



Issue 5 February/March 2017

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Nelson Dawnbreakers Fishing Club

SEASON EVENTS

10th—12th March
Havelock Weekend
(Cancelled due to weather)

8th—9th April
Okiwi Bay Weekend

Sunday, 23rd April
Social Afternoon 3-5pm

13th—14th May
D'urville Island Weekend

Sunday, 21st May
Social Afternoon 3-5pm

Saturday, 17th June
Prize Giving

CLUB UPDATE.....from the committee

It feels like each month passes us by faster than I can write these committee reports, maybe because I'm getting older..... Anyway here we are, March already and the beginning of autumn, I think summer showed only a brief appearance so let's hope autumn is kinder to us. This can be a great time of the year with fish feeding in the bay and more settled weather. A bonus is with the days getting shorter we no longer have to get up at 4am to fish first light.

The February/ March newsletter has finally arrived, a little late as we all were busy organizing the DNA Snapper Cup and also of course spending time on the water. The DNA Snapper Cup turned into a great success with over 85 members participating on a beautifully calm day. Fishing proved quite successful for most with several snapper over 10lbs caught. All up we had over 80 fish at weigh in.

A little tip for the new members that haven't been successful: spend more time with your club mates, their experience and knowledge will rub off on you. Most of our members are very approachable if you want to talk fishing.

The clubs March Social Day was last Sunday with a good turnout of members. The social days are a great way to catch up with other club members and swap some fishing stories; you know the one that got away...

Unfortunately the Havelock club weekend planned for the coming weekend has been cancelled due to rain and strong winds forecasted. This is a bit disappointing since Kenepuru Sound this year is enjoying some of the best fishing for a long time. We hope to have more luck next month with our Okiwi Bay weekend.

Remember to enter your fish into the clubs annual fishing competition. It most definitely is not too late; there are a large range of prize categories. Little inside tip: Not many large barracudas have been caught this season so it wouldn't take much to take a lead for the Cuta trophy.

The comp will run until the end of May followed by our much enjoyed end of year prize giving on the 17th of June. This is the highlight of the year and not to be missed. You can find more info about the clubs fishing comp at <http://dawnbreakers.co.nz/comp.php>

Over the next few months we have several club trips planed. These are a great way to enjoy the club and camaraderie of other members. For new members it can also provide a great opportunity to visit places you haven't been to yet as part of a group.

Hope to see you all again soon.

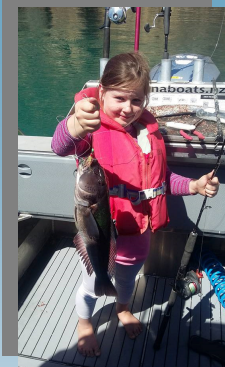
Tight Lines

MONTHLY SOCIALS.....

Congratulations to our winning members from our February and March social afternoons.



February **"Fish of the Month"** trophy was awarded to Jade Elvines for a big stunning Blue Cod.



Februarys **\$100.00 Big Blue Voucher** was won by Johnnie Stead

Marchs **\$100.00 Burnsco Voucher** was won by Nicky Fisher.... caught her first kingfish (not a keeper)!



Remember; every member who enters a fish each month will go into a draw to win a spot prize of a
\$100.00 Big Blue Dive & Fish or a \$100.00 Burnsco Voucher!!

"Lucky Member Draw" for February of \$100.00 was won by Nick Roberts—
and March **"Lucky Member Draw"** was Ben Cooper—not struck so Aprils social afternoon will jackpot to \$100.00—
must be at the social afternoons to win the cash"!



March **"Fish of the Month"** trophy was awarded to Caitlin Westgate for her first fish caught and entered in our competition.



MEMBERS PHOTOS

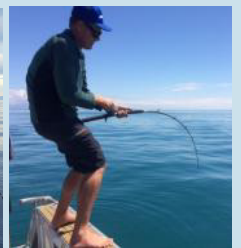
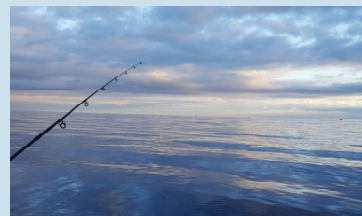
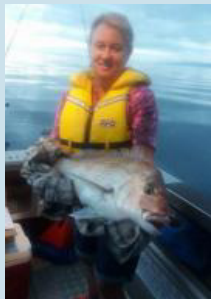


March **"Spot Prize"** a Snapper Plate & Lindt Chocolates was won by Johnathon & Catlin ... who are getting married later this month. Congratulations to you both.

