



Merrimbula Fishing Trip February 2011

Only 10 fisher persons formed the team this year. Due to the numbers we cancelled the bus.

Departure from the Club shed was at 6.10am in Robbie and Don's extra cab utes.

After stopping at Rosedale for breakfast and a wee then Bairnsdale for diesel we just had to stop at Nicholson to sample the best pies in East Gippsland (sorry PPP Patties). A second cousin of Bernard Belcourt. They were the best pastry I have tasted and the best chunky ingredients.

After a wee stop in Cann River and a few bush wee stops we arrived in Merrimbula approximately 14.30.

We made contact with our charter boat captain, Simon, organised a start time for Saturday then onto our accommodation.

Saturday morning we set sail at 6.00am and proceeded to navigate (scrape) our way out into the sea. We started trailing lures as we bounced across the sea away from the coast to do some bottom fishing. We stopped about 5klms of the beach and lines down as we drifted with the wind.

The conditions were a bit rough and windy so we decided to return to shore early and go hunting Marlin on Sunday. Max was first then Dick followed almost immediately. Berlying up over the side.

Our catch for Saturday was Stripy Tuna x 2, Bonito x 3, (trailing lures), Mowong x 3, Maori Wrasse x 2, Red Rock Cod small x 1, Leather Jacket x 1 and 2 small Nanagi. We were back on shore by 10.30am. All fish were filleted and we had fish and chips and salad (and oysters) for tea.

Captain Simon offered an alternative for the short day and that was to go out again early Monday morning for a quick fish. Sounded good to us all.

Sunday morning, 6.30 am, we scrapped our way out across the sand to sea again. We dragged a couple of lines out the back whilst we headed away from shore for approximately 20k's.

We idled around for about 4 hours and then headed back in, dragging a few lines out the back again.

For the hours we spent on the water we only bagged 2 Stripty Tuna and 1 Bonito. No Marlin, although we had 1 strike (I don't think it was a Marlin).

All packed up and ready to go home, around 6.30am, we scrapped our way out to sea again.

We drifted about 5k's off shore again, on the bottom, all filled with hope for our last chance.

After approx 4hrs we had bagged Stripey Tuna x 2, Bonito x 1, Frigate Mackerel x 1, Maori Wrasse x 7, Flatties x 3, Rock Cod x 2 and 1 Nanagi.

After stopping to buy Oysters at Pambula we headed home.