



Hinchinbrook Sportfishing Club
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ERIC MOLLER AWARD NOMINATION
Adam Royle, Hinchinbrook Sportfishing Club

The Hinchinbrook Sportfishing Club hereby nominate Adam Royle for the Eric Moller award.

Adam Royle's dedication and contribution to the Hinchinbrook Sportfishing Club (HSFC) is unquestionable. Without Adam's knowledge and enthusiasm our club might never have survived.

Due to the club being family friendly, educational, relaxed, and sociable, several of our members who reside more than an hour away have chosen to join HSFC rather than a club in their own area.

He has successfully negotiated a token lease clubhouse agreement with the local Council ensuring we have a place to call home, hold meetings, and store our assets. He does a huge amount behind the scenes.... created PowerPoint presentations, spreadsheets for finances/ feedback/drink sales/stock on hand etc., he never misses meetings, and as president is not able to be recognised by his peers and voted for as Club Member of the Year.

Over the years Adam has designed club shirts, caps, stubby holders, stickers, flags, banners, brag mats, a retractable banner, and flyers.

He has promoted the club on live radio, was previously a working member of the local Coast Guard, and through our fundraising donates to them annually.

He actively applies for any available community grants such as the Reef Guardian grant from GBRMPA, in addition to the regular annual grant applications mentioned further on.

Several years ago, the HSFC took on the role of hosting the annual North Queensland Sportfishing Championships. This is our sole source of income each year for the running of the club and sees Adam successfully applying for community grants from the local Council and acquiring sponsors for this event.

He developed the NQ Sportfishing Championships calculative spreadsheet, that literally took months to design, and is still in operation today.

Adam is pivotal in the successful running of this 3-day event and all the required behind the scenes logistics, far too numerous to list.

In 2021 our club celebrated 50 years which Adam planned a 50th dinner celebration and designed a 1971-2021 club shirt to commemorate the significant milestone.

He also formulated "Beyond 50" for the club committee and meetings. The new committee structure to streamline committee positions and simplify the committee's role to allow the club to be more flexible with what temporary roles it needed members to fulfil. The new structure also incorporates committee tele meetings by Messenger chat, Facebook, and emails for the day-to-day running of the club, to reduce the frequency of on-site meetings required by out-of-town committee members.

This has been invaluable for ensuring a quorum of input and ideas and enabling a more timely and smooth procedure. In the process the committee could focus on relevant management items, maintaining the proper functioning of the club, its financial security, and ensuring that the members' needs were being met.

This same tele meeting process he also introduced via a member only group, to improve communication and response between the committee and club members.

Adam actively fosters members input and ideas for tackle talks, outings/club weekends and activities, and builds the knowledge of members through information sharing sessions. He is always willing to take members out on the water to show them safe routes, or to take them fishing in his boat.

Every year he develops an annual club calendar based on feedback, tides, and best times to fish in various locations, with a monthly species award. This is always well patronised and keenly contested by the club members.

Adam constantly proposes new ideas and encourages member participation and club promotion through stalls at local markets, interclub activities, and trips away (such as Peter Faust Dam), and involvement with the Hinchinbrook Marine Advisory committee to "Clean Up Australia" with club members boating to Pelorus Island to clean the beach of ocean carried rubbish.

Each year he successfully applies for a recreational fishing grant from the QLD Government Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries for pink tags for our club tagging program, and to run an annual community kids fishing day.

Junior participants learn fishing skills and about fish handling, safe boating, and safety around water (use of life jackets, being croc wise etc.) plus they receive their very own fishing rod, reel & small tackle box thus positively advocating a healthy lifestyle and a future generation of fisher folk.

Adam practises and advocates proper handling of fish to ensure survival post capture and educates sustainable fishing practises.

The HSFC has two established tagging & monitoring programs for capturing and collating such data as movement patterns, fish population, size & growth, helping our members to better understand sustainable recreational fishing practises and challenges.

Adam's commitment to a resilient and sustainable recreational fishing future is also indisputable.

He has been our President for the Hinchinbrook Sportfishing Club for the last 8-9 years. He has also been the President of QLD Sportfishers (Australian National Sportfishing Association QLD) since 2019, and the vice president for 4 years prior to this.

Adam was also the Chairman of the Hinchinbrook Local Marine Advisory Committee for the last 3 years (now amalgamated with Cassowary Coast).

HLMAC is a voluntary body that advises the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority at a community level and shares information between the Authority and stakeholders. Working alongside OzFish with species surveys, HLMAC also established zig-zagging fish passageways, a series of ramps and ponds or pools to counter barriers and give fish safe passageway up and down the river systems. These have returned excellent results and helped eliminate the dependence on fish stocking groups.

Additionally, Adam was an informative writer for the Fish & Boat magazine for many years, writing interesting and educational articles for the public.

Even in Adam's work arena for the last 11 years at Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd (HCPSL) he is actively involved in working with local farmers on improved farm practices to not just increase productivity but to improve water quality outcomes from the farm i.e., improved water quality leaving the farm and entering water ways that works its way to the reef.

Example projects that work towards this are the current project: Project CaNE – part of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation Lower Herbert water quality program, for which Adam is the project leader.

Other projects Adam was involved with over the past few years include the likes of Project Nemo – looking at planting methods & enhanced efficiency fertilizer use; RP161 – a complete nutrient management planning, managing water, soils & nutrients particularly in floods & drought; Demo Farms, a collaborative project between the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFFQ), Terrain NRM, HCPSL and TropWater looking at farm management system practises.

Adam's fishing prowess is no less impressive.

He holds 59 Trophy Master awards comprising 23 different bluewater and freshwater species.

As well as a staggering achievement of 1,751 (and counting) tagged fish over the years, comprising of freshwater, coastal, reef, and pelagic species. This is 1,000+ more than the nearest "fish tags by angler" contributor.

His tagging dedication and proficiency has placed the HSFC in the top 3 "tags by club" for the last 6 years running. This year he has set himself a personal goal to tag 100 barramundi and 100 mangrove jack during 2023 but has already achieved this target in the first six months.

Over the years Adam's family have become proficient anglers with him, forging a strong supportive family network through a shared interest, with all family members effectively holding Trophy Master awards.

In 2019 he represented HSFC and fished the QLD Sportfishers State Titles.

Adam participates in all types of fishing including lure, bait, fly in all waters and conditions and seldom misses a weekend on the water.... Fri/Sat/Sun and any chance in between, he can be found fishing, tagging, and releasing.

As treasurers, secretaries, and committee members have come and gone throughout the years, the one constant within our club has been Adam and his family.

Adam's drive, passion and expertise has assured member interest, the endurance of the North Queensland Sportfishing Championships, and the continued existence of the Hinchinbrook Sportfishing Club.

As demonstrated Adam has a long and proven commitment and contributory history to the Hinchinbrook Sportfishing Club, and to recreational fishing and its sustainability.

Adam Royle is an extremely deserving candidate for the Eric Moller award.

Fish Tags By Angler - All Years

