



CLUB NEWS

Bass Catch October 15-16th 2016

See details scribed by Rico van de Kerkhof in the first article.

Presidents Message

Dear club members, already this year's Bass fishing season has been interesting and I most warmly look forward to seeing you at our club meeting on Tuesday at Northmead Bowling Club and again at this coming weekend, as we undertake our October Bass Catch on the 15th and 16th, with camping commencing on the 14th at **Yellomundee Regional Park**.

See Rico's article for full details, registration and tight lines.

Alan Izzard.

The Editors Message

Welcome to the October 2016 edition of Bronze Battler – it's a bumper edition. Mostly due to my inability to create the August 2016 edition. Some articles have been held back to this October edition and I thank the authors for their patience. I also thank all contributors immensely and if you're in need of immense thanking –

send me your fishing adventures, spell checked, punctuated and prose perfect with pictures. So for the record, there wasn't an August edition due to the editor's inability to juggle life's events. Some have said it was because he can't land Australian Salmon and in some ways this is perfectly true, and not just salmon, I've been dropping luderick also. I worry my fishing has turned into a spectator sport – whereby I watch others catching fish. I hope you enjoy this edition, I'm privileged to have read the advanced submissions and it's got me quite excited, I'm really looking forward to our up and coming Bass Sydney events. I'd especially like to draw your attention to the articles in this edition that focus on Parramatta River and our recent audit results at our bush regeneration site at Emu Heights. As responsible individuals, anglers and as members of Bass Sydney: we continue to make a difference.

There's also some great fishing been happening over the winter and a variety of species have made it to the net, landed, photographed and displayed here for your viewing pleasure. I trust the other articles herein will inspire and prompt more fishing & more creative strategies when it comes to our angling.



Besides our October Bass Catch there's also the **National Gone Fishing Day** happening, coincidentally, on October 16th, I've included the details at the very end for perusal, hopefully the day will be as successful as NSW's DPI Recreational Fishing's similar event last year. Hopefully we can get some family and friends out fishing and possibly open up new opportunities for them to discover the wonders of Australian countryside, waterways and the inhabitants.

Hope to see you all at the next outing – camping Friday evening 14th and fishing 15-16ths October's Bass Catch Hawkesbury/Nepean.

Damian

Bronze Battler submissions to bronzebattler@yahoo.com

Bass Catch October 15-16th 2016 - RICO VAN DE KERKHOF

Dear members & friends,

It's that time of year again! Bass Sydney's Hawkesbury-Nepean Bass Catch is this month! It's always a fun occasion, so support our club and NSW Fisheries.

Please register via our website. This link is Live and ready: <http://www.basssydney.com/basscatch/index.php>

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 – emailed by now.
- There are no showers nor any power.
- BYO water!
- 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 or lock them in your car.
- 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 are \$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 its FREE!

Briefing & Catch Cards:

- Briefing for Bass Catch virgins will be conducted during our GM at Northmead Bowling Club on Tuesday, 11/10/16 7.30pm in the meeting room or at the campsite on Friday evening.
- As always, Catch Cards will be issued at either the GM or at the campsite.



Please attend and have a good time, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Rico van de Kerkhof. Bass Catch Officer.



Catch Cards please?

Bass Catch Summary February 2016:

As I've been organizing and away on a 4 weeks' holiday to Vietnam, I haven't had a chance to thank everyone who helped with this year's February Bass Catch. Thank you! And thank you for not only catching 'em, but also for contacting the ranger to have access to the camp-ground all weekend, helping set up camp, preparing the BBQ, cleaning up and most of all sharing your stories after a day's fishing & with a cold one or two being offered.



- ✚ There were 23 people who fished the Bass Catch this year - 2015-16.
- ✚ 356 Bass were caught and released over the weekend, with our Daniel Flood catching the most (& fishing only the October bass catch) a staggering 59 (fifty nine)
- ✚ The smallest ones were 100mm caught by Josh Claydon and Josh Pearson (yes, he doesn't only catch world record size fish)
- ✚ Biggest was caught by club member and ex-president Tham and measured 415mm FL.

Rico van de Kerkhof

THE PARRAMATTA RIVER KEEPER - JACINTA GREEN

Jacinta Green, The Parramatta River Riverkeeper (and developer of the Parramatta River Riverkeeper Network plan) has a PhD in aquatic ecology and has spent the last 8 years simultaneously completing a PhD, working on several wetland restoration projects around the Sydney region as well as participating in, developing and leading local and national, grassroots environmental campaigns.

She works in her local community as a scientific advisor too local (inner west) groups and addressed local council on the role of Fatima Island in the health the Cooks River.

As the Parramatta River Riverkeeper, she is tasked with establishing a network of individuals, organisations and community groups that support, enhance and campaign for improving the health of the Parramatta River. The Parramatta River Riverkeeper Network will work alongside the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG). The Parramatta River Catchment Group (a group of council, community groups and, more recently, several state government bodies) is currently hosted by City of Parramatta Council.

You can read about (and join) the Parramatta River Riverkeeper network at <http://www.ourlivingriver.com.au/riverkeeper/about-the-network/> or @ourlivingriver (Facebook and twitter) and @riverkeeperAu (twitter).

