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CLUB NEWS

Christmas Dinner

Tuesday 8th Dec - arrive 7:00pm for 7:30pm start

The New Empress Restaurant

Corner of Victoria & Marsden Rd, West Ryde/Ermington (opposite Putt Putt Golf centre).

02 9804 6844

All welcome ho ho ho.

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LANE COVE RIVER Bass TAGGING rescheduled.

After last months disappointing attempt at tagging some bass at Lane Cove R., this event has been rescheduled for the Saturday 12th of December, we will need another good turn out to ensure success this time.

The details are the same as any Lane Cove Bass catch with a 2-3pm start and a late finish.

Meeting point as usual is Cottonwood glen.

So to be part of this tagging event please RSVP with your

Name and **vehicle license plate number** to danielcraigf@hotmail.com and you won't need to pay for the car visit to the LCR Nat. park.

Cheers Daniel Flood.

Presidents Message

December 2015

Well I finally had the chance to go Bass fishing this season, at our Bass Catch. It turned out to be a pretty good event for all concerned. I managed about 20 fish with, I think, only 1 or 2 over 200FL which shows good recruitment and that the fishway on the Penrith weir is working. Had a week planned to head north with Milton L. but the rain washed that out and I missed the Williams Bass catch as well. Milton and I decided to have a flick in the Berowra Creek just the other day, we took his boat and I was very pleased to net this beautiful EP for him, it went 484FL, and would you believe it was his first ever EP.



Now for those of you that believe that bananas are bad luck, he had just finished eating one when he hooked this beauty; I had no bananas and no fish either.

The LCR tagging project was a bit of a flop, the river was running high and the colour of milk coffee, we landed no fish at all so we have reorganised to do it in place of the Parramatta Bass catch on the 12th December.

It's almost time for the Christmas Dinner, so I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Until then, tight lines.

Alan Izzard.

The Editors Message



I'd like to thank Al Philis on behalf of Bass Sydney for all his support over the previous years and his contribution to the club. At the October bass catch I saw him only briefly and barely had time to grab a chat. Thanks to Al we were all able to see each other after dark as Al's lighting rig and purring generator gave warm illumination during Friday & Saturday's dinners. The light certainly helped with picking a raffle prize for those fortunate enough to win. Without the light, it may well have been a lucky dip – always fun where trebles are involved. See Al's Tackle Shop at anglin1@bigpond.net.au for rods, reels, tackle & lures including trebles.

I'm pleased to inform those who missed out or attended but can't remember; that the *Port Appreciation Club* also resumed with gusto and poured smoothly, proving very congenial. Rico held true and provided some fine Port, 'though not his finest Port – but there's always the Bass Catch in Feb'16 for that.

I'd like to thank Rod at www.dreamfish.com.au for getting in contact with Bronze Battler recently. Rod has been a long time sponsor of Bass Sydney and has agreed to continue. He may not descend down your chimney on Christmas day, and he doesn't own a Santa suit, but he's having a generous sale on all products during the Christmas period. Visit his website for lures and much fish catching information.



Christmas madness sale

25% off all Dreamfish Products

Discount Code: "2015WEB25"

www.dreamfish.com.au

Want to know more about 'How to catch Fish', www.dreamfish.com.au invites you to explore the "How to" pages, as Dreamfish show you what techniques have worked and what tackle to use. Going to the "Products Descriptions" section and you can see how to use those lures.

Recently I got to accompany BS members Doug & Tham while flathead fishing and it was great to see them both get into fish. The flathead seemed to come on the bite with the run-out tide as we spread out over the sandy flats. There's always more to a picture than what's initially seen, I've found. In this picture Tham's in the centre, comfortably sporting two flathead and a smile, Doug's smile continues with flathead held aloft, despite the fact his left hand is poised beautifully & remains fishless - Doug had kindly offered me a flathead to hold for the picture. Some anglers' like Tham and Doug fish for fish, recently I fish for duck eggs.



