



2023 Wrap Up

28-29 May 2023

So another year, another Darwin Flyrodders (DFR) Territory Freshwater Fly Fishing Open was held on 28-29 May 2023 on Corroboree Billabong.

The Friday before the comp saw several competitors out on the water – getting into some fish.

And after several poor pre-fish outings in tough very windy conditions in previous weeks – the fish seem more ready to take the fly, better still the weather forecast was to have winds under 6 knots for the two days of the comp.

This raised the excitement for competitors as tactics, flies and options were discussed over dinner at Corroboree Park Tavern prior to the Competition briefing at 8pm.

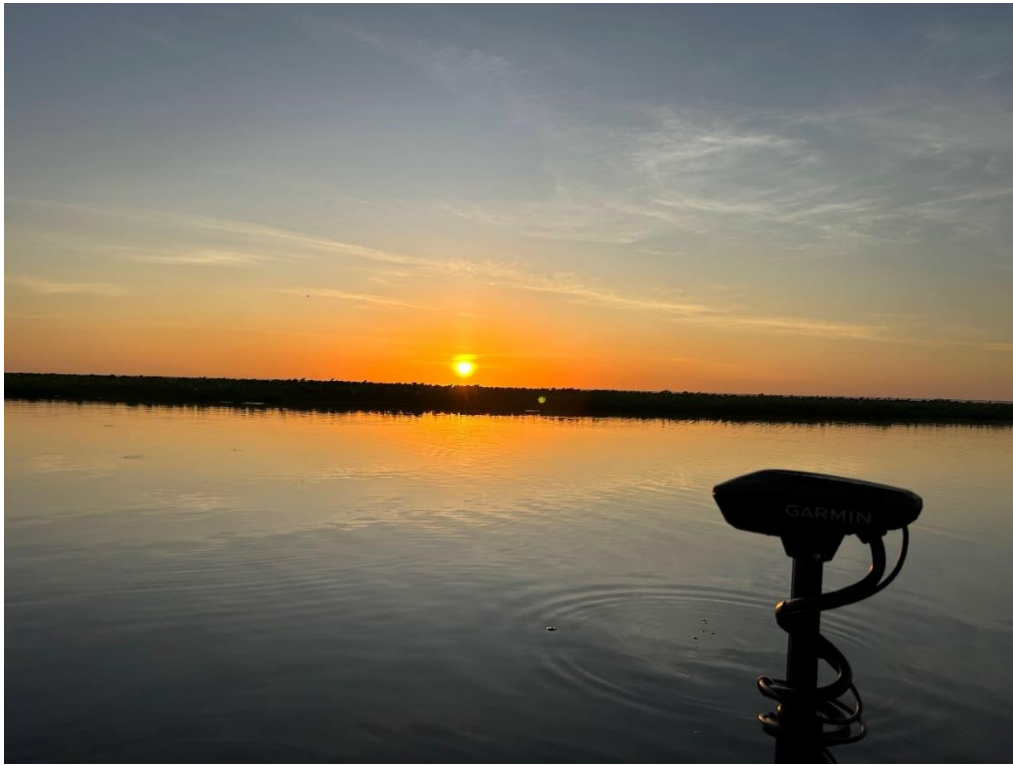
After the briefing, the teams of two fly fishers then collected their competitors bags of sponsor items, Comp shirt and scorecards for the next day.

The new artwork on the competition shirts was warmly commented on – Well done to the committee for the innovative and colourful design – barra, toga, tarpon, broilgas, and typical billabong scenery. The ‘Pink Thing’ fly on the front of shirt – a great inclusion of a classic NT barra fly. Great Work, Tracy!!

Some competitors continued to chat, brag, and reminisce toward midnight (or later) – others tucked into bed early - keen for the early start and lines in at 7am which would require a predawn rise and shine to get their boats launched and out to their various ‘secret’ locations on, hopefully filled with trophy fish aplenty!

One particular team, I heard, got locked out of their accommodation via a lost key and with no master key available then spent the midnight hours practice non-existent locksmith skills to eventually get to bed and a few hours of sleep.