The vision of the PRCG is to make the Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025 and mostly works within the government structures to make this happen. But this mission needs the community, both to pressure the tiers of government into support, and also to undertake behavioural change to reduce their impact on the river. The Riverkeeper is tasked with working in and with community groups to affect change. This includes championing projects by local groups that benefit the River such as the fishways project.



Editors note: Jacinta visited Bass Sydney at ou club meeting and has stated that she is keen to work at finding funding and a solution to the fishway issues at 'the pound' on Parramatta river at Parramatta.

NEPEAN RIVER REVEGETATION A SUCCESS - Pete Ridgeway

Late last year Bass Sydney grabbed their spades and visited the Nepean river near Russell St., Emu Heights; to restore native vegetation to this long-neglected part of our river. In a project supported by Greater Sydney Local Land Services and Penrith Council a considerable stretch of river bank was weeded and over 300 native trees and shrubs planted to provide shade and habitat.



Sadly, major flooding in June looked likely to destroy much of this work. The river rose over 1.4 metres and most of the plantings went under water. Thick brown silt was deposited over the leaves choking many of the plants.

Flooding has always been a frustration with the Nepean. The towns of Windsor, Richmond and Pitt Town seem strangely distant from the river – considering it was once their primary source of income and transport. But the strange location of these towns was enforced by Governor Macquarie in 1810 after earlier settlements closer to the river were flooded time and time again.

After the June flooding Bass Sydney volunteers worked hard to rescue the flood pummelled plantings. Thanks to their dedication we can happily report that that almost all the plants have recovered and are doing well. Monitoring by the Greater Sydney Local Land Services found that just over 81% of the over 300 plants have survived and are growing well. A remarkable turnaround given the circumstances of this project!

In some time, these plantings will transform this previously abandoned stretch of our river to part of its former glory and ensure our river is clean and productive for us and future generations to enjoy.

Peter Ridgeway

Senior Land Services Officer- Biodiversity, Greater Sydney Local Land Services.

Early Season Bassing with a new approach - **Pete Hatzi**

After significant time away from fishing with my ongoing shoulder issues (yes, still) I was hanging for Bass season to open to get my fix.

The weather still isn't quite what I'd call optimal Bass fishing but that hasn't stopped me rugging up and getting out there to get a bend in the line.



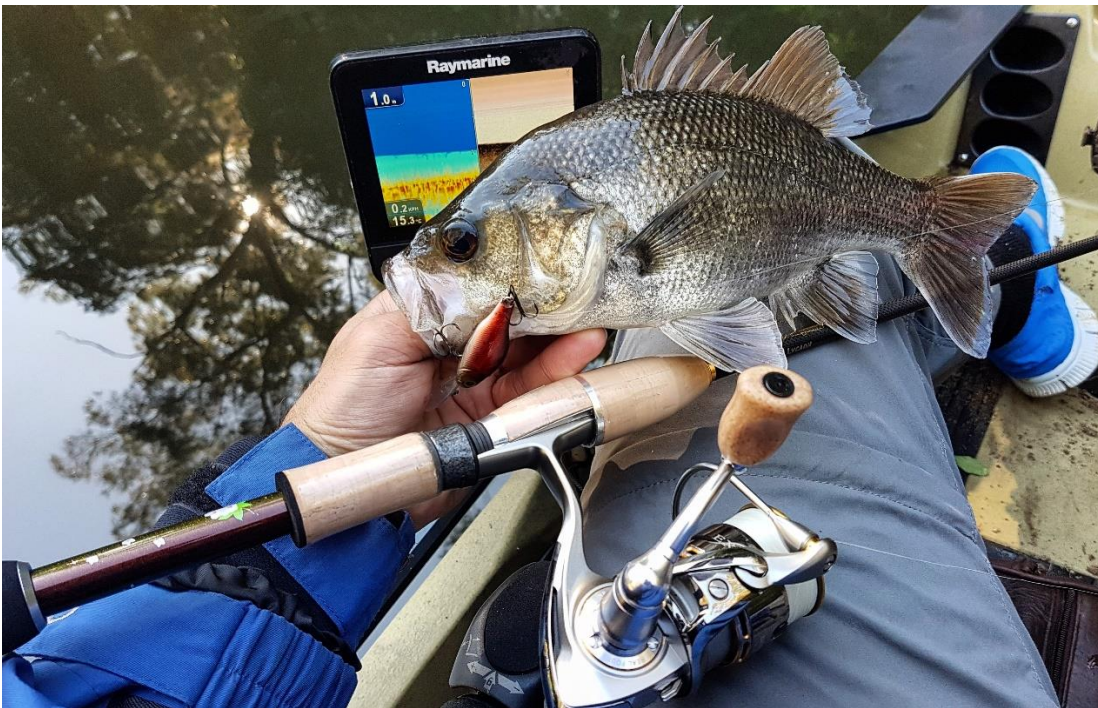
Often I'm guilty of sticking it out with one lure an entire session hoping for a bite. These days, I'm more likely to change my approach in a hope that something will get them a little more excited.

I've not done a lot of subsurface fishing for Bass in rivers. I nearly always fish subsurface in the dams with a mix of lipless crankbaits, divers, plastics and spinnerbaits, I was determined to stop being



stubborn in chasing that surface bite in order to start landing a few more fish.

It's amazing how receptive fish can be to a smaller profile diver usually suited for bream. Definitely something I'll throw around a lot more often now.



