

Barramundi the fish to chase

Darryl Branthwaite
GAPDL CEO

THE wind pretty much prevented anyone slipping out the front during the past week.

The inshore systems have been producing some pretty good catches, from solid barramundi through to excellent numbers in the crab pots, with many bucks among them.

We have also seen the most amazing lunar eclipse during the full moon, which has probably attributed to the excellent fishing.

The pictures of the “blood” moon posted on Facebook have been truly amazing and it reminds me that soon we have a workshop coming up surrounding the “pink” of the Boyne Tannum HookUp, where businesses and other groups can leverage off.

This is on February 22 and 23 and organisers have a super speaker who you all need to listen to.

This is a worthwhile workshop, even if you are not involved with the HookUp.

Details are available on the Facebook page and website along with entry forms.

Getting back to the fishing and this week we had Scotty Hillier from Channel 7’s *Creek to Coast* fame in our region.

He has been out with Justin Nye from Gladstone Fly and Sportfishing, recording a segment on our three systems.

These are the freshwater impoundment of Lake Awoonga, the Boyne River and hopefully by the end of the week, the weather will be nice enough for the guys to flick some flies around the sandflats, chasing permit and other pelagics.

We all know these systems are alive at present and hopefully the big one-metre-plus barra will be playing the game we love.

In the creeks and rivers there are still some excellent mangrove jack and queenfish striking at surface lures.

For those looking to chase a barramundi, collecting



QUICK AS A FLASH: Scotty Hillier and the *Creek to Coast* film crew landed this queenfish while fishing in the Boyne River on Wednesday, with local guide Justin Nye. PHOTO: JUSTIN NYE

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quality live bait like mullet isn’t that difficult when you have a cast net.

Tomorrow, however, is all

about getting the boat wet and slipping out to the reef with amazing conditions predicted.

Tomorrow morning, at the time of writing, seabreeze.com.au is forecasting a 5-10 knot ESE in the morning, turning to a 10 knot northerly in the evening, with Sunday having glass-out conditions predicted for the morning.

The northerlies are expected to strengthen in the afternoon to about 15 knots – ideal for surfing home if you have been out.

There are plenty of pelagics around the reef

edges so don’t forget to throw a speculator pilchard laced with gang hooks out the back, hanging in the tide.

As the tides aren’t big over the weekend, it’s an ideal time to target big red fish in the deeper water off Fitzroy and Sykes Reefs – and we want to see some pictures!

Ensure you let either Volunteer Marine Rescue Gladstone or Roundhill know where you are going and when you’ll be back on VHF 82, just in case the trip doesn’t go as planned.

Have a cracker weekend.
— Hooroo, Dags



Celebrity angler Scott Hillier has been here filming. PHOTO: MATT TAYLOR GLA060218FISH

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