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EVENTS, POINTS SCORE & BASSCATCH OFFICER: Rico Van De Kerkhoff

GENERAL COMMITTEE: Andre Dukino, Derek Sonter, Ashley Thamm, Daniel Flood, Peter Hatzi, Rico van de Kerkhof

Email : info@basssydney.com

## CLUB NEWS

### Presidents Message

#### Preesidents Report October 2015-09-30

The Bass season has started very slow for me this year, still have not had a chance to get out there as I write this, but hopefully will rectify the situation at the Bass catch, where I hope to see as many members as possible out having a good time and collecting info. Our Marra Marra Creek event was a fizzer, mainly because of the inclement weather and we eventually moved it to Bobbin Head because we did not have enough boats to transport the yaks from Berowra Waters to the mouth of the creek, maybe next time. Hope to catch up and hear all your stories (lies) about all the Bass you have been catching at the Basscatch, till then tight lines.

**Alan Izzard**

### **Bass Sydney Club *Millerod* Customised ROD RAFFLE**



Win a 'MILLEROD' fishing rod.

Members can buy tickets off Rico van de Kerkhoff at any of the club meetings and also at any 'BASS CATCH'. Bass Sydney have purchased a voucher from Ian Miller and the lucky recipient will have the opportunity to have a customised rod built up to the value of \$500, the winner can add to the value of the voucher if they wish.



This is a fantastic opportunity to own a rod customised to your own specifications from the world renowned and much admired Ian Miller.



<http://www.millerods.com.au/>

## The Editors Message

Welcome to the newest edition of the Bronze Battler and thank you to our contributors who made this edition a live one. Entrained in this publication are scribed gems of a various nature, such as: pensive reflection, new experiences, history and detailed information on the upcoming Bass Catch.

For my part, I've had a busy time recently, but managed a few outings; on the first outing I was witness to Tham's 'Luderick PB' and despite the promising start I failed to catch a fish all day from the many different locations we tried in Middle Harbour.



On subsequent outings I scored better with a Luderick PB for myself in the company of new member Doug Chan and old hat Tham, at Old Man's Hat.



Tham, taking no notice of the 'ole hat' moniker, politely invited me to Lane Cove River for a Fri evening paddle and cast for my one and only fresh water outing this Bass season thus far. I managed a single plump healthy and robust fighter of an Aus Bass that punched well above its weight and size of 285mm FL. Tham also

managed his first bass this season at around 325mm – as I recall; also a healthy looking specimen with great colour.



## **BASS CATCH October 17-18<sup>th</sup>**

Rico

Hi All,  
It's that time of year again. We're into our second month of the 2015-2016 Bass season which means it's time for our first Bass Catch at the Hawkesbury-Nepean.  
We'll be camping at Yellomundee Regional Park again on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> of October.  
Below is some information about the Bass Catch and how to register.

Please register via our website. This link is Live and ready: <http://www.basssydney.com/basscatch/index.php>  
See you either Tuesday 730pm at the meeting or Friday/Saturday night at the campsite!

### Campsite:

- Our campsite will be in Yellomundee Regional Park. This picnic area has been recently refurbished for day use and has a picnic shelter and toilets. We have been granted special permission to camp there over the Bass Catch weekend.
- If you wish to camp &/or have dinner with us, please advise during the registration process. Details & directions will follow.
- There are no showers, nor any power.
- BYO water! Bring own Beveridge to share.
- Camping will be free of charge.
- Camping Friday and/or Sat night
- This site will NOT be as secure as the campgrounds at Cattai. Do not leave valuables in & around your tent when you're not there. Keep it basic and either don't bring them valuables or lock them in your car out of site.
- As always, camping is not mandatory.

### Food:

- The Club will provide dinner (BBQ) at the campsite on Friday night and Saturday night
- Cost for the BBQ, \$10pp per night
- Please advise which night you will be camping &/or having dinner when you register
- For those camping Sat night, Sunday breakfast is also provided and it's FREE!

### Briefing & Catch Cards:

- Briefing for Bass Catch virgins will be conducted during our GM at Northmead Bowling Club on Tuesday, 13/10/15 or at the campsite on Friday evening.
- As always, Catch Cards will be issued at either the GM or at the campsite.



