

# Fishing Monthly

## Corporate Fishing Charters

### Mangaia Island, The Cook Islands

28th February 2006

The Cook Islands are a collection of approximately 15 islands but there is one island that is only 40 minutes flying time from the main island of Rarotonga that can offer a different kind of tropical setting... Mangaia (pronounced Mangaia). Although the population is only 800 people, it has so much to offer. Most commonly known as what is thought to be the oldest island in the Pacific, the ancient coral – Makatea – has risen above sea level and formed incredible limestone caves. This teamed with a beautiful rainforest and a slow Pacific way of life has all the elements of a fantastic



destination that is not full of tourists and will allow you to come as close to the Cook Islands culture as though you were one of them. The main accommodation on the island is a little collection of bungalows called Ara Moana and prices start from only \$120 per night for a standard bungalow and go up to \$150 for a spacious bungalow. The property offers full meal plans and is rumored to have not only the most gracious local hosts but some of the most incredible food on the island. As for entertainment you have the option to hire a

mountain bike or a scooter and explore on your own or to take a guided tour of the area not to mention the fishing. You can try your hand at the traditional form of fishing, no rods, no reels just bamboo poles and fishing line or hire a local guide to take you out for a day to fish the kind of waters that most modern day fisherman dream of – not commercially fished, just local supply taken and unbelievable stocks of Snapper, Trevally, Patuki, and plenty more! This is more than just an island – this is an island experience. Standard packages are available or you can construct your own... Talk to us today to plan the trip of a lifetime!

Volume 3, Issue 2

#### Inside this issue:

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| CFCFC Trip Report              | 2 |
| DBB Evening Reef Fishing       | 2 |
| Flinders Island Account        | 2 |
| Shangri La the family place    | 3 |
| 4 Night/4 Day Fish Fiji Escape | 3 |
| Tonga Game Fishing Trip        | 3 |
| Jays Report & Fishing Update   | 4 |

### The Story of Kava

Yaqona - better known as Kava is Fiji's national drink. Made from the pulverized root of the Piper Methysticum tree that is found throughout the Fijian Islands, Kava is attributed with great pharmacological properties including numbing effect, pain deadening, muscle contraction, anti-fungal and sleep prolonging. Originally Kava was prepared by young girls chewing the pieces of root into a soft pulpy mass and then spitting them into the Tanoa (bowl) and it was then diluted with water. Today

however, the root is pounded or grated before being mixed with water and served in a half coconut shell or bilo. Kava is not an intoxicating drink in the European sense; however it does have a numbing effect on the mouth and limbs and after consuming some quality, is soporific. As always Kava is prepared in the Tanoa (a shallow wooden bowl) with evenly spaced legs—the gritty pieces of root are strained out by passing a bundle of vegetable fibres through the brew and then the 'muddy-looking water'

liquid is ready. Traditionally the bowl was carved from solid blocks of vesi hardwood, some of which were 1.2 meters across. A long rope of plaited sennit, decorated with white cowrie shells was attached to the bowl and after repeated use, acquired a bluish gray patina. Today the Yaqona ceremony is still an important part of Fijian life. From social occasions to official ceremonies, the formal drinking of Kava is always included.



#### Upcoming Share Charters:

- 26th March 2006 Elephant Fish Trip \$80 per person
- 3-9 April 2006 Women's Barra Comp, NT \$2499
- 21-24 April Flinders Island Game Fishing Trip \$997.50pp
- 7-16 May 2006 Under 25'sh Fiji Party Tour \$1600
- 25 May - 1 June 2006 Tonga Game Fishing Trip \$3750pp