Caught the catch of his life!!

[Send your photos to fish@dawnbreakers.co.nz](mailto:fish@dawnbreakers.co.nz)

SHARE PHOTOS YOU HAVE TAKEN – if you have photos of you or your family out fishing we'd love to see them. They don't have to be just you holding a fish, they could be other images you see while out on the water. Don't forget to add a few brief details about the photo.



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MEMBERS STORY..... SAVING THE WHALES

Friday 10th February's news of the stranded whales at farewell spit, caused an instant reaction from our family of wanting to help. So within 30 min of hearing the news at 8am, we were in the car on our way to try and get there for the refloat of surviving whales at high tide. Jim and Sophie were wearing wetsuits which allowed them into the water with DOC and Project Jonah workers to help re float the whales. They found the whale to be heavy and it needed all their strength to keep her up right and push her out. She resisted them and tried to do a full circle and return to shore, but their persistence paid off and she was successfully refloated into deeper water after an hour.

Meanwhile the tide was going out fast leaving 80 surviving whales stranded on the sand, so hearing the call for buckets and volunteers to pour water to keep them cool, Matthew and I went to help. Sheets were put over the whales and 3 to 4 people per whale proceeded to dig their flippers out of the sand, keeping them free, while pouring continual buckets of water over them. Their eyes wept, so we carefully washed them out with water while talking soothingly to them. She was watching me closely with her big beautiful eyes. Her skin was silky smooth.

It was an amazing experience, and one we will never forget. To see so many dead whales on the beach, literally took our breath away, and we all shed a tear or two. To be able to say we saved a whale and helped keep another one alive, was truly rewarding and one we won't regret ever!



PROJECT JONAH
NEW ZEALAND

To find out more about Project Jonah
and how you can support them
follow the link to their homepage:

<http://www.projectjonah.org.nz/>



DNA BOATS ... SNAPPER CUP!!

Wow what a day!!

I think that's the words that describes the first ever DNA Boats Snapper Cup.

Weren't the fishing conditions on the Sunday just perfect. Not a ripple in the water and when that sun broke through those clouds it had to be one of the best summers day we have had for a while.

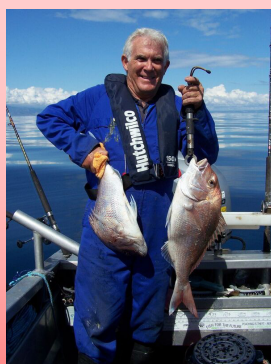
There were some awesome fish landed and it was great to hear the stories being told at weigh-in. The days fishing had several members catching their personal best fish. There were some members who caught fish on their new boats.

The food was on point, with so many people going back for seconds and some thirds! Thanks to Philip at [Catering on Parkers](#). The social aspect is what our club is about and the get together for dinner and prize giving showed that it's this, that makes the club days more enjoyable. Getting together with likeminded people, sharing tips and locations and most of all sharing a cold beverage together is what the club is all about.

The turn out at prize giving was impressive.....and we need to give a big shout out to our sponsors! Jason at [DNA Boats](#), Sean and his team at [Fluid Electronic](#) with the support of [Lowrance](#), Mario & Mark at [Big Blue](#), [Placemakers](#), [West Meats](#) and [Unichem Richmond Mall](#).

Many of our sponsors are keen to come on board next year. So if you are in the market to buy a new boat, new electronic equipment to find the fish; and the gear to catch the fish you know where to go. Without them we would not have had over \$6,000 worth of prizes up for grabs. Show your Dawnbreakers card so they know we are supporting them and don't forget many offer discounts to club members.

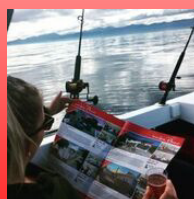
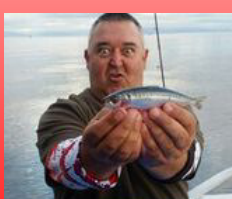
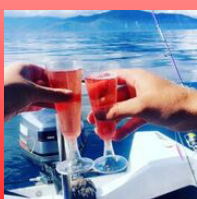
Your committee met this week and we had a bit of a debrief to ensure make next year's event even more fun and enjoyable. If you have any feedback, please send it to me (Nick) at mytmu@snap.net.nz I want to thank the committee and anybody who helped make the day a success.