The tackle box is stocked and the warmer weather is on its way...it should make for a great season!



Pete H.

Spring time Gold - **Pete Hatzi**

The annual pilgrimage to Windamere Dam happened this October long weekend.

Weather conditions were forecast horrendous, with cold, wet and windy conditions forecast but I wanted a chance to fish the dam before the 2 consecutive comps run in October every year catch a stupid amount of fish between them and the fishing shuts down for a month while the fish adjust back to not having a million boats hooning around and being caught on every type of lure available to man while they are in their aggressive spring time mode.

Water temp was still hovering around 13'C degrees with the odd 15'C degree pocket here and there ... less than ideal. Goldens love water temps around the 18-20'C degree mark ... they thrive in it and are most active and up feeding right in the shallows.

The area has received a fair bit of rainfall over the past month, so the water being pushed towards the wall from the Cudgegong arm was brown and dirty, and the rest of the dam was full of some sort of algae, making water clarity very ordinary and casting lures at the bank frustrating with the constant weed fouling trebles.

The aim was to try and find banks which had a combination of 4 things:

1. Less weed build up on the bank,
2. Better water clarity,
3. Warmer water temps (usually western facing banks that had sun on them throughout the entire day),
4. Somewhere out of the wind.....

..... this prerequisite was severely narrowing our options.

Saturday was basically a write off, the wind was too strong and there aren't many places in Windamere that offer protection from howling winds. So an early night to see what Sunday brought.

Sure enough Sunday morning was met with sunshine and only a slight breeze. Although extreme fog made navigating in the morning very difficult and a slightly later start to the session then what we hoped for.

Around 8.30am, after finding a nice bank to fish I had a cracking golden nail my Jackall Mask Vibe. After a nice fight on my new GLX Loomis Crankbait rod...it got close enough to the boat for a good look and I wasn't disappointed...a true Windamere football was soon netted and onboard with Jackall halfway down its throat. After some nifty lure removing skills from my fellow angler, the beast was released to fight another day.

About 10 mins later on the same bank, I nailed another. Not quite as big, but fought really well, having me believe I had landed another cracker. Still, I never say no to any size fish! After all, it's for the sport we fish and feeling a yellow belly smash your crankbait on a slow roll and buckle that rod over is one of my all-time favourite ways to fish.



The bite died off and we headed in for lunch. With wind predicted for the afternoon we were hopeful the weather gods were wrong! We headed back out at 3.30pm, now with daylight savings we knew we had that extra hour in the afternoon. We peppered the banks for hours on end, trying every different lure combination we had in our boxes to no avail.

As the sun was setting and dipped behind a hill in the distance, I found a bank with a similar makeup of the one in the morning. It had better clarity, nice depth and a rubbly rocky decent.



Hook up! My friend had just boated a nice golden. 2 mins later, I got wacked right near the boat but it didn't stick. 2 casts later, boom I was on again, the fish hitting the lure only 2 metres from the boat. We ended up pulling 5 more fish from this 100m stretch of bank, right into the dark...having to leave a hot bite to safely navigate back to the campsite through the trees. All the fish were following the lures out and hitting them just before they got to the boat.

No amount of fish is worth your safety or ruining the motor on your boat for. I have personally hit a **stump with my dad's boat at St Clair one year and the damage it does to an outboard is horrendous.** So always safety first, it helps to keep a powerful handheld spotlight on your boat just in case you're ever stuck or happen to accidentally stay fishing that half an hour longer. We *putt, putt, putted* back to the campsite with grins on our faces.

I hope to get back to Windamere in November where I feel we're in for an absolute treat. Windamere truly is a "goldmine"...if you've never been, I highly recommend it.



Cheers, Pete H.

A TRIP TO ARNHEM LAND – Alan Izzard

Some months back I was invited to participate in a trip north to fish for Barra in east Arnhem Land. Naturally it took me some time to agree to go, as long as it took to respond with a resounding YES. Having been to Arnhem land twice before The trip could not come soon enough. There were 12 guys booked to go, all knew somebody else in the troop but not everyone, always a bit of a nail-bighter to see if everyone was going to get along. As it turned out, everyone did. There were 3 fights to get there taking a full day's travel, first to Cairns, then to Gove and then on to Dhippiri Lodge. To say that the lodge was well beyond expectations is an understatement. The cabins were well set up, all had AC and the main building is extremely well set up. To say that the very nicely chilled beer on arrival was well accepted is also an understatement, going by the number of empties that were binned. The lodge has a permanent chef and very good staff that looked after all of us so very well during our stay. We were briefed by the manager, Dave, the first night and assigned our boats for the next day's fishing. I was assigned to Dave with 2 mates, Carl and Steve, dare I say close to similar ages (?) as myself, well maybe they are a little younger!

Day 1: Today was to be a steep learning curve for Carl and Steve as neither were used to fishing with bait casters. Also it had been some time for me as well so I was hesitant as well, did not want to look like a total dickhead as the only guy in the boat, apart from the guide, that had done it before. Would you believe that Carl hooked up on his first cast, if you could call it that, and landed a small Trevally. Talk about beginner's luck. He did the same thing the next day. We finally managed to land a few fish that had decided to commit suicide, or were accidentally jagged. Cannot remember the final tally but we did bring back a feed of Barra. My last fish of the day must have been a shark, and it decided that it liked the lure so much that it was going to take it to PNG. Back to camp, a few beers, nice warm shower and then dinner with a glass or 2 of Shiraz, what better way to finish off the day.

