



After two long years of boat building, F&B's 8.0 m diesel project boat, *Dusty Rover* was finally finished and ready for its 'shakedown' cruise. In this, our second run, we really got to use the boat as a 'mothership'. Working from the new Port Hinchinbrook marina, we spent a fascinating nine days filming around Hinchinbrook's creeks and rivers, and out to the Great Barrier Reef.

Story and pics by Peter Webster and Ruth Cunningham.

Dusty Rover's 'Shakedown' Cruise: Sojourn From Port Hinchinbrook, FNQ

After bringing F&B's project boat *Dusty Rover* through from Townsville to Cardwell (F&B#69), we were looking forward to working out of the new Port Hinchinbrook marina.

We had nine days allocated to film another section of the special F&B documentary we're producing on this wonderful part of Australia.

This time, our mission was largely focussed on capturing on film the special techniques of barra fishing used in this part of the world. To this end, *Dusty Rover's* mothership role was put to extensive use.

It is a magnificent concept. Apart from on-going problems with the davit (which we keep bending) the concept of raising

and lowering the 3.4 Stessl dory to fish in the creeks and drains whilst the "big boat" is left "out front" safely at anchor (on the edge of the Hinchinbrook Channel), is proving to be very successful.

Fishing the inshore areas of Hinchinbrook and the mainland wilderness is all about small tinnies and shallow water fishing, right in amongst the mangroves. It's a vital strategy visitors should try and understand before they arrive.

Because the fishing techniques are so different to fishing techniques used 'down south' many otherwise experienced visiting fishermen are caught unawares, and suffer
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The more we go there, the more we love it - and the less we seem to know about this extraordinary part of Australia. **Above:** A tiny corner of the wilderness, as seen off the highway, as you drive over the Cardwell ranges. **Right:** Has the cessation of netting in the Channel improved the barra fishing? You better believe it - so much so, it casts grave doubts on the accuracy of the figures originally suggested by the commercial fishing lobby. These big fish were caught by Dominic Zaghini, his nephew Nathan and fiancée Kerri on the last weekend of the season. **Below:** Regular F&B contributors, Heather and Terrick Hamilton have been invaluable guides, friends and teachers, helping us better understand how to fish this pristine wilderness.

