

2015 NSWGFA

Junior Team

By Connor Brown

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This is the write up I was asked to do about my experience on the NSW Junior Team in Kiama last weekend.

On Friday 27th of March I travelled down to Kiama from Muswellbrook to compete in the 2015 Kiama Blowhole Tournament. I was privileged enough to be one of the four boys selected in the NSW junior team that would compete in the tournament. That afternoon I was introduced to the three other boys competing alongside me: Reece, Lachlan and Brandon.

After we had our small meet and greet we went and visited the 35 foot Caribbean that we would be fishing aboard for the next two days. The boats name was Nemo and was captained by Harry. That night we went to the briefing and had the opportunity to meet all the other skippers and anglers we were competing against. The president then went through all the rules and expectations for the tournament.

On Saturday morning we headed out of the bay at eight o'clock with high hopes and plenty of excitement. We decided to use lures for bait and we were also taught how to tag fish. We were lucky enough to be able to tag four dolphin fish on 15kg.

We used a rotational system on the rods which gave everyone a fair turn. As the day progressed we learnt more. We learnt that it's important not to handle live bait with sunscreen on your hands as it can potentially kill the bait and affects its performance. That night after a long day of fishing the club held a tournament dinner night that allowed us to relax and enjoy ourselves.

By Sunday morning the winds had dropped off and we were in for another good day of fishing. We were lucky enough to tag our only fish for the day in the last thirty seconds, a dolphin fish. The tournament drew to a close and Lachlan was awarded Champion Junior and Reece Champion Small Fry. Although I didn't gain a place myself I am very proud of the boys' efforts.

I would like to thank to thank Harry, for donating his time and boat to the junior team and Brodie for his time. I would also like to specially mention Grahame for taking care of myself and the boys on the weekend.

It was a memorable experience and one I will cherish forever.

Connor Brown.