New member, introduction. December 2015 – Jason McMaster

I chose to join the club because of the strong conservation aspect. Being able to contribute to real research such as that planned for the Lane Cove R. event and the data collected at your annual Nepean event sounds great. The work the club has put into the implementation of several fishways and other habitat improvements is impressive and I hope to be able to contribute in the future. It is also refreshing to read of the club's policy on stocking. I am tired of reading the opinions of those in the major fishing publications about how beneficial it would be to stock some of the estuaries on the east coast. There is so much evidence to the contrary and I agree with the club's policy that stocking of bass should be undertaken as a last resort only.

I enjoy all types of fishing and have fished for everything from GTs to Barra to trout and most things in between. I have also fished in places as far afield as Africa. Most of my fishing over the last few years (since kids came along) has been bassing (mostly at night on foot, no kayak) and estuary luring between Sydney and Narooma (from my boat). I live at Kurnell so my local haunts are the Hacking, Georges, Cooks & Woronora rivers. My parents have a holiday place on the south coast, thus I've have spent a lot of time on many of the south coast systems and would consider Durras Lake and the Clyde River as locals also. As for bass specifically, I first fished for them about 15yrs ago, but the vast majority of my bass trips have been in the last 4yrs. I have fished for them in a few systems in QLD and most systems between Sydney harbour and the Victoria border. I hope to do trips on the big rivers of the mid-North & north coasts in the not too distant future.

My wife and I have 2 young daughters (3 & 1) so the girls and work take up nearly all of my time. As for work I am one of the Operations managers for the Tradies Group, which is a group of 3 registered clubs in southern Sydney.

Without time to do anywhere near as much fishing as I would like, other interests have taken a back seat, however I do play baseball, enjoy golf when time allows and love to travel. *Welcome to the club Jason, by the sounds of things, you'll enjoy the club and fit right in, see you on the water soon – Editor.*

Jason.

WILLIAMS RIVER BASS CATCH – November 2015 – Milton

Friday 20th of November dawned with a forecast temperature of 42 degrees in Clarence Town, and so it was. The drive up was very hot, but thank God modern cars have air conditioning so I survived the trip, however prior to leaving I was thinking to just call Les from HNF and decline the invitation to attend, blaming the weather. But we are Aussies and used to a bit of heat so we soldier on.

Thankfully Les suggested I call into his place at Largs which about 40 minutes this side of Clarence Town for a rest, chill out in the air con and have a cuppa, what a wonderful idea and it saved the day. Left Les's about five pm to face the task of setting up camp in the heat. All the HNF boys were sitting in the shade talking fishing rubbish and drinking beers. Their tents all erected and eskies in the shade in readiness for the big drink on Friday and Saturday nights. The Friday night BBQ was very enjoyable and most hit the sack about 11, but it was so hot sleeping was out of the question until the southerly hit around midnight.



My plan was to fish with Bass Sydney member Trent Mc Murray who also happens to live in Largs too, launching upstream of Alison bridge, head up further for a while then back down to the bridge. We met, did the customary car shuffle and started fishing about 08:30. No 5am start for me these days, Trent was very gracious and accepted the gentlemen's agreement to start late for a change. I might have to get up earlier next time.



Going upstream against the Williams 200mm higher than usual was no mean feat and after we reached Trent's favourite Can't Miss Corner we elected to head back downstream. By the way, Can't Miss Corner lived up to expectations and Trent bagged three fish. Me, zilch so it looked like being a normal day - Bugger!

In the end we had a very enjoyable trip, sometimes frustrating due to the fast water flow, but on the whole, all good. If a cast snagged up it was challenging to retrieve ones lure successfully, but neither of us lost one all day. The fish were there, but just on and off all day. I just need them to be full on all day to get a decent bag, as my Dad used to say. It was such a different day on Saturday, very pleasant in the morning then becoming quite cold with a strong south easterly that made fishing unpleasant, not only that, but the fish must have been cold too as they shut down completely.



The water still had some colour after the flood, but you could see ribbon reeds waving in the current near the surface. The only rapid we decided to skip was at our lunch spot so that made it easy. Further down a huge tree across the river created a problem, but after some severe body contortion we managed to drag ourselves under. We finally arrived back at the bridge by 4pm, loaded up, did the car swap and parted ways. Trent headed for home and me off for a hot shower, then a few beers with the boys.

