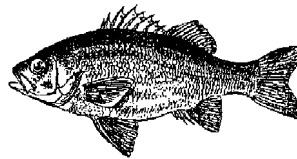




Australian Bass, MACQUARIA NOVEMACULEATA



THE BRONZE BATTLER

GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 4th
FEBRUARY

Northmead Bowling, Recreation and
Sporting Club Ltd.
166 Windsor Rd Northmead

Nice to see Barry Cole and Trish Brown who made a huge effort and drove all the way up from Woonona,

not far from where the ever popular Bass kayak is made.

GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker had not been finalised at the time of printing, however we hope to have a NSW Fisheries spokesperson to give us a presentation on the latest trends of the Bass catch database.

The club person of the year (the member who accrues the most points) was won by Geoff Shadbolt and runner up was Garnet Noble. Congratulations gentlemen.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Those that made the effort to come along for our Christmas dinner enjoyed themselves, although we only had 16 members, disappointing really.

We had hoped for at least 25 to end the year in our new venue club.

INDIVIDUAL POINTS

- 1 Geoff Shadbolt.....102
- 2 Garnet Noble.....100
- 3 Alan Izzard.....95
- 4 Milton Lazarus.....91
- 5 Dave Claydon.....75

6	Geoff Bennett.....	60
7	Barry Cole.....	40
8	Shane Fell.....	35
8	Charles Mangion.....	35
9	Alan Fowkes.....	30
10	H S Tham.....	25
10	Trevor Mills.....	25

BIRDSNEST

- Happy New Year to all members. Hope the fishing over the Christmas break was great. Look forward to seeing you all at the next GM and hearing all your Bull Shit.
- A few souls turned up for the carp bash at South Creek, unfortunately we only managed 1 of the slimy B's and no Bass. We hope to have a tree-planting day there shortly.
- For those of you that have not heard, Hornsby Council went ahead with stocking Berowra Creek with 12000 fingerlings, and no it's not a typo, they actually put that many fish into the upper reaches. Makes

you wonder what they use for brains, it's like putting 100 fish into a goldfish bowl.

- Don't forget that our second basscatch is on the 14/15th of Feb. You can collect your forms from Geoff Shadbolt. Please note that the postcode on the form is incorrect, it should be 2152.
- Hawkesbury Nepean Bass Anglers , The Blue Mountains and District Anglers and Bass Sydney will be having a meeting together shortly to discuss what can be done about the prawn trawl industry on the Hawkesbury River. Will keep you informed on progress as we go.
- Bass Sydney and some members put in submissions on the Stocking EIS last year (refer letter later in the Battler) Hopefully Fisheries policy will change and there will be no more river stockings without the proper research being undertaken before hand. Hopefully this will then push councils etc into fixing the river and the riparian zones.

SOUTH CREEK

As advertised in the December Bronze Battler a Bass - Carp bash was organised for Sunday December 14th by Greening Western Sydney's Daniel Williams.

The idea being, to get some idea of the Bass population in a limited reach of the creek and knock off a few Carp as well.

Thirteen members and friends turned up as keen as mustard ready to go, but heavy rains on the Friday before (remember we had big thunderstorms all day) turned South creek into a chocolate coloured river.

Well the fish would not co-operate, and only one Carp was caught by Alan Fowkes using worms. Not a Bass to be seen. Messers Claydon, Izzard, Fell, Noble and Lazarus tried their hands at Carp fishing with corn and bread, but to no avail, bloody horrors would not bite.

About 12.30, we all adjourned to very nice platters of fresh sandwiches and cool drinks, generously provided by Daniel. The area chosen for lunch was the corner of a large paddock full of adjusted horses, so naturally they all joined in for lunch too.

The creek looks good and with the right conditions Bass will be caught here. It's ideal for kayak or canoe, so we are all looking forward to our next opportunity to have a go. Actually, this will happen when we commence regeneration and tree planting in early March. Date to be advised, stay tuned at the February GM.

LANE COVE RIVER OUTING 10-1-04

Sorry, but there's nothing to report on this club outing.

Two things happened. There were no starters, probably because we scheduled the day too close to the Christmas break

and most people were away or still in holiday mood.

The large bush fire in the Kuring-gai National Park had stretched resources to the limit, so after hours access to the Lane Cove National Park was probably going to be difficult to arrange, so we stayed home.

