



A PASSION FOR ALL THINGS NAUTICAL

In this new series, we introduce contributor writer Brett McQuarrie of Franklin Marine. Over the next six months, Brett will tell some entertaining fishy tales, with tips on the best fishing spots and for safer boating.

Brett took over Franklin Marine with business partner Lee Thornton in November last year – both have been keen on fishing since childhood. Brett knew the Franklin area well after working as plumber and gasfitter on new residential investment housing in Pukekohe for the previous five years. He is revelling in the opportunity to extend relationships already built up in the community and to open up new ways for locals to enjoy activities on the water.

Brett: “I have wonderful memories of being taken out fishing with my father and sister and have always been near the sea – my parents ran the holiday park at Whangamata when I was young, but it wasn’t until my late teens that I rediscovered my passion for the ocean. I bought an old Pelin Nomad boat and went about rebuilding it from bow to stern. I’ve owned another three boats since then and have had some great fishing trips – though I don’t get out as much as I would like. I’m lucky enough to have friends with a bach at Coromandel and eight years ago I landed a 21 kilo yellowfin. That really enhanced my passion for fishing! Then at the One Base this year I landed a 140kg striped marlin at a depth of 95 metres off the Manukau Bar.

“That was like winning the gold medal at the Olympics! You

see the athletes who have been training and preparing for four years finally achieve their goal and how they feel when it all pays off – for me, landing the Marlin was the same. I had been game fishing for seven years with no luck. Then, everything came together and it was THE perfect day. We had been out a couple of days before that and I hadn’t gone through the safety drill of what to do if we hooked a marlin. That day, the conditions were perfect, the sky was blue and there had been a few days of easterly winds, so the seas were quite flat. The water was a beautiful indigo blue and the temperature about 22 degrees. I put the boat into neutral and we went over the safety drill. I do this when I have new people on board, so everybody knows where the flares and other equipment is and what to do if we hook a big fish. Then we went out to the 95metre mark to start trolling. “When the marlin struck, it all went like clockwork – just one of those days when everything clicked. If we hadn’t had the drill, it would have been chaos on board. The luck factor came into it, being in the right area – it was just fantastic. After three attempts over 45 minutes, I managed to get the marlin to the boat, and it was a team effort to boat it. I was on the rod, one man had the gaffe and another told us where the fish was. We had it on board in 10 seconds and I let out a great shout – the adrenalin was pumping and we were screaming our heads off, we were so happy. Then, we called in to Counties Radio and the congratulations started coming in from the other boats in the area. It was the best fishing day of my life.”