

29 SEP - 2 OCT 2026

WIN
BIG PRIZES.
BIG GIVEAWAYS.
BIG FLATHEAD.

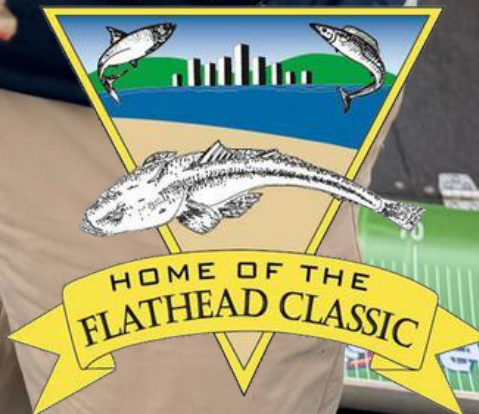
**RANDOM DRAW
BOATS**

**JUNIORS, WOMEN,
LEGENDS & GOLD
COAST GLORY**

**TOP TIPS
AND
TACTICS**

**\$500,000
IN PRIZES &
GIVEAWAYS**

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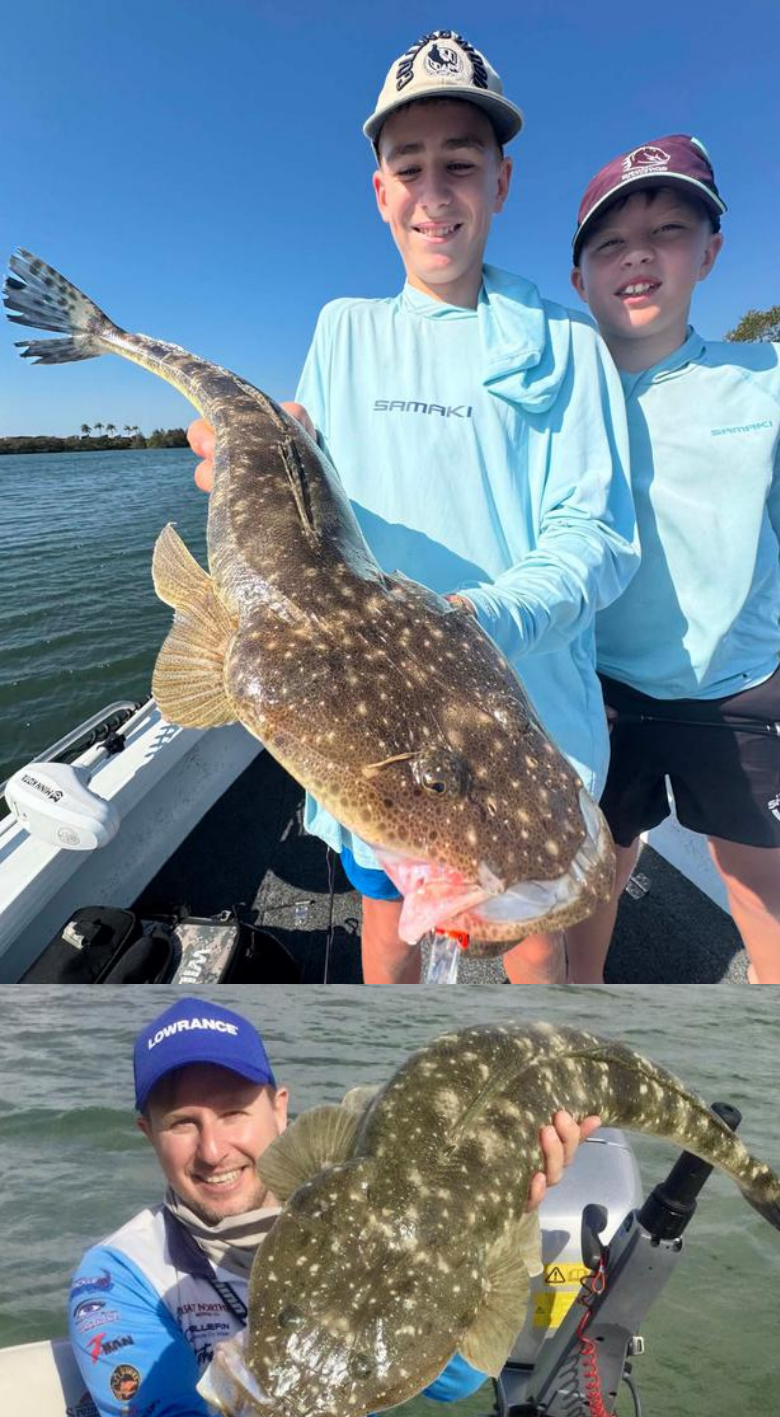
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CONTENTS

WHAT'S INSIDE THE 2026 CLASSIC

- 05 A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT**
Club president Trent Hopkins welcomes you
- 08 PROGRAM OF EVENTS**
Four days of Classic action
- 11 EVENT HUB**
Where to find everything on site
- 17 PLAY IT RIGHT**
Rules summary
- 21 HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR FLATHEAD**
Get your catch shot right
- 23 HOW TO USE THE TRACK MY FISH APP**
Quick guide before lines in
- 24 2026 TROPHY AWARDS**
Team, individual and species prizes
- 25 RANDOM DRAW PRIZES**
32 prizes across senior and junior divisions
- 28 FLATTY SLAYERS**
Angler profiles and big-fish stories
- 32 WOMEN OF THE CLASSIC**
Funny. Blonde. Persistent.
- 35 IS FISHING REALLY OCEAN THERAPY?**
Why time on the water matters
- 36 THE NEXT GENERATION IS SHREDDING**
Meet the 10 Point Shredders
- 38 CHOOSING THE RIGHT BOAT**
Built for flathead fishing
- 42 FIND THE FISH FIRST**
Wilson Fishing's flathead masterclass
- 50 TIPS & TACKLE**
Classic veterans reveal what works
- 58 THE LAST CAST**
Greenie's closing column

teamgreen 
media + more

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE PRODUCTION

Producing the official magazine of
the Gold Coast Flathead Classic.

WRITING | DESIGN | EVENTS



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On the water with club president Trent Hopkins.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Flathead Classic is one of the great events on the Gold Coast calendar. It brings together good anglers, good people and a genuine love of fishing.

What makes this event special is not just the prize pool or the competition. It is the atmosphere. Families fish together. Mates make memories. Juniors get a front-row seat to what our sport is all about.

The Classic continues to grow because so many people believe in it and back it — our volunteers, sponsors, committee and competitors. Every one of them helps create something bigger than a tournament.

Our club is proud to be home of the Flathead Classic, and just as proud of the catch-and-release values that sit at the heart of it. We want this event to be exciting, fair and sustainable, now and into the future.

To everyone fishing this year, thank you for being part of it. Fish hard, enjoy the Broadwater and look after each other on the water.

See you out there.

Trent Hopkins

President
Gold Coast Sportfishing Club

PS - If you want to join the Gold Coast's friendliest fishing club - check out www.goldcoastfishingclub.com.au

The Classic is bigger than a competition. It is a celebration of fishing culture on the Gold Coast.

The 2026 Flathead Classic is supported by

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SPORTFISHING CLUB INC.



2026 COMMITTEE

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PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Tuesday
29
SEPTEMBER

REGISTRATION & WELCOME NIGHT

REGISTRATION

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Team Registration & Event Hub Open

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Dinner Service

WELCOME TO THE 2026 GOLD COAST FLATHEAD CLASSIC

6:15 pm

Official Welcome with President of Gold Coast Sportfishing Club & MC Paul Burt

7:00 pm

Event Sponsor Presentations. Celebrating 11 years of partnership with Surf Coast Marine.

7:35 pm

Safety Briefing

7:45 pm

Tournament Rules

8:00 pm

Random Prize Draws (Junior & Senior)

8:30 pm

Main stage formalities conclude. EFTPOS only for purchases after 8.30pm. Bar open until 9.30pm.

Wednesday
30
SEPTEMBER

DAY 1 OF FISHING

FISHING TIMES

6:00 am

Start Fishing

3:30 pm

Stop Fishing

4:00 pm

Final Track My Fish

Submission Deadline

EFTPOS only for purchases after 8.30pm.
Bar open until 9.30pm.

EVENT HUB EVENING PROGRAM

Dinner from 5.30pm until 7.30pm

5:30 pm

Welcome and Mako Spot the Shark presentation

6:30 pm

Fishing Q&A

7:00 pm

Big Screen: Flathead Classic TV, Day 1

7:05 pm

Day 1 Presentations

7:20 pm

Random Prize Draws (Junior and Senior)

7:45 pm

Raffle Draw

8:30 pm

Main stage formalities conclude.

Thursday
01
OCTOBER

DAY 2 OF FISHING

FISHING TIMES

6:00 am

Start Fishing

3:30 pm

Stop Fishing

4:00 pm

Final Track My Fish

Submission Deadline

EFTPOS only for purchases after 8.30pm.
Bar open until 9.30pm.

EVENT HUB EVENING PROGRAM

Dinner from 5.30pm until 7.30pm

5:30 am

Welcome and Mako Spot the Shark presentation

7:00 pm

Big Screen: Flathead Classic TV, Day 2

7:05 pm

Presentations, Day 2

7:20 pm

Random Prize Draws (Junior and Senior)

7:45 pm

Raffle Draw

8:30 pm

Main stage formalities conclude.

Friday
02
OCTOBER

DAY 3 OF FISHING

FISHING TIMES

6:00 am

Start Fishing

2:00 pm

Stop Fishing

2:30 pm

Final Track My Fish

Submission Deadline

EFTPOS only for purchases after 8.30pm.
Bar open until 9.30pm.

EVENT HUB EVENING PROGRAM

Dinner from 5.30pm until 7.30pm

5:00 pm

Welcome with MC Paul Burt

5:15 pm

Presentations: Hard Luck Story and Mako Spot the Shark

5:30 pm

Presentations, Day 3

6:15 pm

Big Screen: Flathead Classic TV, Day 3

7:15 pm

Trophy Presentations

8:00 pm

Random Draws (Junior and Senior)

8:30 pm

Raffle Draws plus Mega Boat Draw.

9:00 pm

Main stage formalities conclude.

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HEAD
WET

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SHIMANO TENT

Try before you buy promotion on Zodias rods.

TACKLE WORLD & S-TACKLE

Left something at home or broke or lost it. (Insert any excuse here).
Dougie, Stuey and Tony have built a pop-up tackle shop!

DINNER TICKETS & DRINK PACKAGES

Purchase extra dinner tickets or pre-purchase 10 drink tickets for your team from the Raffle Tickets tent.