Day1 saw plenty of boats out early, a few had a late start for various reasons.



The day started off mirror calm on the water and despite eager fish the day before still proved hard to entice to take the fly early on, though later between 10am and 4pm most anglers netted plenty of fish.



The first day when done, saw many stories shared at the ramp as scorecards were handed in. Stories of multiple monster sized fish dropped, and of fly lines in electric motors. One story was a fly hook in neck collar of a shirt, then fly line in the motor dragging the angler down almost to the motor before the electric was stopped. Though there were fly rods that broke as well.



But plenty of fish caught Day1.

Fish Caught Day 1

Species	# Caught
Barramundi	51
Saratoga	233
Tarpon	600
Others	84

Biggest Fish Day 1

<i>Species</i>	<i># Caught</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Angler</i>
Barramundi	51	77	Tim Harding
Saratoga	233	69	Sonya Lovegrove
Tarpon	600	45	Jeff Morgan
Sleepy Cod	11	43	Tony Laizans
Catfish	61	40	Glenn Hubble
Archer Fish	3	20	Tim Harding
Long Tom	6	60	Damian Cappelluti
Mouth Almighty	3	16	Roger Sinclair

Please refer to the number of tarpon caught in the above list. This shows that all teams and competitors caught a line (20) of tarpon, which is a change from previous years, where there have been anglers who haven't caught a fish at all for the competition – this is due to shared knowledge and tactics from experienced anglers to those without experience to help them regularly catch these feisty little silver slabs in fresh water. It is a fundamental element of the DFR club, but it is also the quality of this world heritage region and the location that Corroboree Billabong is found. Tell me where else can anglers such as three new competitors this comp, at least one brand new to fly fishing never having a fly rod in his hand, let alone fly fishing in the tropics - can catch that many fish and some other species in one day on the water.



Behind the captures list and scorecards for Day1, it also tell us that one team seemed to have found a honey hole of baby barra – catching 40 of the total 51 caught for the day. Another team while not finding the barra – almost caught 1 in every 6 saratoga total caught in Day1 in the total of 233 saratoga caught for the day. With that team bringing 39 togas to the net over the 10 hours of competition fishing time on Day1, plus full lines of tarpon and other miscellaneous species.



Once boats out of the water, and score cards in - it was time for a clean-up and then off for the evening meal. After this spectacularly scrumptious three course meal, prepared by the fantastic staff at the Corroboree Park Tavern (one of our oldest and special competition sponsors) – the scores were revealed.

Individual Scores Day 1

<i>Place</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Angler</i>
1st	3014	Quinten Pope
2nd	2817	Glenn Hubble
3rd	2625	Richard Carter
4th	2568	Robyn Gless
5th	2495	Shane McCarthy
6th	2421	Peter Cooke
7th	2105	Tim Harding
8th	1960	Roger Sinclair
9th	1880	Peter Thiel
10th	1694	Jeff Morgan
11th	1601	Robert Bekkers
12th	1438	Dave Maurier
13th	1400	Sonya Lovegrove
14th	1359	Brett Byron
15th	1347	Helen Stuart

<i>Place</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Angler</i>
16th	1318	Matthew Hayne
17th	1294	Tony Laizans
18th	1187	Tracy Byron
19th	1142	Justin Dwyer
20th	992	Greg Petterson
21st	872	Robin Burnup
22nd	865	Ron Bochow
23rd	757	Kevin Bochow
24th	695	Hayden Woodroffe
25th	688	Damian Cappelluti
26th	686	Bill Sharpett
27th	648	Nathan Cappelluti
28th	617	Alex Godfrey
29th	596	Jeffrey Woodroffe
30th	555	Leanne Harding

Team Scores Day 1

<i>Place</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Team</i>
1st	5881	Territory Towel Ups
2nd	5103	Two Casts
3rd	5046	Draggin' Flies
4th	3531	Chuck'n Ducks
5th	3172	Master & Apprentice
6th	3132	Alpine Anglers
7th	2700	Vertically Challenged
8th	2693	On the Fly
9th	2564	Bucktail Bandits
10th	2340	Flys Down Rods Out
11th	2272	Fishful Thinking
12th	1622	The Buckaneers
13th	1396	Chocky Frogs
14th	1303	No Doof No Boof
15th	1291	Woody's Roundup

So, a couple of teams out front with high scores, but all anglers catching a few fish on Day1.

