

# Black Marlin

## COMMEMORATIVE SCULPTURE



## BE PART OF CAIRNS' RICH FISHING HISTORY

Cairns is the Black Marlin capital of the world and in recognition of this magnificent fighting fish and its extraordinary contribution to the region a commemorative life-size 1000lb black marlin sculpture will be unveiled 50 years after the first 1000lb marlin was caught off Cairns and began the boom. This is your opportunity to be part of Cairns history and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

# Birth of an Industry

Captain George Bransford first visited Cairns in 1943 as an American Paratrooper and was fascinated to hear the locals' tales of enormous billfish along the Great Barrier Reef that smashed the professional fishermen's gear and stole their catches. Bransford sold his fishing charter business in Fort Lauderdale and moved his family to Cairns in 1963 and had the 32ft, single engine *Sea Baby* built. After 3 years of heartbreak looking for 'that one big fish' and losing many, on 25 September 1966, Bransford made world fishing history when he and deckhand Richard Obach landed a 1064lb black marlin, the first grander ever landed in Australian waters. The fleet grew and many more big fish followed. Cairns boomed and has ridden to prosperity as the undisputed black marlin capital of the world. All thanks to the one man with a vision, and his big fish - Captain George Bransford.



Above - The world renowned *Sea Baby*.  
Left - The fish that brought the world to Cairns. The first black marlin over 1000lb caught anywhere in the world on an 80lb line.

As more giant fish were caught and tourism boomed, Cairns facilities were modernised to accommodate the massive crowds that turned out to watch a huge black marlin being weighed.

Today anglers use 1000lbs as a benchmark for an outstanding catch and 99% are now released all thanks to the foresight and passion of Captain George Bransford.

# Recognition



Rob Kramer

"For over half a century, the fertile waters of Cairns, Australia have produced some of the most memorable catches, including dozens of world records. A must-visit destination for any serious big-game angler, Cairns is host to truly one of the most unique and important marlin fisheries on the planet. To have a sculpture of this iconic fish on the Cairns waterfront is testament to its importance to the history and the growth of tourism in the region."

Rob Kramer - President International Game Fishing Association (IGFA)

# Lure of the Black Marlin

Over the years Cairns has attracted celebrities such as Hollywood movie star Lee Marvin, author Wilbur Smith, media mogul Rupert Murdoch, US President Jimmy Carter, golfers Greg Norman and Jack Nicklaus as well as countless Australian and New Zealand anglers as well as big game fisherman from all over the world in search of a black marlin. Few have come away disappointed.

Cairns is renowned as the world capital of big game fish and this industry will now be recognised with a commemorative sculpture of the magnificent Black Marlin on the Cairns waterfront. Erected at the start of the Marlin Jetty, it will be seen by thousands heading out to enjoy our coastal waters every day.

This magnificent sculpture will provide the perfect photo opportunity and a location tag will be broadcast by millions of visitors throughout the world for years to come.



Lee Marvin aboard Sea Venture, Cairns

GUY HARVEY

“It was with great pleasure that I learned of the project to place a life sized giant black marlin sculpture on the Cairns waterfront. This sculpture would symbolize the huge influence and socio-economic benefits that this species has had on the development of Cairns and Queensland generally over the last fifty years. This iconic fish will stand in perpetuity on the beautiful Cairns waterfront. The sculpture will symbolize the diligent management systems in place and the long term conservation efforts by many who have used this resource sustainably. Catching and releasing a thousand pound black marlin off the Great Barrier Reef is the ultimate angling experience which Cairns will now share with all who visit this amazing work of art.”

Dr Guy Harvey PhD - Marine wildlife artist and conservationist

# Your Opportunity

Exciting opportunities exist to show your support for the marlin industry and leave a legacy for future generations.

The success of the tourism industry in Cairns is, in large, due to the recognition it received as being the world's premier destination for black marlin heavy tackle fishing. This industry injects over \$60M into the Cairns economy each year and whether you have benefited experientially or financially from the marlin industry we invite you to show your support.

All donors are invited to join us to celebrate marlin fishing at the unveiling of the monumental commemorative sculpture on 25 September 2016. We look forward to working with all donors and a committee member will discuss this opportunity with you.

## DONATION LEVELS

Platinum	\$50,000	Silver	\$15,000
Gold	\$25,000	Bronze	\$7,500

RECOGNITION WILL BE COMMENSURATE WITH YOUR LEVEL OF DONATION

Donations of any denomination will be received with appreciation to immortalise the marlin industry in Cairns. This is your opportunity to leave a legacy to the region where you have had amazing experiences or to recognise how this industry has helped develop this city to where it is today.

We accept credit cards and cheques. Please see back for all contact and payment details.



# The Driving Force

## CAIRNS GAME FISHING COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION INC

The Cairns Game Fishing Commemorative Association Inc is a not-for-profit association established by a passionate group of people with the sole view to see a sculpture erected on the Cairns waterfront.

**PRESIDENT:** Capt. Dennis "Brazakka" Wallace, IGFA Legendary Captains & Crew Hall of Fame Inductee.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Bill McLeod, Marine Engineer and Businessman.

**SECRETARY:** Capt. Laurie Wright, IGFA Cairns Representative and Legendary Captains and Crew Committee Member.

**TREASURER:** Marg Hoffman, Senior Manager Grant Thornton, Cairns.

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Cheryl Campbell, Order of Australia Medal Recipient and Chief Fund Raiser.

Brett Moller, Lawyer, Chair of Far North Qld Ports Corporation.

Max O'Halloran, Cairns Regional Councillor and Local Government Advisor.

**MEMBER:** Capt. Daniel McCarthy, President Cairns Professional Game Fishing Assoc.

## CONTACT & PAYMENT DETAILS

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Cairns black marlin sculpture

Cheques payable to: Cairns Game Fishing Commemorative Association Inc

Credit cards are accepted or you can direct deposit to:

BSB: 633 000, ACC: 152 835 716, SWIFT: BENDAU3B, ABN: 98 408 328 517



THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF CAIRNS' HISTORY