

## NSWGFA Junior Team 2018 Kiama

The team had a fabulous week-end at the Tournament this year and my special Thanks go to Mark Way, President of Kiama GFC, his Executive and all his members for hosting us. They all went out of their way to make us welcome. Special thanks also to Kiama GFC member Paul Wyer for moving his vessel and giving up his berth for the time Nemo was visiting Kiama.

Thanks again to Harry Miriklis for supplying his vessel Nemo and to Stephen Schneff (Snappy) for decking for the team, it is really great that they give up their time to assist me in hosting the team and fishing the Tournament.

This year we had three boys and one girl on the team, Ryan Kaczorowski, 15 years old from Port Macquarie GFC, Jack Miegel, 14 years old from Broken Bay GFC, Rhys Jolly, 12 years old from Newcastle GFC and Kaitlyn Schofield, 12 years old from Bermagui BGAC.

Once they all met at our accommodation we had a team meeting and then they visited Nemo at the berth to be shown where all the safety gear was stowed.

After presenting them with their team shirts and satchels full of goodies I then showed them to their rooms. The boys in one room with bunks and Kaitlyn ended up in the master suite with a King size bed and her own ensuite (I ended up with the boys in a bunk, see what I have to do when I have a girl on the team, anyway it was worth it, Kaitlyn was great).

We all then went for dinner and the briefing at the Kiama Leagues Club where all the Tournament functions were being held.

The team got on so well for the whole week-end and really fished well together, it was a pleasure looking after them and I would like to thank their parents for the confidence they placed in me to look after their children both on land and sea.

I would also like to note that all the parents should be very proud of their children for the way they conducted themselves on behalf of their families, NSWGFA and their own game fishing clubs.

It was a great tournament with 32 boats and 108 anglers entered, the weather and seas were kind to us and the fishing was good.

The NSWGFA Junior Team ended up with 17 Mahi Mahi and 1 Striped Marlin Tagged & Released for the two days of fishing.

Jack, Rhys and Kaitlyn ended up with 4 Mahi Mahi each and Ryan ended up with 5 Mahi Mahi and the 1 Striped Marlin approximately 80kg which was on 15kg tackle. The Marlin was a real highlight for the team for the week-end, taking Ryan an hour to bring it to the boat before Snappy traced it and I put the tag in.

The final result for the Team was Ryan winning Champion Junior Angler T&R and Nemo winning Highest Point Scoring Boat T&R for Other Game Fish. This result made us all very pleased with our achievement over the week-end.

This was my 22<sup>nd</sup> year of sponsoring and hosting the NSWGFA Junior Team, something I am also very proud of. At this stage I think it may be my last time as it would be good to go out with such a positive result.

Best Regards,

Grahame A Williams, OAM  
NSWGFA Life Member.