Two big fish caught on Day1 are worth a special mention were – Sonja Lovegrove's 69cm Saratoga and BC's 77cm barra – great fly fishing catches any day or time - for these two DFR club fly fishers!



After the evening Day 1 wrap up, some stay on in the bar of the Tavern to chat and share the stories of the day, others again went to bed early, with point differences foremost in their thoughts and keen to jump a few places on the teams and individual standings. While others happy to catch a few more fish on Day2 without any pressure, some keen to come tight to a few more fish, if only to beat personal bests, maybe gain a biggest of species trophy, or at the very least catch a few more fish than their teammate for the day.

Day 2 is only 6 hours fishing time compared to Day1's 10hours, and despite some aching muscles (a few sore heads too!) – by lines in the majority of teams are on their secret spots with revised plans and tactics ready for the day.

Those 6 hours were hot, steamy and frantic for some seeking just enough points and fish to climb or maintain their place on the competition standings table – others enjoying the conditions and tight lines to a few fish.

The boat number activity at the ramp at 1pm was hectic and chaotic – but scorecards are handed in within the time slot and now fly fishers await the final briefing presenting - team, biggest species and individual standings for this the 2023 DFR FW Open.





Total fish caught for the DFR FW Open.

Total Fish Caught

<i>Species</i>	<i># Caught</i>	<i>Total Length</i>	<i>Av Length</i>
Barramundi	62	1794	29
Saratoga	413	18447	45
Tarpon	1085	30685	28
Sleepy Cod	19	708	37
Catfish	101	2598	26
Archer Fish	4	59	15
Long Tom	9	340	38
Mouth Almighty	8	131	16

2023 Overall Individual Standings

<i>Place</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Angler</i>
1st	4818	Peter Cooke
2nd	4785	Quinten Pope
3rd	4742	Richard Carter
4th	4146	Shane McCarthy
5th	3969	Robyn Gless
6th	3901	Tim Harding
7th	3878	Glenn Hubble
8th	3638	Roger Sinclair
9th	3161	Justin Dwyer
10th	2865	Peter Thiel
11th	2658	Sonya Lovegrove
12th	2501	Jeff Morgan
13th	2452	Dave Maurier
14th	2420	Tony Laizans
15th	2412	Robert Bekkers

<i>Place</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Angler</i>
16th	2370	Brett Byron
17th	2365	Helen Stuart
18th	1992	Ron Bochow
19th	1978	Matthew Hayne
20th	1859	Tracy Byron
21st	1501	Leanne Harding
22nd	1461	Damian Cappelluti
23rd	1377	Greg Petterson
24th	1315	Robin Burnup
25th	1270	Nathan Cappelluti
26th	1178	Kevin Bochow
27th	1135	Alex Godfrey
28th	1094	Hayden Woodroffe
29th	967	Bill Sharpett
30th	869	Jeffrey Woodroffe

Close at the top with only 70 points between first and third – that's basically one fish!

Well done to the 2023 champion – Peter Cooke



2023 Overall Teams results

Team Scores		
Place	Score	Team
1st	9560	Draggin' Flies
2nd	8753	Territory Towel Ups
3rd	8155	Two Casts
4th	6909	Master & Apprentice
5th	5442	Vertically Challenged
6th	5367	Chuck'n Duck
7th	4953	Alpine Anglers
8th	4850	On the Fly
9th	4294	Bucktail Bandits
10th	3973	Fishful Thinking
11th	3385	Flys Down Rods Out
12th	3170	The Buckaneers
13th	2791	Chocky Frogs
14th	2102	No Doof No Boof
15th	1963	Woody's Roundup

That's two years in a row for team "Draggin' Flies!"

Overall Team Winners - "Draggin' Flies"



Well done to all teams and competitors