Day 2: Everyone had decided the previous night that we would like to stay with the guides that we started with, not so sure the guides were all the happy with that, but if not they certainly did not show it. We headed off in the opposite direction this day to fish a different river. Although our casting had improved 100 fold the fish did not seem to care much and very few decided to end it all this day. We also put out some crab pots on the way out. Again Carl landed the first Kamikaze fish of the day, cannot remember what it was. We again caught some fish, nothing too big to brag about and were looking quite the stragglers in the pack when we heard about some of the fish the other guys boated, 1 being a Barra over the magic meter mark. Again my last fish of the day was another shark, this one I managed to get to the surface but Dave would not bring it into the boat, the woozy, just because he copped a couple of trebles in his hand earlier in the day. For a little while I thought we might have to head back to camp the remove them, but being the trooper he is he managed to pull them out while we squeamishly looked on. Any way he cut the line and lost one of his favourite lures, it was the biggest fish I caught the whole time we were there. Back to camp for another lovely dinner, some cold ales and some nice red wine, not much trouble getting to sleep that night.

Day3: Today we just had to fire, I hate being at the back of the pack. So does Dave I think. We headed back to the river we fished the first day, again our casting was sooo much better, BUT, Dave informed us that we would be doing a lot of trolling this day, oh well, he seemed to know what he was about so we just accepted it, lucky we did. We caught up to 1 of the other boats near the mouth of a creek, when asked they replied that they had just lost a nice Barra. They moved back down the river and we did a bit of a troll there, nothing happening. Dave

then moved us down as well and decided to troll back up stream, the guide in the other (Darren) boat suggested we try trolling on the outside of a snag, I think he was trying to get us into trouble but we managed to stay clear of the timber and not long afterwards I hooked a nice little Barra. The looks on the faces of the guys in the other boat was well worth the effort, they had just trolled past the same snag for no result. The consensus, not that we took a vote or anything, was we give it another run and sure enough I hooked my best Barra for the trip, 940mm, and man did it put up a fight. So we just had to let the others know what was going on, they had decided to stop for lunch, Dave said we would not stop but eat on the run, so to speak, as he believed that there had to be a meter + fish there. He was wrong, there were at least 3. Carl hooked the next fish, after I, being the considerate person I am, swapped sides of the boat with him. It may have been more of the fact that his whinging about me catching a couple and he was getting nothing that the only way for a bit of peace and quiet was to do so. It certainly worked for him, his next fish was 1080mm I believe, or something like that. Not to be outdone Steve chimed in with the next fish at 1160mm, a record equalling fish for the lodge, and it also put up a magnificent fight. Just to complicate things just as Carl was about to pull his lure out of the water a Threadfin Salmon of about 1 meter latched on to it. So we had Steve fighting a monster Barra with Dave giving him guidance and Carl and I trying to land the Thredie, get the hooks out of it **and** the net and be ready to land Steve's fish, which we managed to do. Could not get much better, except that I still had not landed a meter + Barra yet. Would you believe it, Carl hooked another monster, this one 1090mm, he was so knackered he ended up sitting down to fight it, I felt really sorry for him, not (LOL). A couple of more passes and I landed a meter or so Thredie and a cod, not a bad haul for the day. To say we came home with a wet sail would be an understatement. We landed more and better fish this day than the other 2 days put together, and there is no way we could have done it without the care and knowledge that was shown by our Guide, Dave, thanks again so much mate.



Dave and I with my best Barra 940mm The Threadfin

My Barra again.



Steve & Dave with the 1160mm

Carl with his 1st metery

Carl with his 2nd.

Species that we landed, what I can remember anyway: Barramundi, Blue Fin Salmon, Thread Fin Salmon, Fingermark, Trevally, Dave's favourite: Queenfish, the fish that pinned him, Cod, Sharks, and maybe some others.



A great place to fish, terrific boats, great gear Wilson rods and Shimano reels, top line lures like Reidys and Zerec, and fantastic staff. Special thanks to Lee the chef, Crystal his RH girl as well as Monica and Steve who made us all feel at home. Everyone was pleased with their respective guides, Darren, Simon and Trevor.

Lane Cove River: saltwater outing – Rico van de Kerkhoff

Saturday the 21st of May (2016) is going in my books as maybe one of the best days fishing.

The club event started for me and our Editor Damian early. Getting on the water around 0530hr, and NOT much happening for the first hour or two. I had a few hits and brief hook ups on something.

Around 0730hr Tham and Doug showed up and told us Doug had already bagged 5 bream. Damian and I still hadn't caught a fish by that time. Finally, I got into some fish, a Bream, then at some mid water snag I got two *just undersized* whiting, both of them engulfed my 2-inch grub on a 1/0 hook. A few moments later, I heard a squeal and Damian was on to something big. It kept taking more and more line.

Unfortunately, it was on his reel which in hindsight needed re-spooling. *Ooo Shit* ping and he got spooled. What was it a big Jew, King fish, Salmon, we would never know we thought.

