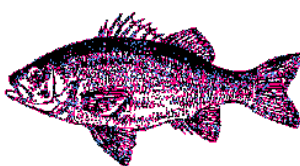




Australian Bass, *MACQUARIA NOVEMACULEATA*



# THE BRONZE BATTLER

**NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday**  
**13<sup>th</sup> February**  
**GUEST SPEAKER**

No guest speaker this month.

**Northmead Bowling, Recreation and Sporting Club Ltd.**  
**166 Windsor Rd Northmead.**  
**7.30 pm start till 11pm.**

<b>PATRON:</b>	Dr Wayne Erskine, PhD
<b>President</b>	Domenic Squadrito..9799-1796(H)
<b>Vice President</b>	Dave Sanegor.....0413 136 678
<b>Past President</b>	Dave Claydon..... 9829-1503 (H)
<b>Secretary</b>	Jim Taylor..... 9631 7485 (H)
<b>Treasurer/Membership</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	Garnet Noble.....9476-3881(H)
<b>Points score &amp;</b>	
<b>Basscatch Officer</b>	Geoff Shadbolt.....9636-4340(H)
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	Alan Izzard.....9653-2309(H)
<b>Editor:</b>	Alan Izzard.....9653 2309(H)
<b>Event Co-Ordinator</b>	Chris Ghosn.....9636 6896 (H)
<b>Project Officers:</b>	
<b>Parramatta River</b>	Alan Fowkes.....9626-9938(H)
<b>Hacking River</b>	Warren Hackshall....9525 0090(H)

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Happy New Year,

I trust at everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Years break, more so if it was spent on the water fishing. Having to return to work after a long holiday is always difficult, and I am sure a lot of the Bass Sydney members are in the same position as I find myself, drifting off and not able to hold focus. My thoughts keep wondering to the fishing and time I spent on or near the water over that holiday period.

Fishing is a funny business; it may not always be productive, which consequently is not that important to me. The quality time spent with mates, children and the spouse is what remains etched in my memory. Fishing is also more than just getting out your gear and going down to the nearest waterway, what I have found lately is the knowledge of fishing is just as important to me. By this I mean reading and being involved in fishing forums, reading magazines and books and even any general discussions on styles, techniques or places people fish. Information is the key here, and the more that is shared the better the angler and the sport can be for all.

I am sure that from time to time you may hear the following statements from fellow anglers talking of "secret spots", and not disclosing these locations. Now even with anglers being what anglers are, and I know that the next statement might be difficult for some to except or comprehend. Just because a spot may be a "honey hole", or a "Fishing Mecca." It does not mean that it will "fire" or be the same for everyone, other factors may need to be equal such as season, tides, angler experience, gear, etc. So where is this going? I believe that everyone should share information as this makes fishing more attractive and everyone becomes more adept in the fine art of fishing, "knowledge is free and it should be shared". Our club's next Bass Sydney general meeting is on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of February, It would be great if as many members and friends or guests could attend. Bass Sydney Fishing club can only continue to be successful if all members participate, so I look forward to see you all there. If any members have any suggestions or ideas please come along and have a say, it's our club and its direction and future is in our hands.

Happy fishing.

Domenic

President

Bass Sydney Fishing Club

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## VALE: NOEL BROWN

Long time member and Bass Sydney stalwart Noel passed away over the Christmas Break. He will be missed at our meetings. Shayne Fell and Mike Hawkins have supplied the following article which gives an insight into the man.

Noel was born in GRAFTON On the 9th January 1926. He had two sisters, Hazel and Leah

Noel joined the army towards the end of WW2 after putting his age up by two years in order to be eligible to enroll. He served in the army as a driver, stationed in numerous parts of Australia and then in the occupation of Japan.

Upon leaving the army he worked as a bricklayer before deciding to go into the pest control business.

He studied entomology at Sydney University and worked for Flick pest control before starting up his own business, Noel Brown Pest Control, which is still being run by his son in law.

Noel has always been active in the local community around Springwood and the Blue Mountains.