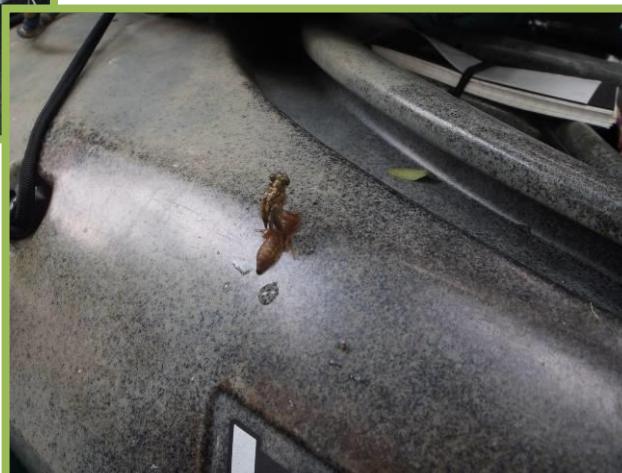
Those who choose to fish the weir pool lucked out, mostly donuts there, but from Mill Dam Falls and above the fish were more abundant. I managed 12 and Trent 18, but the story of the day was Les and Arie who fished between Alison and Glen William bridges for grand total of 98 Bass. Forty nine each, those guys are unbelievable. That reach is 15 kilometres so a big day and they were on the water a first light and off late. A huge effort, just ask Alan Izzard who fished that reach years ago and vowed never do it again.

The Saturday night BBQ was again enjoyable. For starters, Cabanossi sausages were cut into 2cm pieces and cooked on the barby, this was followed by tender minute steaks, sausages, onions, potato and pasta salads etc., with sliced bread. Then the big raffle and after that we all sat around trying to make sensible conversation, keep our eyes open and speak coherently. A huge day by all and whilst some of the young blokes sat around drinking and talking until late, by 11pm I fell into bed.



It was very quiet on Sunday morning, no early starters to be heard and everyone relaxed, cooked breakfast and by 11am the HNF camp was packed up and the guys had gone.

Whilst fishing a dragon fly larvae happily crawled up the side of



Trent's kayak and hatched right in front of our eyes, isn't nature amazing.

Bass Sydney member Jim Taylor came over from Hawke's Nest on Sunday morning for a catch up so we adjourned to the local cafe for a chat, a coffee and the biggest bacon and egg roll you have ever seen. A very enjoyable weekend was had by most; maybe not the guys who ended up with a donut.

Milton Lazarus.

Gorge-ous Bass Catch II October 2015 Tham

Greg Rouland and I had a really enjoyable Bass Catch in October 2012 when Greg took me on his tinny up the Nepean Gorge. We landed over 30 bass between the 2 of us with 11 fish over the 300mm mark. Our bass came on buzzbaits, spinnerbaits & crankbaits. I wrote about it in the December 2012 Battler: http://basssydney.com/newsletters/bronzebattler/2012-12_BronzeBattler.pdf

This year, Greg and I decided to do the same thing on the Saturday with what we thought of as a couple of '*learnings*' from that first trip. Firstly, we were going to get on the water earlier and secondly, we were going to fish the middle reaches more. So we met up at the Tench Reserve boat ramp just before first light. Even though we had high hopes, in the back of my mind was that the grapevine indicated that the bass had not moved up above yet. We had agreed that we would move after a few hours if the fishing was

We started just across from the ramp few minutes for nothing and then moved Narrows. That's always an interesting of flow and fishy-looking rocks all soon on the board with my starting lure black jointed Jitterbug. It Bass wasn't was hoping for, but it really shows how can be -



Penrith weir to tidal waters poor.

and gave it a up to The area with a bit around. I was of the good ol' quite the size I aggro little bass