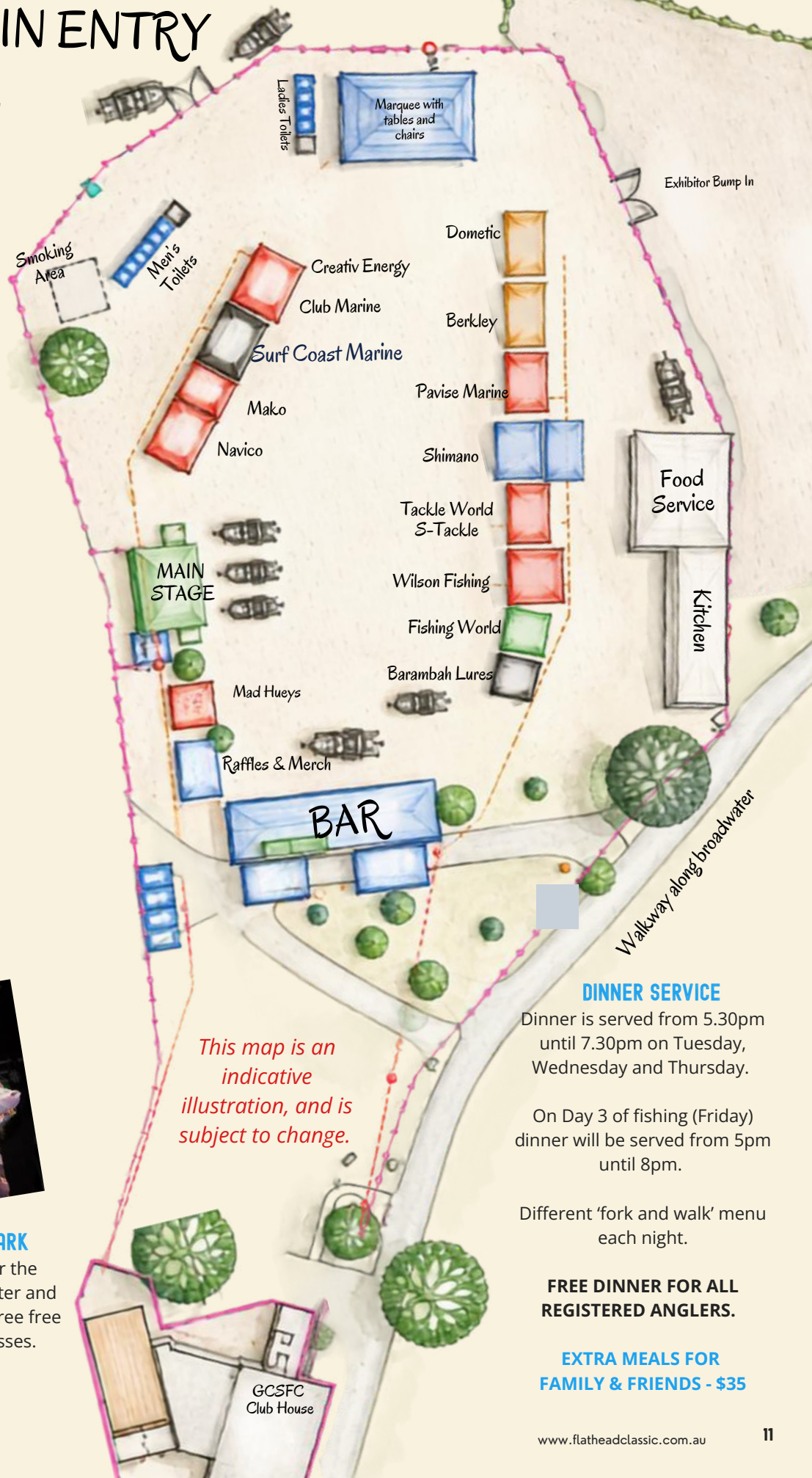
RAFFLES

10 raffle draws every night.
Mega-draw for THE BOAT on Friday.



MAKO SPOT THE SHARK

Keep your eye out for the 'Mako Shark' on the water and you could win one of three free pairs of Mako Sunglasses.



This map is an indicative illustration, and is subject to change.

DINNER SERVICE

Dinner is served from 5.30pm until 7.30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

On Day 3 of fishing (Friday) dinner will be served from 5pm until 8pm.

Different 'fork and walk' menu each night.

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11 YEARS OF SURF COAST MARINE • FLATHEAD CLASSIC

Since 2016, Surf Coast Marine has been part of the Flathead Classic story, providing incredible prize boats and backing the anglers, organisers and the event year after year.

“ Here's to many more years on the water. ”



SINCE
2016
11 YEARS
OF SUPPORT

Eleven years on, the partnership is still going strong. Thank you Surf Coast Marine, Quintrex and Suzuki for being part of the Classic and the wider Gold Coast fishing and boating community.

11 YEARS STRONG. AND STILL GOING.



QUINTREX



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FEEL THE DIFFERENCE

Experience unmatched speed, precision, and power with the Lew's **Speed Spool® RX Baitcaster Reel**. Built for serious anglers, this advanced reel combines cutting-edge engineering with a user-friendly design that takes your fishing performance to the next level.

CODE	Mono Line Capacity (Yards/Lbs)	Braid Line Capacity (Yards/Lbs)	Max Drag (lbs)	Weight (oz)	Gear Ratio	Recovery Per Turn (in)	Reel Bearings
SSRX1H	120/12	120/30	20	6.8	6.8:1	28	7 + 1
SSRX1SH	120/12	120/30	20	6.8	7.5:1	31	7 + 1

Supplying astoundingly smooth operation with every turn of the handle, Lew's **Custom Pro Spinning Reel** is up for any job at any time. Striking the ideal balance between smoothness and strength, the Custom Pro Spinning Reel features 11+1 premium stainless-steel bearings, a AccuGear™ machined aluminum drive gear, and a hybrid carbon drag system.

CODE	Mono Line Capacity (Yards/Lbs)	Braid Line Capacity (Yards/Lbs)	Max Drag (lbs)	Weight (oz)	Gear Ratio	Recovery Per Turn (in)	Reel Bearings
CP100G2	100/6	110/10	8	6.3	5.6:1	24	10 + 1
CP200G2	160/10	180/20	18	8.3	6.2:1	32	10 + 1
CP300G2	160/8	200/15	16	7.8	6.2:1	31	10 + 1
CP400G2	190/12	200/30	24	10	6.2:1	34	10 + 1

SPEED SPOOL RX



CUSTOM PRO SPIN



QUANTUM®

The Quantum® Cabo® Reel, now in its 3rd generation, redefines saltwater performance for more than 20 years of dependability with cutting-edge innovation. Originally debuted in 2003, the Cabo family has built a reputation for delivering reliable, high-performing reels, and this latest iteration continues that tradition while introducing significant upgrades.

CODE	Mono Line Capacity (Yards/Lbs)	Braid Line Capacity (Yards/Lbs)	Max Drag (lbs)	Weight (oz)	Gear Ratio	Recovery Per Turn (in)	Reel Bearings
CB2500.B2	210/8	275/10	25	9.9	6.2:1	33	6 + 1
CB3000.B2	215/10	275/10	25	10.6	6.2:1	35	6 + 1
CB4000.B2	220/12	300/20	30	11.7	6.2:1	37	6 + 1
CB5000.B2	255/15	400/30	35	16.6	5.6:1	38	6 + 1
CB6000.B2	315/20	375/50	40	20.7	5.6:1	41	6 + 1
CB8000.B2	390/25	410/65	45	26	4.7:1	38	6 + 1

Innovation and quality are engineered throughout every gear, seal, and feature of the Quantum **Benchmark™ Spinning Reel**. Offered in 4 sizes to catch anything from Trout to Tarpon, these spinning reels are built to the highest quality standards.

CODE	Mono Line Capacity (Yards/Lbs)	Braid Line Capacity (Yards/Lbs)	Max Drag (lbs)	Weight (oz)	Gear Ratio	Recovery Per Turn (in)	Reel Bearings
BK4000.B2	220/12	300/20	25	12.8	6.2:1	37	5+1
BK5000.B2	255/15	400/30	30	16.9	5.6:1	38	5+1
BK6000.B2	315/20	375/50	35	21.2	5.6:1	41	5+1
BK8000.B2	390/25	410/65	40	26.5	4.7:1	38	5+1

CABO 2500 SPIN



BENCHMARK 3000 SPIN



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2026
**FLATHEAD
CLASSIC**

80 YEARS OF WILSON

BUILT BY ANGLERS. BACKING ANGLERS.

Eighty years is a long time in fishing, especially in an industry where almost everything changes.

Techniques evolve, tackle improves, new brands arrive, trends come and go, and every generation of anglers brings its own ideas and methods. Yet through all of that, Wilson Fishing has remained part of the Australian fishing landscape because it has never relied on history alone.

Its story began in Brisbane with Les Wilson, a fitter and turner who started making tackle components when imported gear was difficult to source.

Swivels, hooks, rod ferrules and other metal components were not being produced to create a brand story or chase a market opportunity. They were made because anglers and retailers needed them.

That practical thinking became part of the company's character. Wilson grew by staying close to fishing itself, understanding what was happening on the water and adapting as the industry changed.

Graeme Wilson carried that thinking into the next stage of the business, helping the company evolve as manufacturing, importing and product development became increasingly sophisticated. The lesson was simple: tradition mattered, but standing still did not.

It is a philosophy Kord Luckus understands well. Kord joined Wilson in 1993 at the age of 20, after growing up fishing the Gold Coast and constantly questioning whether the gear available could be made better.

Over more than three decades, he worked in manufacturing, product development, sales and management, while also travelling Australia and talking directly with tackle stores and anglers.

That time on the road shaped the way he sees Wilson today.

"My best time spent in the whole tackle industry wasn't on the phone," he says. "It was out on the road."

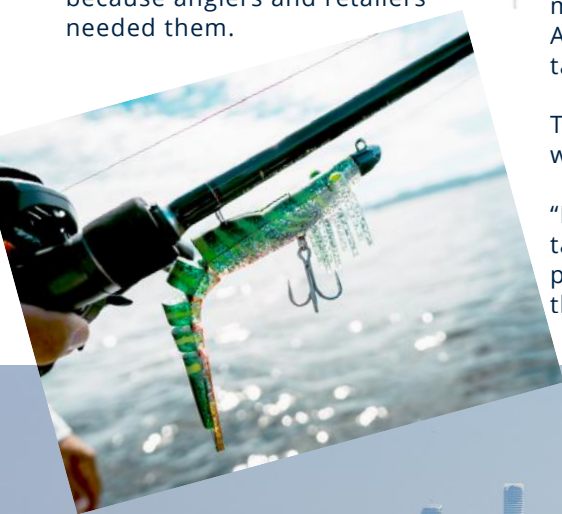
Those conversations gave him something no spreadsheet could, an understanding of how different anglers fish, what retailers need and where the industry is heading.