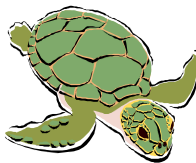
Noel was an active member of a number of fishing groups such as CAS, CFA, Bass Sydney and others. It was to his beloved Springwood Fishing Club; however that he devoted the most time and energy, being a member for over 40 years and President for a large proportion of that time.

Another activity that Noel devoted a large amount of time and energy to was the RSL. He was active in the Springwood branch and was instrumental in setting up the Springwood RSL Club (later to become Springwood Community Club)

Noel was also active in the local historical society, birdwatchers group and the diabetes group.

He was survived by his sister Hazel .daughters Janis & Glenda son-in-law Gene. Grandson's Michael & Steven & greatgrand children Mathew. Paul Nadia Chris Alex David & Haley

Noel passed away in Katoomba Hospital early on New Year's Day after doctors had diagnosed two inoperable tumors on his brain a few weeks earlier



Well its been over a week since ive got back from the north coast, and what a trip it was. Quite tiring for the most part as I shifted camp almost daily. I managed to suss out a few spots for both bass and estuary fishing. Many thanks to the farmers/land holders who allowed me to camp and access waterways from their properties. Finding accommodation in the peak part of the school holidays along with all the bs that goes with it such as heavy traffic, noise etc. All the things us bass fishos love to get away from when we hit the road. Trying to get a good nights sleep at caravan parks is not always easy , with partygoers and yobbos carrying on into the wee hours - frustrating!

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Theres so much to tell, I could fill the entire battler with the 12 days I spent up the coast, so ill summarise it.

### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS



Myall River at Bulahdelah. The river is lined with bullrushes and Casuarinas, and its tidal freshwater. Caught a few smallish bass and lost a number of lures in the many snags in the river.



Camden Haven River at North Haven. Lots of weedbeds and mangroves and a relatively undisturbed swampland and coastal eucalypt forest line this river. Its very picturesque and the leases and mangroves produced a few very small bream on lures, but the spring tides and the amount of floating seagrass strands made fishing a chore

Hastings river at Wauchope. The river is tidal here and there are reefs and rockbars from which you can pull some nice bream, small GT's, and the odd jack in summer and loose heaps of lures.



A late night session on the Macleay at Bellbrook, which produced 4 bass to 390mm on surface flies and lures.

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Yanking tiddlywinks out from under the racks in the Nambucca River - another river well worthy of another visit. Sitting back on the verandah at one of the local oyster farmers, eating oysters and drinking nice cold beers, what a place



Bass fishing on the Bellinger River, up in the Coffs hinterland, and landing some nice ones in the high 3's at night on surface lures, and nailing a 440mm fish on a squidgy flick bait. The river is full of platypus, and in the evenings they surface regularly, sometimes only a kayak paddle away. Curious perhaps?

I visited the Woolli River and fished Moonee ck (see pic - apparently they catch jacks here)



north of Coffs, two of the most pristine estuaries I visited on my travels I also lost what I suspected was a jack that ate a soft plastic whilst I was fishing from a breakwall at Ballina.



Bass fishing Bungawalbin Ck (above) a picture postcard tidal freshwater stream and a tributary of the Richmond, which produced only 1 small fish. The cicada song is ear splitting from sunup to sundown. The water is coffee brown due to the tea tree farms and ploughing practices, which have increased turbidity dramatically - according to a local grazier. It really is a beaut bit of water with heaps of snags and shade

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Stray bulls can present a hazard to those camping on farms.....(no pics sorry!).

This from Dave Sanegor.



During the Christmas break, Milton and I decided to head south for a change and fish some of the southern rivers and dams around the Nowra to Bateman's Bay area.

We travelled the coast road to Wollongong, crossing the spectacular Seacliff Bridge.

We were going to camp at Grady's on the Shoalhaven River, however due to the price of accommodation and the likelihood of rain we decided to stay at Vincentia on Jervis Bay where we had alternative accommodation. Before heading to Vincentia we fished Flat Rock Dam just west of Nowra for the remainder of the afternoon. The wind was gusty as we launched the kayaks so we elected to head towards the back of the dam to get out of the wind. The dam is heavily weeded with superb deep channels. In a great half hour of fishing I managed 9 nice bass the largest going 255mm, unfortunately during this time Milton decided to move the truck out of the sun and missed the action.