After a couple of tiddlers like this, we made our first major move upstream, travelling at least 3 or 4kms until we were in the middle reaches of the Gorge proper. It was when we stopped that we discovered a deja vu moment. 3 years ago, Greg's old electric motor clapped out and we had manoeuvring with the outboard. to do all our This year, had the get the the steering the rest of with a he had on



On with the fishing! The rang pretty true with no tiddlers well under the 200mm were pretty active hitting my Greg's Soft Shell Cicada (SSC) and

grapevine shortage of mark. They jigspin and

anything else we threw at them. It was the hooking part that was difficult. The jigspin was, as usual, effective with me using my "Bass Catch Special" of 1/16oz jighead with a #4 hook. It was only a couple of hours before I reached double figures, but Jeez! They were small!

At this stage, the conditions were very pleasant, with negligible wind and mild temperatures. On my other outfits I threw a large spinnerbait as well as buzzbaits and a Tiemco SSC. Those who know me know that I'm a cheapskate and the thought of shelling out \$25+ for a SSC is just not on, but Matt McHugh gave me a brown, jen-oo-wine SSC at the end of last season. I had already blooded it with my first and thus far, only surface bass of the season, on a chubby LCR bass a couple of weeks earlier. Greg landed a few smallish bass in the first 2 or 3hrs on his SSC which happened to be in identical colours as mine.

Around 1030h, the thought of moving to tidal waters seemed to have been forgotten, at least by me. I had resigned to the fact that tiddler bass were what we were fated to catch that day. I put down the Jigspin and was working my SSC and was watching Greg cast and work a Chatterbait when my SSC got slammed with a huge splash halfway to the boat. I didn't see it as I was watching Greg, but I was shocked into action with some serious drag noises and a bucking rod. Hooked in fairly open water, it wasn't long before Greg netted my fish and it was a beauty! While it was still in the net I said, "It has to be over 400!" Greg agreed and so it proved with the lean, post-spawn bass measuring in at 415mm FL.

WOO HOO!



It was only the 3rd bass over 400 I have EVER caught from the Nepean.

My fish had hit halfway to the boat right at the very edge of the shade. I actually thought I wasn't winding at all as I was studying Greg's lure, but Greg said it was just moving along when it was hit. I was on auto pilot watching Greg! I'm starting to like these trendy SSC's! I must admit they crawl with a much better action than the cheap Kokoda Bats, but I wonder how much difference that really makes seeing as most hits on cicada-type lures come when they are barely moving or just paused and twitched. I'll have to fish a SSC and a Bat side-by-side sometime soon!



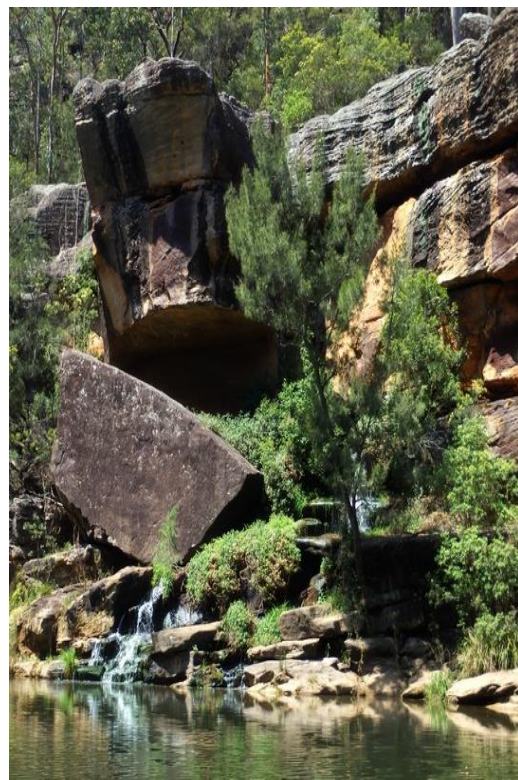
The rest of the day progressed with little drama. It was getting quite warm and we kept moving upstream fishing what

shade we could find before deciding to pull over and have some lunch not far from the Warragamba R. I provided lunch of cold chicken, salad, bread rolls and a couple of beers. Club member, sponsor and Nepean River guide Steve Defina happened along with a couple of paying clients and he stopped to say hello and ask how the fish were biting. He was impressed to hear that I managed a 400+ fish.



