The Hunt for Mr McGoo

Back in the early 90's I was introduced to Game Fishing. I blame Dave Tucker for my addiction as one night at a local fishing club meeting he asked me if I wanted to go game fishing and possibly catch a marlin. I jumped at the opportunity and so started my addiction to game fishing.

We fished on the boat *Midnight*, a 25 Bertram from Sydney Game Fishing Club, with Warren (Waz) Knight at the helm, Brad (Fuzzy) Townsend vomiting a lot, Dave (Big Dave) Tucker and Stu Willock the regular crew. I became regular crew from the first day as I couldn't get enough of it.

We won champion boat tag and release in the first competition I fished on the boat, which gave me the mistaken impression that tournaments must be easy to win. I was very wrong - it took a looooooong time to win another major prize.

I bought my first lure off a mate - an original Pakula Cockroach and loved it. This started the other addiction of lure collecting. Dave Tucker brought a couple of new lures onto the boat one day and like kids comparing their marble collection or footy cards we were keen to see what they were.

The brand was McGoo and the one that looked the best was a Lumo headed pusher with a lumo skirt. As it was a new lure, it needed to be christened and was put into the pattern at long corner as I recall.

Shortly after it went in the water, it was smashed by a striped marlin which was duly subdued and tagged. As the season went on, it became obvious that this new lure was out fishing the other lures three strikes to one. Better still, it performed well on either corner as well as the short rigger, and it even got a run on shotgun.

After a couple of trips I decided that I had to have one or two of these new lures. I asked Dave where he got it and I don't remember the reply but he did say that the maker, "Scott" would be at the Sydney Boat Show.

As I was already going to the show, I sought out these new McGoo lures and bought half a dozen including two of the Lumo pushers about 9 inches long.

Over the next couple of decades the trusty McGoo's accounted for their fair share of marlin, tuna and other species alongside the Hollowpoints, Paklua's, Zacatak's, Marlin Magic's, Black Barts, Topgun's etc that also got a regular swim.

As the McGoo's were a 'go to' lure and always got a swim in the pattern, they were slowly picked off one by one by Marlin and other fish and went to their watery grave. I even had some stolen but that's another story...

I only had one left about two years ago, and started looking for some more. I knew through the grapevine they were no longer being made, so I went to Ebay.

After a number of months I located two - a blue one and a lumo one. it was like getting an early Christmas present! The lumo one was back in the pattern as a regular player, but again it was lost to a wahoo.

I can't find another one at present despite an ongoing search, so I only have a blue and black one left - a 9-inch pusher.

Fast forward to the last three years and I've been fishing off Coffs Harbour with Rick on *Foreign Exchange*. I noticed that he had a McGoo in his bag which was a regular swimmer. We exchanged McGoo stories and commented on how good they are and wished we could get more. We also discovered that we both search Ebay for them regularly.

I was saddened to hear that Rick recently lost his last McGoo, which didn't help when I only have one left. The odd one comes up on Ebay but usually with three or four other lures I don't want, so the price is usually excessively high.

To cure the McGoo problem I decided to do some investigating. I spoke to some people, put a message on Facebook and Googled McGoo lures.

This turned up the fact that the maker/owner is/was Scott McGowan from the Northern Beaches of Sydney. He patented the lures but the patent has since expired. He ran *Scott's Bait and Tackle* at Alambie.

He made hard heads in the mid 90's then went to soft heads. The three main head shapes were, corker, bandit and shotty. The corker was a reverse taper, the bandit was a pusher and shotty was a long profile pusher.

Some of the colours included rootbeer, yakatak, real evil, hot tuna, ghost riser, blue chub, sauri, grasshopper and swampy.

The three main sizes for the mighty McGoo range were 6", 8" and 9".

So to the man himself, and where he now is... No solid leads yet, but apparently he was a member of Broken Bay Game Fishing Club and also a fishing club at the Antler Hotel in Frenchs' Forest, now the Parkway Hotel.

I've emailed the Antler Fishing Club President and the secretary of the Broken Bay GFC in an attempt to locate him, to see if he has any more lures hiding somewhere, and to get a bit more of the history of McGoo Lures.

The McGoo lures really remind me of a great time when I was learning about gamefishing and having fun with great mates.

Do you know here Scott is? If so let me know.