BASS SYDNEY BASSCATCH

Don't forget our Hawkesbury Nepean Basscatch on the 14th and 15th of February mentioned in Alan's Birdsnest.

Please try and make the effort to get on the river for one or two days over this weekend to maximise the data collection for NSW Fisheries. We will discuss the spread of members over the various reaches at the February meeting.

Our Basscatch Officer Geoff Shadbolt will have Basscatch forms at our February meeting. If you cannot make the meeting please call Geoff and organise a form somehow.

RESULTS FROM OUR OCTOBER BASSCATCH N031 SEASON 16

Number of fisherman -16 including 7 Springwood members.

Total fish caught.....
.....93

Most fish caught 21 Geoff Bennett

14 Gary

Blount

Biggest fish caught.....
398 mm by Geoff Shadbolt, well done Geoff.

Number of Fishermen and Bass per reach.

Reach 1, no anglers.....
no Bass

Reach 2, no anglers..... no Bass

Reach 3b, 1 angler.....no Bass

Reach 4, 19 anglers.....
88 Bass

biggest.....

398mm

Reach 5, 5 anglers.....5 Bass

biggest.....

330mm

Total number of hours fished.....143

Point-score winner.....Geoff Bennett

1

10 points

Runner-up....Gary Blount....52 points

Thanks to our Basscatch Officer Geoff Shadbolt.

BASS SYDNEY
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT ON RIVER
STOCKING

18th December 2003-12-18

Environmental Impact
Statement Submission
Fish Stocking
P.O. Box 21
Cronulla NSW 2230

Dear Sir/Madam,

Bass Sydney applauds NSW Fisheries' recognition and public documentation of the dangers inherent in the stocking process.

We also applaud the commitment to research directed at better understanding these risks and to management processes directed at mitigating them. We welcome in particular the implementation of a hatchery accreditation program and the formalisation of the stocking approval process.

However, we continue to be concerned at the weight attached to stocking as a fisheries management tool and at the growth in the number of natural waterways stocked in recent years.

Indeed, with the advent of the Dollar for Dollar stocking program, and with the lack of rigour demonstrated to date in the approval process, we feel that there have been a number of ill-advised river stockings. Stockings that posed all the risks identified in the EIS but that were simply unnecessary (because existing populations were viable) or that would provide no long term benefit (because the underlying causes of population decline were not addressed).

We also feel that the latter scenario describes one of the un-stated risks of stocking - the risk that the stocking will mask a population decline and take focus (and funds) away from the real issue.

We acknowledge that "Harvest Stocking" is a valid approach in impoundments where natural recruitment is unlikely or impossible but do not condone the formalisation of "Harvest Stocking" as a valid approach to fisheries management in rivers.

As noted in the EIS there are multiple concerns regarding the potential

impact of stocking on local environments/populations and a distinct lack of Australian research to guide such activities. We can however point to several pieces of overseas research that would caution against stocking as a management tool.

In our opinion, stocking in rivers should take place on a "Conservation" basis only and then only with substantive research to support the need and to assist in managing the impacts of the stocking

At the very least, any proposed stocking of rivers should be subject to a public consultation process before approval to overcome any current lack of knowledge within Fisheries as regards existing populations and local environmental issues.

We would also strongly encourage a redirection of research funding and management emphasis to the understanding and correction of the issues leading to population decline.

This is the only approach that will give us healthy, self-sustaining populations of fish in the long term.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours Faithfully,
Bass Sydney Fishing Club
Inc.

A LITTLE GEM

Bass Sydney member, Mike Hawkins kindly loaned me a very old hand book titled **Sure Catch Anglers Guide**. Printed by Mick Simmonds Ltd. Printed in 1925, it contained some priceless information.

The most notable from our point of view was the following:

CLOSED SEASON N.S.W. FOR AUSTRALIAN BASS (Eastern Freshwater Perch)

The whole of the rivers, lakes, lagoons, inlets and tributaries east of the Great Dividing Range, together with the harbours into which they debouch, May 1st to September 30th.

They even had lawful lengths for fishes in N.S.W. The Australian Bass was 9 inches.

Other snippets:

The Anglers Doctor

THE IDEAL FOOD: There is absolutely no sane argument against the use of fish as an almost daily diet throughout the length and breadth of this land. It is ideal as a food. It is highly nutritious and rich in proteins. It is most easily digested. It contains in great abundance the chemical ingredients for making bone, muscle and tissue. As a food nothing detrimental can be said against it. Fish, with the exception of a few species, are clean feeders.