**Details you'll need:**

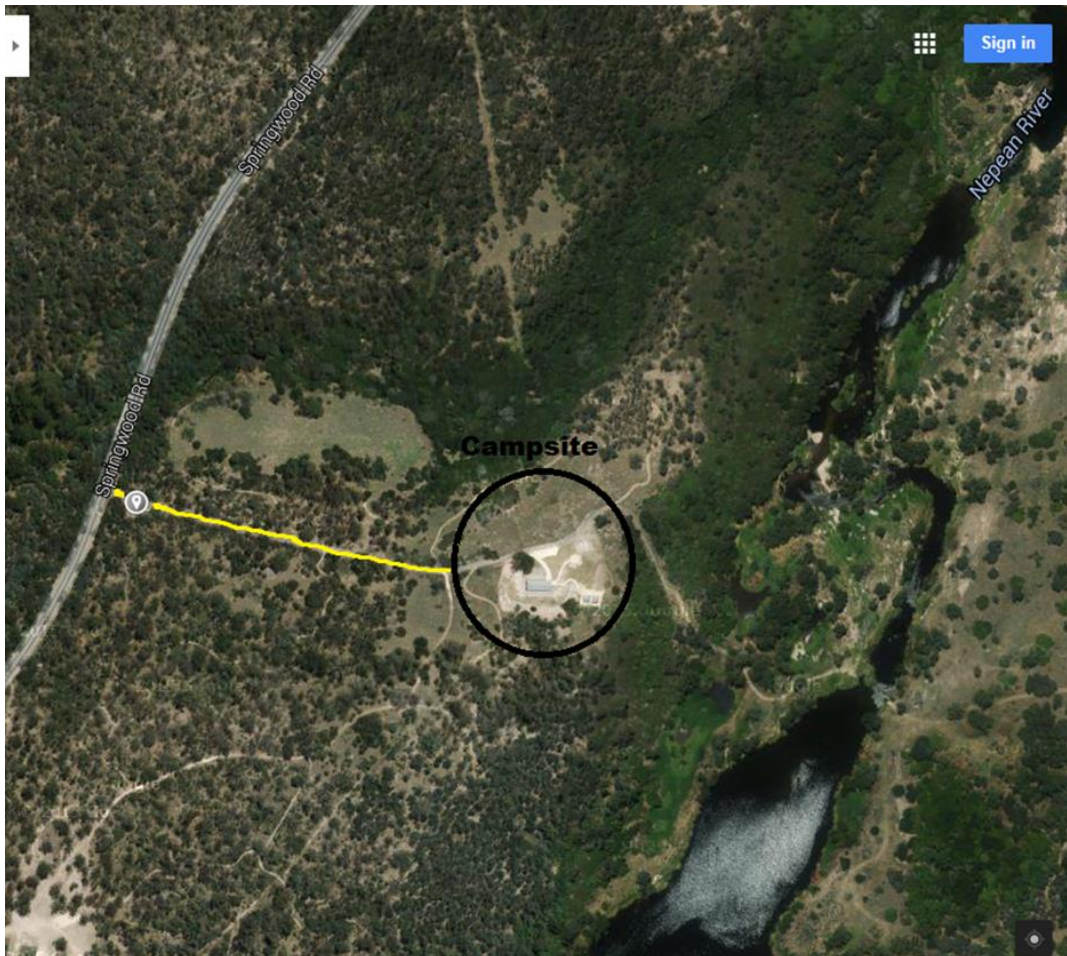
Bass Catch Camp site: 877 Springwood road Yellowmundee Regional park.

