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## Presidents Message

Dear members and affiliates,

Another year has gone by and for me personally, it has gone by way to quickly!

To busy at work and not enough time to go out for a fish. Especially now in summer.

Although we(Damian Doug and myself) just came back from a trip fishing the Nymboida and Mann river. Story in the next battler as I'm waiting for some more pictures.

The club is going great and we have a good steady turnout at events. Also our member numbers are nice and steady.

Russelstreet, if you haven't been there in a while, come out and have a look. It has changed so much the last halfyear! Well done to our dedicated team of volunteers! And a big thank you for the hours you all put in every month.

Only one more thing rests me to say to you all: A very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you and the family.

Hope to see you at our next event!

~ Rico van de Kerkhof

# **Bass Sydney Club Event – Colo River – Jan 21**

Date: Sunday 21 st January 2018, any time you want with a BBQ at 5pm at the Lower Portland boat ramp.

Where: Colo River between  
Putty Road

[https://www.google.com.au/maps/dir/-33.4318353,150.8286528/-](https://www.google.com.au/maps/dir/-33.4318353,150.8286528/-33.4327854,150.8281633/@-33.4309383,150.8286203,666m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m2!4m1!3e0)

[33.4327854,150.8281633/@-33.4309383,150.8286203,666m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m2!4m1!3e0](https://www.google.com.au/maps/dir/-33.4318353,150.8286528/-33.4327854,150.8281633/@-33.4309383,150.8286203,666m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m2!4m1!3e0)

and Lower Portland

[https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/33%C2%B026'12.2%22S+150%C2%B053'07.8%22E/@-](https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/33%C2%B026'12.2%22S+150%C2%B053'07.8%22E/@-33.4363579,150.8830992,659m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x0!8m2!3d-33.436717!4d150.885503)  
[33.4363579,150.8830992,659m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x0!8m2!3d-](https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/33%C2%B026'12.2%22S+150%C2%B053'07.8%22E/@-33.4363579,150.8830992,659m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x0!8m2!3d-33.436717!4d150.885503)  
[33.436717!4d150.885503](https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/33%C2%B026'12.2%22S+150%C2%B053'07.8%22E/@-33.4363579,150.8830992,659m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x0!8m2!3d-33.436717!4d150.885503)

This is a social event for kayakers or boaters. The kayakers can launch at either location and the boaters can launch at Lower Portland from Skeleton rocks which is where the Colo meets the Hawkesbury. The tide is important for kayakers. High tide at Lower Portland will be at 10:30am.

We will have a social gathering at 5pm at the Skeleton Rock boat ramp. Catering is BYO.

Please note that there is a road between Putty Bridge and Lower Portland, Lower Colo Road. The road is narrow and it takes about 25 minutes for the trip.

## **Bass Sydney Photo Competition**

Hi members—after some nice pics circulating from recent fishing trips we've decided to run a monthly photo competition open to all members. You are encouraged to get involved and submit one photo per month. Photos can be of anything fishing related and do not need to include Bass so be as creative as you like. There are a few rules:

- Photos must be from the current season only (from April 2017 onwards)
- No Bass photos to be entered during closed season (May 1 to August 31)
- One photo per member per month

All entries to be emailed to Jason at [mmcmasterj@tradies.com.au](mailto:mmcmasterj@tradies.com.au) and the Committee will decide on one winner each month and will be published in the Battler. Each monthly winner will then be considered for the Photo of the Year to be voted on by all members before the 2018 AGM. The winner will receive a great prize (to be confirmed soon). We look forward to seeing some great pics!!

Cheers,

**~ Jason**

## The Editors Message

Well, I've found my Bass mojo again, and have been out a few times over the last month or two chasing some Bronze and coming up with some nice fish to boot, including one session which saw 11 Bass, half a dozen dropped fish and just as many follows to the yak. I'm hoping to do as much fishing as possible these Christmas holidays, including my annual trip up north to chase the iconic Murray Cod. Conditions are as good as they've ever been up there, with plenty of rain having fallen in the past few months meaning dam levels are good, and the farmers have had plenty of water so no dam releases ruining the rivers! Also planning on hitting the salt for the Kingfish and keen to give my new rod a christening it deserves!

I hope all Bass Sydney members, affiliates and their families have a wonderful and safe Christmas.

~ Pete







## Does it do damage to hold a fish by the jaw?

Source: <http://www.fishingworld.com.au/news/does-it-do-damage-to-hold-a-fish-by-the-jaw>

IN recent years, catch and release fishing has become more and more popular all around the world, with many modern anglers opting to take a photo of their catch rather than kill it. Commonly, fish are held aloft by their jaws while the successful angler gets their happy snap. This practice raises the question of what, if any, physical impact does holding a fish have on its jaw?

There isn't much scientific research on this topic, so a group of US fish biologists and veterinarians got together to design and conduct an experiment to help shed some light on things, using bass as their subject species.

During the experiment, the researchers took detailed radiographs of bass being held in four different positions, including with a lip grip. The veterinarians then examined the radiographs of each position, looking for any noticeable breaks or injuries to jaw bones, with an emphasis on the dentary bones that make up the bottom jaw. The results and correlating imagery were nothing short of fascinating.

