MESSAGE FROM THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

I would like to welcome you to the first issue of the Hobie® Fishing newsletter. These newsletters will provide you with an in depth update on what’s happening within the tournament scene as well as some non-tournament related articles just to mix things up.

Now in it’s sixth year, the Hobie Kayak Fishing Series is designed to offer kayak anglers a competitive framework under the ABT umbrella. Both the Bream and Bass series have their own qualifying rounds, rankings, payouts and prize schedules. They culminate with their own series grand finals, where qualifying competitors will fish in identical Hobie provided kayaks creating a totally level playing field.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our sponsors, Daiwa Australia, Berkley, Atomic, Lowrance, Rhino-Rack, Power-Pole, Ecogear, StrikePro, Yamatoyo, Austackle, TT Lures, Hog’s Breath Café and ABT. Without their support it simply would not be possible to run events of this calibre.

We look forward to seeing you on the water or online at hobiefishing.com.au and facebook where you can keep up with all the latest tournament news as it happens.

Steve Fields
Tournament Director
Rob Paxevanos is a fishing journalist, photographer and the host of Fishing Australia; Australia’s most popular television angling series aimed at promoting sustainable fishing.

Rob’s been fishing around the country extensively for over 30 years and is considered one of the country’s greatest all round anglers, having caught species like a 1,200 pound black marlin (and an XL cash prize that followed), a 50 pound plus Murray cod on fly and one of the world’s biggest bonefish (89 cm) on fly, just to name a few.

Despite having access to any type of boat he chooses, kayaks remain his favourite craft and he uses his Hobies extensively in fresh and salt water.

Rob loves the adventure and thrill of catching new species from his Hobie and among his kayaking credentials he is the first person in the world to tag a marlin from a kayak. Despite having numerous other kayaking ‘firsts’ to his name, he remains equally as happy kayaking for a flathead or a trout with his young family or friends.

For Rob, perhaps the greatest benefit of the Hobie is that it can take him to remote and unvisited locations where bigger boats can’t go. The Hobie can find him serenity or adventure depending on his mood ... on some occasions it provides both.

Rob often says that it is without doubt the hands free Hobie MirageDrive® that has made kayaking so special to him, and the quietness, exercise and eco friendliness of kayaking are also high on his list of why he uses his Hobie so often.

Perhaps a quote by Rob sums it up best: “Kayak fishing time is quality time, and there’s just so many new places to fish, so many new fish to catch and techniques to catch them, and so many great anglers to meet along the way. From a young age I realized that kayak fishing is a sport that I can do until I’m old and grey. So that’s exactly what I plan to do, sharing the experience with my friends and loved ones when ever possible. See you on the water.”
Round 10 saw the Hobie® Kayak Bream Series presented by Daiwa head to Redcliffe, one of Queensland’s most iconic and notorious bream tournament venues.

Some 33 anglers descended on the venue, all determined to put themselves at the top of the leader board and to book their spots in the grand final later this year.

Redcliffe, just 40 minutes north of Brisbane, has been a popular venue over the years and has once again delivered the goods. The venue offered up fantastic Queensland conditions, great fishing from the reef, as well as, the man made structure of the jetties and boat hulls in the marina and canals. This ensured plenty of options for the competitors and a great weekend’s fishing for all.

Ultimately it was Brisbane year 12 student James Howarth who claimed the major prize on Sunday, bringing in eight bream for a total bag weight of 4.91kg which gave him a convincing 1.27kg lead over second place. Seasoned competitor and Lure and Fly contributor, Josh Carpenter’s two day total of 3.64kg landed him second after improving on his day one, tenth place.

Howarth, in only his third kayak tournament, fished smart on day one. He left some key areas to target on the second day of the competition. He spent both days hitting fish under and alongside the boats and jetties of the marina and the canals, casting along the edge of shady patches using lots of Pro Cure Scent. Early on both mornings he cranked these areas using Ecogear SX40s and as the light improved he threw Zman 2.5” Bloodworm Grubs, using a Nordic Stage Sharpshooter with 4lb line straight through.

Southern New South Wales angler and the eventual second place getter Josh Carpenter did the 35 minute pedal to the canal system straight off the Power-Pole starting line each morning. With the canal system being protected from wind most of the year Josh instinctively knew that the fish there were used to still conditions and didn’t spook as easily as the fish out on the reefs.

Sitting in tenth position on day one with a full bag weighing 1.74kg Carpenter was confident he would get his four fish on day two. His only concern was just how big those fish would be.

He worked the edges of the man made structure and boats and had three good bream in his Hobie livewell® before 11am. With three hours to go in the competition he was confident of catching his final bream and then hoping for some good sized upgrades. He got that fourth fish at about 12:30 but didn’t manage to upgrade and headed back to the weigh-in with four good fish.