After a few beers and a couple of reds we got to bed late that night, consequently we were not up early the next day. This seemed to be the pattern for the rest of the week.

We decided to fish the northern part of Flat Rock that afternoon. There were some great bass hiding in the channels, but you had to be very quick to stop them from burying themselves into the weed. We lost several good fish in the weeds, however we managed about 16 fish the largest going 325mm. These Flat Rock bass are unbelievably powerful for their size. The following day we headed for Danjerra Dam. We arrived at the dam about midday to have our ears assaulted by the unmuffled exhausts of trail bikes belting around the area. As usual the wind came up and made fishing difficult. We were being blown all over the place, however we managed about 20 fish in about 2 hours before the weather drove us off the water. The Shoalhaven River was our destination the following day. Another sleep in, arrived at Grady's about 12.30pm and headed up stream out of the tidal flow into the freshwater.

First cast, a nice bass of 235mm from under a willow. This could be the start of a good session. Ten minutes later on the first big bend the chartreuse Slider was absolutely smashed and after a dogged fight I was measuring my first 400mm bass from the Shoalhaven. Was I pumped, however after an hour without a fish things were looking grim. Time for lunch. After lunch we moved into the next pool and the action hotted up. Nine fish in about fifteen minutes between us, and Milton's first fish of the day, but he was catching up with some good fish. All went quiet for me for the next two hours while Milton kept on bagging fish. It was getting late so we headed back to Grady's. It was low tide when we got back to the salt and was getting dark so there was just enough time for a few more casts. I flicked into the shore near a snag and was immediately hooked up to a good bass, however there was a bigger bass trying to take the lure from the fish already hooked. I had to settle for the smaller fish at 340mm. This action spurred both of us on and we hooked another 5 fish before calling it quits. When we got back to the truck we could not believe what was going on. We were parked in on one side by a ute, on the other side a tent was so close that the ropes were between the wheels and in front the ferals had a roaring fire going. After a female with the biggest beer gut you have ever seen moved the ute we were out of there. What a place to spend New Years Eve!

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New Years Day we travelled to Nelligen on the Clyde River to stay with a friend of Milton's for a few days. That night over a few beers and a bottle of red we decided to go further south and have a look at the Tuross and Deua Rivers.

We crossed the Tuross at Eurobodalla where it was silted up and did not appear to be flowing so decided to try further up river to see what it was like. We travelled through some of the most spectacular mountain country I have ever seen. The roads were in good condition, but narrow and a bit slippery from the rain. We finally arrived at the river and found a beautiful place to stop beside the water with dark pools in both directions. I headed up river and Milton headed down. As good as it looked not a fish to be seen, may be next time.

The Deua River was very disappointing with a few shallow pools and no water flowing.

The next day we headed to Brooman on the upper reaches of the Clyde River. Milton had organised access to the river with a property owner. This part of the river was a beautiful stretch of about 2 kilometres. We caught 18 bass in about 4 hours, the largest being 325mm. On the way back to Nelligen we reconnoitred a few places for future fishing expeditions and drove to the top of the Mogood Lookout for 360 degree views of the country side from the Great Divide to the Pacific Ocean.

The following day we headed home.

We travelled about 1200kms, caught about 100 bass and had a great time.



Garnet Noble.

*Sounds like a great couple of days guys.*

## Cobbity Bass

On a day of temperatures around 42 degrees Dave Claydon, Nev. and myself fished from Cobbity Bridge upstream. The water was a horrible lime green colour and got worse further downstream. The water was littered with floating debris and ribbon weed making fishing frustrating at times. Cobbity is a section of water I would refer to as trophy water as its expansive waters and deep dark snags hold some mighty bass. Dave C caught some good fish on soft plastics that resembled the myriad of mosquito fish in the water, Nev managed to take a great fish that went 340mm and I managed to dong a 320mm on a 1/8oz spinner bait and christen my new rod and reel in the process. I was predominately using my shimano chroanch teamed with 15lb braid and 14lb leader and was surprised that fish can still take line on gear armed for bear.

