

# Worth the trip – *BlueWater* readers travel across the country to find giant marlin



**TWO** Western Australian anglers decided to try their luck for some big marlin off Cairns this season. Kurt Decker and wife Jo from Exmouth headed across for some barra and billfish in October. Luck was most certainly on their side as they landed two barra over a metre on their first morning at Tinnaroo. The weather had been quite bad in Cairns for some months prior to their visit and the fishing hadn't been very good either. They were booked on *Reel Chase* for six days and all previous

reports from most boats were not looking promising. However, the pair began with seven marlin strikes on Day 1, resulting in three tagged fish, with Jo tagging a fish estimated at 950lb. This magnificent black jumped madly all over the ocean at the stern of the boat as Kurt took about 100 photos on their Canon D20. After such an energetic fight, Kurt was put on strike for the rest of the trip. However, Jo managed to begin Day 2 with a 28kg mackerel while bait fishing. This day also saw another four fish strikes and three tagged, while boats all around were also in with the

luck. On Day 3 Kurt began with a solid, 25kg giant trevally caught on a popper, followed later in the day by a 200lb marlin. Kurt and Jo chose to tag all their fish, but they did see some fish being weighed on other boats, clearly demonstrating the awesome dimensions of a fish over 1000lb.

Day 4 had Kurt hooked up to a 900lb marlin – he was stoked! The tag went in, along with another on a smaller fish, and there were plenty of cheers and beers that night! In all, they tagged 10 marlin for the trip and couldn't have asked for a better time. ■

– Jeni Lerch