

Neary at Vidal: Again

by

Graeme Neary



When I phoned in early December for accommodation here all I could get was a Monday through to Wednesday slot due to a huge off shore marlin competition and a few others. This was not a problem as a trip here is normally good fun. My friend Bruce Conlon, an Australianised ex Durban boy was on his way home for a short break. One of his wishes was to go to Vidal for a few days as he hadn't been for 25 years. Another of our old fishing buddies was due to go with but had to stay home at the eleventh hour due to health problems.

No hassle, take someone else along, one with an equally sharp tongue and sense of humour/sarky. Only one comes to mind Bruce Curry. He didn't need much persuasion. Two Bruces, sounds like the foundation of a good Ozzie joke.

After a leisurely trip including a breakfast at St Lucia and last minute pantry top up, Vidal here we come. We didn't see too much wild life on the way in but what we saw was fortunately close up so some good pics taken. We did however see something very special just after the view site a few km's away from the camp. We stopped at the viewing platform so Bruce (OZ) could take some photos and video .We noted that some monkeys a little off to the right were really agitated and wondered aloud as to the reason. About a hundred metre up the road we saw two animals sitting in the roadway. At first we thought wild dog but soon laughed that off. Spooked by our vehicle they stood up and we realised that it was two leopard cubs only a few months old. We watched them for a while as Bruce got them on video but as we edged a bit closer they moved off to the shoulder of the road and into the long grass. Mom must have

been close by in the under growth keeping a very vigilant eye. We realised then what the monkeys were going ape about.(Sorry I know that was feeble)

I have not seen Vidal so badly sanded up before. At least half of the main ledge was completely covered in sand so there was virtually no bay area as we know it. This was the same north and south as well .We mainly stuck to channels and holes that had been formed along the shoreline as there were no ledges or rocks as such. We saw large shoals of Cape Mooneys and Shad with small shoals of very skittish Wave Garrick. At the end of the day we got quite a lot of Mooneys, a very few small Wave Garrick and one Shad. The boats also came home with very little to brag about.

As usual, lots of good food and refreshment, much laughter and chatter and for me much reminiscing and copious amounts of BS. What would a trip to Vidal be without it? For me this remains a very special venue but I do think that a few other venues should be looked into for further outings.