Now leading Wilson into its next chapter, Kord wants the company to modernise without losing its existing values.

From tournament fishing and family competitions to grassroots events, flathead competitions and offshore tournaments, the company's involvement is not intended to stop at sponsorship signage. Kord wants Wilson to show up.

"The people at those comps are the ones that enable me to do what I do by buying our gear," he says. "I love supporting them back."

After 80 years, the business has evolved enormously, but the philosophy has remained remarkably consistent: listen to anglers, support retailers, keep improving, stay connected to the community and never forget that fishing comes first.



"I want Wilson to be a fishing company for fishermen, and that's all fishermen (and women)."

KORD LUCKUS

PROVEN

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PLAY IT RIGHT

RULES SUMMARY

Fair fishing. Respect the fish. Respect each other.



“

These rules are to protect our fishery, ensure a level playing field and keep the Classic the best it can be.

The Flathead Classic is built on catch and release sportsmanship and respect for our waterways. This is a summary of the key rules. Please read the full rules on the event website, before you fish.

<https://www.flatheadclassic.com.au/rules>



TEAM & REGISTRATION

- Teams of 2 or 3 anglers.
- All anglers must be fully registered.
- All teams must check in on Sept 29.
- All anglers must fish from the same boat.



BOAT & SAFETY

- Boat must have valid insurance.
- Follow all maritime laws and safety requirements.
- Event Committee or staff directions must be followed.



CATCH & RELEASE

- 100% catch and release.
- Handle fish with care and be efficient with your photos.
- Only artificial lures or flies are permitted; the use of dead or live bait is prohibited.



FISHING AREA & CONDUCT

- Fish within the official tournament boundaries.
- Respect other anglers – keep your distance and do not drop in on a drift.
- One rod per angler at a time.



PHOTO & MEASUREMENT

- All fish must be on the official mat.
- Nose to tip of tail. Size rounded down rather than up.
- Good lighting, minimal shadows.
- Clear and readable ruler numbers.



SUBMISSIONS

- Submit your fish via the Track My Fish app by the daily deadline.

Respect the fish. Enjoy the Classic.

PRIZE DRAWS

Daily prize draws are conducted each night. You must be present to claim.

PROTESTS

Protests must be lodged with the Committee on the day of the incident.

COMMITTEE DECISIONS

Committee decisions are final in all matters relating to rules, prizes and awards.

DISQUALIFICATION

Event disqualification nulls eligibility for random prizes.

READ THE FULL RULES

Scan the QR code or visit [flatheadclassic.com.au/rules](https://www.flatheadclassic.com.au/rules)



An aerial photograph of a vast, calm body of water, likely a bay or lagoon, under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a small white boat with several people on board is visible on the water. The water transitions from a deep blue in the distance to a lighter, greenish-yellow hue near the shore, indicating shallow depths and possibly seagrass or sandbars. A large, white, rounded rectangular frame is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the word "FISH" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

FISH

YETI

AU.YETI.COM / NZ.YETI.COM

CAN YOU FISH HERE?

The Flathead Classic covers a huge stretch of Gold Coast water, but it does have limits. Knowing exactly where those limits are is part of fishing the event properly.

The tournament runs from the overhead powerlines at Russell Island in the north to the Pacific Highway Bridge at Nerang in the south. Inside that zone there is plenty of water to explore, from the Broadwater and the Seaway to Jumpinpin, South Straddle Flats, drains and deeper edges.

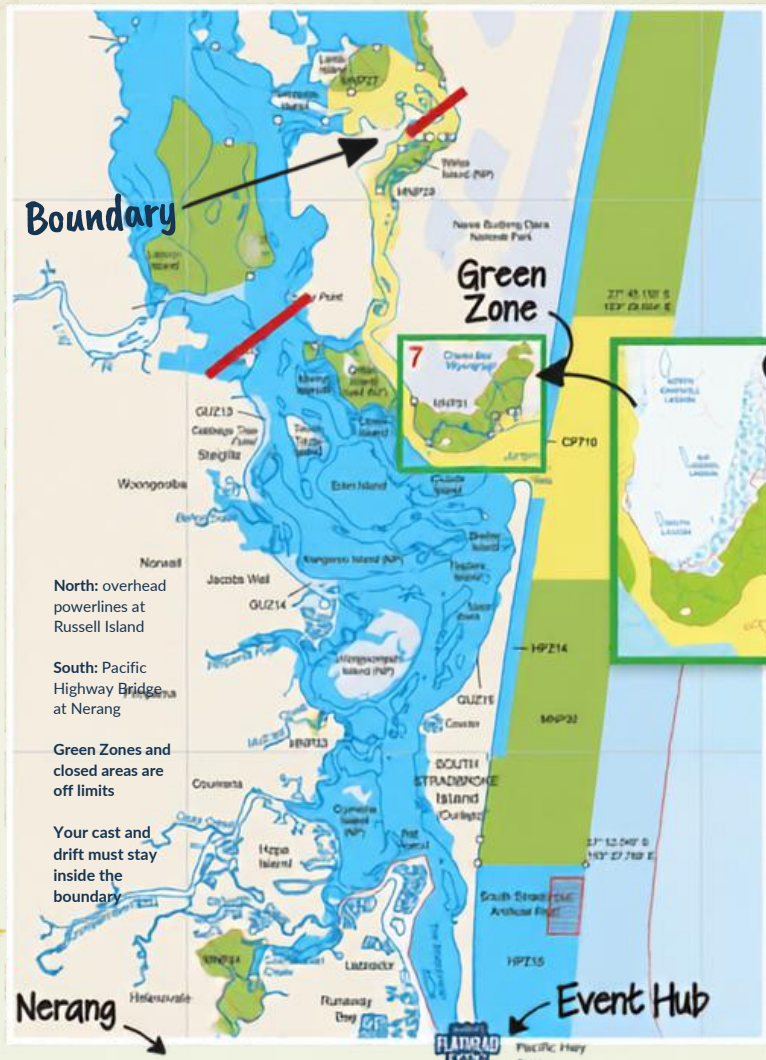
If your lure, line or drift takes you outside the boundary area, you are out of bounds. That means no casting past the line and no drifting through it with lines in the water.

The same applies to Green Zones and any government closed areas.

Some boundaries can be difficult to judge from a distance. Check your position before you cast. A few extra minutes checking is better than getting a fish disqualified.

If your lure is out of bounds, so are you.

✓ If in doubt, check before you cast.



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and enhances
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lenses for optimal
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BUILT FOR THE TOUGHEST CONDITIONS



HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR FLATHEAD



Positioning Your Fish and Ruler:

Place the official ruler and your flathead on a flat surface, like the boat floor or a bench seat. Ensure the head is on the zero. If part of the ruler is in shade and another part is in bright sunlight, your photo quality will be compromised.



The length of the fish is measured from the tip of the NOSE AT ZERO to the tip of the tail.



Optimal Lighting:

The best light for photographing your catch is bright shade. You can create the ideal lighting by adjusting your boat's position to either increase shade or direct sunlight. Whatever light you choose, ensure the entire subject—the fish and the ruler—is evenly lit.



Choosing the Right Background:

Place the fish and ruler on a neutral background that doesn't reflect too much light, if possible. Avoid white fiberglass and shiny metal, as these make poor backgrounds. A towel or cloth in muted colours like dull green or silver, or grey, or even marine carpet, works well.



Using Your Phone's Camera Flash:

If your phone has a flash, take one photo with the flash on and another without it. This will give you options and help ensure you capture the best possible image.



Reviewing Your Shots:

After taking a photo, review it immediately on your phone to check the focus, framing, and shadows. If the image isn't clear, take another shot. Then upload to Track My Fish.



All fish, regardless of length, must be photographed on the official 2026 Flathead Classic ruler.



All photographs are the responsibility of the angler.



Photos not complying with the rules may be disqualified. This is at the discretion of the Track My Fish Team and Gamesmasters.



Example of a "good" photo — no shadows across fish, token of the day and ruler numbers clearly visible. This picture does not feature the 2026 event measure mat.



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or phone for an obligation free quote

HOW TO USE THE TRACK MY FISH APP

All fish must be submitted through the Track My Fish app to be officially recorded in the tournament. Please download prior to the first day of fishing.



Track My Fish for the Flathead Classic is proudly sponsored by **NU-LOOK FLOORS**

GET STARTED

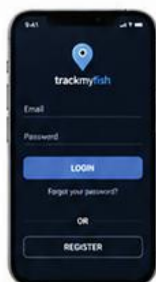
Download the FREE Track My Fish app from the App Store or Google Play.



CREATE AN ACCOUNT

Open the app and create an account using the same address you provided when you entered the event.

Or log in if you already have an account.



SET UP YOUR DETAILS

1. Use your real name, no nicknames.
2. Allow permissions – camera (to take photos) and location (to confirm where catches are recorded).
3. Select your group to fish under - Gold Coast Sports Fishing Club.
4. This links you to the Flathead Classic Tournament
5. Test it now – place any object (a lure, ruler, even your tackle box) on your brag mat, take a photo, and upload. A ✓ confirmation means you're good to go.

RECORD YOUR CATCH

Tap "Add Catch" to record a fish. Enter the species (Flathead). The app will automatically capture your location (and keep it confidential).

Make sure you photograph your fish clearly on the official event brag mat with the angler card clearly shown. Team members can submit photos for their team mates.

Review your photo and details, then hit submit. Your catch is now officially recorded.

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

1. When photographing your fish, place it flat on your official brag mat.
2. Make sure the nose is at the "0 cm" mark and the tail is pinched to show maximum length.
3. Keep the entire fish visible, including the nose, tail, and measurement markings.
4. Place your tournament angler card (issued at registration) clearly in the photo.
5. Submit the photo via the Track My Fish app, enter the details, and wait for the confirmation.

ONLINE & OFFLINE MODES

The Classic covers a large area of waterways, and phone reception isn't always guaranteed.

Online Mode: If you have signal, your catch will upload instantly.

Offline Mode: If reception drops out, the app will store your catch safely on the device. As soon as you return to service, it will upload in the order caught. (Switch to online when back in reception)

Tip: Always check for the ✓ confirmation once you're back in coverage.

