

The morning before the day we were to have taken the boat out, I went down to the fishing boats to see a couple of my mates. The tide was full and one of my friends suggested we try and get a couple of fish with spear guns. The three of us donned goggles and grabbed spear guns. We were only in the water about 20 minutes swimming under the wharves when I saw a dark shape beneath me, the next thing I heard a voice sing out "get out of the water quick". The shape I had caught sight of was a groper. My friend speared the fish on the side, but the spear harmlessly bounced off the fish. We decided to set a line for the groper, and as we didn't have any big hooks, we tied a couple of hooks of the type used for reef fishing, and baited it with a bonita.

They are good bait for sharks and gropers; we set the line and left one end tied to a 1 gallon tin, just as the tide was turning. There was a bang as the tin hit the water and sped through the water. The groper had struck, so we jumped into a dory and went after it. As we grabbed the line and started to pull it in, the pressure was too much for the hooks as they gave way and we lost the great fish. However, it was caught later on and weighed 280 lb. While net fishing there before I went to the reef, we caught about 6 or 7 gropers using a heavy cord and shark hook. They would average in weight from 250 lb. to 320 lb. On a couple of occasions these catches had made headlines in the daily paper.

The following morning we cruised down the river.

As we came into the open sea a cool breeze was blowing, and my thoughts were of the "X", as anyone who had been aboard that little ship could not forget her as long as they lived.

FOUR GENERATIONS



Dawn is happy to present the four generations of a well-known Bega family. Grandma Page (right) is shown with her daughter, Mrs. Pittman, grand-daughter, Pat, and great grand-daughter, Eileen.



THREE SMART GIRLS, Annette Murray, of Inverell (below left), Merle Bolt, of Cabbage Tree Island (centre) and Valda Connors (Tingha) are brought together by Dawn. Valda is now doing her nurse's training at New England Hospital at Armidale.

