



**ARNHEMLAND  
BARRAMUNDI  
NATURE LODGE**



**TAILS FROM THE LODGE**

[www.barralodge.com.au](http://www.barralodge.com.au)

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**FEB 2009**

**email: [roger@nafa.com.au](mailto:roger@nafa.com.au)**

**MASSIVE RUN-OFF**

See [www.barralodge.com.au](http://www.barralodge.com.au) for details

**SALE**

**2009 SEASON**

The lodge will reopen on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2009. We will have some familiar faces – Dave Thomas our Lodge Manager will be back with a steady hand on the reins together with our regular guides from 2008, Rob Robinson, Mick Eddy & Andrew Young. We will also have the services of Lance Butler, Benn Boulton & Jason Vickery, with Alex also joining the guiding team whenever time allows.

Dave is looking forward to not only all the clients enjoying some great fishing during the coming season openers, but also providing a refined level of hospitality in conjunction with our new chef who specialises in gourmet seafood & game recipes. Other new faces include a mechanic and domestic staff.

Part of our pre-season preparations will be four new Evinrude E-Tec motors fitted to our Ocean master boats. One boat was previously upgraded at the end of last year. One of BRP's chief technicians will be at the lodge to provide specialist training for our new mechanic & oversee the installation of our new motors.

**THE "WET SEASON" SO FAR**

It is interesting that this "Wet Season" is one of the best Top End wet seasons in years, especially as it began in early December. All indications are that it will continue in the same vein, so a bumper Run-off can be assured. Total rainfall numbers can add up quite quickly with the influence of an active monsoon or tropical low pressure system. February is one the wettest months in the Top End so it is still too early to predict what the final rainfall outcomes may be, however, we are confident that the Liverpool & catchment areas either side will receive additional monsoonal rainfall

over the next month to add to the excellent start to the season and generate a significant "Run Off". Importantly, we are not necessarily dependent on "Run Off" alone to ensure good fishing, as the tidal estuaries all hold excellent populations of fish throughout the year. Just as I pen this now, we have had some good monsoonal rainfall over the past few days, with predictions of plenty more on the way.

**WEBSITE**

We continue to upgrade our website & would like to start up a Metre Club gallery of images of Barra that measure over the "Magic Metre". We already have some images in our library, which appear in this newsletter, and we will be collating, however, if you are on our metre board & want to show off your "Metery" and have it up there for all to envy, just email me a copy of your snapshot.



*Guide, Mick Eddy (l) with Bert Gardiner and his 101 cm barra landed in November 2008.*



*A 101 cm barra caught by Sean Hanley with guide Lance Butler.*

**OUR DONATION to the  
Victorian Bushfire Appeal**

As with all Australian's we were very saddened to hear of the bush fire tragedies & ongoing serious bushfire threats to the people, properties & townships in Victoria. As a way to assist the victims of this crisis, the Lodge has donated a trip which will be auctioned at a fundraiser in Ceduna, SA, for the bushfire victim's appeal. This terrific fishing adventure package is valued at over \$5000.

Current Lodge record holder is Des Fry's 123 cm barra caught during the 2007 run-off.



Brent Cannon's 101 cm barra.

Also check out our growing collection of clips on you tube. We now have our latest TV commercial listed on www.youtube.com & search 'Australia's Best Fishing Destination'

### WHAT'S COMING UP

#### March

We have selected a great set of neap tides, starting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March on which to commence our 2009 fishing season. The final wet season rains should start to dissipate by that time, although there may still be a chance of a shower or two. As a consequence there should still be plenty of fresh entering into the

tidal rivers & creeks, creating ideal feeding opportunities for hungry barramundi. There will be plenty of creeks & gutters draining into the upper parts of the Liverpool, Tomkinson & other systems at this time. Accordingly, the guides are familiar with the location of these hotspots & if the barra are "on" then cricket type scores are easily compiled.

We have two spots remaining available & whoever is lucky enough to secure a booking will be assured of some sensational "Run Off" barra action.

The dates remaining available are;  
20 – 25th March  
28 March – 1<sup>st</sup> April

#### April

You will have similar situations existing in early April as with late March. April is an ideal barra month & is one of the transition months between the wind up of the wet & coming of the dry season. Pelagic species such as Trevally & Queenfish will also start to appear. April is a terrific month for barra fishing, casting at the runoffs, snags and flats as well as trolling river structure, including rock bars. Last year was no exception with anglers enjoying some great fishing and plenty of good fish bought to net. One boat with three lucky anglers boated over 150 barra in a single day during April last year.



Chris Beuth's 107 cm barra from September 2008.



Barry Cogle's 109 cm whopper caught on fly.

We still have some vacancies during April but hurry as these wont last.

Experience an Easter Break with a difference this year. We still have vacancies over the Easter weekend 10 – 13 April. Experience some fantastic Barra fishing, but without the Easter crowds!

Other great times still available, check with us for a booking now!

15 – 20 April

20 – 25 April

### May / June

With the humidity on the wane, May and June are both great months for Barra & anglers alike. Warm clear days & mild evenings are a precursor to the onset of the "Dry Season". This time of the year will see the mackerel species start to show up on a regular basis as well as tuna schools start moving inshore. Of course all the trevallies & queenfish are there as well, all harassing the boiling bait schools.

Barra are still well & truly on the go with bigger fish turning up regularly on the rock bars. May & June are our "Metery" months & our records indicate this is an excellent time to have a close encounter with a metre plus barra. While many anglers prefer to cast lures for barra, don't forgo trolling the deeper river snags & rock bars, if you really want to stir the scales on a trophy barra. As an additional bonus don't be surprised if you get "smoked" by a rampaging black jewfish while trolling for a big barra!! Our 6 exclusive rivers run freshwater down their systems right through the dry season, and this year should be even more so. This circumstance helps maintain water clarity and barra just love the interaction of salt water and freshwater. Additionally, our run-off tends to last longer, right into the middle of the "Dry Season" at least, and is characterised by snag, rock-bar and swirling eddy fishing as the fresh continues to pour off the river catchments and run down the main systems and major side feeder creeks.

It's because of this, and the fact we have the best pool of experienced guides in the country, that we can consistently offer barra and close-in bluewater sportfishing unmatched anywhere else in Australia.

**On behalf of Alex and Christine Julius, myself and all the staff at the lodge, we hope the year improves for you and leads to a better outcome for all by 2010.**

**For enquiries regarding a booking during March, April, May and June or any other time contact me via email: [roger@nafa.com.au](mailto:roger@nafa.com.au) or phone 08 8983 1544.**

Regards

**Roger Sinclair**

Sales & Travel Coordinator

Arnhemland Barramundi Nature Lodge 



Who is this happy angler with a 110 cm beauty?  
(if you know, please send me an email: [roger@nafa.com.au](mailto:roger@nafa.com.au))



Glen Stotter's 110 cm barra.



Mark Crummy's 113 cm barra.



Greg Harris 100 cm barra.



Adrian DeBortoli's 106 cm barra.



Sophie van Blockland with her 102 cm barra.



Darren Barnett's 117 cm barra.



Richard Eyre's 106 cm barra.



Stuart Sillar's 101 cm barra.



Simon Friend 101 cm barra.



Terry Unnai's 104 cm barra.



Susanne Marsh 112 cm barra.



Tom Friend's 103 cm barra.