AVOID GETTING YOUR PICS DISQUALIFIED

- Don't forget the angler card in the shot.
- Don't cover the tail with your hands or let shadows obscure the length.
- Don't submit dark, unclear, cropped or blurry images.
- Always use your event-registration email to log in.

QUICK TIPS



Good light and a neutral background give the best results.



Avoid shadows across the fish or ruler.



Keep your phone parallel to the fish and ruler.



Check your photo before submitting to ensure the ruler numbers are clearly visible.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

All entries must be submitted by the daily deadline via the app.

Wed 30 Sep – 4:00pm
Thu 1 Oct – 4:00pm
Fri 2 Oct – 2:30pm

NEED HELP?

If you have any issues with the app, visit the Track My Fish team in the Event Hub or speak to a committee member.





2026 TROPHY AWARDS

TEAM CHAMPIONS



2 ANGLER TEAM

- Custom Job Rod • Switchbait Champion Shirts



3 ANGLER TEAM

- Custom Job Rod • Wilson reels
- Switchbait Champion Shirts



ALL-FEMALE TEAM

- Shimano rod and reel packages
- Switchbait Champion Shirts



ALL-JUNIOR TEAM

- Wilson rod and reel packages
- Switchbait Champion Shirts



MIXED AGE TEAM

- Okuma rod and reel packages
- Switchbait Champion Shirts



VISITING TEAM

- Wilson rod and reel packages
- Switchbait Champion Shirts

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS



FEMALE ANGLER

- Custom Job Rod
- Shimano reel
- Switchbait Champion Shirt



JUNIOR ANGLER

- Custom Job Rod
- Shimano reel
- Switchbait Champion Shirt



SENIOR MALE ANGLER

- Custom Job Rod
- Shimano reel
- Switchbait Champion Shirt

PLACEGLETTERS

Premium Wilson and Shimano rod and reel packages across team, female, junior and senior divisions.

CLUB & SPECIES TROPHIES

Longest Flathead Threadfin Salmon Mangrove Jack Mulloway
Tailor Whiting Bream Longest Flathead on Fly

Prizes may be subject to change.

RANDOM DRAW PRIZES

32 prizes across the Senior and Junior divisions.
Two boats headline the draw, with electronics, trolling motors, tackle, YETI gear and more up for grabs.

20
SENIOR
PRIZES

12
JUNIOR
PRIZES



SENIOR RANDOM DRAW

20 CHANCES TO WIN

1. Quintrex 450 Top Ender boat package

with Lowrance Elite FS 9, Pro Deck flooring, custom Bonza Graphics wrap, clear coat and Club Marine insurance.

2. Navico Recon + Sure Power Simrad + Hella package
3. Dometic + Wilson, + Sure Power Simrad + Hella package
4. Lowrance Elite 12 + YETI package
5. Lowrance Elite 10 + Wilson Package
6. Lowrance HDS Pro 9
7. Dometic + Liquor Legends + Mako + Wilson package
8. Lowrance Elite FS 9 and Liquor Legends package
9. Simrad NSX 3009
10. Lowrance Elite FS 9
11. Lowrance + YETI + BCF package
12. YETI + Wilson + Liquor Legends package
13. Shimano + BCF package
14. Dometic + YETI + Wilson Fishing package
15. Wilson Fishing + BCF package
16. Shimano package
17. Wilson + Liquor Legends package
18. YETI + Shimano package
19. Liquor Legends gift cards
20. YETI Tundra 45 hard cooler

JUNIOR RANDOM DRAW

12 CHANCES TO WIN

1. Quintrex F350 Outback

Explorer LS with 6hp Suzuki with Lowrance Eagle 7 TripleShot, custom Bonza Graphics wrap and Club Marine insurance.

2. SUP + Lowrance Eagle 5 + BCF package
3. Shimano package
4. SUP + BCF package
5. Wilson package
6. Rapala package
7. Rapala package
8. Shimano Nexave package
9. Shimano Nexave package
10. Shimano Nexave combo + braid
11. Shimano Nexave combo + braid
12. Shimano Nexave combo



WIN BIG EVERY NIGHT

2026 RAFFLE PRIZES

Ten raffle draws every night - Mega boat draw on Friday night!

TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY- MEGA DRAW

The winning ticket must be presented to claim the boat prize.



MEGA RAFFLE PRIZE

VALUE \$28,000



QUINTREX



Tickets \$5

4 for \$20
50 for \$225
100 for \$400

Quintrex F420 Explorer

A lightweight 4.47 metre aluminium v-hull tinnie, perfect for the Gold Coast Broadwater, rivers, canals and creeks.

- SUZUKI 40HP EFI 4-STROKE (ELECTRIC START/POWER TRIM & TILT)
- LOWRANCE ELITE 7 FS COLOUR SCREEN GPS
- SOUNDER COMBO ON RAM BRACKET.
- QUINTREX ALUMINIUM 749KG ATM TRAILER
- PRODECK MARINE FLOORING
- CLUB MARINE INSURANCE

Ticket must be presented at the draw to claim this prize.

FLATTY SLAYERS

ANDREW “NEV” NORVILL

Classic Newbie.

Nev will line up for his first Flathead Classic in 2026, but he already knows what he wants to do when the starting timer goes off: keep moving until he finds feeding fish.

With an 82cm personal best, Nev likes shallow water, particularly drains and flats, and looks for weed, structure and changes in the bottom.

Soft plastics are his go-to, with bright colours such as orange, chartreuse and pink giving him confidence.

If he could choose just one lure, it would be a 3-inch Z-Man PrawnZ Elite in Yabbie – the lure that caught his PB.

He learnt his flathead craft from Justin Willmer (Tackle Tactics TV) and sticks by one hard-earned lesson.

***DON'T LEAVE FISH TO FIND FISH.
I'VE BEEN BURNT BEFORE.***



DANIEL “SQUIZZ” TYRRELL

After dark. Full moon. Flooded mangroves.

Squizz's 84cm flathead came under the most romantic of settings: around midnight, on a full moon, with a rising king tide pushing into flooded mangroves near the entrance to a small inlet.

He likes fishing plastics, particularly darker Z-Man colours, and targets drains, weed, structure and drop-offs that hold bait. His tackle box features Z-Man Billy goat 4.25" plastic in Crawfish colour and TT SnakelockZ 5/0 with 1/4 ounce weight.

When the bite slows down, Squizz is happy to change things up, drift or troll rather than stubbornly sticking with one approach.

His biggest lesson is simple: if the bite is tough, don't stay married to one lure.

***“ MIX IT UP UNTIL YOU FIND
WHAT THE FLATHEAD PREFER
THAT DAY. ”***



FLATTY SLAYERS



JARRYD PARKINSON

Five straight Classics. Big fish. Simple approach.

Jarryd Parkinson has now fished five Flathead Classics with a PB 92cm caught during a previous Classic event. His advice is to go out, have fun and fish with confidence.

Jarryd likes to throw a soft plastic, with the 3-inch Z-Man Minnow in Pearl or Motor Oil his favourites. His 92cm fish came on a 3-inch Pearl Z-Man Minnow rigged on a 1/4oz 3/0 TT Big EyeZ jighead.

When searching for fish, Jarryd looks first for weed edges and drains, especially on the low tide. Through winter he likes fishing weed and flats, then shifts to deeper water later in the season. If the bite gets tough, he sticks with productive water and leans on scent, particularly in dirty water.

The hard lesson? Flathead spikes to the knees definitely sting.

“ JUST GO OUT AND HAVE FUN! ”

JO RUDD *Darwin, NT*

Barra fisher. Flatty Classic newcomer.

Jo Rudd, from Darwin in the NT, entered her first Flathead Classic in 2025 and quickly made it count with a 75cm fish, her biggest flathead so far.

Her number one tip captures the spirit of the event perfectly: give it 100%, look after your teammates, have fun and watch out for the slushy drinks at the bar.

Jo likes the Wilson Fish Trap for its versatility, particularly the 95mm model, choosing colours to suit the conditions, while the Fat Betty colour is always a favourite. Her lucky flathead lure is the Duo Tide Minnow — the lure that produced her personal best.

Still relatively new to flathead fishing, Jo credits mentors Lorraine Golightly and Rocky Edwards for helping shape her approach. She enjoys fishing the flats and drop-offs, especially around structure and changes in depth, and is clearly loving the challenge of learning the Broadwater.



“ GIVE IT 100%, LOOK AFTER YOUR TEAMMATES AND HAVE FUN. ”

Flatty SLAYERS



ROSS McCUBBIN

*Veteran Classic campaigner.
Trusts team instincts.*

Ross has fished in 16 Flathead Classics and been part of seven winning teams, including five wins in a row, fishing with David and Michael Green.

Ross's favourite lure is a Duo Spearhead Floating 50mm in pink. His biggest flathead is 98cm.

His advice is simple: keep trying and trust your team instincts.

Ross says his current team with Brad and Ben Job is confident in all depths, all areas and all techniques, and if the fishing is tough, they usually go to trolling.

**“ KEEP TRYING AND
TRUST YOUR TEAM INSTINCTS. ”**

16

CLASSICS

7

WINNING TEAMS

98^{CM}

PB

SUE TEMPLAR

Eight Classics under her belt and still learning.

Sue Templar has fished the Flathead Classic since around 2019, first alongside husband Craig and now with her female team, The Salt Sisters.

With two 80cm flathead to her name, Sue's approach is to find shallow ground with a mix of sand, rock or weed, particularly around drains and drop-offs, then keep moving and changing tactics if the fish aren't playing.

She enjoys casting soft plastics and puts plenty of faith in pink, white and chartreuse, while her sadly discontinued Squidgy Bio Tough Fish in Red Rum remains the lucky lure.

Her best advice is simple: relax, have fun and don't take it too seriously, although she has also learnt the hard way to check the drag before a big fish gets boatside.



SPOTLIGHT ON CLUB SPIRIT - WAYNE SMITH

Behind every great club are great members. We're not just talking about the people who turn up when there are prizes or cash on offer, but the ones who participate, offer pragmatic support and, when it matters, back their convictions with action.

Gold Coast Sportfishing Club president Trent Hopkins says that spirit is one of the things that makes the club special.

"Good clubs are built by people who care enough to get involved," Trent says. "They fish the events, support the committee, speak up when they have ideas and help when something needs doing. That is what keeps a club strong."