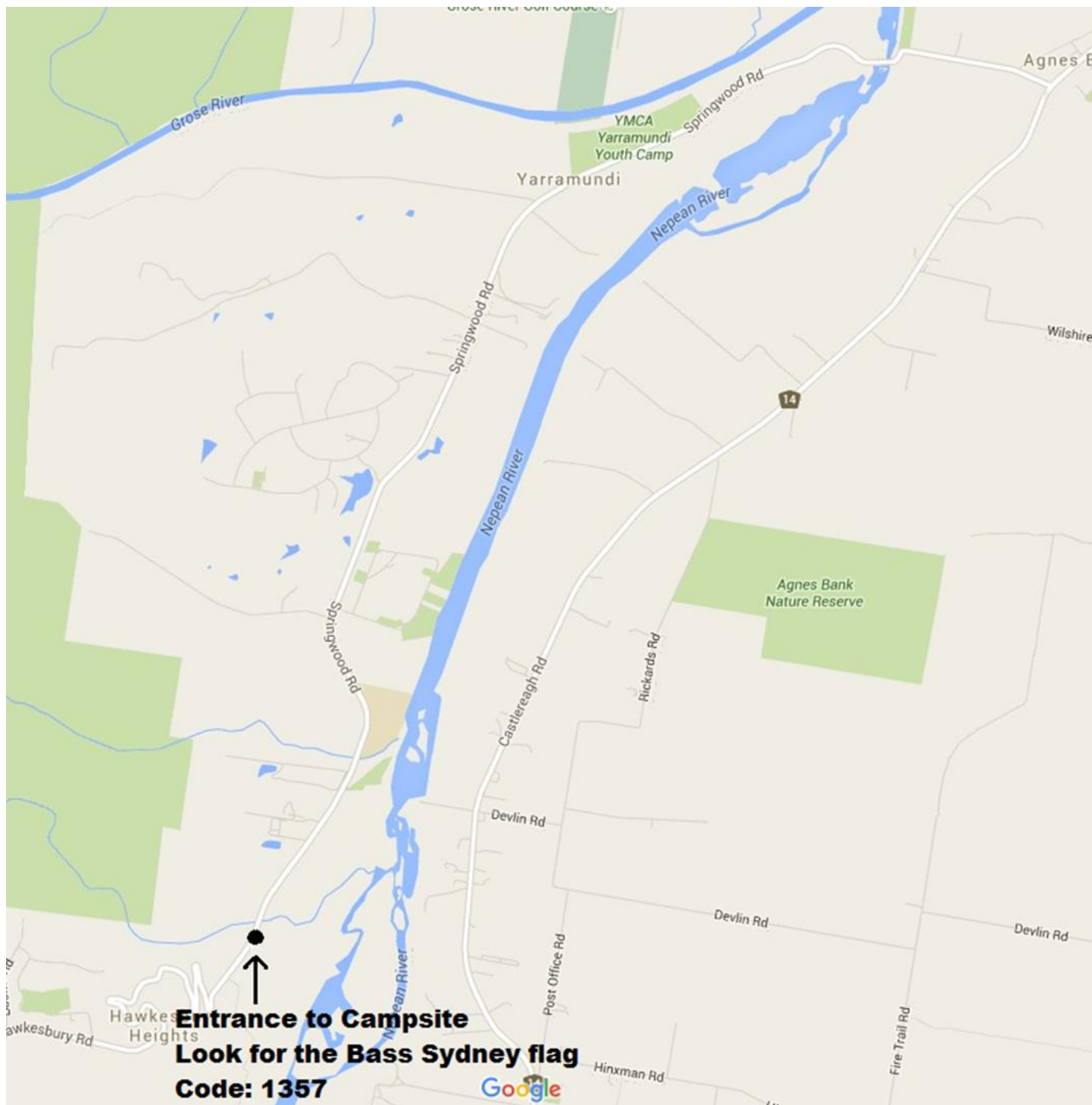
Our Bass Catch flag will be put up near the entrance of the park.

Code for the padlock on the gate is: advised to Bass Catch registrants via email.

Please be aware, this area is used by Mountain bikers quite a lot.

So please drive safe and slowly once on the campground, any mountain bike Crossroads will be marked with red and white tape; so drive extra carefully in these areas.





## **Any PORT in a cold, sleety, storm** - Rico van de Kerkhof

September 2015

Unfortunately I had to miss the last Bass Catch in February 2015 as I was in the Netherlands visiting my folks. But this didn't keep me from doing a bit of research.

The weather was too cold (minus 1°C and a bit of sleet) to go fishing. I acclimatise well, but not in a couple of days from a warm Sydney to a cold Deurne.

So what were my options? We decided to head down to Portugal and research a bit about the origin of Port for our biannual P.A.C. ('*Port Appreciation Club*' an unofficial offshoot to those Bass Sydney members partaking in the Bass Catch camping and late night revelry).

A bit of a history lesson and how port is made:

Port wine has a long and esteemed history dating all the way back to 1756 in Portugal, where the Douro Valley was declared the third protected wine region in the world behind Chianti (1716) and Tokaj-Hegyalja (1730).

Port's name can be attributed to the nearest seaport being Porto at the mouth of the Douro River where this luscious fortified wine was shipped and introduced to the world.



In its homeland of Portugal, over 100 grape varieties are permitted to be used in the making of Port, but only 5 are widely used due to their quality and ease of production. The Touriga Nacional grape is considered the most desirable, but its low yields mean Touriga Francesa is the most widely planted grape.