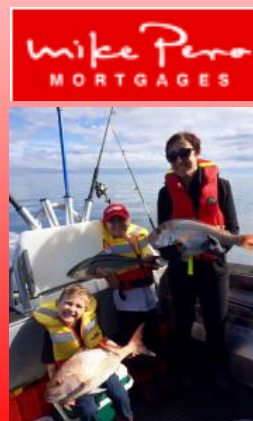
Stu Pope from [Mike Pero Mortgages](#) came onboard and sponsored a \$100.00 Big Blue & Fish voucher for the top shot photo of the day..... and there were some great photos entered. So with the help of his wife, Stu managed to choose a winner!!

This photo of Lenny Smith pretty much sums up the day; blue skies, snapper and a happy fisherperson. Well done Lenny - a great shot from one of your crew!

Stu also wanted to mention the family shot of the McPhersons, good to see a family enjoying a safe, fun family day out on the water. Well done McPhersons, a Big Blue & Fish voucher is heading your way.



A few more memorable top shot photos taken by members





ADULT HEAVIEST SNAPPER

Mark Cotton 8.030KG

\$250.00 Big Blue Voucher

VFH Radio from Fluid



1st ADULT

CLOSEST AVERAGE SNAPPER

Chris Meek 3.140KG

Lowrance Elite-9 Ti

Touchscreen Fishfinder/Chart

Plotter Value \$1849.00



2nd ADULT HEAVIEST SNAPPER

Doug McKay 5.710KG

Vacuum Packer From Fluid

Big Blue Prize Pack



2nd ADULT

CLOSEST AVERAGE SNAPPER

Melissa Elvines

Lowrance Hand Held VHF



3rd ADULT HEAVIEST SNAPPER

Michael Stump 5.490KG

Vortex Stray Line Rod

Big Blue Prize Pack



3rd ADULT

CLOSEST AVERAGE SNAPPER

Lenny Smith

Kiwi Sizzler Gas Boat BBQ



HEAVIEST GURNARD

Troy Dando 1.100KG

Big Blue Prize Pack



WOMENS HEAVIEST SNAPPER

Sue Hawkin 4.640KG

2nd HEAVIEST SNAPPER

Sharon Rose

L'oreal Gift Packs



HEAVIEST CRAYFISH 2.500KG

HEAVIEST KINGFISH 13.900KG

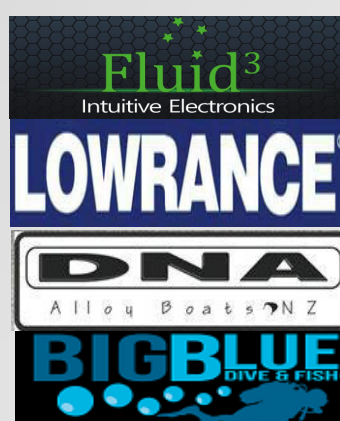
HEAVIEST KAHAWAI 2.630KG

Andy Selwood

Two Big Blue Prize Packs

RFD Cyclone Lifejacket

Backbone Jigging Rod



DNA BOATS SNAPPER CUP ... JUNIORS



JUNIOR HEAVIEST SNAPPER

Hayden Rutherford 4.960kg

\$250.00 Big Blue Voucher

Sponsored by DNA Boats



2nd JUNIOR HEAVIEST SNAPPER

Lucas McPherson 4.250kg

Big Blue pack



3rd JUNIOR HEAVIEST SNAPPER

Lucas Stump 4.140kg

Big Blue pack



JUNIOR AVERAGE HEAVIEST SNAPPER

Rhys Curtis 3.910kg

Vortex Stray Line Rod