Wayne Smith from Nulook Floors is one of those members. A long-term member of the Gold Coast Sportfishing Club and a long-time supporter of the Flathead Classic, Wayne is one of the quiet achievers who tends to operate in the background rather than seek the spotlight.

One of the most practical ways he has supported the Classic over the years has been through a generous cash contribution that covers the cost of Track My Fish, helping the event maintain a professional, efficient and transparent competition system. It is not the first time he has stepped in.

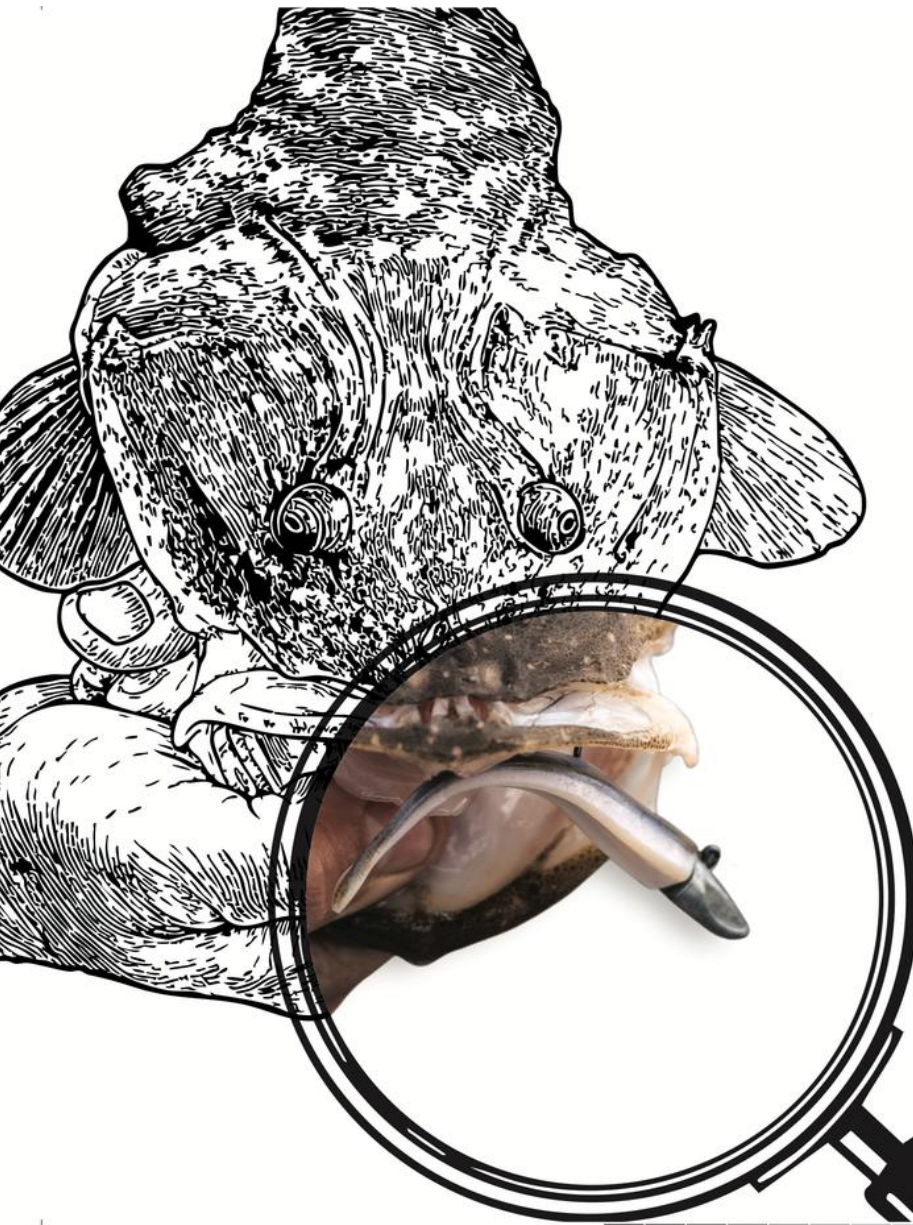
A couple of years ago, when the event budget was under pressure and the cost of fencing threatened to compromise the setup of the Event Hub, Wayne heard about the problem and simply put his hand in his pocket to help fund what was needed.

No fuss or fanfare. Just a member seeing a problem and helping solve it. That sort of support says a lot about club spirit.

The Gold Coast Sportfishing Club has built a reputation as one of the friendliest fishing clubs on the Gold Coast because its members understand that a club is more than meetings, competitions and results. It is a community, and communities work best when people contribute in whatever way they can.

Some volunteer. Some sponsor. Some share knowledge. Some turn up early and stay late. Some quietly make sure an important bill gets paid. Wayne does all of that in his own way.

And, just to make him even more annoying, he is one hell of a fisherman to boot.



**NEW SHAPES.
NEW COLOURS.
MORE FISH.**

HARNESS THE POWER OF
SCENT DISPERSION TO HELP YOU
CATCH MORE FISH.



**FUNNY.
BLONDE.
PERSISTENT.**

For Switchbait x 1st Street Ladies, the Flathead Classic is equal parts competition, friendship, stubborn determination and knowing exactly when to break out the Cheezels.

Ask Tania, Dee and Fay what makes the Flathead Classic special and winning is not the first thing they talk about. It is the friendships, the challenge and the chance to compete alongside other women who love fishing just as much as they do. That does not mean they are not competitive.

"We don't really like to admit it, but we're all pretty competitive," Fay says. "That's probably why we keep coming back every year."

This year the trio returns as Switchbait x 1st Street Ladies, with plenty of Classic experience between them. Tania and Fay have now fished five together, Dee is lining up for her second with the team, while Fay has around 15 Flathead Classics behind her.

Fay and Tania met through the Gold Coast Sportfishing Club, where their husbands were members, and then they met Dee several years ago while chasing barramundi in Darwin.

A shared love of fishing and a little friendly competition did the rest.

SERIOUS FISHING. QUESTIONABLE SUPERSTITIONS.

Preparation for the Classic is relatively straightforward. "A couple of pre-fish sessions and a team meeting over a few glasses of wine usually does the trick."

Last year, dark-coloured Micro Mullets and Tango Shads worked well on the troll, while Berkley Gulp and CrushCity soft plastics also earned their place in the boat.

But technique is only part of the Switchbait x 1st Street Ladies formula. There are some very strict team rules.

The first is never to catch a fish on the first cast because landing one immediately means you risk catching nothing for the rest of the day. "We get past that by making the first cast somewhere we are fairly confident the fish are not."

The second rule is even more important. When the fishing slows down, bring out the Cheezels.

WHATEVER HAPPENS, KEEP FISHING

Persistence may be the team's defining quality. One year, a huge storm rolled through and left them drenched and freezing. They raced home, changed into dry clothes and headed straight back out into the rain.

Then there was the treble hook incident. Tania managed to bury a treble in her toe while fishing on their 3.4 metre boat and came close to fainting onto the esky. Fay dropped her at the Paradise Point medical centre, where Tania hopped inside to have the hook removed. Twenty minutes later she was back fishing.

Their advice to other women considering the Classic is "Just go for it."

"There is little point over-planning because competition fishing rarely unfolds exactly as expected. Try new things, learn as you go, ask for help when you need it and, above all, enjoy yourself."

And if you misjudge the depth and have to get out and push the boat – well, that's completely fine. "Everyone has done it."



Competition fishing rarely unfolds as expected. Ask for help when you need it.

MORE WOMEN ON THE WATER

For Tania, Dee and Fay, encouraging more women into fishing means creating opportunities to learn, practise and build confidence across every part of the sport.

It is not simply about learning to catch fish. It is about becoming comfortable handling a boat, reading conditions and making decisions on the water.

While the Classic may involve long days, changing conditions, lost lures and the occasional medical detour, those challenges have become part of the memories they value most.

The final night remains a favourite, when competitors gather over a drink and swap stories about what happened during the previous few days.



**Great people.
Great memories.
Shared passion.**

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IS FISHING REALLY OCEAN THERAPY?

By midmorning in the Classic, the early excitement has usually settled down. The first run has been made, tackle boxes have been opened and rearranged, somebody has changed lures sooooo many times and every team member is watching the water a little more closely.

The water may be a bit murky. A patch of weed that looked promising half an hour ago now seems dead. The plan from 'lines in' and now needs changing. This is where fishing starts to look a lot like ocean therapy.

Ocean therapy is based on the idea that time in, on and around water can change the way we pay attention, respond to challenges and connect with other people. Fishing does all three.

A good angler is constantly noticing small things: current, depth, bait, wind, water clarity, and the way a lure feels.

They are not thinking about the inbox, the housework or jobs that need doing. They are focussed on working out why the fish have stopped biting.

Then there is the uncertainty. You can have the right gear and a spot that pre-fished brilliantly, and still get nothing. So you change something. Move the boat. Swap lures. Fish deeper. Slow down. Start again.

That ability to adjust without throwing the whole day away is part of what makes time on the water so valuable. Fishing teaches patience, but not the passive kind. It is patience with your eyes open.

When you spend enough hours in a boat with somebody, the conversation changes.

There are long silences, bad jokes, stories you have heard before and moments of complete concentration when nobody says anything at all.

The fish are important, but when people talk about their best days on the water, they usually remember who was beside them as clearly as what they caught.

Women's Water Wellness Retreats works with the same principles through surfing, snorkelling, swimming, floating and other experiences around the ocean.

The activity matters, but so does what happens while people are doing it: paying attention, trying something unfamiliar, adapting when things do not go to plan and sharing the experience with somebody else.

Anglers have understood most of this for generations. They just never needed to call it ocean therapy.

They called it going fishing.

THE NEXT GENERATION IS SHREDDING



Meet Ollie, Kade and Louis, three young anglers who reckon the Flathead Classic is fun, competitive and a whole lot harder than it looks.



STEP OUTSIDE

with Paul Burt

“For all things outside”



SUZUKI
MARINE

KGM
KOREAN BUILT TO LAST

SHIMANO

GARMIN

TONIC

www.flatheadclassic.com.au





There is plenty of experience on the water during the Gold Coast Flathead Classic, but you do not need decades behind the rod to take the competition seriously. Ollie, 13, Kade, 14, and Louis, 14, will line up this year as the 10 Point Shredders, bringing a tinny, plenty of enthusiasm and a fishing strategy designed to keep all three anglers in the game.

For Ollie, the Classic is familiar territory. He has fished a lot of them, previously in Team Double D. Kade has one Classic under his belt, while Louis is entering for the first time.

Any excuse to don their Switchbait buffs, jump in the tinny and fish with friends, particularly if there is a swag of prizes especially for juniors up for grabs.

