



stainless, and Pete's behind it all the way.

"We were straightening flying gaffs at the back of the boat," Wallace continues. "Of course, the fact that the fish were pretty green didn't have much to do with it," he says with a grin. "But we are sticking them with gaffs, and they were straightening out—all the best gaffs you could possibly buy. So, we went to Earl Elders, an early guy who was building the towers and the stainless-steel

bow rails and things. One day, it was really blowing, so we went around there with Pat Gay, who later caught a world record on 30-pound-test with Peter, 800-plus pounds back in 1971.

"Pat's an engineer by trade from Brisbane, and he came up with the back-banded gaff. He said that if we reinforced it, it can't straighten because one band is fighting against the other. So we made one, hooked it to a

GARY BLAKE / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.
PETER JENYNS (OPPOSITE)

tree, and tried to straighten it out with Peter's 4x4. We couldn't—we pulled the bloody tree down instead. So, Pete was the instigator of all that sort of stuff, and if it wasn't working, he'd say, 'Let's go do this' and 'Let's go do that.' It would be him and me and Bristow, and we'd be going for all these new things. At the time, we didn't realize that we were pioneering and Pete was instigating the whole time. Another time, we were having trouble



with the Dacron line breaking—the waxed stuff. It never used to break before, but what we found was that when the line was running out as you were fighting a big fish, it would hit the top of the back guide, the very first guide on the rod. So we went to the manufacturers at Fin Nor, and we had them put a roller on the back top of the very first guide, so if the line hit that, it couldn't chafe.

"Then [IGFA President] E.K. Harry came down one year and said: 'Jeez, you guys are killing the pigs out here. We've got to come out to have a look and have a fish.' He was at Lizard Island, and that's when we had a meeting with him, and he said, 'We're thinking of knocking the doubles back from 30 feet to 15 feet [for world records on 20-pound-test and smaller line classes].' We said, 'This is not going to be any good,' but when they did it, we improvised, adapted and overcame. That's how Peter worked."

Wright went on to set numerous IGFA world records with his anglers. He was also responsible for landing a 1,442-pound black marlin that remains the largest ever weighed in Australia, as well as the women's 80-pound record of 1,323 pounds, which is still standing after 46 years.

The wind-on leader was another of Wright's many innovations. In the early 1970s, his brother Philip came down to be his mate and broke his wrist. Bristow says: "Pete and I were sitting there, and he's trying to figure out what the hell he can do with Philip if he can't wire a fish with a broken wrist. Pete asked, 'What do you think about having no leader and just winding the swivel on?' and I said, 'Well, how are you going to join it?' We went back to the house and rang Elwood Harry, the president of the IGFA at the time, and asked him about it. Harry

Although Lizard Island Australia, was one of Wright's favorite fishing destinations (opposite), Wright was intimately familiar with—and fascinated by—the entire length of the Great Barrier Reef. Happy times with his daughter, Bimini, in Cairns (above).