Big Blue Prize Pack

Average Snapper Weight is 3.1640kg

Closest Snapper Weight was 3.500kg



JUNIOR HEAVIEST KAHAWAI

Cody McPherson 2.610kg

Big Blue pack



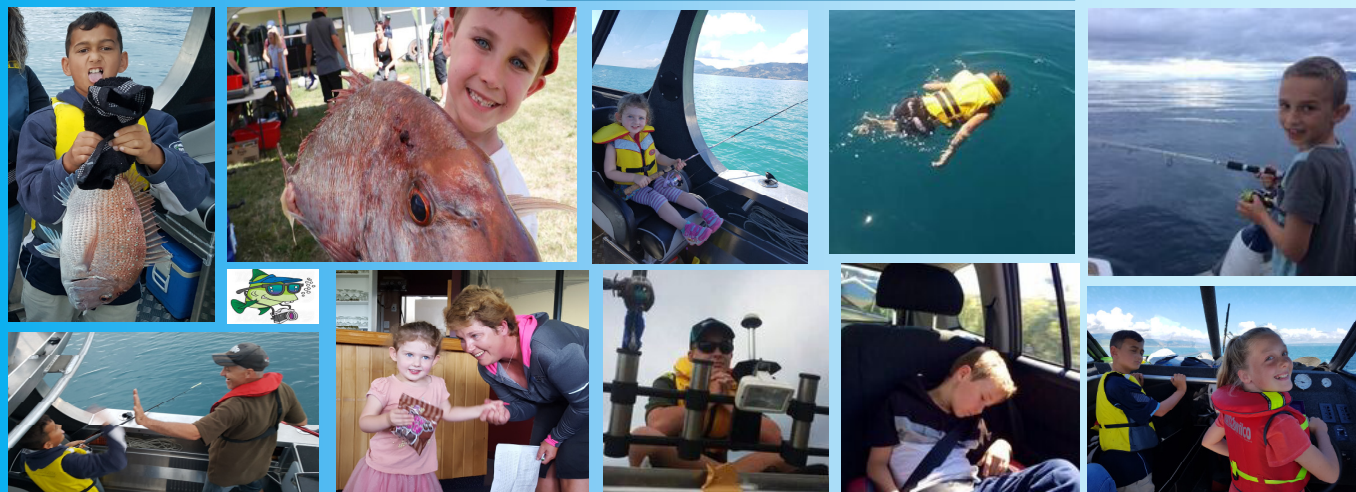
JUNIOR HEAVIEST GURNARD

Hayden Rutherford 0.770kg

Big Blue pack

JUNIORS SHOTS.....

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**FISHING MOMENTS THAT YOU WOULD RATHER FORGET,
BUT WE LOVE TO SHARE!**

I was taking out my latest boat out for a test run/sea trial with the new owner and planned on taking some promotional photos of it using the drone camera. So off we set to the marine reserve between The Glen and Cable Bay.

We saw a kayaker fishing on the edge of the reserve who waved out to us, and we waved back.

When we were in the reserve I started showing the new owner all the bits on the boat and was taking some drone footage when the kayaker started to yell—he's excited, must have caught a big fish we thought.

After a few hours out on the water we headed back to the boat ramp. I was reversing the truck down the boat ramp when someone I knew asked if I had seen the side of my truck. I hadn't but he explained that someone had kicked in my passengers door and tried to slash my tyres. After getting the boat on the trailer, we took a look at the truck and that's when someone parked next to us yelling abuse and calling us poachers.

I recognized the man as the kayaker we had seen at the edge of the reserve. I told him that were out there filming; not fishing.

Witnessing all of this was a MAF officer who had been called by the kayaker (*lucky the kayaker gave MAF his name/contact details*).

The MAF officer took a look in the boat and could see that there was no fishing gear onboard apart from the rods which were



for promotional use only. A few words were exchanged from the kayaker to the MAF officer.

Charges laid so watch this space.

Bugger...!!!



If you have any fishing moments to share: fish@dawnbreakers.co.nz

CLUB POLOS and HOODIES.....



Club apparel for sale!