FISHBONE IN THROAT: A raw egg swallowed will detach a fishbone.

AN EMAIL FROM ABROAD

Legendary Bass Sydney member David Sanegor headed off to the UK mid October 2003 for an overseas adventure.

The following email was in reply to one sent by Alan Izzard.

Hi Alan, good to hear from you. I must say that I'm missing everyone and the Bass fishing. The weather here is abysmal. I haven't seen this much rain and bad weather in my life. It rains in London everyday, but it has not kept me from fishing. Still trying to catch freshwater Pike.

Saw some guys fishing at the tidal lock on the Thames River near Teddington, London. They were catching freshwater Bream, a kind of silver Carp like fish that looks a bit like a Carp and a bit like a Tench and a little bit like a Yellowbelly. They are caught on bait and are bottom feeders. These fish were 2-3kg in size.

The Thames is an awfully dirty river and as rafts of litter pass you by, it makes you wonder why you've bothered. There must be more to fishing than just catching fish, but some nice scenery and clean rivers would help.

It is so congested here its unreal. Residents have to pay the council a yearly fee to park their car outside their house! You also won't find a free public toilet anywhere.

Hoping to go to Wales for three days to target good-sized flounder that live in small estuaries there. Trout fishing is all pay to fish plus buying your licence and catching hatchery fish that have been caught 6 times in their life and are so wary it does not interest me. Give me an aggressive wild river Bass anytime!

Tackle shops here are so full of coarse fishing shit, it's hard to buy any normal terminal tackle. The techniques they use are very deadly though and would prove an effective weapon for targeting our often fickle Trout in the dams. Start breeding maggots lads!

Will let you know how things go if I manage to get to Wales. In the meantime I'm working hard at Vauxhall (basically England's Holden) trying to sell cars. It's not easiest sales job in the world, but having access to a car on weekends is handy.

Keep you posted Dave.

Now guys, how about we all shoot off an email to Dave and say giddyay at david_sanegor@hotmail.com

AFD

Don't forget AFD donated a rod & reel combo for our raffle, so if you need some gear pop in and check out their range at:

Campbelltown: Unit 4/2 Mill Rd, 4620-0200.

Blacktown: 3/2 Garling Rd Kings Park, 9679-8977.

Parklea Markets: Stall No 277-280, 9629-0300

As well as Tuggerah and Morriset.

FOR SALE

Australis Bass kayak, ex committee member Gordon Murphy's, (Gordon moved to Melbourne last Christmas), mid green, paddle, spraydeck & rod holder, \$500 or let's hear an offer. This kayak is in Sydney for sale, please call Alan Izzard for a look at work on 9622-3644 or home 9653-2309.

Members please note that if you are still receiving your Battler by mail and have recently joined the internet, we would prefer to email your Battler as it saves me a lot of time and the club a lot of money for printing and postage.

To receive an emailed Bronze Battler please make contact with Alan Izzard, on acutepri@bigpond.net.au Thank you.

POSITION VACANT

Bass Sydney has an opportunity for a member to join the committee as Editor. This position will come available from April 2004 and involves the production of the club's newsletter.

Experience required is basic, the new Editor will need a computer with Microsoft Word and preferably an internet connection. Typing skills are not necessary as the current Editor still uses two-finger typing successfully.

Whilst this position sounds like a daunting task, other club members chip in with articles on a broad range of Bass related and fishing topics, that all help to make the job enjoyable and easy.

If you have very minimum computing skills don't worry, the current Editor did not own a computer and did not even know how to "boot one up" prior to accepting the position. It was seen as an opportunity to buy a computer and learn all about it and this has been the case.

The current newsletter has been 6 to 8 pages per issue, but it is not necessary to produce such a document as long as all the current club issues and outings are reported to members.

So what do you think, prepared to have a go! If you are interested please give me a call (9874-7323 H, 9807-2244 W.) I will be only too happy to spend some time to discuss what's involved and later show the interested applicant the ropes.

Remuneration - the satisfaction of keeping all members advised of the news.

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 14-15 H.NEPEAN BASSCATCH

MARCH 20-21 WILLIAMS RIVER BASSCATCH & LAKE YARUNGA BASSCATCH

APRIL 7 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Milton Izzard.

