



Leighton pulled the majority of worms on the trip.



Dwane with a Waddy Point tailor.



Raymond caught his tailor on a set of 5/0 gangs using pilchard for bait.



Sunset over the gutter at Waddy.

# Special times on Fraser tailor trip

A WHOLE year of planning went into getting our friends and relatives on a camping and fishing holiday to Fraser Island.

The last week of the September school holidays was our chosen date to spend a few nights on the island.

Brother-in-law Raymond and his two boys Leighton and Justin are located in Moranbah, Cameron and Trinity in Blackbutt, Doug in Clermont, Jim is from Mackay and the least travelled Dwane and me from Poona.

The time we were to spend on the Island was going to be precious.

It is a requirement to purchase a camping and vehicle permit before entering the national park and you can arrange this online before you go.

Rainbow Beach was our meeting point where we all topped up with fuel, bought bread, milk and a freshly baked pie and cof-



Reader's Report  
by MELISSA FROHLOFF

fee for breakfast.

The last stop on the mainland was at Inskip Point to deflate the tyre pressure to 18lb.

This made traversing the section of soft sand to the barge a breeze.

Once we boarded we paid our barge fee and the 15 minute cruise was waveless.

When the barge door opened we drove onto our much-loved Fraser Island shores.

Low tide was early morning, so travelling the 80km of beautiful beach at this time of morning was going to be a treat.

The beach was flat and the ocean a display of slow rolling surf.

Pied oyster crackers were busy browsing for crustaceans while flocks of seagulls rested on the sand.

Pipis were starting to emerge as the tide receded so we gathered some for bait.

Finding a campsite as we neared Indian Head was looking a bit slim due to the school holidays.

But we selected a site to call home for the next few days with a view from the terrace to die for.

Setting up camp was a lot of fun as we had different ideas on how we were going to spend our time.

Leighton was quick to ask if the first couple of tailor could be donated to him to try out the new kipper box.

Justin rattled his new lure box and said: "I wish the bait fishers luck."

All Trin could focus on was beach worms, as it really annoyed her that they have eluded her for so long.

The guys just couldn't wait to crack a tinnie.

There was talk around the camp that night of an early start to try to catch a few choppers to smoke in the Nipper Kipper.

The wind direction was predicted northerly for a couple of days and there wasn't a lot in the way of deep gutter formations.

A father and son had just landed a chopper.

They were fishing the best water we could find on the front beach, so we joined in.

Dwane cast out a pillie but I thought I would try something different and baited a yakka onto a set of 5/0 gangs.

The bites were few and far between.

I was standing there staring into the white fluffy waves when all of a sudden, whack!

Getting the tip up was the priority as my Alvey was doing back flips.

I knew I had a good fish on.

It was a greeny slicing through the waves. What a wonderful site as its nose broke the surface.

Our first tailor for the trip lay there slapping on the sand.

The rest of the crew were slow to start and got to see my greenback's tail protruding from the bucket as they parked up.

The wind blew during the night, changing direction to the southeast and the big seas were roaring in at sunrise.

Dwane suggested we pack our gear, food, drinks and any other essentials and go to Waddy Point for an afternoon fish.

This part of the beach offers protection from a southerly.

It was low tide on ar-

rival and a nice sandbank was exposed for us to go worming.

The old hands offered some tutoring.

Tickle their bellies was my advice!

Only a few more washes and success was had by all.

Any worm that showed its head from then on was dart or whiting bait.

The gutter was starting to flood and the sun was slowly fading.

Anglers were gathering on the beach and some were already wetting a line.

The lure fishers had started spinning and with the next wave, rod tips were bent.

The beach was all action, with everyone catching fish.

The gutter started to produce its own berley with the chopped up bait from fiercely feeding tailor, hence the name chopper tailor.

Worst of all were the sharks that followed.

Hours later the biting frenzy started to slow but the creels were looking good.

Contented anglers were sitting on their deck chairs reflecting on the afternoon session.

Icy cold fish were pulled from the slurry on sunrise the next morning and filleted.

A good hearty breakfast was cooked to build our strength for packing up.

Tarps, tents, rope and pegs were gathered.

Each person in our group had a chore that seemed effortless.

At this point we all knew that Fraser Island's beauty had provided us with another grand trip enjoyed by family and friends. ↴

## Ripper recipe for smoked tailor

### Ingredients

- 4 tailor fillets
- 1/2 cup brown sugar (enough to lightly coat fish on flesh side)
- 2 tsp ground coriander
- Salt and pepper
- Methylated spirits
- 1 cup of manuka or port flavoured hardwood sawdust
- Aluminium foil

### Method

Place the four fillets skin side down on the Nipper Kipper rack, covering the fish with brown sugar.

Sprinkle one teaspoon of ground coriander over the fillets, and add salt and pepper to taste.

Prepare the other rack of fish the same way.

Allow to stand for 15 minutes until sugar starts to crystallise.

Place a layer of aluminium foil on the bottom of the smoker floor and spread the sawdust across it evenly.

The foil makes clean up easy and prevents your Kipper floor from rusting.

Fill your canister pro-

vided with methylated spirits.

Place racks in Kipper and slide lid closed.

Place canister on non-flammable surface (for example, sand) and ignite burner using an extra long red head match.

Place the Kipper box centralised over the flame.

When the alcohol stops burning after about 15-20 minutes your smoked fish will be ready to serve. ↴

Melissa Frohloff



Smoked tailor ready to serve.