While friendship is a big part of the appeal, there is already some serious fishing credibility in the boat. Ollie leads the personal best stakes with an 81cm flathead, followed by Louis with 71cm and Kade with 69cm.

The favourite lure is the Samaki Redic, and when it comes to finding fish, the boys are big believers in trolling because it covers more ground and is easier for three people in a tinny.

Their previous Classics have already produced some impressive rewards, with new Vanford and Zodias combos ranking as the best prizes they have won. They also have realistic advice for other kids thinking about entering: it is fun, but "harder than you think".

10 POINT SHREDDERS – AT A GLANCE



Team: 10 Point Shredders



Ages: Ollie 13, Kade 14, Louis 14



Biggest flathead: Ollie 81cm, Louis 71cm, Kade 69cm



Favourite lure: Samaki Redic and Wilson Tango Shad.



Best fishing tip: Trolling covers more ground and works well for three people in a tinny

EVERY TEAM NEEDS A PEST

Put three teenage boys together in a tinny for a Flathead Classic and fishing ability is only part of the equation. According to the team, Louis comfortably earns the title of biggest pest and is also the one most likely to claim he is the best fisher in the boat.

The others disagree. When asked who actually is the best fisher, the verdict goes Kade. Kade does, however, have one weakness: when the fish are not biting, he is the one most likely to get grumpy. Do adults listen to your fishing advice? "No, but they should!"

With PBs some senior anglers would envy, they may have a point.

The Flathead Classic is about more than the leaderboard. It is about mates, families, stories, learning the waterways and sharing a love of fishing across generations.

Teams like the 10 Point Shredders prove this generation is not waiting on the sidelines. They are already out there fishing, and apparently giving the adults advice whether they want it or not.





CHOOSING THE RIGHT BOAT FOR FLATHEAD FISHING



The best flathead boat is not simply the biggest or fastest. It is the boat that helps you fish comfortably, move efficiently and stay focussed on the water in front of you.



1. START WITH THE WAY YOU FISH

Flathead anglers ask a lot from a boat. One minute you may be working a shallow bank, and the next, crossing open water to a channel edge or drop-off. That is why layout matters. The Top Ender range is a good example, with plenty of room to move, cast and fish effectively.



2. SPACE, STABILITY AND CONTROL

Quintrex's Blade Hull is designed to deliver a smoother ride and predictable handling, while the open side-console layout keeps the deck clear when anglers are casting, moving around or reaching for the net.



3. MATCH THE MOTOR TO THE MISSION

The right outboard is about more than speed. For long competition days, anglers also value reliability, fuel efficiency and smooth low-speed control. Suzuki four-stroke technology is well regarded for exactly those reasons, helping anglers spend more time fishing.



See the Quintrex Top Ender range at Surf Coast Marine

THE RIGHT COMBO MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE



A great boat deserves the right power. Matching the hull to the correct outboard is about more than performance — it's about control, reliability, fuel efficiency and confidence to go further on every trip.



MATCHED FOR PERFORMANCE

Every Quintrex is built with a recommended horsepower range. The right match delivers the best hole shot, smoother acceleration, safer handling and optimal fuel economy.



EFFICIENCY FOR LONGER DAYS

Suzuki's Lean Burn Control System constantly monitors conditions and adjusts the air-fuel ratio to match the balance of power and fuel efficiency.



CONTROL WHEN IT COUNTS

Suzuki's four-stroke engine lets you adjust the engine speed in 50 rpm increments from idle to 1,200 rpm, helping you hold the perfect line or creep along a bank with confidence.



QUIET, SMOOTH & RELIABLE

Suzuki four-stroke outboards are engineered for quiet operation, minimal vibration and legendary reliability — so you can focus on fishing, not your engine.



SUZUKI FOUR-STROKE ADVANTAGE



LEAN BURN FUEL EFFICIENCY

Lean Burn Control System optimises the air-fuel ratio for better fuel economy across a wide range of speeds.



TROLL MODE PRECISION CONTROL

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Advanced engineering delivers exceptionally quiet running power, sliding the shh into fishing.



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Small changes can make a real difference. Reviewing your cover, adjusting your excess and storing your boat securely when it's not in use can all help to reduce your premium. During the cooler months, if you're not planning to use your trailerable boat or jet ski and it's securely stored behind gates, walls or fences of your home, adding lay up¹ to your policy could also help you save.

Club Marine policyholders enjoy 24/7 roadside assistance² for their boat and trailer when towing to and from moorings or storage locations, just another handy benefit.

As Australia's largest boat insurance provider, Club Marine offers flexible, tailored cover designed around how Aussie boaties actually use their vessels, so you can focus on enjoying your time on the water.

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¹ Lay up is only available for trailerable boats. Eligibility criteria and conditions apply.

² Club Marine Assist is provided by Club Marine Limited. Assistance services are provided by AWP Australia Pty Ltd ABN 52 097 227 177, trading as Allianz Global Assistance. Limits, exclusions, full terms and conditions available at clubmarine.com.au.

BRAID 8



PE RATING	BREAKING STRENGTH	DIA
PE0.6	9.3lbs	0.12mm
PE0.8	12.1lbs	0.15mm
PE1.0	14.8lbs	0.16mm
PE1.2	17.6lbs	0.18mm

8 STRAND, ABRASION RESISTANT BRAID

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2026
FLATHEAD
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FIND THE FISH FIRST

Tips and tricks from the team at Wilson Fishing

There are plenty of ways to catch a flathead, but the best anglers tend to have one thing in common. They spend as much time thinking about where the fish should be as they do thinking about what lure to throw.

According to Wilson Fishing's Troy Dixon, the most useful flatty fishing tips aren't about having one magic lure or a secret spot. It's about reading the water, matching the lure to the depth, understanding how flathead use the tide and putting the lure where a fish is waiting to feed.

Even the best lure cannot catch a fish that isn't there.



1. LOOK FOR THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN SHALLOW AND DEEP

If there is one piece of advice worth remembering, look for shallow water that falls away into deeper water.

Flathead are ambush predators. On a falling tide, fish that have been feeding across a flat often move back towards drains, gutters, drop-offs and channels as the water disappears.

Look for transition zones, particularly where a shallow bank tapers into a deeper channel. As the tide falls, fish can move off the bank and settle along that edge, waiting for food to be carried past them.

Also watch the surface.

Small areas of rippled water running off a bank, in these parts called "flatty ripples", can indicate water moving from shallow ground towards deeper water. That's a natural feeding lane.

If the water is moving and creating those little ripples, it deserves a cast. Often there will be several flathead sitting in the same area, facing into the flow and waiting for bait to come to them.



WILSON

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS
OF SERVING THE AUSTRALIAN FISHING COMMUNITY

2. DON'T ASSUME YOU'RE FISHING TOO SHALLOW

If there is enough water to cover a flathead's back, there may still be a fish sitting there.

Many anglers stop casting before they reach the most productive water. On a draining tide, flathead can push astonishingly far onto the flats to feed before retreating into nearby gutters and drains.

When the fish are shallow, use lightly weighted plastics, glide baits and shallow-running hardbodies to keep a lure in the strike zone without continually burying into weed or sand.



3. MATCH THE LURE TO THE WATER YOU ARE FISHING

There is no point throwing the same lure everywhere.

ON FLATS AROUND A METRE DEEP

Use shallow-running hardbodies like the Duo Tide Minnow or larger lures that can be twitched, paused and allowed to rise. Keep your retrieve simple: cast long, twitch the lure, pause it, let it rise, then repeat. Keep the lure just above the bottom so its flash and movement attract fish from some distance away.

Large flathead will readily leave the bottom to attack a lure above them, and at times will follow a lure almost to the surface before eating it.



IN DEEPER HOLES AND CHANNELS

Consider smaller two and three-inch plastics that can get to the bottom.

Your retrieve should be a series of small hops to keep the plastic down where the fish are sitting.

Match your weight to the depth and current so you maintain contact and feel those subtle bites.



4. IF YOU'RE FISHING PLASTICS, STAY IN CONTACT

Flathead commonly eat a plastic while it is falling.

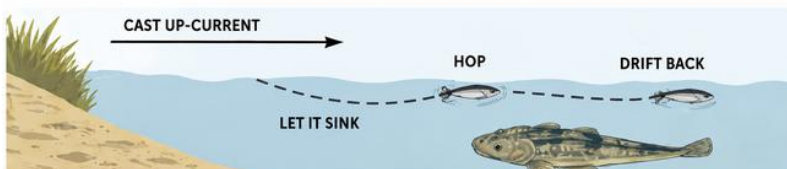
That means a lure can be in the fish's mouth before an angler ever feels the traditional "bite".

Keep the plastic on or close to the bottom while continually managing the slack line. Make the hop, then keep enough contact with the lure to feel the small tap as it drops. If the line is completely loose, those bites are easy to miss.

SHALLOW CURRENT TIP

Cast up-current towards a funnel point, allow the plastic to land, then keep contact as it sinks.

A single hop lifts the lure before it drifts naturally back down towards fish facing into the current.



5. Let the tide concentrate the fish for you

High water gives flathead enormous territory to feed across. Low water takes much of that territory away.

That is why drains and gutters can become so productive on the falling tide. Fish that had previously been spread across a large flat can suddenly be concentrated into a relatively small piece of water.

Aim to be there roughly an hour before the bottom of the tide. As the remaining water drains, the fish become concentrated. Then, when the next push of the incoming tide arrives, feeding activity can fire again.



Timing is everything

Be on your chosen low-water spot around an hour before dead low and stay for the first push of the incoming tide.

Think about when as well as where.

The right tide can turn a quiet spot into magic.

6. Watch for signs that fish are already there

Flathead spend much of their time buried or lying motionless on the bottom, so spotting the fish is not always easy.

But they leave clues.

One useful sign in very shallow water is a sudden puff of sand or mud.

As a flathead takes off, attacks a lure or shifts position, it can kick up a small cloud from the bottom. Stingrays create a similar disturbance, so it is not proof, but repeated puffs across a shallow flat are worth investigating.



Look for the clues

A puff of sand or mud can signal a flathead has moved, attacked or shifted. Keep your eyes open in skinny water. If you see one, make a cast.

7. Fish the current, not just the structure

A drain, gutter or drop-off is useful structure, but it becomes much more valuable when you understand how the water is moving through it.

Flathead will commonly sit facing into the flow and let the tide deliver food. Instead of simply casting randomly around a drain, think about where the current will carry a baitfish. Then make your lure do the same.

