



Australian Bass, MACQUARIA NOVEMACULEATA



# THE BRONZE BATTLER

PATRON: Dr Wayne Erskine PhD

PRESIDENT: Ashley Thamm  
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Andre Dukino  
SECRETARY: Gary Perry  
TREASURER: John Stokes

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICERS: Alan Izzard, Garry Blount

EDITOR: Peter Hatzidimitriou  
EVENTS, POINTS SCORE & BASSCATCH OFFICER: HS Tham

GENERAL COMMITTEE: Derek Sonter and Paul Matten

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## CLUB NEWS

The Club AGM is on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2015 at Nortmead Bowling Club at 7:30pm.

Bass Sydney would like to welcome our newest member **Trent Deaves**.

There are a number of positions becoming vacant from the April AGM. There is a description of a couple of the roles below. Please let us know if you're interested in supporting the club in any of these roles.

**Bass Sydney President** is responsible for:

- Providing leadership and direction to the Committee
- Ensuring that the Committee fulfils its responsibilities
- Ensuring the success of the club.
- Optimizing the relationship between the Committee and other members
- Helping to achieve the club's agreed goals.
- Being the spokesperson for the club and should work to maintain key relationships within and outside of the club.
- Chairing general meetings

**Editor** is responsible for:

- Publishing the Bronze Battler newsletter bi-monthly.

**Bass Catch Officer** is responsible for:

- Liaising with NSW Fisheries for catch cards, measuring mats, prizes, etc
- Publicizing the Bass Catch to members, associated clubs and the public
- Briefing Bass Catch newbies
- Collecting catch cards and sending to Fisheries
- Compiling Bass Catch points towards the annual Bass Catch trophy
- Maintaining records of the Bass Catch's

**Pointscore Officer** is responsible for compiling club points for all members. Points are awarded for attendance to official events, meetings, AGM and Russell St attendance.

**Social & Events Coordinator** is responsible, in agreement with the Committee, for organizing and publicizing club outings & events and communicating with Pointscore Officer.

### **Kayak Raffle Winner**

Congratulations to Trent McMurray for winning the Wilderness Aspire in the Christmas Dinner raffle. I hope you get some good use out of it in those Hunter rivers!

### **Russell Street Participation Raffle Winner**

Congratulations, Alan Izzard! The prize is a half-day's fishing (or Eco-Tour) on sponsor Steve Defina's boat (Nepean River Tours).

### **Williams River Bass Catch**

**Date:** 14/3/15 & 15/3/15.

Camping will be at the end of the park again where we always camp. Usual arrangements for BBQ Frid. & Sat. Evenings & raffle Sat. evening.

Please contact Les Simshauser if you would like to attend.  
Secretary Hunter Native Fish Inc.  
Mobile: 0401835047

### **Hawkesbury-Nepean Bass Catch**

**Date:** February 21 & 22

Camping at Shaw's Farm, NOT Cattai.

Please register your interest ASAP.

Please be reminded that this is an unpowered site.

There is no showers or water available so please bring your own.



## The Editors Message

“All things must come to an end” - 1374 (*Chaucer*). Dear Bass Sydney members and affiliates, the time has come for me to stand down as the editor of the long running infamous Bronze Battler newsletter. I have been writing the Battler for almost 2 years now and due to work commitments and lack of spare time, I have to (regrettably) pass this opportunity on to someone else. Member submissions for the Battler are few and far between which means there's a greater responsibility on the Editor to come up with more stories and articles to keep it interesting (more time again).

The Battler has always been an enjoyable experience for me and I hope that I have done it's history proud and provided you with some entertaining and interesting reading. I will continue to contribute my own personal stories to future editions and assist whoever succeeds me in the role.

If there is anyone interested in undertaking the role, please contact any of the committee members for discussion.

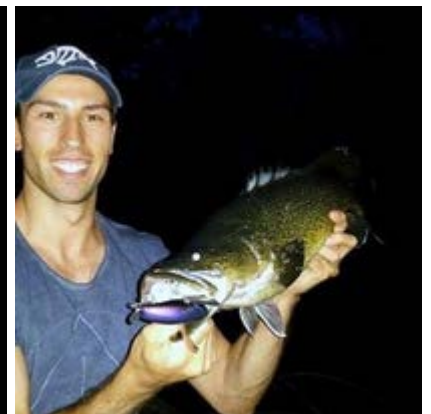
I hope you all enjoy my last edition, and who knows, one day I might even be back! Cheers, Pete.

- **The Editor**



## Ashford Cod Trip 2015

Yes, after 2 years I finally made it back to Cod's Own Country! My love, affection and obsession with Murray Cod and the country continues to grow. Although no PB's or monsters were caught this trip, I did land a total of 24 cod with 20 fish off the surface! Nothing compares with the BOOF of a Cod! It makes you jump every time without fail, the noise is addictive. The McIntyre river was full of weed this trip due to the lack of rain in the area, and was basically unfishable. The previous stretches where I had caught my PB 2 years ago was a channel of thick sludge, monsters nodoubtably hiding underneath but no way to get to them! 5 days before my trip I injured my ankle severely and was on crutches and having x-rays, but stubborn as an Ox, I wasn't going to miss this trip for the world. I strapped my massive purple ankle and loaded up on nurofen and made the 7 hour drive to Ashford from Sydney. Passing through towns such as Gloucester and Barrington which both had some nice looking Bass stretches of river. I wonder whether Riverwood Downs would be a nice spot to fish for Bass? I remember camping there often as a young kid and swimming in the big holes. After a torturous drive and a throbbing ankle, I arrived early afternoon and after some quick pleasantries we decided we couldn't wait until the morning for a fish so headed to a nearby spot and starting tossing around surface lures. We each ended up with 4 fish for the short 2 hour session and had several more missed hits, which ensured the session remained highly entertaining.