Josh was extremely happy with his second place finish and won the local crowd over by breaking his prize pack open and handing out the valuable contents to enthusiastic local children in the audience.

Local angler Jason Garner, who bagged his .96kg big bream on day one of the tournament, took out the Hog’s Breath Café Boss Hog Big Bream prize. Jason brought the winning fish aboard his Hobie kayak teasing him with a Gulp Crabby using SAS 12lb line with 4lb Sunline V-Hard fluo carbon leader on his Nordic Stage Jaeger rod.

**WINNING TACKLE**

**Rod:** Nordic Stage Sharpshooter for cranking and Nordic Stage Aerial Pro 6’ 6” for plastics

**Lures:** Ecogear SX40s in Ghost Gill and Zman 2.5” Bloodworm Grubs on 1/28th TT Jig heads

**Line:** 4lb mono straight through

**WINNING EDGE**

James used plenty of Pro-Cure scent with an aggressive retrieve in the shady patches around and under boat hulls in the marina and canals.
I was pretty nervous coming into the second day as there was a lot more competition heading into the canals.

James Howarth, 1st Place.

The Ecogear SX40s in Ghost Gill and Zman 2.5” Bloodworm Grubs on 1/28th TT Jig heads that did the damage for James Howarth.

Jason Garner (left) and the Gulp Crabby that hooked him his 96kg bream for the Hog’s Breath Café Boss Hog Big Bream award.
Jason Reid and Simon Morley take the top spots at Georges River and book their places in the Hobie Fishing World Championships.

**Jason Reid** took first place with 6 bream for 3.65 kg and a 250 gram lead over the nearest competitor Simon Morley. Morley who was equal first on day one managed to hold on to second place with 6 bream for 3.4 kgs but ultimately it was Reid who jumped 21 places to take the title on Georges River.

Jason fished the back of Woolooware Bay, working the mangroves to get his day one bag of 3/1.21.kg.

Deciding not to leave fish to find fish, Reid hit the same area again on day two, this time slow rolling cranks over the flats to get his bag by 8:00am. He went on to upgrade twice by 9:00 and then, as he was slowly making his way back before the wind got up, landed his 1.28kg “big one” to finish the day in first with three bream for 2.44kgs.

Second place getter, **Simon Morely** also fished in the back of Woolooware Bay behind the racks. Using Daiwa Black Labels and Caldia 2000s on lighter 4lb line to encourage the bite and then taking the challenge to get them out without getting broken off.

Morley fished the same area on both days. Day one started slowly until the advice of fellow angler Kane Terry on what lure the bream were hitting picked him up three solid fish for 2.26 kg and ended up placing him in equal first for day one.

Taking the same approach on day two didn’t deliver as hoped and after going looking, Morley managed to pick up a few smaller bream to hold on to second and qualify for the Hobie Fishing Worlds later in the year.

Hog’s Breath Café **Boss Hog Big Bream** award goes to winner of Round 6 at Forster and already Worlds Qualified, **Patrick McQuarrie** for his day one monster weighing 1.38 kg which he picked up on a Strike Pro, Cyber Vibe in black along a two metre edge near Kogarah Bay.

As expected, Georges river turned on some great fishing with conditions providing good cover and no shortage of options for kayak anglers with boat hulls, bridges, jetty’s, oyster racks and flats all producing good bream within easy reach from the launch location.

Both Jason and Simon have now earned spots in the Hobie Kayak Bream Series Grand Final presented by Daiwa. In addition, they have also qualified for the much sought after positions in the Hobie Fishing World Championships to be held in the Netherlands later this year.

Both anglers would like to thank Hobie and the sponsors for making these events possible.
I promised myself I wouldn’t leave fish to find fish.

A decision that paid off for Jason Reid, 1st Place.

The Strike Pro, Cyber Vibe {above} that hooked up Patrick McQuarrie’s 1.38 kg monster earning him the Hog’s Breath Café Boss Hog Big Bream award.
Central Coast breamer Ronnie Sonter has come from behind to take out Round 8 of the Hobie Kayak Bream Series – Presented by Daiwa in Lake Macquarie.

Sonter was tied for third place with a 1.76 kg bag after day one but on day two presented the weigh master with a tournament winning 2.06 kg bag to take the lead and win the competition.

Stewart Dunn moved up the ladder from his day one fifth position of 1.69 kg to secure second position with his day two 1.91 kg bag. He achieved this result by fishing boat hulls in the northern area of the competition arena where Sonter also chose to fish.

Jason Meech maintained his third place by backing up his day one bag of 1.76 kg with another good bag, only slightly lighter at 1.71 kg. Meech also took out the Hog’s Breath Café Boss Hog Big Bream with a 970 gram kicker that he caught early on day two in the weed flats south of the start location.