You can read the full article on the [Wired2Fish website](#), by the most important findings were:

Larger fish do require an increased emphasis on proper fish handling, by supporting their weight with a second hand.

Applying too much pressure to soft tissue areas can cause damage. Any angle that deviates 10 percent or more from vertical or horizontal has the potential to damage the jaw.

Holding fish with a fish grip or by a hanging scale is beneficial.

The recommendation that it is acceptable to hold fish horizontally with a second hand supporting its weight or completely vertical was supported by the research.

Holding fish vertically with the weight of the fish being placed on the jaw in an exaggerated fashion is not acceptable.

Injured fish will likely swim away and appear completely normal.

Long-term affects of soft tissue injuries are currently unknown.

Full Article: <https://scout.com/outdoors/bass-fishing/Article/What-Happens-When-You-Hold-a-Bass-109802650>



**A study from the US has found that some ways of holding fish are better than others when it comes to causing soft tissue damage in the mouth**

## New Bass Sydney Trophy

Former long-term committee member and local Bass enthusiast Warren Willoughby who moved from Glendenning to Narromine many years ago kindly donated a new club trophy. The trophy is for the Largest Bass of the Year and applies to wild river fish caught in the period from one AGM to the next.





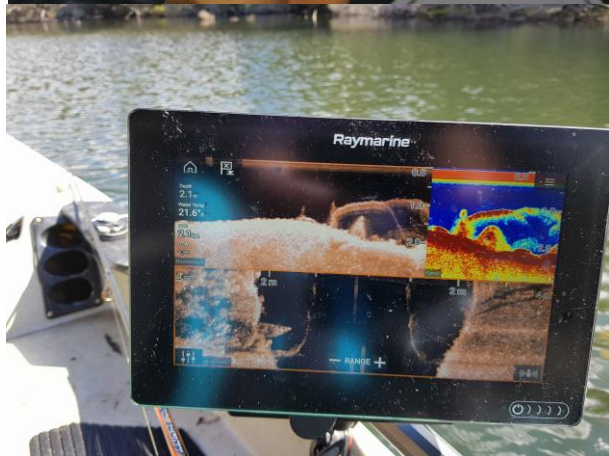
Your fish must be witnessed by another member with photographic proof to be eligible.

The nameplate along the bottom is engraved BASS SYDNEY Donated by Warren Willoughby.

The committee would like to thank Warren for his generosity and we look forward to engraving the name of the member who manages to catch the largest Bass each year.

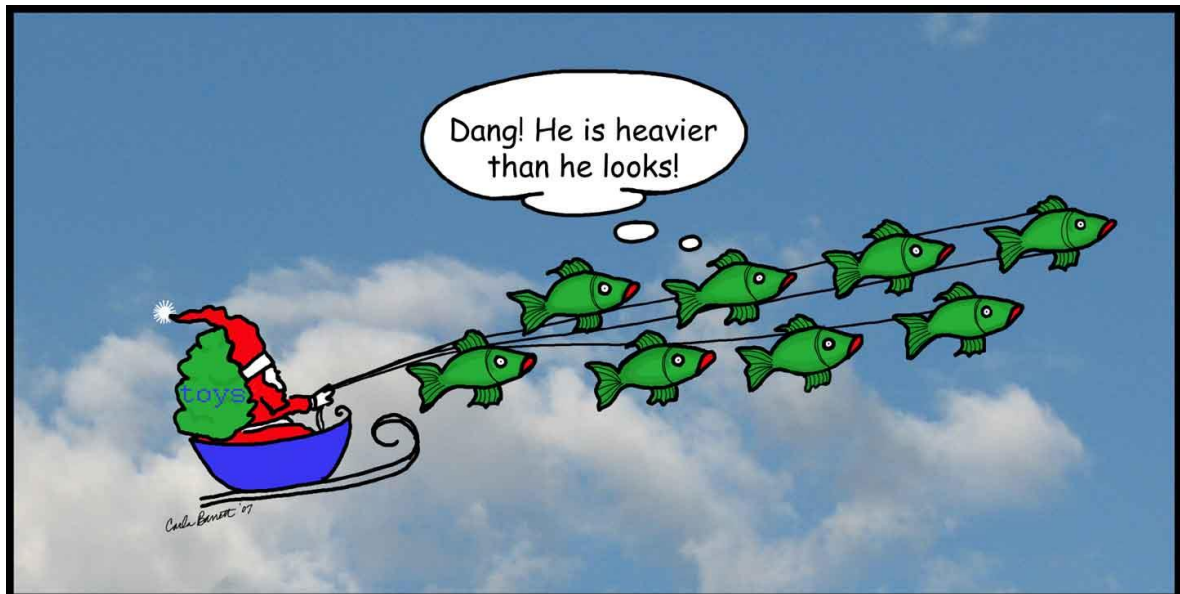
## Recent fishing pics from our members

### 1. Andre Dukino recent trip down the South Coast





## Monthly Fishing Cartoon



**Next Meeting is on Tuesday  
Feb 6  
7:30pm at  
Northmead Bowling Club**

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**



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