The morning was the start of a huge day. The alarm set for 4am, we were due to be on the water by 5am on our journey to 'Heaven'. The walk to heaven was an 18km+ round trek which took the entire day to complete. We started fishing at first light and didn't get back to the car until sunset. Backpacks loaded, 3litres of water, some tins of tuna and museli bars were all we had to battle the 35 degree heat and humidity. Although the number of fish for the hours spent was not great, we still managed quite a few for the session and got to see some amazing country. Rivers laced with big boulders and hole



after hole that made your mouth water and cicadas buzzing so loud you could barely hear your mate talking to you from a couple of metres away! A massive day, filled with some good fish and great memories. My best memory of the day was my mate having a Cod follow his spinnerbait all the way to the bank. After he pulled his lure from the water, I chucked my surface lure down at our feet and twitched it a couple of times, then the sight of a big open mouth engulfed the lure right below us and he was on...both of us erupting in laughter at the same time. I managed to capture this on the GoPro, it's definitely a great memory I'll be able to watch and laugh about for many years to come.

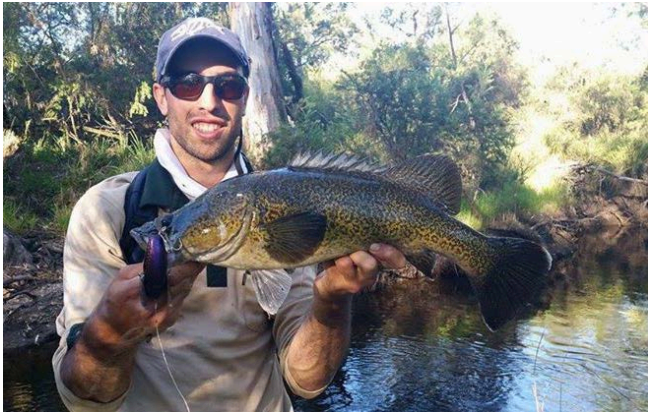


The next day we decided to give the legs a rest and do a 13km float with the yaks. Leaving one car at the start and the other at the finish we set off in the morning. It didn't take long before I landed my first cod on the surface, chucking my Jackall Pompadour tight up to a massive tree growing on the bank and rolling it slowly past the trunk. The water exploded and the fish took off hard to the right, frantically searching for somewhere else to hide. One thing that makes cod fishing from a yak much harder than Bass, was the fact that your yak seems to get dragged around much faster. This can sometimes ensure that you are somewhere you don't want to be when trying to wrestle a fish from cover. It's time like these I wish I had some footpedals to reverse! There was some serious navigating, portages and rapids we had to get through and it was dark by the time we reached the end. The fish were always more active just on dark, with numerous small fish hammering the surface. My friend had a cord hanging off the back of his yak skipping across the surface of the water and even it was hit multiple times by small cod.





Another thing that fascinated me, was the difference between Cod and Bass when trying to be stealth. Cod don't seem to mind your kayak or noise in the water. They just assume you're a big floating tree log or something and you can often make noise or be within a metre or so of a snag and still entice a strike from a fish. We were even catching fish standing in pools and walking around. Usually this would shut down more timid Bass and even catching one fish from a pool would shut them down. The Cod however didn't seem to mind, in fact, catching one fish seemed to trigger the bite for the others in the pool, resulting in multiple catches concurrently.



On our last evening, we went and fished a stretch that I had done on a previous trip. Armed with a surface lure tied on (naturally) we walked the bank, the more the sun dropped the better the bite was. About an hour before dark the fish went bezerk on the surface with nearly every cast resulting in strike. I tried 3 different lures and all of them resulted in strikes or hook-ups, this is why I love Cod

fishing! It made for an amazing session with a number of fish landed. As soon as the full moon rose high into the sky the bite went completely dead and that was a night! My most memorable catch this session was navigating through some thick scrub to get access to a bit of water that looked great from some distance, after I managed to finally get over there, I placed a past an area of some small submerged boulders. I retrieved the Pompadour cicada through the boulders and paused just as I hit the centre, the next crank saw the water explode and a nice big BOOF. I had to act quickly as the cod has a number of stones of which to rub the line up against to bust me off. After I managed to get him into the clear he decided to head towards a bunch of timber to my right. I was running out of bank space to navigate and these fish (even the smaller models) are hard to drag where you want them to go. Basically you apply the pressure and hope they behave. I love the motto of cod fishing though, cast first, ask questions later..in other words, even if it looks like you'll never land a fish from where you're casting if you hook it, cast anyway and deal with the landing after the fact.....great motto I say! After some tussle and scattering down the steep bank I managed to land a nice healthy sized cod around the 600 mark. It was worth my bushbashing and persistence, only wish I had the GoPro with me! I only wish I had the time to write about some more stories in further detail. Hope the article was an enjoyable read, none-the-less!







<https://www.facebook.com/BassSydneyFishing>

**Next Meeting is on Tuesday  
February 10 - 7:30pm at  
Northmead Bowling Club**

### **Monthly Fishing Cartoon Funny**





## Our great sponsors:

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