Around the next bend a little creek was feeding in to the main river. As it was the outgoing tide, I casted my grub into the mouth and almost immediately hooked up onto a big bream. Couldn't stop it on my 4lb leader, it went under a snag, and a few moments later, three quarters of my leader was gone and so was the fish.

Casting against a rock wall (that Tham had tried his best & flogged for the previous ten minutes or so) and letting my soft plastic drift down got me a few hits & I was determined to hook it, whatever it was. *BAM*, I was on.

Soon I realized this was a big fish for the silly string (4lb leader) - it kept taking line and powered over to the other side of the river. A fish jumped. Was this my fish, a Aus. Salmon (which I have caught only once in W'gong on bait and that doesn't count), or was it a bull mullet that jumped because my fish was heading straight in its direction? Tham was a 100mtrs ahead around the corner and Damian was just behind me and came to see what I was going on about.

The fish stayed deep and gradually pulled my yak towards Tham. I was being towed downstream at one point I increased in speed as the fish recovered its strength. I didn't want to lose this one so I took it slow (very slow). About 500mtrs further I finally saw it for the first time, in the depths - something gray & around the 50cm mark.



Was it my first Jew? As it stayed deep and didn't jump, I was hoping for a nice Jew. Tham and Damian were circling around me and we'd probably travelled half a kilometre, when I saw a bust up about thirty metres away, they quickly paddled over and both hooked up on some Aussie Salmon. *TRIPPLE HOOK UP!!* Unfortunately, Damian's lure got caught in the net



when he tried to land his, but Tham got his – his first Salmon of the season.

Shortly after that my fish tired and I managed to safely net it. A nice 50cm Salmon, my first!



Time for a short pit stop and back on the water again. Chucking some lures around where we last saw the bust up. Not much happening. I saw a few baitfish jumping in the distance and headed over. Bream on Surface so I chucked a little pencil towards where I last saw the fish. Cast landed about 10 mtrs short. Two winds in and I was on. Another salmon jumped 3 times and pulled me around for 10 minutes (..... I had 6lb leader on my prize winning Miller rod).

Biggest Salmon of the day with 55cm.



After that we returned to the launch spot. Milton had the BBQ set up and ready to go. After lunch we drew the lucky door prize (won by Doug who came back for another fishing session post BBQ) and the mystery length fish (won by Tham and



Matt – a draw).

It was a great start to my winter fishing session and look forward to catching up with you on the water at our next club event on October 14-16th at our Bass Catch.

Rico van de Kerkhof

Karuah Bass Sydney Trip Sept 2016 – Doug Chan

In mid September a few keen members made the trip up to the Karuah River to kick off the bass season. Despite Al's best efforts, we weren't able to contact the owners of the usual riverside campsite on the upper reaches so we ended up basing ourselves down at the Big 4 Caravan Park at Karuah. Here, while the facilities were certainly better, it lacked the much sought after riverside camp feel of open fires and handy night fishing we were looking forward to.

Due to some last minute sickness, numbers were down from forecast, but all up 6 of us made the trip with different lengths of stay.

Rico and Doug kicked it off with an early start on Friday morning and decided to try The Branch River based on Derek Sonter's plans (which he sadly abandoned when he couldn't make it). This is a tributary of the Karuah, and after a slow start we managed 12 nice Bass between us as we paddled upstream and found some nice undercut river banks and tree covered pools.



The biggest was around 360mm while Rico managed to finish the day with an exuberantly greedy little Bass chasing a lure not much smaller than itself. 'Jig spins' and 'chatterbaits' worked well. Derek's planned launch spot was blocked by a resident's gate across what appears to be a public road – Al will be using his contacts to look into that.

Alan and Jason McMaster joined the two early starters that evening at the Caravan park.

Next morning was an early start with the plan to fish the Karuah around Booral. Rico and Doug headed upstream expecting to be joined at some stage by our editor who was supposed to be heading up from Sydney while Trent McMurray joined the crew that morning. We left a note on the pylon near our launch spot pointing the way for Damian, but all it seemed to do was raise questions from other fishers we bumped into – "are you Damian?", as Damian was delayed in Sydney and only made it up that night.

The upstream fishos had a good day with 16 fish between them, most over 300. Doug scored the biggest with a PB of 385mm followed by 340mm the next cast - along a log facing into ripple in which the Bass hit the lure in sight at the yak, much to the shocked delight of yours truly. The usual riverbanks, snags and eddies downstream from rapids all worked well. Rico persevered with his SSC for two of the fish but main success was on heavier 'jig spin' and 'chatterbaits' with larger soft plastic attached. As you can see from the photos, the fish were pretty fat and bronzed which according to those more knowledgeable in Aussie Bass fishing than me, suggests the fish may not have made it downstream to spawn. The successful log for the 2 fish is in the background.