The anglers were competing for a place in the 2014 Hobie Kayak Bream Series Grand Final. These are a heavily sought after items with state titles giving four spots while other qualifying rounds in 2014 have two positions.
In what was a difficult weekend’s fishing for most, Chris Burbidge has continued his winning form and secured another first place at Lake Tyers in Round 7 of the Hobie® Kayak Bream Series presented by Daiwa. This is his second win in the 2014 series having already taken out Round 1 at Glenelg while maintaining consistent top tens across the rounds he’s competed in this year.

Burbidge initially had some reservations about Lake Tyers after a particularly difficult pre-fish.

“I had no confidence coming into the round. I’d pre-fished right up until the ban and hardly had a touch. On the Friday before the pre-fish ban I came away with only two bream for eight hours work.”

However, his concerns were unwarranted after a cracking start on day one where he delivered three bream for 3.39kgs. Fishing the main lake, with a Norries Laydown Minnow in 2–3 foot of water delivered the goods and saw him bagging out by 7:40.

He continued to work the main lake until around 10:00 am before making his way up the system to deeper water where he changed up to a Jackall Chubby Vibe in Matt Black. Using slow roll with a long pause on some of the deeper drop offs paid off with Chris catching 30 fish in total for the day with 8 upgrades.

“Day two was harder going with the reverse, chase start, there was a lot of traffic already on the main lake when I got there so I moved a bit further down the line and began throwing the Laydown Minnow again”, said Burbidge.

The fish were still there to be had and Chris had his bag by 8:00am before deciding to once again move to deeper water and pick up day one’s pattern with the Chubby Vibe, a decision that lead to a total of six fish for the day with no upgrades.

Second place and a qualifying spot for the 2014 grand final was picked up by Chesney Fung who spread out across the waterway looking to cover as much ground as possible on day one. Fung headed down the Toorloo arm early in the day before returning to fish the main lake, throwing a Jackall Chubby Vibe to secure his three bream for 2.76 kgs.

Fung pedalled up the Nowa Nowa arm to the power lines on day two and continued to throw the Chubby Vibe, hitting the bottom with a slow soft lift on the retrieve to pick up his two fish for 1.85 kgs.

Chesney has been delivering some consistent bags throughout the series and has now qualified for both 2014 bass and bream grand finals.

Third place and the second qualifying spot in the grand final was taken by Tony Pettie who also received the Hog’s Breath Café Boss Hog Big Bream award with his 1.48 kg monster which he picked up in Black Snake Bite on the Nowa Nowa Arm using an Ecogear SX 48 Customised in muddy prawn by Geno Custom Lures.
I had no confidence coming into the round. I’d pre-fished right up until the ban and hardly even had a touch.

Chris Burbidge, 1st Place.
In 2011 Hobie Cat Australasia took kayak fishing to a new level with the introduction of the 1st Daiwa Hobie Kayak Fishing World Championships. The event was held in Port Macquarie, NSW, Australia and was an outstanding success.

In 2012 Aussie anglers qualified by competing in the 4th Daiwa Hobie Kayak Bream Series and traveled to the world championships in Austin, Texas, USA. The event was another outstanding success with the Americans taking the top prize.

2013 was another sensational season culminating in a joint Grand Final / Hobie Fishing World Championships at not one but two of Australia’s most revered bream fisheries at Bemm River and Marlo, Victoria. Richard Somerton reclaimed the world championship title for the Aussies and Darryl Head won the Australian Hobie Kayak Bream Series Grand Final.

2014 will be no exception. In what has already been a massive year of fishing we will see our top anglers heading to Europe to defend the “World Champion” title in the 4th Hobie Fishing World Championships to be held in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
Prior to the 2012 Queensland floods, Lake Monduran was one of the meccas for stocked metre plus impoundment barra. The current world all tackle record of 98 pounds came from the lake prior to the floods.

Most of the mature fish escaped in the floods, so re stocking began shortly afterwards, and the rapid growth rate of 1 mm per day has seen the 2-3 year old fish now averaging between 60 and 90cm.

On a recent Fishing Australia shoot, host and Hobie® Ambassador, Rob Paxevanos teamed up with locals including guide Rob Wood and son Tommy to sample the rebirth of this fishery. A freak cold change saw the fishing particularly tough for most craft.

Utilizing the stealth of a kayak to approach fish side scanned on various shallow points around the lake, Rob and team were able to keep lures in tight and deep along defined timber lines, giving the barra plenty of time to find and strike the lures.

“Further to earlier Fishing Australia episodes and instructional DVD’s produced on this lake, we found that trolling in the kayak was one of the easiest ways to get our offering into the strike zone without spooking the barra”, said host Rob Paxevanos.

