

Get ready for barra bonanza as Awoonga gets set to spill



TOP SPOTS
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FEBRUARY in the tropics has always been a fickle time of the year when it comes to weather patterns.

Seeing that tropical cyclone pass down the Tasman Sea between us and New Caledonia, eventually smashing into the north and south islands across the ditch, reminds you of where you are.

The rain these past few days has also fired up all the creeks and river systems including Lake Awoonga, which is now just below the spillway.

Given the storms passing through the region and catchment yesterday and last night, one could expect it to overflow resulting in the Boyne River becoming very devoid of saltwater fish in the coming days but maybe replaced with the odd big barra.

Lake Callemondah also has barra and is ideal for the kids to learn how to catch fish or for those of you wanting to catch a barra using lures.

Lake Callemondah can be accessed from Joe Joseph Dr, off Blain Dr, and there is a parking and picnic area there as well.

For others chasing barra, the ideal place would be the Calliope River.

Also up through Rawbelle Creek, off Grahams Creek on Curtis Island and all those other places that don't have a lot of fresh water run off.

Dropoffs such as the Boat Shed and Hamilton Point on the south-west corner of Curtis Island are excellent spots to be targeting barra and fingermark.

Even the likes of Auckland



BARRA BITES: Aaron Shepherd with a nice Lake Awoonga barramundi. Barra are expected to spill into the Boyne River with the recent rains. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Creek, with all its little jetties and structures along both sides, is a prime spot for barra, salmon and more.

For those looking to venture offshore, conditions aren't too bad, apart from the storm cells that can generate a lot of pressure in front of them – occasionally gusting up to 50-60 knots. So

have a plan if you can't avoid one coming at you.

Otherwise, we are into the first quarter of the lunar phase with smaller tides – ideal for targeting those places you can't normally hold bottom on.

Considering the breeze is coming from the north-NNE places such as Northwest,

Masthead, Wistari and Fitzroy Reefs will be excellent.

Plenty of trout and sweetlip are on the chew with the odd mackerel wandering around the reef edge looking for a snack.

A pilly laced with three gang hooks would go down a treat.

Not long now until the 2018 edition of the Boyne Tannum HookUp and you can get your tickets online.

Prior to the HookUp though we have the Tannum Crab Classic with March 25 being the big family fun day where we see mud crab racing and heaps of other fun things to do at Dennis

Park, Boyne Island.

I see that Ernie and his team are also having a girls' night out on Saturday, March 24, for a fundraiser.

Have a cracker weekend and if you are going, out let VMR Round Hill or Gladstone know where you are going.

— Hooroo, Daz



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