

ABSOLUTE CATCH



HOOKED: The Just Hafta Fish team continued a 22-year tradition of being the last to weigh in at the Boyne Tannum HookUp.

Photo: Matt Taylor

Second HookUp win to Gilmore

HOOKUP history has repeated itself for Kris Gilmore.

The 24-year-old first won a HookUp prize as a 13-year-old in 2008, taking home a 3m Quintrex tinnie with a 15hp Mercury outboard.

It was deju vu for him on Saturday night when his name was announced as the winner of a Yamaha jet ski.

He said he still had fond memories of his first prize win at HookUp.

"She was a little beast, but we traded it in for a slightly larger tinnie about a month later and that one has had plenty of use and I've still got it today," he said.

"I reckon the jet ski will go right next to it in the backyard."

Mr Gilmore was joking with his mates about winning the jet ski prior to the draw.

"Only minutes before they were announcing the jet ski we were sitting there saying 'we'd never really have a use for a jet ski' and then jokingly said I was going to win it," he said.

"I had no clue it was going to come true.

"When they called my name they said it's a local boy from Tannum and I somehow got it in my head that it was me.

"I started laughing thinking it will be someone we know, they called my name and everyone was a bit gobsmacked.

"It didn't really hit home



SWEET RIDE: Kris Gilmore with his new jet ski won at HookUp.

Photo: Mike Richards GLA050618HOOK

that I'd won it until (yesterday) morning when I hooked it up to the trailer."

"I RECKON THE JET SKI WILL GO RIGHT NEXT TO (THE TINNIE) IN THE BACKYARD."

KRIS GILMORE

Mr Gilmore took the Yamaha VX Deluxe jet ski, valued at \$15,000, for a spin on the Boyne River yesterday morning and was instantly in awe of its power.

"She's a bit of fun to ride that's for sure - it's very accel-

eration heavy," he said.

"I reckon I'll be keeping it for a while."

Mr Gilmore has been fishing for as long as he can remember and is eyeing off a permanent career on the water.

"I think my first fish was a gummy shark in the Northern Territory," he said.

"I've been fishing all my life and I actually went to university to do a marine science degree so I think I've got a natural affinity to the water.

"I finished that in 2015 and at the moment I'm working at Poolwerx in town until the Navy calls my number, that's my next mission."

Matt Harris

Good weather means bigger fish

LIVE fish catches were down initially at this year's HookUp as fine weather enticed boaties to hit the reefs for longer.

HookUp member Andrew Davis said the good weather and small tides were a big factor in the number of large, dead fish being presented for weighing.

"We normally weigh in more live fish than dead each year, but this year that's been reversed because of the good weather."

The biggest dead fish HookUp committee member, Andrew Davis can recall being weighed was a Spanish mack-

rel that tipped the scales at 33kg.

"We've got one in the fridge at the moment which weighs 28kg," Mr Davis said.

The statistics were reversed on Sunday when strong breezes blew up, forcing most competitors to seek sheltered waters.

By midday on Sunday, the live fish measuring and weighing team were kept busy recording the steady stream of live fish being presented.

Fish measurer Matthew Muller said his hands were like pin cushions.

"Judging from the number of

bream, whiting, flathead and mangrove jack, most of the fishermen have been hitting the estuary's today," Mr Muller said.

Infofish statistics revealed the following numbers for live fish presented to the weigh-in team: Friday 104, Saturday 202 and Sunday 199.

Another interesting statistic was provided by HookUp president Jenny McGuire.

"In the last three years the number of junior entrants in the competition has grown from 200 to over 700, and we're seeing a lot more girls fishing now too," Mrs McGuire said.

Hooking people up with 2019 postcard

THE Boyne Tannum HookUp committee wants to spread word of the event far and wide.

To do so they've created a special postcard people can mail to their friends and family, inviting them to next year's HookUp.

It's a unique way of connecting more people to HookUp and committee member Lyndal Hansen is hoping people use them to mail overseas.

"The best notion of marketing is connecting people to people," she said.

"If everyone in Gladstone invited a friend, parent or grandparent to town just to see HookUp... How would we send



GOOD MAIL: The Boyne Tannum HookUp has event postcards people can use to invite their friends and family with in 2019. Photo: Contributed

them an invitation?

"Let's send them a little postcard.

"Written mail doesn't happen anymore so for a child this is amazing."

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