

James Doing Well With Some Swoffing At Hinchinbrook

This originally appeared on the CAA WhatsApp group – you can consider joining and see stuff like this in almost (and maybe actually) real time. (contact Claude to be added).

James



First queenie on fly – taken on clouser.

It's been awesome man! Don't be jealous of the shorts they were a mistake, got smashed by midgies 'n mosquitoes 🦟 I look like I've got chicken pox 🤒

Mate it's been unreal! Big adjustment trying to get flies into the mangroves but got the technique down by the 2nd half of the last day ... it's definitely challenging but

rewarding style of fishing the salt. Did two days with a guide up at Hinchinbrook Island. First day caught upwards of 15 queenies and a handful of small GTs.



First GT

Few Barra around but I was having trouble seeing them and kept spooking them due to a lack of casting abilities. The second day was magical with ridiculous numbers of fish everywhere. Started on the Barra but my casting still needed improvement as the clouds shifted and sun came out we headed out onto the flats and saw numerous numbers of permit on the but I was unsuccessful in getting a take had a few follows but no takes once again spooked many fish this time mainly due to excitement. After the tide had risen we were unable to see them tailing or the flashes of silver from them feeding on the bottom so we headed across to the mangrove lined shores of Hinchinbrook Island to have another crack at finding the elusive and easily spooked Barra. Finally I got the nack of getting my fly right up into the roots of the mangroves and started getting follows and takes from Jacks n Barra . It is unbelievable how

quick the Barra can eat and spit out a fly! Also sometimes multiple quick strikes are required to set the hook. I lost a few fish to instinct after striking with the line but then lifting/moving the rod. As we moved up a small mangrove lined creek with blue water the amount of active fish was truly amazing! Seeing and getting a few follows from two massive Barra but with no takes. I hooked an archer fish but lost him just beside the boat when I lifted the rod. For the rest of the afternoon we worked the mangrove lined banks missing a few more strikes eventually I got the knack of setting the fly in these quick eating northern saltwater species and managed to land a couple of Mangrove jack. Words cannot emphasise how rewarding it was to pull these fish out of their snaggy homes and into the boat! It was a trip of much learning and I can't wait to get back up here next year!



First Jack



Second Jack – PB

No Barra successfully landed missed all permit got few follow ups no takes. Yeah mate absolutely unreal went out with Clinton from the Australian fly fishing lodge can't recommend him enough – great knowledge of the area !