Now in our sixth year, the Hobie® Kayak Fishing Series is designed to offer kayak anglers a competitive framework under the ABT umbrella.

Both the Bream and Bass series have their own qualifying rounds, rankings, payouts and prize schedules and will culminate in their own series Grand Finals, where qualifying competitors will fish in identical Hobie-provided kayaks on a totally level playing field.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank our sponsors, Daiwa Australia, Berkley, Atomic, Lowrance, Rhino-Rack, Power-Pole, Ecogear, StrikePro, Yamatoyo, Austackle, TT Lures, Hogs Breath Cafe and ABT for without their support it simply would not be possible to run events of this calibre.

So without further ado, please enjoy the first of our Hobie Fishing Newsletters, these newsletters will provide an in depth update on what’s happening within the tournament scene as well throwing in a couple of not so tournament related articles to keep things interesting. We hope you enjoy it and don’t forget to check out hobiefishing.com.au or hit us up on facebook for all the latest tournament news as it happens.

Steve Fields
Tournament Director
Prior to the 2012 Queensland Floods Lake Monduran was one of the meccas for stocked meter plus Impoundment Barra. The current world all tackle record of 98 pounds came from the lake prior to the 2011/2012 floods.

Most of the mature fish escaped in the floods, so re stocking began shortly afterwards, and the rapid growth rate of 1 mm per day has seen that the 2-3 year old fish are now averaging between 60 and 90cm.

On a recent Fishing Australia shoot Host and Hobie Ambassador, Rob Paxevanos teamed up with locals including guide Rob Wood and son Tommy to sample the rebirth of this fishery. A freak cold change saw the fishing particularly tough...For most craft.

Utilizing the stealth of a kayak to approach fish side scanned on various shallow points around the lake, Rob and team were able to keep lures in tight and deep along defined timber lines, giving the barra plenty of time to find and strike the lures.

"Further to earlier Fishing Australia episodes and instructional DVD’s produced on this lake, we found that trolling in the kayak was one of the easiest ways to get our offering into the strike zone without spooking the barra." Said Host Rob Paxevanos

The Hobie Mirage Drive was the single biggest necessity in the approach, "Being able to hold my rod while trolling allowed us to tweak, twerk and jiggle a medium diving lure in a seductive fashion as we passed scanned barra. It also gave us the ability to feel our lures way around the timber and weed..... The bites were super subtle in the cold snap, but our approach allowed us to be intimately in contact with the lure, feel the bite...And then hook the fish without slack in the line, even when it was windy! This approach in this scenario is quite simply impossible with a standard paddle kayak." Says Rob

Rob Continued "Once the fish was hooked the mirage drive allowed us to maneuverer the kayak and keep our hands free to control the rod...All very important when battling big explosive fish in tight cover. The battles are right up there with the most exciting and demanding I have experienced...Not sure that there’s many fish that big anywhere in the world that are caught in such tight cover...It’s intense and rewarding"

The team ended up catching the first official meter long barra since the 2011/2012 Queensland floods, and the whole region is abuzz with the news. The action was captured as part of the new 2014 Series of Fishing Australia which commences airing in June...But fishing just like this could be all yours to experience sooner than this hinted Rob.

"Whilst I love holding into wind and current and casting from my various Hobies, sometimes trolling is the most effective and fun way to go...And the beauty of it is that it’s easy for newcomers and can be done on a Hobie priced budget... Anyone can have a crack at these big barra at Monduran, Awoonga, Prosperi to and more. Simply put out a lure that gets out a meter or two, hold the rod so you can work the lure, and go exploring...This works phenomenally well on impoundment barra and other big predatory fish Australia is blessed with...It’s one of the easiest techniques I can recommend...But I’ll leave the ensuing battle up to those who get to try it...He grins."
Rob Paxevanos is a fishing journalist, photographer and the host of Fishing Australia; AUSTRALIA’S most popular television angling series aimed at promoting sustainable fishing. He’s been fishing around the country extensively for over 30 years and is considered one of the countries greatest all round anglers having caught species like a 1,200 pound black marlin (and an XL cash prize that followed), a 50 pound plus Murray cod on fly and one of the worlds biggest bonefish (89 cm) on fly just to name a few.

Despite having access to any type of boat he chooses, Kayaks remain his favourite craft and he uses his Hobies extensively in fresh and salt water!

Rob loves the adventure and thrill of catching new species from his Hobie and amongst his kayaking credentials he was the first person in the world to tag a marlin from a kayak. Despite having numerous other kayaking ‘firsts’ to his name he remains equally as happy kayaking for a flathead or a trout with his young family or friends.

For Rob, perhaps the greatest benefit of the Hobie is that it can take him to remote and unvisited locations where bigger boats can’t go. The Hobie can find serenity or adventure depending on his mood ... on some occasions it provides both.

Rob often says that it is without doubt the hands free Hobie Mirage Drive that has made Kayaking so special to him, and the quietness, exercise and eco friendliness of kayaking are also high on his list of why he uses his Hobie so often.

Perhaps a quote by Rob sums it up best: “Kayak Fishing time is quality time, and there’s just so many new places to fish, so many new fish to catch and techniques to catch them, and so many great anglers to meet along the way. From a young age I realized that kayak fishing is a sport that I can do until I’m old and grey so that’s exactly what I plan to do, sharing the experience with my friends and loved ones when ever possible: See you on the water.”
South Coast Breamer Ronnie Sonter has come from behind to take out Round 8 of the Hobie Kayak Bream Series – Presented by Daiwa in Lake Macquarie.

Sonter was sitting in tie third after day one on 1.76 kg but on day two presented the weigh master with a tournament winning 2.06 kg bag to take the lead and win the competition.