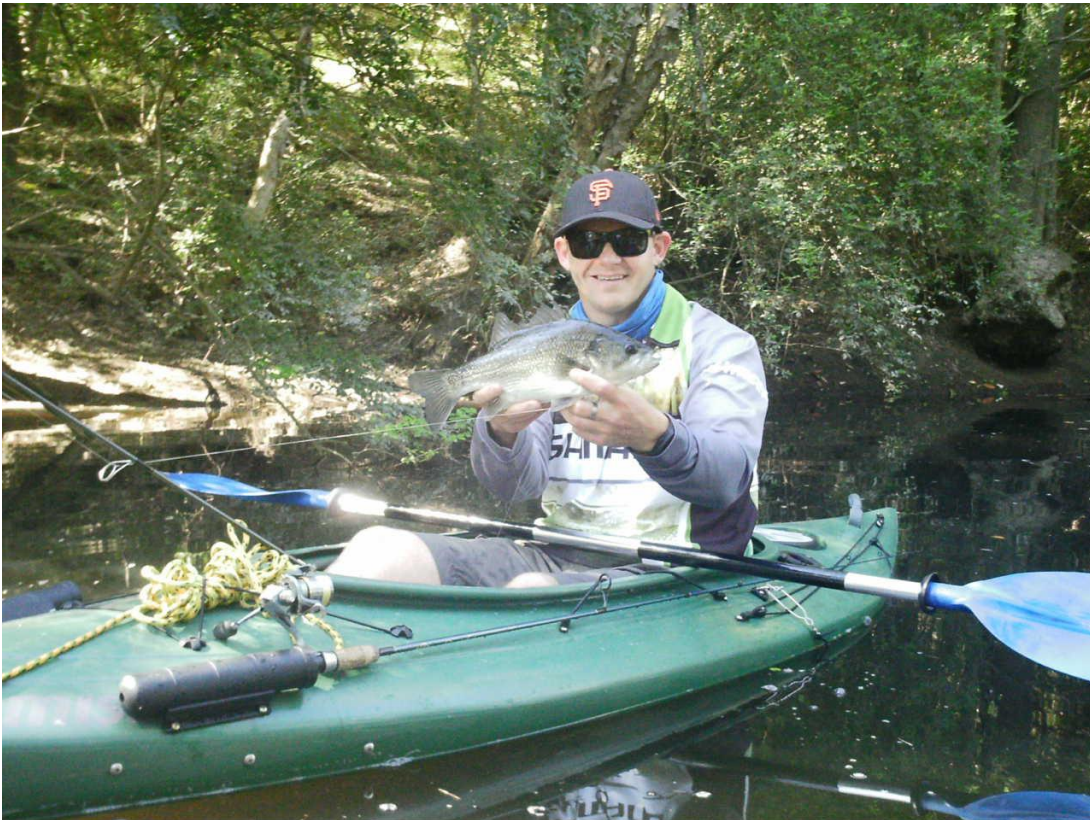
Doug was pretty pleased with his PB only to discover on return to camp, that it was easily outdone by Trent McMaster's monster PB of 450mm taken in a side creek in less than a metre of water with the Bass obviously sitting at the base of a riffle just waiting for a 'chatterbai't with a *slim swim z plastic* to come past. Apparently Trent had quite a fight in skinny water and 10lb leader, but his shouts of joy to

his companions around the corner showed he managed to successfully extract his PB for a few photos and excited chat that night. Trent outdid his previous PB by 40mm and told us bass fishing will be all downhill for him from now on!





Jason scored a few fish on a Maria minnow and soft plastic grub including a chunky 380mm specimen, while Al was a little frustrated having come up dry after getting the first two fish. The yak Rico sold to Jason tested its new owner by giving Jason a nice dunking while he was getting out - disembarking. There was no other yak mishaps to report, but then again Tham wasn't there!



Damian finally made it up on Saturday night and was hoping to make trip worthwhile next morning after spending an inordinate amount of time putting up his tent with solid contributions from his good mate Rico.



He and Jason had only a short morning session available to them so tried a few more pools upstream from the previous days fishing areas. Damian managed a 115 and 315 fish for about 6 hours of fishing and hauling his yak through rapids. He then took 4 hours to return to Sydney as he was caught in the torrential downpour that afternoon – however he did kick off his bass season after all. All credit to Damian for making it up there despite all the obstacles in his way. Jason managed a few nice fish on SPs, impressing onlookers with his long searching casts and occasional tree lopping.

The other three fishos, launched from same spot with the plan to work a few km downstream and finish at the campground we had planned to stay at. Originally we wanted to launch from further upstream, but the sight of two cars parked at the launch suggested 4 yak fishos ahead of us so we changed plans pretty quickly. No one likes fishing “dirty water”. Unlike the previous days, most of the fish were around the 200-300mm which may not have been surprising as the water level upstream was fairly low so not many of the larger fish may have yet moved up. Rico and Al fished consistently over the 10+ hours on the water, for nice bags of around 10 each, again mostly jig spins though Rico again managed two on the SSC. Al got a good 340 Bass – making up for his earlier frustration, while Rico also scored some nice fat fish. You know Rico has a nice fish on when you here a quiet “yup” out on the water while Al remains silent but deadly as usual.



This time it was Doug's turn for frustration as it took him 6 hours to get on the board after vowing to give his new SSC a work out, only to discover the paint peeling off his new lure – not happy Tiemco!. The lure still hasn't taken a fish yet but had one hit. He wasn't helped by a number of early fish busted off by a faulty bail arm catching the braid.

Rico finished the day with a nice feisty bass under a tree branch in a rapid only a few feet wide while casting around from the stones.

The other good news was that Al discovered our much desired riverside campsite is still open – it took a while to drag Al away from the talkative owner so we could start fishing, but it turns out a dispute with Telstra means a mobile number is now the best way to go to contact him.

