



Brisbane Sportfishing Club Inc.

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Burrum Heads Trip Report

By Jeremy Arnold

Our last club trip was to the town of Burrum Heads between Hervey Bay and Bundaberg on the May long weekend. Most of us arrived on Friday afternoon/evening after a drive of about 4 hours. There were 15 of us including 3 members from the Southern Brisbane SFC staying in three houses. The houses we had booked were surprisingly roomy and clean, and after checking the charts and preparing our fishing gear, it was lights out, and bandsaws on!

There were five boats heading offshore into Hervey Bay on the Saturday and three heading into the river. There was a bit of S-SW wind early, but it died out to glassy conditions for most of the day. All five boats heading offshore went to the Burrum 8 mile reef initially, but all we could find were some school sharks (unlike on the shark trip a few weeks previously!). After a couple of hours we all moved to the Fairway Beacon, and proceeded to catch some small



Peter and Ed on the Burrum 6 Mile in glassed out conditions

squire and some other bits and pieces. I did hook a good fish on a 4" green soft plastic minnow



Darryl's Painted Sweetlip. These are quite common in the Hervey Bay Area

on 3 kg line, but it wore though the 6 kg leader after about ten minutes. We also saw a big school of large golden trevally cruising near the beacon, but they were not interested in our baits or lures. We headed back to the 8 mile, where there were some small school mackerel, and finished up by trolling around the river mouth on the way back in.

On the Sunday, the weather was even better than the Saturday, and we headed straight to the Fairway beacon in the morning,

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but found the fishing dead. We went back to the 6 mile reef at about 8 am, where Dave and Steve were having a ball on the school mackerel on 1 and 2 kg line. Ed and Peter, Tony Dalby and the kids, Rob and Darryl and I also got in on the action. Darryl pulled a very nice 3.6 kg painted sweetlip (slatey bream or morwong) on 2 kg line (see photo). An added attraction was the dugongs, which were swimming around the boats. Later in the day, Dave Marsh and Steve headed North to the Woodgate 8 mile reef, where Dave caught the fish of the trip, a 13.5 kg Spanish mackerel on 8 kg line (see photo), and Steve caught the highest point scoring fish of the trip, a 2.5 kg painted sweetlip on 1 kg line. I believe their secret is the 3 day old fish scraps in their burley pot!



The boys in the river caught some golden trevally, sole, flathead, cod, bream and whiting on baits and lures. The best golden trevally was a very respectable 3.1 kg and was taken by Dave from the SBSFC. There was no more fishing possible on the Monday due to the strong SE change which had come through.

Overall, the place didn't quite live up to the very high expectations we all had, although there is certainly great potential there. Burrum Heads itself is a quiet, small place which makes a nice getaway. The waters of Hervey Bay out from Burrum are generally very shallow and featureless and hence any structure becomes a fish magnet. On that note, I would like to thanks all the people who gave information and GPS marks t help us get started. Quite long distances are involved in travelling to most of the spots. The knowledge we all have now will be a great asset if we do go back there again.



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