The grapes are fermented until the wine reaches the desired sugar level, at which point the fermentation is stopped and wine spirit is added. This leaves residual sugars in the wine and raises the alcohol level to between 15% and 20% Alcohol by Volume (ABV) resulting in a wonderfully full-bodied, succulent and sweet wine.

At the cellars along the river and in the back streets you can taste the different ports, some are free some you have to pay for (and you don't get a discount on your purchase of a \$150 bottle afterwards even when sampling their wares for several days)!





So after being drunk for 3 days straight and spending way too much money on Port, we headed back to Australia and just missed out on the Bass Catch.

Sorry if I got your tastebuds going crazy, but I won't be bringing any of these special bottles with me for the P.A.C. (I love you all, but I won't do that). What I will do is bring a nice Award winning Aussie bottle of Port for the Saturday night and some chocolate in accompaniment. Just bring your glass.



Hope to see you there!

Rico van de Kerkhof  
Bass Catch Officer,  
Bass Sydney

**"3 in 3 and could've been better!"** – Doug Chan

29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015

While still in need of some Australian Bass practice before my first ever BassCatch, I did manage to get some practice on the Lane Cove river pursuing Estuary Perch, this week. With three successive casts I hooked up and landed 3 EPs above 35cm. bass Sydney member Tham has explained to me in detail the debate between FL (fork length) and TL (tail length), so I'll need to measure more carefully next time. I took care to release each fish away from the hook-up area as I'd read about the theory that a released EP could warn off its mates.





On the 4th cast I hooked another one which felt to be the biggest so far but while I was dreaming about the magic 40cm mark, the knot at the hook gave way. I should have remembered the other theory about checking my knots and line after a few big hook-ups; but that's excitement for you! After that though, the bites disappeared so maybe Mr E.P. did warn off his mates?



This other picture is of a double Tailor hook-up on the same lure I was using for EP's, also on the Lane Cove River.  
Cheers

**Doug C.**

## **I'm going on a big trip this weekend, will have something solid for next**

### **Battler, but in the meantime.... (reflections/tips)** - Peter Hatzidimetriou

September 2015

With the warmer weather and the opening of NSW Bass season getting underway, we decided to hit some brackish water in the hope for some silver bullets.

The amount of bait in the water was crazy and the system was alive with schools of mullet, whitebait and feeding shrimp around the weed beds.

It wasn't long before I spotted a Bass, busting the surface chasing bait alongside a fallen timber tree....I punched a long cast a few metres past the tree and let the current drift my surface presentation into position...a few short taps of the rod tip simulating a wounded bait-fish before a Bass ambushed my lure and tried to return to the snag...using the current to my advantage and some fast winding, I managed to steer him clear of trouble and landed a nice healthy Bass.



As the temperature and sun rose, the fish retreated to the depths and I switched over to an Aussie made hand crafted timber diver, targeting little pockets with rocks or underwater snags. Another nice little Bass fell victim to the diver after a long pause followed by a short sharp erratic retrieve.





The tide turned and thus we headed back towards the salt to target some Bream, Estuary Perch and Flathead.



Strangely the Perch and Bream which had been active in the area were absent and the flathead were waiting in the current for all the Baitfish swimming by with the outgoing tide. Using small plastics we would use a triple hop technique followed by long pauses, paying close attention to the line and any absence of slack or weight on the line and STRIKE...Flathead on! Using scent on the plastics definitely improved the catch rate, with S-Factor being the most productive.





Tips: For Bass: Use walk-the-dog style lures and work the edges of banks and fallen down trees, the closer you can get to the structure, the better....use the current to create a more natural presentation and always try to mimic a wounded baitfish, sometimes early in the season the Bass are still not as aggressive as the warmer months, so vary your technique till you find what is working.

For Flathead, sometimes going with a smaller profile can bring the fish undone... 2 inch paddle-tail lures with short sharp hops and a long pause will usually bring them undone if a more subtle approach isn't working ....look for tide lines and deep channels where Flathead can sit on an outgoing tide waiting to ambush the bait that's being flushed out. The larger estuary Flathead are awesome to catch,



but with them this big they're breeding females so it's so important that they are released in good condition to breed and thus ensuring the healthy population of fish for generations to come.





Cheers,  
Pete

Peter H.



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**Next Meeting is on  
Tuesday 13/10/2015 -  
7:30pm at  
Northmead Bowling Club**

## Monthly Fishing Cartoon

Social media aware  
Luderick - a 'selfie'.





## Our great sponsors:

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