That evening back at Karuah, saw us retreat to the local RSL for dinner to avoid the lashing rain and wind that also hit Sydney. Luckily it eased up soon after, though the strong wind made for a rather sleepless night for Rico - who also nearly froze the first night. No storm damage to report thankfully.

Monday morning dawned nice and clear though windy. Doug persuaded Rico to try a morning session on the lower Branch before heading home while Al had to make tracks early as he got the message from the boss that he was needed home asap to clear some trees across his driveway.

We hit the lower Branch for 3 hours on a short stretch down to where there was the unusual sight of the incoming tide entering one end of a pool and the rainwater flowing downstream into the other. The water was pretty clear despite the rain. Doug managed an early 340mm fish under a snag followed by a nice 360mm bass caught along a rock ledge in the middle of the pool in the sun. A 1/8th 'chatterbait' with a large grub did the damage. He thanked Rico for showing him the earlier day that bass don't always hang along the banks and that a few casts among mid river boulders could be fruitful.



Unfortunately for Rico, he lost a very nice bass right at the yak, while fishing a fallen tree at the bottom of the rapid – he called it for a PB and having extracted it from the branches, regretted not easing off once in clear water. Just don't ask Rico what his PB is?! The pools on this part of the river were a little different from the earlier fishing locations as some were in much rockier country and had more of a gorge feel. Very pretty country.

Overall, the trip was a great success with decent numbers of solid fish by all which seemed to surprise some of the other bass fishos we bumped into for that early in the season. We are all keen to return to give the surface action a workout and all agreed it was a great place to start the season. Rico reminded us to bring down size expectations for the Nepean Bass Catch. Big thanks to Al for his perseverance in organizing the accommodation for us despite last minute changes. Next time, we can expect to be at the riverside campsite, which is a very pleasant spot for a group gathering.

Doug Chang

Gone Fishing NSW Day

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/go-fishing-nsw>



Mark the date for Gone Fishing Day on 16 October 2016.

Australia's first ever Gone Fishing Day is on! And NSW DPI is running a host of events to mark this great initiative! Gone Fishing Day is aimed at getting all Australians out on the water to celebrate our love of fishing. It doesn't matter if you haven't fished before or if you're the keenest of anglers, Gone Fishing Day is for everyone!

Free NSW DPI community fishing events for everyone will run in six locations across NSW on 16 October from 10 am to 3 pm.

- Port Macquarie – Westport Park
- Newcastle – Honeysuckle Bay
- Sydney – Peter Depena Reserve, Dolls Point
- Lake Illawarra – Reddall Reserve
- Wagga Wagga – Lake Albert, Bosley Memorial Park
- Dubbo – Sandy Beach

Free fun filled fishing activities at each location will include:

How-to fish workshops, casting comps, goodie bags with bonus lures, expert fishing tips classes, touch tanks, loads of kids' activities and activity marquees are just a few of the exciting events on offer! Snappy, our crab mascot, will also be making an appearance and handing out lots of cool prizes.

A recreational fishing licence will not be required in NSW on Gone Fishing Day (16 October) so everyone from kids to adults is encouraged to get out there.

So grab a mate, take the family or enjoy some time out for yourself but make sure you wet a line this 16 October 2016.



NSW DPI is also supporting community fishing events and activities being staged by clubs and organisations across NSW on 16 October. Gone Fishing Day is being run using funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts.

More information contact - 02 4424 7421

Roads and Maritime Services will be joining us this year to host their annual Boating Safety Day, promoting boating safety on NSW waterways. Make sure you visit the Roads and Maritime marquee to talk to a Boating Education Officer or enter their boating safety competition.

Organisations hosting Gone Fishing Day activities

Fishing club / organisation	Location
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Anna Bay Tavern Fishing Club

Taylors Beach

Fishing club / organisation

Location

Basin Lure and Fly Club

St Georges Basin

Boomi Amateur Fishing Club

Boomi, MacIntyre River

Bundeena Maianbar Fishing Club

Bonnie Vale, Royal National Park

Capital Region Fishing Alliance

Queanbeyan

Casino RSM Social Fishing Club

Evans Head

Central Coast Game fishing club

Gosford Sailing Club

Dalmeny fishing Club

Mummaga Lake, Dalmeny

Guyra Hotel Anglers Club Inc

Malpas Dam, Guyra

House With No Steps

Manning Point, Taree

Inverell RSM Fishing Club

McLean Dam, Inverell

Jerilderie Fishing Club

Jerilderie

Fishing club / organisation	Location
Lifetime Connect, Nambucca Valley Men's Shed	Nambucca River, Macksville
Mathoura Fishing Classic Inc	Picnic Point, Murray River, Mathoura
Mungindi RSL & Two Mile Fishing Club	Mungindi
Nambucca Heads Offshore Fishing Club Inc.	Bellwood Park, Nambucca Heads
Newcastle Neptunes Spearfishing Safety and Sustainability	Nelson Bay and Fingal Bay
Nyngan Fishing Club	Rotary Park Nyngan
OzFish Unlimited, Richmond River Chapter	South Ballina
Pallamallawa Fishing Club	Pallamallawa
Ramsgate RSL fishing club	Como
Salvation Army Follow-on Youth Recovery Support Team (FYRST)	Como, Georges River
SHOK Fishing Pty Ltd	NSW wide