Polos \$ 45.00

Hoodies \$ 65.00

and

Children's V-Neck Shirts \$30.00

and

Caps \$20.00

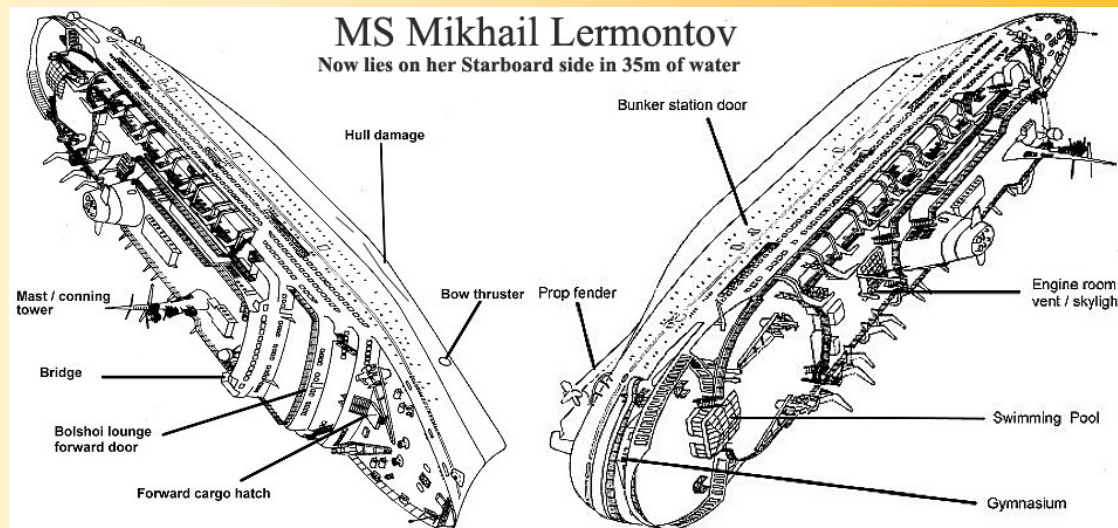
fish@dawnbreakers.co.nz

Ladies, men and children's sizes are available.



DIVING THE MIKHAIL LERMONTOV

We are privileged at the top of the south island to have easy access to a great range of diving from hunting for crays for a feed to studying the behaviour of the fish we hope to catch in the local marine reserve. Amongst these treasures are many wrecks, and some divers spend much of their diving careers fascinated by the, sometimes forlorn, and always ethereal remains of ships. In the Marlborough Sounds tucked into Port Gore is one of the best.



On Sunday the 16th February 1986 the Russian cruise line Mikhail Lermontov and 735 passengers and crew commanded by Captain Vladislav Vorobyev departed Picton for the Marlborough Sounds, under the supervision of the local pilot, Captain Don Jamison, who treated the mainly elderly Australian passengers to a sightseeing tour of the picturesque coastline, complete with a running commentary over the public address.

Just after 5.30pm the port side hull was ripped open on Pelham Rock off Jackson Head. The gash was only half a metre wide, but ran for some 12m, puncturing three watertight compartments. The was fatal, and after assessing the damage, Vorobyev calculated they only had 4 hours afloat at most.



The bridge of the Mikhail Lermontov

The crew informed the passengers that dinner would be delayed and the wine tasting currently in progress would continue. So, in true Titanic tradition the band played on, and there was no sense of panic; at least until the glasses started to slide off the table.

Vorobyev decided to run his stricken ship aground to try to save her, but by 7.15pm the electrics had failed and the engines drowned. Subsequently powerless, unable to steer, sinking at the bow and developing a list, the Russian captain knew he had no chance of beaching, and had no choice other than to abandon ship and save everyone aboard.

As is usual in our part of the world, the morning after the night before dawned picture postcard perfect. Hundreds of deck chairs bobbed round the bay and many households in the Sounds duly appropriated them for their own verandas.

Down on the virgin wreck, divers recovered the ship's safe, and the oil and fuel was pumped out to negate any environmental hazard. Then the souvenir hunters moved in. Cutlery, crockery, curtains and bar stools made their way to the surface, and one intrepid diver walked off with the ultimate trophy: the hammer and sickle decal from the funnel.

Fast forward to 2003 and I was lucky enough on my first visit to New Zealand to dive what is at 157m the largest liner since the Titanic to go down. And, unlike my home waters of Scotland and the North Sea it is accessible to most recreational divers.

My first experience in Port Gore was a day when although the visibility was down to 15 metres or so the conditions were benign enough to spend a good deal of time on the wreck.

As you descend it is so large that it takes a while to realise that you are approaching the side of a ship. First, we explored the superstructure canted at a crazy angle and by now completely covered in silt and life. We then entered the bridge and dropped through it past all the ghostly paraphernalia involved in driving a ship this size. Basically, by that stage mostly large vaguely familiar looking lumps of growth covered brass and silt. Look behind you and there are plumes of murk wherever anybody has touched a surface.

Dropping through the bridge somebody has conveniently removed a window that enables you to pass back outside. I gave up cave diving long ago but this was a faint reminder of the thrills.



The Neptun Barbefore and after

The second area of the wreck we dived that day was the Neptun Bar where tables, the bar and a staircase remind you of the high life passengers enjoyed; even if it was a bit dated. Today, with a specialist guide it is possible to penetrate much further into the wreck, but this is not for the faint hearted and we limited ourselves to what would be considered the easy options today. We finally made a fascinating trip down to the giant props at close to bottom at 27 metres. Travelling to them along the near horizontal side of the ship was like traversing a flat bottom until the port prop appears like some monument to Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov, the dead romantic 'poet of the Caucasus' that the ship was named for.

Needless to say, between dives enough crabs were gathered from the adjacent rocky shore by the enterprising skipper to make the evening as special as the day had been.



The giant props of a Russian liner