The Hobie MirageDrive® was the single biggest necessity in the approach. “Being able to hold my rod while trolling allowed us to tweak, twerk and jiggle a medium diving lure in a seductive fashion as we passed scanned barra. It also gave us the ability to feel our lures way around the timber and weed. The bites were super subtle in the cold snap, but our approach allowed us to be intimately in contact with the lure, feel the bite and then hook the fish without slack in the line, even when it was windy. This approach would quite simply be impossible with a standard paddle kayak”.

Rob continued “Once a fish was hooked the MirageDrive allowed us to manoeuvre the kayak and keep our hands free to control the rod. All very important when battling big explosive fish in tight cover. The battles are right up there with the most exciting and demanding I have experienced... Not sure that there’s many fish that big anywhere in the world that are caught in such tight cover...It’s intense and rewarding”.

“The team ended up catching the first official metre long barra since the 2011/2012 Queensland floods, and the whole region is abuzz with the news. The action was captured as part of the new 2014 series of Fishing Australia which commences airing in June.

“While I love holding into wind and current and casting from my various Hobies, trolling is the most effective and fun way to go. And the beauty of it is that it’s easy for newcomers and can be done on a Hobie priced budget. Anyone can have a crack at these big barra at Monduran, Awoonga, Proserpine and more. Simply put out a lure that gets out a metre or two, hold the rod so you can work the lure, and go exploring... This works phenomenally well on impoundment barra and other big predatory fish Australia is blessed with. It’s one of the easiest techniques I can recommend, but I’ll leave the ensuing battle up to those who get to try it”, he grins.
2014 Hobie Fishing Team

Jersey

100% Polyester Mesh with QuickDry, Wicking Dry Function

Easy Open Collar. Cool Down After an Intense Battle

Snug Fitting Cuffs Stay Out of the Way When Casting

Longer Profile Design and Relaxed Fit for Ease of Movement While Casting

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Available in sizes SML, MED, LRG, X-LRG, XX-LRG, XXX-LRG, and XXXX-LRG
The Hobie Kayak Bream Series and Hobie Kayak Bass Series are designed to offer kayak anglers a competitive framework under the ABT umbrella. These competitions are cast and retrieve, lure and fly only.

The bream series involves bringing your heaviest legal bream, alive, back to the weigh-in while the bass series involves presenting images of your catch on a digital camera card, as well as a catch card, to the tournament director for sorting at the completion of the tournament. (This competition format is also known as a Catch, Photo and Release Tournament.)

Both series will have their own qualifying rounds, rankings, payouts and prize schedules and will culminate in their own series Grand Final, where qualifying competitors will fish in identical Hobie-provided kayaks on a totally level playing field.

Get on board now at hobiefishing.com.au

### 2014 HOBIE® KAYAK FISHING SERIES

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### HOBIE® KAYAK BREAM SERIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RND</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT LOCATION</th>
<th>DAYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R01</td>
<td>FEB 08 - 09</td>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Glenelg State Titles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R02</td>
<td>FEB 22 - 23</td>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>Gemm River State Titles</td>
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<td>R03</td>
<td>MAR 15 - 16</td>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>Marlo Hobie Fishing Worlds 2014 Qualifier</td>
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<td>MAR 23</td>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>Clarence (Iluka) GTS North Daiwa Hobie Kayak Bream Series</td>
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<td>APR 05 - 06</td>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>Forster</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MAY 18</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>Ascot (Upper Swan River)</td>
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<tr>
<td>R07</td>
<td>MAY 24 - 25</td>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>Lake Tyers</td>
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<tr>
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<td>QLD</td>
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<td>MAY 31 - Jun 01</td>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>Lake Macquarie State Titles</td>
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<td>JUN 14 - 15</td>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>Georges River Hobie Fishing Worlds 2014 Qualifier</td>
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<td>QLD</td>
<td>Redcliffe</td>
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<td>JUN 22</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>Murray River (Mandurah)</td>
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<td>R11</td>
<td>JUL 19 - 20</td>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>Gold Coast State Titles</td>
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<td>AUG 16 - 17</td>
<td>QLD</td>
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<td>SEP 13 - 14</td>
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<td>OCT 11 - 12</td>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>Paynesville</td>
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<td>GF</td>
<td>NOV 22 - 23</td>
<td>Venue</td>
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### HOBIE® KAYAK BASS SERIES

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<td>NSW</td>
<td>Tallowa Dam</td>
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<td>MAR 09</td>
<td>VIC</td>
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<td>OCT 25 - 26</td>
<td>Venue</td>
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All dates and venues subject to final council approvals, water permits and weather forecast prior to the event and are subject to change. Organisers & Hobie Cat Australasia cannot be held responsible for events outside our control should a change of date / venue be required.