After lunch, we decided to chug up the Warragamba R, but as we expected, it was a sterile desert at that time of the day, pretty though. We had a few casts, but it was simply the wrong time of the day to be there. I've been up there in the late afternoon with Steve D and it looks and feels completely different. You can catch a couple of fish then too!

The forecast warned of a possible thunderstorm in and by around 2pm, the clouds started to look and a front was obviously coming through. It actually with no rain and not much wind, but it had certainly



the afternoon threatening petered out put the fish off. From that point on, it was very slow fishing.

Warragamba River:

Greg with a typical tiddler:



We quickly fished our way back to the ramp as it was obvious that the bite had completely switched off. I managed to get my 25th fish just before the ski zone up from The Narrows to complete my day. My tally was made up of mainly sub-200's with nothing over 250 except for the big mama. 21 out of my 25 were caught on the Jigspin, 2 on the Jitterbug and 2 on the Soft Shell Cicada. I had several hits on Buzzbaits (both the Dreamfish Twin Buzz and a 1/8oz single-arm job) with only one half-decent hookup that came off when it dived into the weeds.

It was good to get up to The Gorge again as it's not a place I get to with a kayak. I must say it's disappointing to still be disturbed by ski & wake-boats way up The Gorge in the 8 knot zone!

After thanking Greg and saying goodbye, I was off to our campsite at Shaw's Farm to have dinner with the Club. Plenty of babble, great food and comparisons of everyone's day was had before I left to go home after the raffle. Daniel Flood again caught more than anyone else on the Saturday, but Garry Blount was a very close second on numbers so he must be making a comeback after a couple of years of modest returns! I noted several bottles of port were around for the after dinner proceedings of the Port Appreciation Club. The organisation was first-class and thanks to the guys who did it all, with a special mention of our new Bass Catch Officer Rico, Secretary & head caterer Milton and others like new member Jeremy Chan who mucked in with the cooking. No camping for me this time, but I should be back for the February Bass Catch.

HS Tham

The Long Journey to break the Curse - success through setting goals – *this year 2015, Peter H*

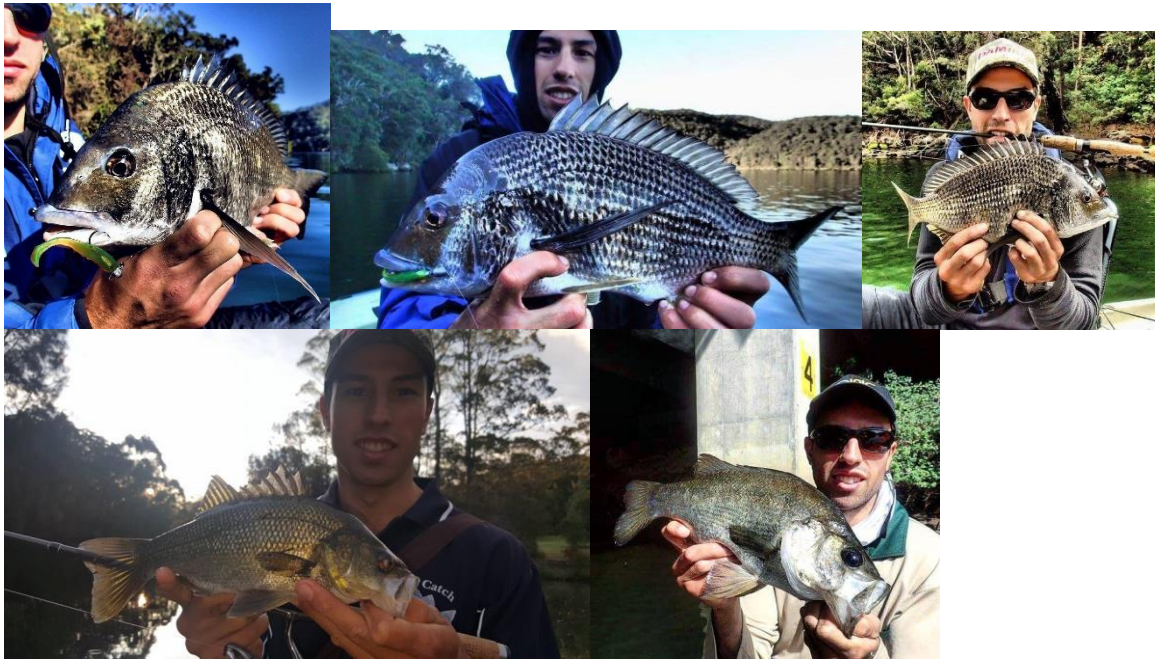
Goals are important to have in life, they give us something to work towards, and something we can strive to achieve that can often bring a sense of accomplishment once reached. I always set fishing goals each year and each season, it keeps me hungry, seeking knowledge, reading, experimenting and on the water...any fellow fishing nut will agree. Fishing is a massive part of my life, it brings with it all the highs and lows but more importantly it brings some normality to my life. We are by design hunters, the thrill of tempting a fish on an artificial presentation whilst bonding in nature away from the city is what keeps me sane...but it's more than that, it is my passion!