Stewart Dunn moved up the ladder from his day one fifth position of 1.69 kg to secure second position with his day two 1.91 kg bag by fishing boat hulls in the Northern area of the competition arena. Dunn and Sonter both chose to fish the Northern area of the competition arena.

Jason Meech maintained his third place by backing up his day one bag of 1.76 kg with another good bag, only slightly lighter at 1.71 kg. Meech also took out the Hogs Breath Café Boss Hog Big Bream with a 970 gram kicker that he caught early on day two in the weed flats South of the Start location.

Four Grand Final Spots were available at this event, being a State Title. The anglers were competing for spots in the 2014 Hobie Kayak Series Grand final, these are a heavily sought after item with State titles giving four spots while other qualifying rounds in 2014 have two positions.
In what was a difficult weekend’s fishing for most, Chris Burbidge has continued his winning form and secured another first place at Lake Tyers in Round 7 of the Hobie® Fishing Bream Series presented by Daiwa. This is his second win for the 2014 series having already taken out Round 1 in Glenelg while maintaining consistent top tens across the rounds he’s competed in this year.

Burbidge initially had some reservations about Lake Tyers after a particularly difficult pre fish.

“I had no confidence coming into the round. I'd pre-fished right up until the ban and hardly had a touch. On the Friday before the pre-fish ban I came away with only two Bream for eight hours work.”

However, his concerns were unwarranted after a cracking start on day one where he delivered three Bream for 3.39kgs. Fishing the main lake, with a Norries Laydown Minnow in 2–3 foot of water delivered the goods and saw him bagging out by 7:40.

He continued to work the main lake until around 10:00 am before making his way up the system to deeper water where he changed up to a Jackall Chubby Vibe in Matt Black. Using slow roll with a long pause on some of the deeper drop off’s paid off with Chris catching 30 fish in total for the day with 8 upgrades.

“Day two was harder going with the reverse, chase start, there was a lot of traffic already on the main lake when I got there so I moved a bit further down the line and began throwing the Laydown Minnow again.”

The fish were still there to be had and Chris had his bag by 8:00am before deciding to once again move to deeper water and pick up day one’s pattern with the Chubby Vibe, a decision that lead to a total of six fish for the day with no upgrades.

Second place and a qualifying spot for the 2014 Grand Final was picked up Chesney Fung who spread out across the waterway looking to cover as much ground as possible on day one. Fung pedalled up the Nowa Nowa arm to the power lines on day two and continued to throw the Chubby Vibe, hitting the bottom with a slow soft lift on the retrieve to pick up his two fish for 1.85 kgs.

Chesney has been delivering some consistent bags through out the series and has now qualified for both 2014 Bass and Bream Grand Finals.

Third place and the second qualifying spot in the grand final was taken by Tony Pettie who also received the Hog’s Breath Cafe, Boss Hog Big Bream Award with his 1.48 kg Monster which he picked up in Black Snake Bite on the Nowa Nowa Arm using an Ecogear SX 48 Customised in muddy prawn by Geno Custom Lures.

Chris Burbidge showed he had nothing to worry about coming into Round 7 of the Hobie Fishing Bream Series at Lake Tyers in May.
I had no confidence coming into the round. I’d pre-fished right up until the ban and hardly even had a touch.

Chris Burbidge, 1st Place.
In 2011 Hobie Cat Australasia took kayak fishing to a new level with the introduction of the 1st Daiwa Hobie Kayak Fishing World Championships. The event was held in Port Macquarie, NSW, Australia and was an outstanding success.

In 2012 Aussie anglers qualified by competing in the 4th Daiwa Hobie Kayak Bream Series and traveled to the world championships in Austin, Texas, USA. The event was another outstanding success with the Americans taking the top prize.

2013 was another sensational season culminating in a joint Grand Final / Hobie Fishing World Championships at not one but two of Australia’s most revered Bream Fisheries in Bemm River and Marlo, Victoria, Australia. Aussies, Richard Somerton and Darryl Head reclaimed the crown taking out the World Championship and Australian Grand Final respectively.

2014 will be no exception! In what is set to be a big year of fishing we will see our top anglers heading to Europe to defend the title “World Champion” in the 4th Hobie Fishing World Championships to be held in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
2014 Hobie Fishing Team Jersey

100% Polyester Mesh with QuickDry, Wicking Dry Function

Easy Open Collar. Cool Down After an Intense Battle

Snug Fitting Cuffs. Stay Out of the Way When Casting

Longer Profile Design and Relaxed Fit for Ease of Movement While Casting

Available in sizes SML, MED, LRG, XLRG, XX-LRG, XXX-LRG & XXXXX-LRG

Contact your nearest Hobie dealer for details.
The Hobie Kayak Bream Series and Hobie Kayak Bass Series are designed to offer kayak anglers a competitive framework under the ABT umbrella. These competitions are cast and retrieve, lure and fly only.

The bream series involves bringing your heaviest legal bream, alive, back to the weigh-in while the bass series involves presenting images of your catch on a digital camera card, as well as a catch card, to the tournament director for sorting at the completion of the tournament. (This competition format is also known as a Catch, Photo and Release Tournament.)

Both series will have their own qualifying rounds, rankings, payouts and prize schedules and will culminate in their own series Grand Final, where qualifying competitors will fish in identical Hobie-provided kayaks on a totally level playing field.

Get on board now at hobiefishing.com.au

**HOBIE® KAYAK BREAM SERIES**

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<th>EVENT LOCATION</th>
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<td>NOV 22-23</td>
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**HOBIE® KAYAK BASS SERIES**

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All dates and venues subject to final council approvals, water permits and weather forecast prior to the event and are subject to change. Organisers & Hobie Cat Australasia cannot be held responsible for events outside our control should a change of date / venue be required.

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