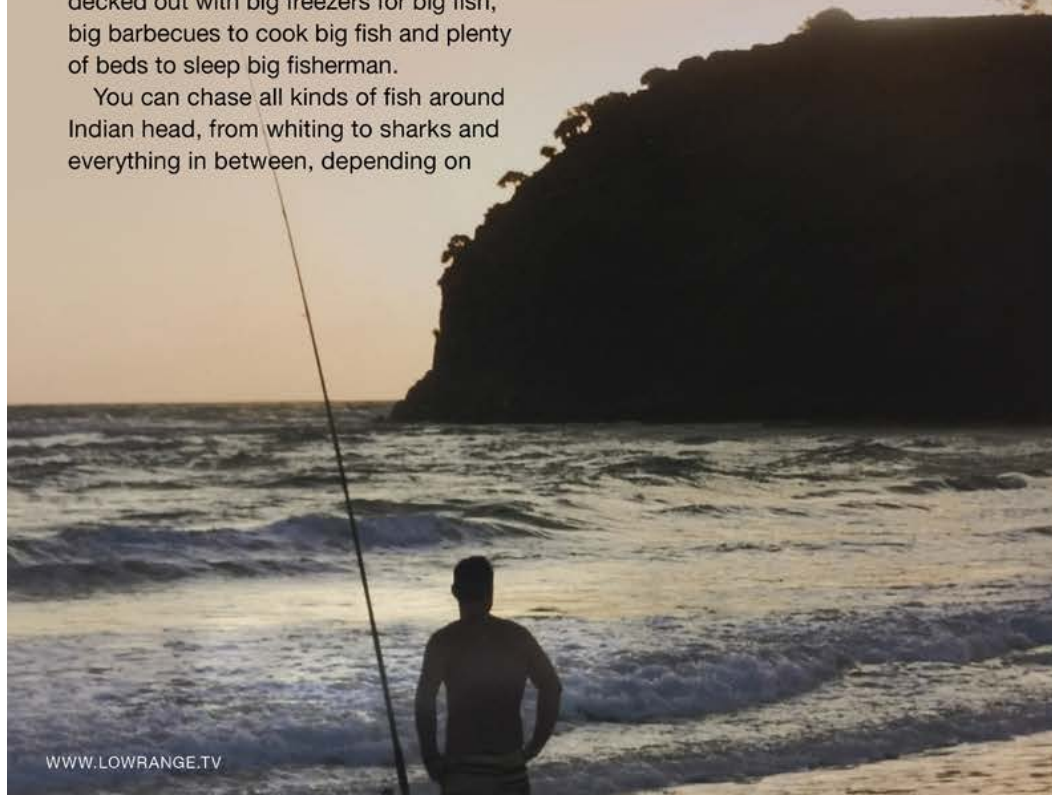


INDIAN

Indian Head on Fraser Island is one of the most diverse fisheries in Australia and the place I've caught the biggest and most varied fish, and made some of my best memories with my best mates. Every year around October we would pack plenty of bait, beer and food and head for Cliffy's aka "the rum bear" fishing huts on Indian Head, it's more than a fishing trip, it's a tradition. The huts are decked out with big freezers for big fish, big barbecues to cook big fish and plenty of beds to sleep big fisherman.

You can chase all kinds of fish around Indian head, from whiting to sharks and everything in between, depending on

where you decide to fish from. In my opinion, the best spot to fish on Indian Head is also the hardest to get to. The Veranda is a big flat rock ledge on the most eastern point of Indian Head. It's only accessible from the northern side by scaling big boulders and rock ledges. But the most challenging part is the rope that you have to swing across, with all of your gear, over a massive drop,



HEAD

into shark infested waters. It's a long swim back to a spot where it would be possible to get out. The rope is tied around the tip of a rock pinnacle that sits above and in the middle of the drop. The worst part is seeing all of the ropes still tied around the top of the rock that have snapped in the past, but the lure of bagging out provides courage.

This is where the big boys hang out - big green back tailor 4kg plus, golden trevally, silver trevally, tuna, mackerel and of course, sharks. The problem here is not if you're going to catch fish, it's how are you going to land them? We use a line gaff that you run down the line and grabs the fish behind the gills and then you can pull the fish up the ledge.

On most occasions a trip to The Veranda would amount to a full bag of fish and the only problem now is getting them back to the filleting table across



that rope swing. It's like a walk of honour heading back around the rocks, past all the other fisherman, with heaps of massive tails flapping around your arm pit, with a bag full of monsters. Getting back to the filleting table, you can always trust that the boys will bring you a few cold beers and hopefully another filleting knife to give you a hand. At the end of the day you have hunted, gathered and had an awesome adventure with your mates. Do yourself a favour and get up to Indian Head.

Cheers,