# Mornington Trip Report - 19th February 2006

Through a pure stroke of luck, we were booked in for an evening trip out of Mornington on this particular day and after the morning trip had been blown off the water we were grateful for this. We headed out at approximately 5:00pm on pretty calm water and watched the sun set as we headed to our spot that had been delivering only 20 minutes before. We arrived, dropped our lines in and no less than 5 minutes later the first pinkie came in. It was shaping up to be the best way to spend a Sunday evening! We had a small group of 8 (the maximum for an evening trip is 12 people for comfort) on

board Kingfisher with Ray (the skipper) and Ken (the deckhand) as our all knowing local guides. It is truly great to have a group of regular clients on board a vessel for an afternoon and to see them all catching fish and really enjoying themselves. Well the Pinkies kept rolling in and after about 2 hours we had a pretty major event... One of the guys managed to hook something big. We weren't sure at first what it was but the hope was there that it was one of the big sharks that have been caught in the same waters of late. After the first 5 minutes of fighting it was pretty clear that what he had

hooked was in fact a big ray on a light snapper rod! This didn't stop his enthusiasm and the whole boat watches and waited as he fought and finally brought it to the side of the boat. A couple of snapshots were taken and just as we were about to cut the line and let this big creature go, the line snapped from the pressure and it was all over. The fishing continued, as did the drinking and by 9:00pm we were all satisfied and ready to head home. Just another great day on the water with a few mates and that's what it's all about.

## Darwin's Barra Base Evening Reef Fishing

Allan & Heather of Darwin's Barra Base were first recommended to us over a year ago by some clients and since then we have had nothing but shining reports from every staff member and client that has fished with them. In August we are offering a chance for 2 people to fish for reef species such as Jewfish, Coral Trout and Golden Snapper on some of the best tides. You will head out to the Perron Islands in the late afternoon and fish the

evening before heading to your overnight accommodation before an early start to fish the day before returning for a transfer back to your accommodation at approximately 5:00pm. This trip is over the night of the 7th & 8th August 2006 and if booked now, we can connect you with some fantastic airfare specials starting from \$99 per person each way. This



could be a 3 day escape from the work week or it could be a trip that we could extend to be a holiday as well. The cost of the overnight trip including one and a half days fishing, overnight twin share accommodation, all meals and return hotel transfers is only \$520 per person. These dates are based on hand picked tides with one of Darwin's best operators, contact Jay for more info.

## Flinders Island - The account of a satisfied customer!

Flinders – No, not down past Frankston, but, a little known Island north east of Tasmania. My story starts by arriving at Moorabbin Airport around 12.00 noon, mildly concerned about the size of the plane. But this is soon allayed as we cross the coast of Gippsland and 30 minutes later over Bass Strait we come up to a group of islands. Then the pilot sets up for his landing at Whitemark Airport just outside the main town on Flinders. On arrival, John my fishing partner on this trip and I are met by James Luddington, the Captain of The Straight Lady, our fishing boat. Getting all the directions etc., we are off to the only other town on the island. Lady Barron is in a southern bay overlooking other islands that makes the view from our accommodation spectacular, not to mention 20 meters from the pub. It was not long before John and I were getting instructions as to where the fish were biting, before long we had taken some nice salmon on lures. By 5.00 p.m. we were getting a bit thirsty and hungry so we made our way back to the pub for a feed of oysters and wallaby pie washed down with some good Tassie wine. After dinner it was a short walk to the pier for some successful fishing. It's like

shooting fish in a barrel, Trevally, Squid and Pike line up at the pier waiting for a go at the lures. On the second and third days we fished from one end of the island to the other with a good variety of fish in all spots. There is also a variety of wildlife that seeing is believing, wallabies, lyrebirds, wild turkey, geese, and other birds which defy my ability to name. On the Friday we met the rest of our crew for our fishing weekend, two plane loads, three full houses. After another good feed at the pub we all get to know each other but it's a fairly early night and an early rise to catch the boats down at the pier on first light. This trip we are out to get the famous Tasmanian Striped Trumpeter off the Continental Shelf. On our way past Mutton Bird Island the dolphins take to bow of our boat and escort us out past Cape Barron Island where they drop off after cordially bidding us fair sailing. About 15 minutes later, a large whale joins us, we stopped to view in awe of this magnificent creature. Moving along, we pull up on our mark with the other boat about 6 km east of us in 95 meters of water and us in 65 meters. Within minutes of us having our baits down we started getting some attention from