Casting up-current and allowing a lure to sink or drift naturally back towards the fish can look far more convincing than dragging it against the flow. The lure should appear to be something vulnerable that has been delivered directly into the predator's feeding lane.



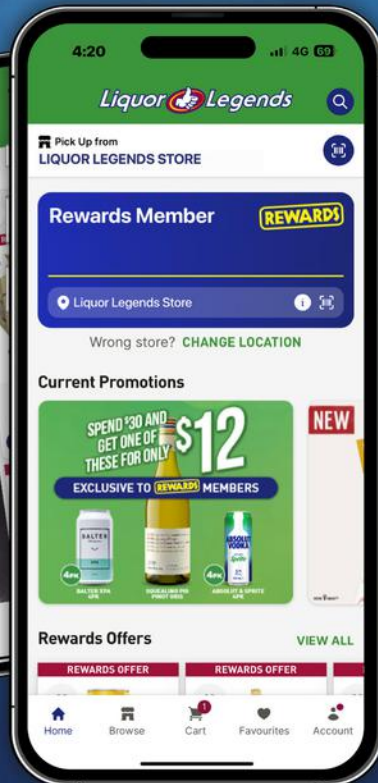
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8. GET THE PRESENTATION RIGHT

Tournament anglers are notorious lure-tinkerers, and there's a reason for it.

A presentation that looks perfect in open water may continually foul in weed. A heavy jig that works beautifully in a channel can kill the action of a lure on a 50cm-deep flat.

In shallow weed, weightless plastics may be used so the lure can move naturally without constantly burying into the bottom. Rigging them straight is critical because the lure's roll, flash and action depend on it.

A stinger hook may also be used to improve hook-up rates on fish that don't completely engulf the larger plastic.

Small changes in your rig can make a big difference to your catch rate.

9. BIG LURES DO NOT ONLY CATCH BIG FISH

It is not uncommon for relatively small flathead to attack surprisingly large lures.

Flathead are aggressive predators and are capable of eating prey that appears disproportionately large.

So don't automatically shy away from a bigger lure because you think the fish might be too small.

A larger profile can also be easier for a flathead to see from a distance, particularly across a broad shallow flat.

Big meal, small fish - it happens more often than you think!

10. FINDING FISH BEATS OWNING MORE LURES

Good flathead anglers continually assess the water around them: the tide, depth, colour change, weed, current, drains, bait and the transition between shallow and deep.

If an area is not producing, they look for the next piece of water that gives them a reason to believe the fish should be there.

And when they do find them, they pay attention to why the fish are there. Was it the bottom of the tide, a drain, bait concentration, or something else?



QUICK TIPS

LOOK FOR: shallow water beside deeper water.

INVESTIGATE: rippling water, drains, gutters and small puffs of sand.

ON PLASTICS: keep them close to the bottom and stay in contact as they sink.

IN THE SHALLOWS: don't be afraid to fish extremely skinny! The big girls favour the brave.

ON THE RUNOUT: look for fish concentrating as water drains off the flats.

BEST TIMING: try a favourite low-water location around an hour before dead low and through the first push of the incoming tide.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?



Watch the Tackling Australia YouTube video called "This completely changed how we fish for flathead".



MOST IMPORTANT: choose a lure that suits the depth and presentation, rather than forcing one lure to do every job.

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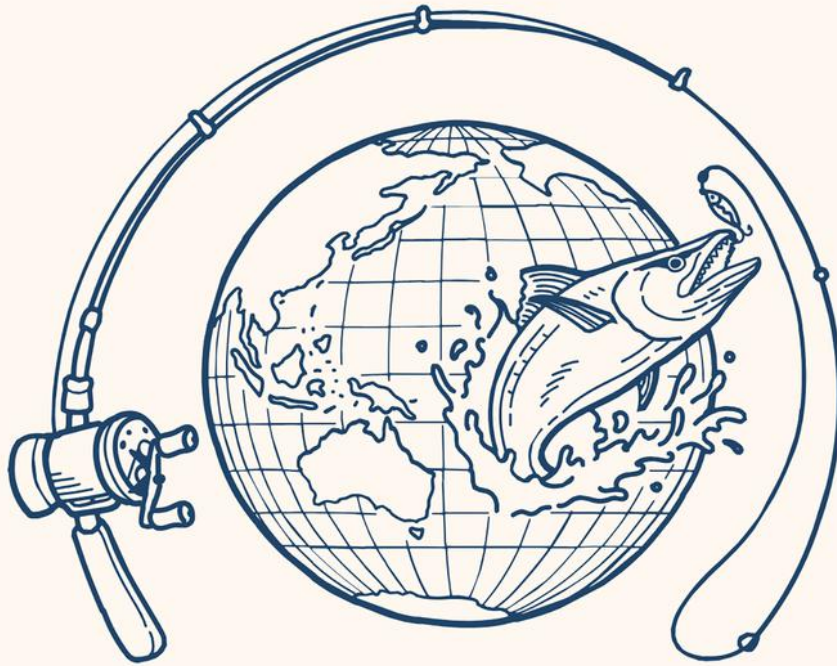
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TIPS AND TACKLE



ROBBIE PAYNE
WILSON FISHING
20 Flathead Classics

Top tips for first timers:

If in doubt troll about. Good way of getting some points on the scoreboard. Better at half tide out to half tide in

Five things in my tackle box:

1. Wilson 50mm Tango Shads
2. Duo tide minnows 140/175mm
3. Mustad Fastach lure clips sz 1 and 2
4. Bait pop lure scent
5. Wilson fish trap soft vibes



PADDY MARON
FLAT SPINNING SURF COAST MARINE
7 Flathead Classics

Top tips for first timers:

Use lures you have absolute confidence in to catch numbers. Big fish are great but numbers are king.

Five things in my tackle box:

- 1- Stackle 3.5 paddle tail slim
- 2- Zerek Tango shad
- 3- 95mm Zerek Fishtrap
- 4- Motor oil Curtail grub
- 5- My Lure box soft glide.



MATT FRASER
BARAMBAH LURES
20ish Flathead Classics

Top tips for first timers:

Fish shallow areas with current, and look for channels/edges that concentrate the fish. And, always have the net ready for a quick net shot.

Five things in my tackle box:

1. Stinger Shrimp 90F in Chernobyl.
2. 3.5 to 4-inch paddle tails on 1/6 oz 4/0 jigheads
3. Micro Mulletts
4. Tango Shads
5. Mullet Glides



MARK 'JENKO' JENKINSON
FISH ON
10 Flathead Classics

Top tips for first timers:

People should give it their best shot and enjoy the experience, do not stress, if a lure works early stick to it

Five things in my tackle box:

Wilson Xraps and McCarthy's and 50 vibes always work well (and Greenies Micro Mulletts of course)
Brad Job rod is a must and the best reel you can afford, Wilson looks after them too, though I do like Certates.



GEORGINA KIRCHNER
HERE FOR THE FUN
2 Flathead Classics

Top tips for first timers:

Work the gutters and around structures. Listen to the seasoned contestants. Watch those spikes & the fish may throw a lure resulting in a hooky situation. Just ask my hubby!

Five things in my tackle box:

1. S-Tackle
2. Lively Lures
3. My Lure Box
4. Flatty slide measurer
5. Enviro net - tangle free.



MICHAEL STEWART
— TEAM ON STRIKE
17 Flathead Classics

Top tips for first timers:

Just try to have fun and enjoy the fishing. It can be a tough three days. Watch the more seasoned teams and how they fish and try and learn from their experience.

Five things in my tackle box:

1. Gulp 5 inch Jerk Shad Pearl White.
2. TT tournament series jig heads 3/8 4/0H.
3. Sunline FC Rock 12lb leader.
4. Squidgies S-Factor.
5. Lip balm to help get wind knots out.

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TIPS AND TACKLE



IAN ACKLAND (ACKERS)
FLAT SPINNING SURF COAST MARINE
13 Flathead Classics

Top tips for first timers:

Listen to the old and bold experienced fishos that have fished this competition for years. They have the knowledge and are happy to share it, especially after a beer.

Five things in my tackle box:

1. Shads tuff prawn
2. Zman 4inch curl tail
3. Piggy's trolling hardbody
4. MyLureBox Soft Glide
5. 95mm Zerek Fishtrap



SCOTT FLEMING
WILSON FISHING
17 Flathead Classics

Top tips for first timers:

Spend less time driving around and more time fishing. Pick a handful of spots, work them out and fish them hard.

Five things in my tackle box:

1. Duo tide minnow/sprat 140mm
2. Wilson Flat Shad 3.5 and 4.5 inch
3. Wilson fish trap 65 and 95mm
4. Wilson Tango shad/Duo ryuki
5. A good quality fish friendly silicone landing net to care for the fish



LARS MORGAN
CAPN CHARTER YG (YOUNG GUNS)
2 Flathead Classics

Top tips for first timers:

Expect to meet so many awesome & helpful anglers at the Classic. I met my now mentor & coach Ryan Vines from Capns Charter. Now I'm fishing in his team.

Five things in my tackle box:

1. Duo Tide Minnow Slim 140
2. Fish Traps - 65mm
3. McCarthy's in 3,4,5 & 6 inch
4. Duo Spearheads
5. S Tackle rattle minnows

JACK HAMMOND
TEAM SHIMANO
4 Flathead Classics



Top tips for first timers:

Search for baitfish and clean water and pick the right tides to fish those areas. Fish a run-out tide on a creek mouth or a drop-off of a sand flat, as the baitfish will flutter out of the shallows into the deeper water where the flathead will be waiting to ambush. On a run-in tide, push up in close to structure, as the fish will move up in shallow to sit around this. Always have a few different lures tied onto different rods so you can chop and change setups efficiently if there's a hot bite and fish an area hard as some fish need more convincing than others, especially the big girls!

Five things in my tackle box:

1. Shimano Slim Assassin 140 mm
2. Squidgie 100 mm fish black and gold
3. Shimano Armajoint 190 f
4. Shimano pavlo shad 49 mm
5. Samaki 100 mm Vibelicious

HAYDEN ELKS
TEAM SHIMANO
4 Flathead Classics



Top tips for first timers:

Don't be put off with boat traffic. Sometimes busy fishing spots can produce some of the best catches in both size and quantity. Enjoy the time on water and don't get caught up in the 'should have' and 'what ifs'. Stick to what you know and feel comfortable doing and you will find a rhythm.