With temperatures soaring the boys headed back around lunchtime with a total of Dave with 4 Nev 1 and myself 1. I fished for another hour with zero results. Later that day I met up with a fellow who had access to some private property on the same stretch of water that was about 10kms upstream from were we had fished during the day. The water again had that lime colour and some floating weed also. Despite this it looked bassy with deep-water snags and over hanging native trees. However the

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fishing was extremely slow as only 1 fish of 350mm was taken on a flutter bug caught by my mate. We fished from 5pm till 9:50pm for just 1 fish little to show for it.

*Postscript:*

*After compiling this article the following was issued*

Council wishes to advise that routine sampling of the Nepean River at Cobbitty Bridge has identified Algae levels of concern. The Department of Natural Resources has advised this section of the Nepean River is on Red Alert. The definition of Red Alert is:

"Algae may be toxic to humans and animals. Contact with or use of the water from a high alert area should be avoided. Alternative water supplies should be sought.

People are advised not to enter the water if an area is on high alert, or to drink untreated or boiled water from the water body because of the risk of eye and skin irritations and stomach upsets.

Dogs and stock are particularly at risk and owners should keep dogs away from high alert areas and provide alternative watering points for stock.

People should not eat mussels and other shellfish, snails and yabbies caught or collected in water affected by blue-green algae. It is also recommended that people not eat the liver and gut of fish caught in affected water.

## Aussie day bass

Australia day is a pretty laid back affair and is more or less just a public holiday to me, so this year I planned to fish the Lane Cove river in the afternoon for an all out assault. The Lane Cove river is the type of place that you may only catch 1 fish in a day so therefore it is imperative you work hard to get results, the other side of it is that the fish you do get a substantial and are worth the effort. Knowing this I arrived at the Fiddens Warf entrance at 2pm and listened to the ABC coverage of the one day game between Australia and England I got set up and slowly made my way to the river. I am a big fan of this access point and must thank Garnet for showing me this area as it puts you right on the water after a little walk through a park.

Bassin in the Lane Cove river I have a hell of a lot of respect for as it is a fragile, beautiful environment that has roots back to our pioneer days, the river has been abused and yet still sustains a population of native fish. I have made a few trips there with little to show for my effort but I do know that if you make the effort it can be very rewarding. This was the frame of mind I was in as I had plenty of food and water and was prepared to fish 5 hours. I was armed with my shimano chronach left hand wind baitcaster with 5'10' rod a perfect combination for this country. This river is classic bass fishing at its very best with dark holes and over hanging trees only the best of casts get rewarded.

Funny to note I started 06-07 bass season with a 7' thread line rod with 1000 reel teamed with 2lb line. I am now using a 5'10 rod with 15lb line.

I started throwing spinnerbaits around the timber and the shadows for an hour before I changed to a hard bodied lure and not long after Bang I was on casting short in amongst some sticks I hooked up with a rod length of line in the water, whamo these Lane cove bass have no respect for anglers so the 15lb braid came into its own as this fish went straight down the rod was keeled over into the water and for a moment I wasn't sure what was going to happen alas the fish turned into the open water and I pumped my reel like I was off shore fighting Black marlin till finally a fat Lane Cove river fish was beside my Yak. The measure revealed at least 350mm of fish before it jumped back into the water prematurely yet it was fat and had a huge meaty tail wrist. A very satisfying experience to date that was the only fish I've had on the measure as I have lost 1 and had several zero fishless sessions. I fished for another 90minutes with out turning a reel before heading home. The only disappointment I endured was the

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cricket was finished before I got home. Look forward to a few more afternoon sessions on this magic river.

The last 2 articles are from Chris Ghosn. I would like to thank everyone that contributed to this edition, it has made my job a lot easier.

Alan.

### Upcoming events

Feb 17/18 Hawkesbury/Nepean Bass catch

March 17/18 William River Bass Catch

April 10 AGM  
29 Patonga

**DON'T FORGET THAT WE HAVE A CHANGE OF MEETING NIGHT TO THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF THE MONTH SO THE NEXT MEETING IS ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRUARY.**

PS I accept no responsibility for any spelling or grammar errors, or for that matter the content of any of the supplied articles.  
Editor.