanks to Giles for giving up his time and assisting the team. Each boy has written a short story which I recommend all to read. Grahame A Williams, OAM**