

Aaron's Big Day Out At The 'Pin

(with 'is mum and dad!)

(Or, How Good Is This Trailcraft 480 As A Family Fisher?)

Here's another writer going back to his roots - Aaron Concord takes his Mum and Dad back along the Gold Coast's maze of estuary waters in F&B's Trailcraft, where they first took him fishing nearly 25 years ago. Amazingly, he doesn't seem to have learned a thing - he still loves it!

There have been some aspects of fishing that I had dearly enjoyed as a kid growing up as part of a boating family, that I have not participated in for a long time.

As an angler looking for new challenges, I progressed from bait to artificials. With this change came larger, faster species of fish as I worked up the ranks in both sport and gamefishing.

Twenty five years on, I started doing some of the types of angling I enjoyed as a child and teenager.

I still love the feel of sand between the toes while surf fishing, as much as pumping yabbies and fishing for summer whiting. The couple of trips I have done so far, I have enjoyed enormously. More had to be done.

I was lucky enough to be a part of a boating family that enjoyed fishing and crabbing.

As a consequence, when I was young, our family could roughly divide the angling year in two.

Summer was flathead and whiting time, whereas winter we chased bream, with tailor being the other favourite during colder months.

Other than the lure obsessed Aaron, the rest of the family would chase these species on freshly caught live bait or dead bait.

Number one was (and still is) the salt water yabbie. Call them bass yabbies or nippers, depending on what part of Australia you hale from.

Trailcraft 480 Profish, skippered here at the 'Pin (north of the Gold Coast's Broadwater) by Aaron Concord with his Mum and Dad



Live blood or squirt worms, live or fresh prawns, frogmouth pilchards, W.A pilchards and whitebait was the range of baits we used, depending on the target species or the baits availability.

As luck would have it, I have just recently been on an enjoyable outing with Mum and Dad exploring some of the old stomping grounds in F&B's Trailcraft 480 Pro Fish.

Enter new age gear.

Here is the twist. Instead of using our longer rods with reels loaded with "mono", it was baptism by fire for Mum and Dad.

They were going to use the 2 Shakespeare Ugly Stik/K2 Extreme combos that I put together for F&B's

black cat, *Whim-Away* as part of the comprehensive tackle selection I had purchased for it.

It would be the first time that either Mum or Dad had EVER used a super line product as well.

I wanted to prove the outfits did the job they were designed for along with parental feedback as to the new line's suitability for estuary work.

I was also interested to see how the small bibbed minnows I had picked for PW and Ruth to use on *Whim-Away* worked in the hands of 2 people who had never trolled for flathead. Casting lures we had all done for this great species, though trolling was something completely new for Mum and Dad.

The other bonus of a full day on the water doing the same things we had

done years before, would be that at the day's end, we would also see how AFFORDABLE the day would be for the average family.

The Game Plan.

Though this was to be a fun day on the water, I wanted a plan of attack to make sure we were fishing for the right species at their most suitable time of the tide.

I figured with a low tide mid-morning we would be able to troll or drift for flathead for the last couple hours of the run out tide.

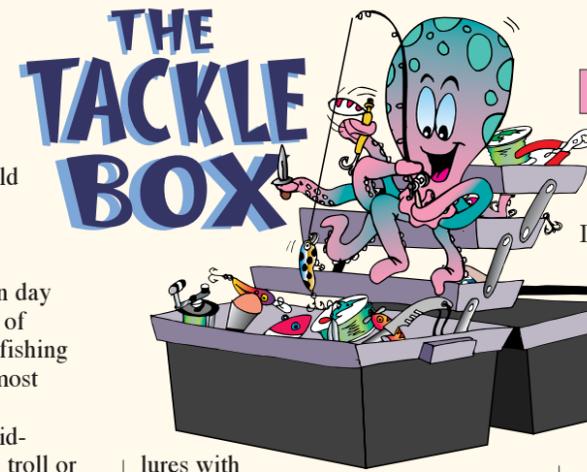
As the tide bottoms and the flood tide begins, we would pump some yabbies and go fish some old spots for whiting on the flood tide.

Launching at Diamond Head on the Pimpama River at 8am, I knew the tide was ebbing to a 10.30am low.

Perfect for flathead trolling for at least 1.5 to 2 hours.

I tied a Grey Ghost Micro Mullet on for Dad. Mum ended up with the "Banana" coloured DK XStream 15+.

I tried various old favourites in pink tones - Attack Minnows, Micro Mulletts and Nippy Shrimps to be exact. With these 3 different colours and different



With Aaron Concord

one that is getting all of the attention.

The first few hits that Mum and Dad encountered nearly gave them a heart attack. Even small fish register loud and clear on "braid" (the line on the K2 Extremes is Berkley Fire line in grey).

Mum landed the first fish which ended up being a fork tailed catfish.

It thumped the lure hard, made the drag squeal and put on a creditable performance. Mum had so much fun fighting the big catty that she wasn't too disappointed when it came on board for a quick release.

Over the next hour and a half, it was obvious that the green toned DK XStream 15+ was the lure that the flatties wanted.

We didn't land anything miraculous during this time, mainly fish between 35 and 45 centimetres in length (legal length in QLD is 40), though one fish that pole-axed Dad's grey Micro Mullet acted like a fish of around 60 odd centimetres, judging by the head shakes and the line it stole off the reel before the hooks came adrift.

lures with different diving capacities and actions that flathead like, I knew that if we ran over a flattie, he would have a variety of lures to devour. If one lure gets knocked off more quickly than the others, you can have a pattern emerge as to what they want to eat more readily. It's then time to change the other lures to something similar to the

Aaron's Mum, Teresa, with another superb flattie (this is just about the perfect pan size, and they taste delicious) which she nailed with a combination that included the Shakespeare Ugly Stik, K2 Extreme reel, Berkley fire line and the DK Xstream 15+ lure. Good thing, hey !

