



**ARNHEMLAND
BARRAMUNDI
NATURE LODGE**



TAILS FROM THE LODGE

JULY 2008

GREAT START TO THE DRY SEASON

The weather was perfect, the fish were biting and our guests at the Lodge were hooked up aplenty during the first half of the Top End Dry Season.

At the Lodge, the official start to the Dry seems to be May. It's most unusual to get any wet season activity once May gets under way. The clouds have been replaced with an unbroken pale blue sky and the early mornings are crisp, if not a touch chilly.

Some mornings a trail of thick mist traces the meandering Tomkinson River on the floodplain some 150 metres below the Lodge. It's a breathtaking sight and an awesome start to the day. Sometimes the mist becomes a blanket of fog which envelops the whole floodplain, thick and seemingly impenetrable all the way up to the edge of the Lodge

Escarpment Patio. It's an eerie experience, leaning on the railing and peering across the top of a flat white cloud that extends all the way to the horizon in every direction.

Our old friends, Bryan and Doris Pratt visited in May. They were the only guests at the Lodge for the three days they were there. Although they didn't catch any big barra, they managed to boat double-figure numbers each day. If you're based in Canberra, or passing through, don't forget to check out Pratt's Tackle Box in Belconnen and their other store, The Angler's Art at Phillip.



Bryan Pratt bagged plenty of silver barra, and all by casting, his much-preferred technique.

Doris Pratt with one of her barra from the top of the Liverpool casting small deep divers.



Peugeot Pack The Lodge & Smack The Fish



Members of the Peugeot Australia group with concrete evidence that helifishing can get you to some great spots in Arnhemland.



It was wonderful last May to again host a visit from Peugeot Australia and many of its dealer network. Organised by Bob Stanton Corporate Fishing, Peugeot visited in 2006 with 22 guests, and this year there were 24. The Lodge was working on overload but it all ran super smoothly. An innovation this year was a Bell Jet Ranger helicopter. Everyone in the group experienced a thrilling half-day chopper fishing. That's how you really get to

appreciate the remote wilderness location of the Lodge. The chopper flew over vast wetlands and escarpments, did a bit of "impromptu mustering" of wild Asiatic Buffalo herds, annoyed a few sunning crocs, flew with thousands of airborne waterfowl, and landed at some otherwise inaccessible fishing hotspots. In four days, the group landed over 500 barra and a variety of other species to boot.

"The whole trip was a fantastic experience - from the flight in and seeing an aerial view of the rivers and surrounding landscapes, to the natural bush setting and brilliant sunsets, to the vast and plentiful array of fish..." - Nick Fazekas, Melbourne

Toyota Material Handling Group Handles Heaps Of Barra

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The Arnhemland Barramundi Nature Lodge continues to perform for important corporate groups. We were pleased to welcome back a group of 14 Managers from Toyota Material Handling Group (TMHG). Once again conditions were favourable and both barra and a host of sportfish obliging. A whale of a barra was caught on the trip. It measured 104 cm but must have been close to that in girth. The lucky angler was Chairman CEO, Terry Unnai. There was also evidence of just how small the world is: President Steve Harper and our own Alex Julius were members of sister fishing clubs in east Sydney in the early 1970s. Steve was a member of the Carringbah Anglers Club and AJ was a member of Mascot Anglers Club, and there was always fierce competition between the two.



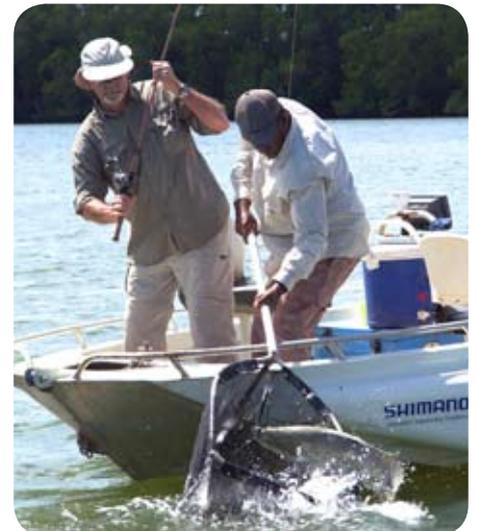
Our ever-cheery Mick Eddy was rapt to put his crew from Toyota Materials Handling Group on to a whopper northern mulloway.



Toyota Material Handling Group's Chairman CEO, Terry Unnai, found a whale of a barra in the Liverpool River. This one measured 104 cm but weighed 18 kg.

AFTA Chooses Lodge For Nationwide Junior DVD

The Australian Fishing Tackle Association (AFTA) is currently producing its second DVD in the Learning To Fish series. Over 200,000 copies will be distributed around Australia, with coverage of all Australian states and Territories. In conjunction with NAFA magazine, the Lodge was chosen for the Northern Territory segment. James Stefanovich, 16 and a mad-keen Darwin junior angler, was the star, fishing alongside Alex who was doing the teaching. The youngster slayed them, catching barra hand over fish casting lures and a 110cm northern mulloway trolling our famous Rockbar.



Lance Butler goes for a flying net shot on this 90cm-plus barra caught by Toyota materials Handling Group President, Steve Harper.