these famous fish. The first few fish are around the 6 to 7 kg range interspersed with the odd Morwong. As the morning goes by we hear over the radio the other boat is also doing well. Over the whole day we caught fish to about 11-12 kg's, with consistent doubles and not much spare time for coffee or lunch. But, all in all a great day was had by all. Back at port, after putting the days catch in the chillers, each headed back to their accommodation for a quick shower and freshen up before meeting at the pub for a meal and an evening of briny fishing tales, made all the better by beer and wine. Some die-hards, might have been me, returned to the pier for some fresh squid, trevally, pike, etc. At day-break Sunday we are chasing in close between islands, Gummy Shark, big Flathead and Snapper. Let me say this, we had some good fishing. Our half day Sunday fishing trip comes to an end and it's back to our accommodation to pack, be picked up and taken back to the airport. Fish and tackle are loaded on the plane. With our goodbyes said and, one last group photo, our annual Flinders Island Trip is over. The next Flinders Trip is 21st-24th April 06 at only \$997.50 per person

# Shangri La's Fijian Resort - Still the best family accommodation!

Shangri-La's Fijian Resort is situated on a private 109-acre tropical island surrounded by white sandy beaches and crystal clear, coral rich seas of the exotic Fiji Islands. All guestrooms have private balconies and offer stunning ocean or lagoon views. The Resort offers a range of fun-filled activities, including water sports, scuba diving and golf, as well as exciting events for the family and a free of charge Kid's Club to keep your little ones entertained. With an array of tempting cuisine, Shangri-Las Fijian Resort also offers fun dining at the poolside with live entertainment, overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

So many clients have come back from this resort with nothing but smiles whether it be the honeymooning couple who have spent a week in the 'Adults Only' wing or a family of 5 staying in the 'Lagoon Wing'. This resort boasts activities to cater for all tastes including a traditional village based on the island, lovo feasts, Fijian meke (dance performance) or firewalking shows for a bit of excitement. There is a brand new wing that was only recently completed and the existing accommodation has undergone complete refurbishment to offer the best 4 star accommodation on the Coral Coast.

This resort also offers the ultimate family gamefishing experience on a 34ft Blackwatch that is equipped with gear that is heavy enough for any child to pull in their first gamefish. This is the location that offers family fishing, facilities for the astute game fisherman and a reasonable price of only \$270 for the first two hours and \$115 for every additional hour. Corporate Fishing Charters are not only able to arrange your fishing adventure but also your airfares, accommodation and transfers to give you a complete experience in such a versatile destination.



## Fish Fiji - 4 Day/4 Night Escape

It is becoming more evident that we don't allow ourselves many holidays in a year and most of our time is usually spent with our family –



those precious 4 weeks a year, which is why this escape package has all that any fisherman wanting to slip away for a couple of days could ever want! We have constructed this package to suit the angler that doesn't have a lot of time to holiday and would still like to try his hand at Fiji Fishing. The basic package consists of a total of 4 days

and 4 nights including 2½ days fishing, 3 nights accommodation, return international airfares, domestic transfers and departure taxes – nothing special just the bare basics. Your accommodation will be at Mango Bay Resort which is the hottest new resort on Fiji's Coral Coast and coincidentally it is partly owned by our Coral Coast fishing operator... Talk about 2 birds! Your itinerary will basically be departing Melbourne in the evening and arriving in Fiji bright

and early on your first morning, you will then relax and have a chance to look around the resort before heading out for 2 full day's fishing. Your last night will be a big one – no doubt, before another ½ a day's fishing and then a transfer to the airport in the afternoon to head home. The beauty of this package unlike so many others is that you don't need a set number of passengers to keep the price the same – this is based on a minimum of 1 person and a maximum of 4 anglers at a cost of only \$1726 per person.