Fishing club / organisation	Location
Sofala branch of Central Acclimatisation Society	Bathurst
South Sydney Amateur Fishing Assoc & ST George Sportfishing Club	Botany Bay
St George and Sutherland Shire Anglers Club	Taren Point
Sussex Inlet Bowling Club Fishing Club	Sussex Inlet
Sydney Game Fishing Club	Watsons Bay
The Coraki Fishing Club	Coraki
The Dam Fishing Club	Wyang
The Pub Angling Club Tamworth & Lake Keepit Family Fishing Club	Lake Keepit Tamworth
Tomakin Fishing Club	Tomakin
Tuross Head Country Club Fishing Club	Tuross Heads
Walbundrie and District Anglers Association Inc.	Botanical Gardens, Walbundrie

Fishing club / organisation

Location

Wallerawang branch of Central Acclimatisation Society

Wallerawang, Lake Wallace

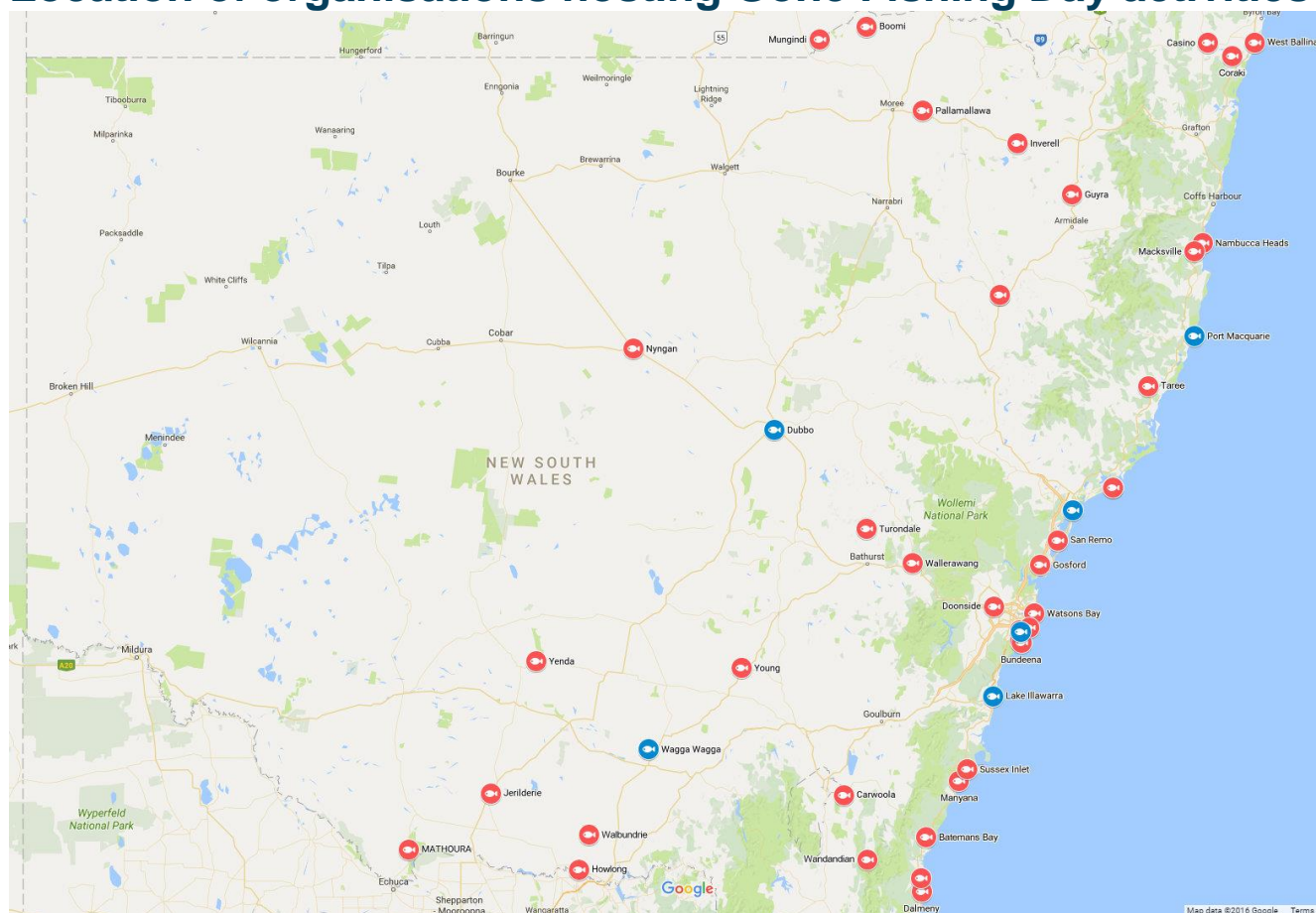
Yenda Hotel Fishing Club

Yenda Centenary Park

Young Bowling Club Fishing Club & Young District Anglers Fishing Club

Young

Location of organisations hosting Gone Fishing Day activities





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



Follow us on
Instagram

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Username: @bass_sydney

Next Meeting is on

Tuesday - 11th October 2016

> - 7:30pm at

Northmead Bowling Club

Monthly Fishing Cartoon

Catching no fish takes its toll – as editor considers joining the navy and a future as a life-buoy – ahoy.



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