



**ARNHEMLAND
BARRAMUNDI
NATURE LODGE**



TAILS FROM THE LODGE

OCT 2008

Beuthy's Barra Bonanza! A tale of two metreyes

When a group from Toyota visited the Arnhemland Barramundi Nature Lodge earlier this year for Beuthy's Barra Challenge, they found the barra on the chew. Guide Jason Hill was in the thick of the action.

After three months since my previous trip guiding out at the lodge, I was well due for my barra fix, and what a way to kick it off. Day one I ventured off to the Blythe River with my crew for the week (Chris Beuth, Graeme Stewart and Brent Cannon). With perfect tides and plenty of green water to fish we headed down to the front of the river on the hunt for Beuthy's P.B. only to find a slower than average start than we had hoped for, with only half a dozen fish making it to the net.

With not much activity about, and now freshened up after a shady lunch and a cool drink, I decide to head up to an old favourite barra haunt of mine. As soon as we pulled up I had a good feeling that we had found them, with unsettled mullet around the snag and a couple of birds on the drain it just looked too good. Within the first few casts out the front of the timber the boys were on, with 6 nice barra coming on board, in no time and nothing under 70cm.

I then headed up inside this particular feeder creek to a small drain inside with a huge tree that had fallen in front of it since I was last there — the perfect environment for barra. After hitting the snag and drain from every possible angle, we successfully boated another good bag of fish to 80cm. Going a little quiet, but still seeing the barra deep down with bellies on the bottom and clouds of bait all over the sounder, I set up a troll route through the feeder with 15+ Classics to achieve the appropriate depth that was necessary to get these fish to chomp.



Chris outdid himself with this big fish.

www.barralodge.com.au

ph: 08 8983 1544

email: roger@nafa.com.au



Brent with his PB 91cm fish!

We had the boat in gear no longer than 30 seconds before Graeme was on his feet battling to work a fish out of the timber, and doing a great job to see the 85cm come aboard. Repeating this for the next couple of hours until it was time to head back we brought our total to 39 quality barra including Chris' new PB of 95cm, along with Brent achieving his with a 91cm trophy. Close to 20 of these fish were over 80cm and the rest topping over 65cm, not a bad way to finish up for the day.

During this hot session Graeme dropped two huge fish that looked very close to a meter, barely getting the head out of the water as they jumped, but unfortunately we dropped them both. But with this in mind we decided that we would venture back again tomorrow and attempt to land these horses that had given us so much curry.

For the second day of the Beuthy Barra Challenge we decide to head up the Blythe to try a few drains and snags, while waiting for the right stage of tide to head back to yesterday's honey hole. It all started a bit slow until we come to a never fail drain that had given my punters much success in the past. With only a few feet of water under us fish to 75cm became instant acrobats on contact with the lures which gave the guys an exciting aerial display to start the day. By now it was time to head back down to old faithful.

Again, starting from outside the feeder this time, barely in gear, and bang, white water everywhere! Slowly and carefully, Graeme



Graeme just missed out on getting on the Metre Club Board with this 98cm ripper!

successfully boats a 98cm silver salty. Continuing the troll run only another 20m it was a Chris's turn on an 88cm and while retrieving his line to clear the way for Chris to fight his fish, Brent hooks up on the way in with a 90cm. With both fish landed we had plenty to celebrate about and continued this flurry of fish for most of the day.

The stand out was Chris' call of a snag, that turned out to be yet another PB. This time it bettered his previous day's effort by a further 12cm, giving him a solid 107cm specimen. A metre was something he had chased after for eight years. After a few photos, hand shakes and congratulatory hugs the call was made; "come on Hilly, now you just have to get the other boys one" and I, mucking around just replied "not a problem fellas who wants the next one?"

Blow me down, not twenty minutes later it was Brent's turn, with plenty of teeth gritting moments jumping in and out of timber he brought a very healthy looking 101cm to the net. Unfortunately Graeme missed out on his chance for a meter club qualifier by 2cm with his 98, and the fellas didn't mind reminding him on what could have been with his two big girls he dropped the afternoon before! But there was no room (or need) for complaints on our boat as we had caught and landed 50 barra for the day with 12 of them over 90cm, two over a metre, twenty or so over 80cm and rest

bar five over 70cm! A day that every one on the boat will never forget.

For the last two days of the trip we opted for a changed of scenery and fished the Tomkinson River. We made our way to where I knew there was a green section of water that just shifts up and down the river. As always, it paid off to do a little home work and we managed to land 36 barra on a half day before dropping Brent to the airport, leaving only Chris and Graeme to keep themselves on top of the Beuthy Barra Challenge. They did a great job, finishing up with another day of 36 fish between the two of them.

In total my boat bagged 161 barra and I can honestly say that only a small handful were undersize. This is just my story of what happened that week, there were four other boats out there bringing the group total to 560 Barra for 4 days fishing plus plenty of other species caught throughout the Challenge. Thanks again guys, it was a pleasure.

Jason Hill (Hilly)



When Hilly isn't working as a guide he likes to relax by going barra fishing.