## Tonga Trip May 2006

Well of course it has been said that Tonga provides some of the best game fishing in the South Pacific and more specifically the group of islands known as Vava'u. Corporate Fishing Charters will be exploring and experiencing some on the Kingdom's best fishing operators from the 25<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June this year and you have the opportunity to be a part of this. The beauty of this trip is that you don't need a set number of anglers to join the group; we will accept any number from 1 – 5 people. Recently we heard from a client who did a Tonga trip

with us a number of years ago and still to this day, he is raving about not only the place, but the 58kg Marlin that he caught on his trip. To quote him, "It was the experience of a lifetime!" and it is this experience that we are offering to you. 4 full days fishing including lunches, return international and domestic airfares, 7 nights accommodation, some meals, domestic transfers and a memory that will last forever. So few realise what a wonderful place the Kingdom of Tonga is and that is the major draw card for it as a destination, no masses of tourists, no massive

resorts just quaint and comfortable accommodation and a lifestyle that is envied by all who experience it. There are also other activities that you will have a chance to partake in while you are there including cultural shows, sight-seeing, whale watching, diving, snorkeling, adventure activities and so much more! Some of these will be included in the cost while others will incur an additional fee but at a cost of only \$3750 per person for such a trip; the Kingdom of Tonga is becoming a more affordable place to travel to.



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We will put you on the right boat, in the right place, at the right time to give you a trip you will never forget!



## Jay's Monthly Update

Well as I keep saying show season is here and it hit pretty hard this year due to the Commonwealth Games being only just around the corner, all the expos were crammed in before the games and all of a sudden we had a full month and a half of exhibiting. Pretty full on! It has been a wildly busy month yet again with a few great developments. We are now representing more accommodations than ever before for Fiji, Tonga and The Cook Islands with an emphasis on budget Cook Island holidays, weddings, honeymoons, great value gamefishing packages in Tonga and some adventure stuff thrown in there as well. Earlier in the month I was whisked away to Tonga for 4 days by Pacific Blue to be a presenter at the Talanga Tourism Summit for Tonga and although it was a hard 4 days, we made some great progress on a few issues including name recognition... It is always amazing to me that when I tell people that I am heading to Tonga, they have no idea where or what it is – so whenever you are talking to friends about great holiday destinations be sure to throw the name in for me – every little bit helps!! It was not only a great trip for the summit but it gave me a chance to catch up with a couple of our fishing operators and get all the latest gossip. I also had the chance to see one of them coming back to land flying the flag (meaning they had caught a Marlin that day) and it always brings a smile to your face! Anyway that's enough from me I hope you enjoy the games and I look forward to planning your wedding, honeymoon, budget holiday or fishing trip sometime in the future.

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## Your Regular Fishing Updates Right through the season!

### LATEST NEWS!!!

Corporate Fishing Charters is now a wholesaler for Budget Accommodation in The Cook Islands...

Now is the time to get the tropical beach holiday you have always wanted for a price you can afford!  
Call Jay for details...

Port Phillip Bay (Mornington) - The report from our skipper is that the Snapper have gone quiet but there are still some small 7Gill Sharks and Gummies in the bay to keep us entertained.

Gove Peninsula, NT - We has a client fishing in Gove during the last 10 days and his report was that the fishing was consistently good each day. His catch list included Coral Trout, Giant Trevally, Queenfish, Barracuda, Sea Perch, Spanish Mackerel and a bucket load of Cod. He also reported his personal best for reef fish being a 20 minute fight to get a 25kg Spanish Mackerel into the boat. Well done Jim!

Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga - Some very good Yellowfin Tuna were caught and lost over the month and you just never knew when you were going to be hit, most were around the 65kg+ size. In regards to the Blue Marlin, there has been a really good spread from 90-200kg in size with a whopper at 380kg lost during the month. No Blacks were caught during the month but the Sails were on the bite in the 50kg range.

The report from Westernport Bay is that the Elephant Fish are out there in the thousands and the females have just come in also! Happy fishing..