Five things in my tackle box:

1. SCENT! Never enough scent on your lures and it may just be the difference between getting that bite and not turning a reel.
2. A good set of PE braid scissors
3. Jerkbait.
4. Spare trebles.
5. 80mm Squidgy fish. Something old and original but will always have one tied on and still a very successful soft plastic lure.



FRANCO MARTINESE

DEAD FISHY

10-15 ISH FLATHEAD CLASSICS

Top tips for first timers:

Just have a ball and don't take it too seriously! Keep 75% of your fishing standard and then experiment and try new things or places for the rest to keep it fun!

Five things in my tackle box:

1. Micro mullets,
2. Tango shads,
3. Sluggos,
4. A big-arse, shallow hardbody
5. Atomic prongs.



CARL LORRIGAN (THING)

FLAT SPINNING SURF COAST MARINE

13 FLATHEAD CLASSICS

Top tips for first timers:

Don't put too much pressure on yourself. Just have fun.

Five things in my tackle box:

1. 4 inch McCarthy paddle tail
2. Zerek Tango shad
3. 95mm Zerek Fishtail
4. Motor oil 3inch slim swim
5. My Lure box SG160



BRETT DOOLAN

MADKEEN

12 FLATHEAD CLASSICS

Top tips for first timers:

Keep it simple, pick a colour in a lure that you like and get confident as confidence will catch fish.

Five things in my tackle box:

1. White atomic 4 inch prong
2. Black and Gold Squidgies
3. Duo tide minnow 140 slim
4. Z man - MinnowZ in motor oil
5. S-Factor

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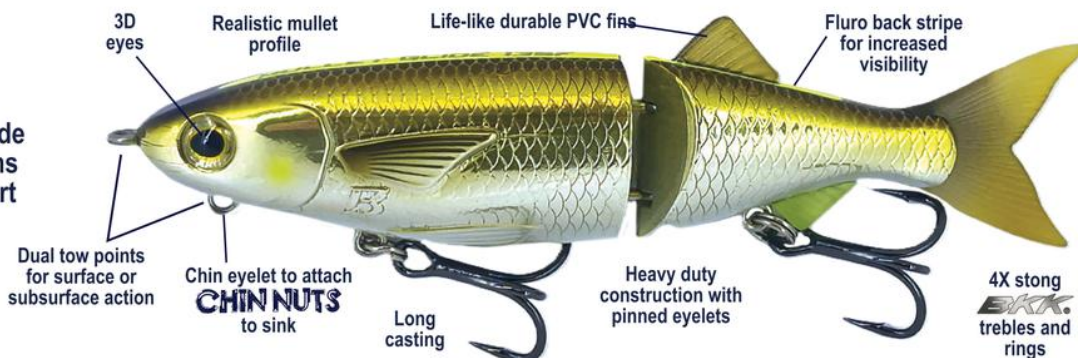
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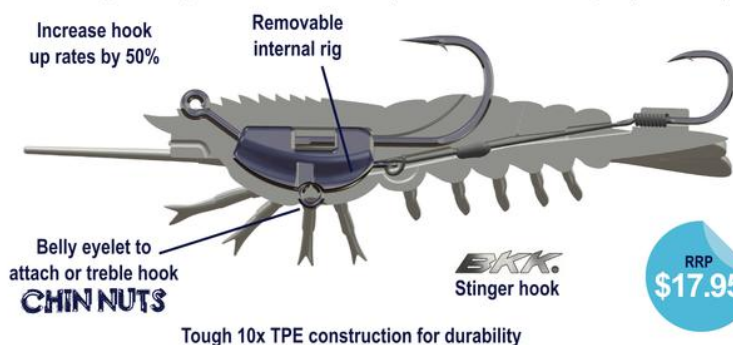


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This year, there is another very big reason to show up.

Throughout 2026, every GCSFC member who attends a club meeting goes into the draw to win an extraordinary renewable energy package from CreativEnergy, with the winner to be drawn at the Club Christmas Party in December.

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They also offer obligation-free energy audits and solar or battery proposals, with club members, family, friends and neighbours able to access discounts on solar and battery systems.

For more information, contact Chris Murray, CreativEnergy Design Director on 0419 279 927 or chris.creativenergy@gmail.com.

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THE LAST CAST.

This is the 32nd Flathead Classic. Over the years there have been massive changes in lure technology, techniques and boats. In the first few Flathead Classics trolling dominated, and lures such as the Mann's 5 and 10plus, Tilsans, Lively lures and bombers dominated. Some keen anglers also trolled large deep-diving lures, some of which ran deeper than 13 metres enabling them to troll the Seaway. Big deep diving bombers and the Mann's 30 plus were popular.

In the early years braided line was in its infancy and not many anglers used soft plastics. We soon learned the effectiveness of Renosky Shads and our team had fantastic results with this great little paddle tail shad. After 1998 soft plastics became more available, but trolling still predominated. The Lively Lures Micro Mullet came on the market in approximately 1998 and this little lure still continues to catch a lot of fish. Deep jigging with big soft plastics became popular and is a great way to catch consistently big fish. At the same time we saw a great increase in the quality of jig heads and it wasn't uncommon to see anglers using four- and six-ounce jig heads to get to the bottom in the Seaway and other deep channels.

**“THE MANTRA THAT
'NO LURE IS TOO BIG
AND NO WATER IS
TOO SHALLOW'
HOLDS VERY TRUE.”**

Over time new lures appeared at a phenomenal rate. In the early days soft plastics filled only one pegboard in most tackle shops. Now they dominate the shelves. The variety is quite amazing and just about every soft plastic ever made will catch a flathead! It is hard to keep up.

Large soft plastics like the Raid Fish Roller and John Costello's 'My lure Box' models have proven very effective when cast over shallow sand banks and weed beds. Hard bodies that run at shallow depths are also effective. The mantra that 'no lure is too big and no water is too shallow' holds very true.

To fish this event successfully generally requires you to master a number of methods. In a single day teams may fish the deep water with vibes or big soft plastics, troll, cast on the flats and then go on to fish soft plastics in the many draining channels. Each method can work well on a particular day. The conditions dictate the most likely successful method. Water quality is important, and the most difficult conditions are generally when a strong north westerly wind coincides with big tides. The cleaner the water, the better the fishing!



The Flathead Classic is a great forum for innovation, and over the years it has been won by anglers who know their spots, are proficient and efficient and who work together as a team. Team harmony is important, and if you are serious about doing well you need to pre-fish as much as possible. As well as searching for spots (and there is no such thing as a 'new spot'), it allows you to get confident in using lures that may be new to you. Above all, have fun! The committee has worked tirelessly to make this a great event, and I look forward to seeing you on the water (but not too close!).

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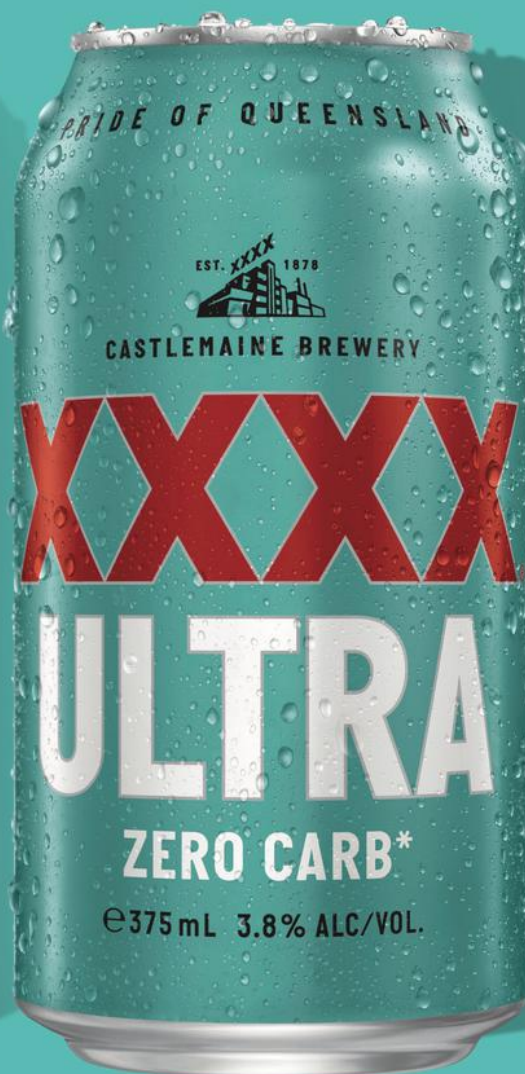
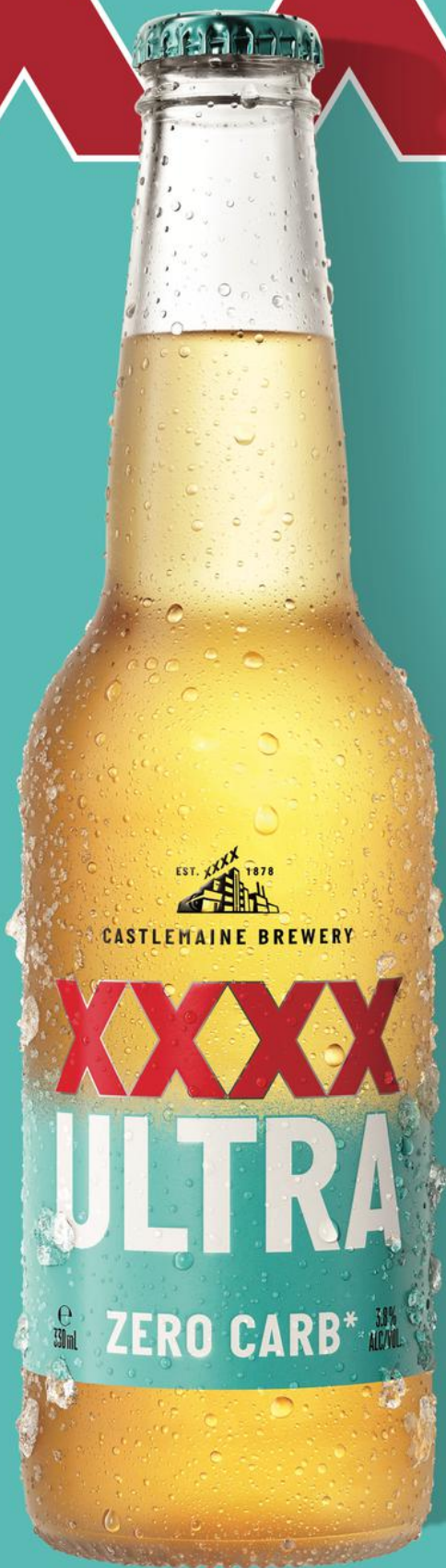
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