This year I have achieved many goals I set for myself, to catch a BIG Murray Cod before my shoulder surgery, to nail a new PB Bass, a Bream over 40cm, a Golden Perch over 60cm and the biggest one was to nail a Jewfish of ANY size and to land a legal size Kingfish. That's a lot of goals for one year but I have achieved every single one of them bar one (the kingfish, but there's still a good month and half for that and they are turning up in the harbour).

The Jewfish was my curse, it consumed me...I have never found a species to cause so many fruitless hours on the water and so much frustration. I would like to put it out there right now and say that 90% of the stuff available online about how to catch Mulloway is vague, general and often useless. Successful Mulloway fishermen are secretive and maybe not even on purpose. It seems more to the point that they have spent countless hours perfecting the art of a certain area before they found a pattern that produced regular results, nobody is ready to just dish out that sort of information, leaving you with one option...get out there and do the same thing yourself. More importantly, you need to target them specifically, and not hope to come by them as by-catch. Finally, after probably hundreds of hours on the water (all land based), I decided I needed to pursue them with the yak to cover more ground and get access to water land based goers simply couldn't. On my second dedicated yak mission, a nice healthy 59cm School Jew was landed, on a soft plastic from a yak that was pretty cool! I always thought of Jew as ferocious predators that would inhale a plastic and charge off with it, I could have easily mistaken my Jew bite as a Bream, it was gentle, subtle and if I didn't strike, it would have continued on its merry way! I often wonder now, whether any of those Bream bites I got over winter and missed, may have actually been Jewfish! along with a couple of dustings that I dismissed as unstoppable 40+ Bream. It's easy to see why on 4lb line a Jew can have you dusted in a matter of seconds.

So it's been a great year fishing wise, although apart from achieving those goals, it has been a massive learning curve. I am by absolutely no means a skilled fisherman, in fact I often feel like I still make way too many mistakes and missed opportunities on the water, but such is life, we're not supposed to be the perfect fisherman, it's a hobby, I don't compete with anyone but myself. It's fun, relaxing and meaningful, it gives me life! Please enjoy a few pics of my achievements this year.





Peter Hatzidimitriou

Editor's note: I'm hearing on the wind, of an even better Australian Bass by Pete H!! I won't believe it until I see it in the Bronze Battler. See next issue for Peter H's account.



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Fishing Philosophy

A bad day out fishing is better than a good day at work.



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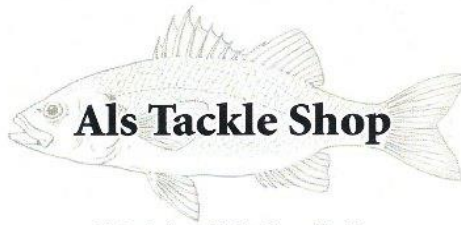
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