

Dream come true

Laurie nabs \$65k prize at HookUp

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LAURIE Tooker thought he was dreaming when he heard his name announced as the winner of the 2018 Boyne Tannum HookUp major prize, the Sea Jay 550 Trojan fishing boat.

Thinking it was too good to be true he had won the \$65,000 prize, it took a nudge from a mate to snap him back to reality.

"My mate said 'dude, you won' and I didn't hang around once they called my name," Mr Tooker said.

"I'm pretty stoked and I don't know how to describe it," he said.

Coming back to reality, Mr Tooker high-tailed it down to the front stage inside the two-minute deadline to claim his prize.

The shock of it all still hadn't fully sunk in while on stage to collect his prize.

"It was all just a blur," he said.

"People were shaking my hand and taking photos of me and I was a bit shell-shocked about winning."

Mr Tooker recently sold his previous boat and had not got around to replacing it.

The Sea Jay Trojan 550 is powered by a 150hp four-



THUMBS UP: Laurie Tooker and the boat he won at this year's Boyne Tannum HookUp.

Photo: Matt Taylor GLA060518BOAT

stroke Yamaha outboard, has Garmin electronics and tandem trailer and is valued at \$65,000.

The Sea Jay also has a proven Samurai Hull which is an integral part of the hull design to keep passengers dry and comfortable.

Above the steering wheel there is space to house a modern extra-large sounder and GPS screens as well as vital en-

gine data displays.

The Sea Jay Trojan has family-friendly wide side decks that continue around the cabin to the bow of the boat covered in non-slip material.

Mr Tooker is a keen participant in the Boyne Tannum HookUp and has been taking part for about six or seven years.

Waiting for the weather to clear, Mr Tooker was keen to

christen the boat and give it a fitting name.

"I'm going to try to take it out this weekend and think of name to call it," he said.

Having a premonition about the one in 3000 chance of winning, Mr Tooker got his car ready just in case.

"I put the towbar on the car before the HookUp and it must have been a good luck sign I was going to win," he said.

He just cod not get away



TUG OF WAR: a small estuary cod finds itself the centre of attention. Photo: Contributed

FISHERMAN Johnny Mitchell found himself dealing unexpectedly with two fish on one line over the weekend.

"I'd hooked a two kilogram estuary cod when a larger cod appeared and tried to grab it," he said.

John estimated the bigger

cod's weight at around the 20kg mark.

"He hit the smaller cod several times, but I eventually got it in," he said.

John released the smaller cod.

"I'm 99 per cent sure the big cod was waiting for it," he said.

WINNERS

- Senior overall heaviest fish - Joshua O'Donohoe
- Heaviest fish female - Sammie Carter
- Heaviest fish junior - Clayton Box

Boat winners:

- Alex Hughes
- Robert Clow
- Emilie Pershouse
- Kane Jarvis
- Laurie Tooker

Even a new medical school won't supply GPs in time

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tors will miss out on vocational training because we will have that many," she said.

"We do not have a problem with getting people to study in rural areas, in fact it's going great. The problem is that eventually they have to leave for specialist training when they graduate.

"It's not about building more schools so they will come but training the students we currently have so they can become rural specialists.

"At the moment we are fixing

the wrong problems. If we already have clinical schools out west, creating any more will be a waste of money. It's not the way the medical pipeline works."

Struggling to attract doctors to regional areas is just one of the challenges faced by Gladstone medical centres, who worry about operating costs.

As a result of rising costs, many medical centres stopped their bulk billing services.

Ms Farrell said there needed to be more incentives including rural placements and internships to attract city medical graduates to regional areas.

"If you start a new medical school up you're looking at about 15 years to get a single doctor out," she said.

"There are a number of medical students from regional towns but the issue is once you finish at that point of your training you are sent to the big city to do specialist training and 99 per cent of the time that specialist training is in cities like Sydney or Melbourne."

CQUni deputy vice-chancellor Professor Fiona Coulson disagreed with AMSA's claim and said CQUni's proposal differed from other medical schools. She

said the strategy was focused on creating a "home-grown workforce".

"CQUniversity is working closely with Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service and Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service to develop a truly innovative model of medical education based within the regions to secure the long-term retention of a home-grown workforce," she said.

"This is not just a focus on entry into medical school, a strong rural and regional medical curriculum, or end-to-end training within the region, but partner-

ing with the hospital and health services to match graduates with internships, residencies and further specialisation pathways within the regions.

"An important aspect of the partnership is attraction of senior clinicians to Central Queensland and Wide Bay through the availability of training posts, thereby enhancing services available in these regions."

Ms Farrell said it wasn't a case of medical students refusing to go rural but a lack of opportunity.

"There is a huge passion for

rural health in the medical industry and all of the medical bodies are working to find suggestions to fix the gap.

"The internships show students do want to work regionally but we just need to create the pathway the entire way down the degree so they can stay there."

"It's not an easy solve, we must collaborate with colleges, state and federal governments. We need a national strategy so we can spend our money wisely instead of easy short-sighted solutions, like building more schools."

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