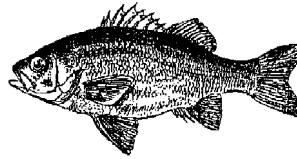




Australian Bass, MACQUARIA NOVEMACULEATA



THE BRONZE BATTLER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7th

APRIL

7.30 PM

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

usual AGM business will be
conducted afterwards.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Well guys, what happened to
you all? The turn up was very
poor, only 13 people came
along and 5 were our friends
from the Mountains.

We were not able to arrange
a guest speaker (maybe the
word got around!) so we had a
Craig McGill video night at
the completion of business.
Kingies, Flaties, Jewies,
Blackfish and Bream, not a
bad video either, filmed in
Sydney Harbour and
tributaries.

GUEST SPEAKER

We are breaking with tradition
this year at the AGM by
introducing a guest speaker.

Rebecca Wrights the assistant
Senior Engineer of the Penrith
Lakes Scheme will be talking
about Bass in the Lake and the
Nepean River weed problem.

This should be a very interesting
talk as the weed problem is
beginning to effect all Bass
fishermen big time, so how about
you make the effort and come
along.

Please note Rebecca's talk will
commence at 7.30 pm, so please be
prompt and seated by then. The

PRESIDENTS REPORT

03-04

As my term as President
draws to a close I can look
back to what has been an
eventful year. Our move from

Lakemba to Northmead seemed successful at first, but attendance at meetings has begun to slide once again. Membership has increased slightly which is good to see.

Our project teams are still working hard to gain ground, but sometimes when dealing with Government agencies progress seems to be terribly slow. The fishways on Parramatta River just seem to require finance and they will be on their way. I wish I could say the same for the Hacking, no joy there as yet, but we are still working on it. Streamwatch teams are still testing albeit not as much as previous.

We still hope to do more with GWS regarding South Creek but keeping in contact with their representative seems to be a rather trying thing at times. We still hope to plant some trees and re-snap a section of the creek sometime soon. A big turnout of members on this day would certainly be appreciated. Unfortunately the carp bash we conducted earlier this year only produced one carp, the previous few days rainfall did not help in this matter, but I am sure that we will be able to schedule another soon.

Attendance at organised events still seems low, just the same faces each and every time. The club is in the best financial status now than it has been for some time but that could change, with the turmoil of

Public Liability Insurance, at any time.

I have done my best for the club over the past two years and I wish the incoming President and Committee well for the future.

Alan Izzard.

BIRDSNEST

- This will be my last column as President of Bass Sydney. It has been an eventful 2 years, with some wins and some losses.
- Our Basscatch in Feb had a reasonable turnout with many reaches being fished over the 2 days. It would seem that the biggest problem facing the Hawkesbury Nepean at the moment is the weed. If something is not done soon it will be almost impossible to fish some sections of the river.
- Myself and 2 other Bass Sydney members, Geoff Shadbolt and Dave Claydon, have just been to HNF's Basscatch on the Williams River. We had a great time on Saturday with quite a few fish caught and released but we were washed out on Sunday.
- It appears that stocking will continue along previous guidelines until the EIS is finalised, which could take up to another 6 to 12 months.

I imagine that those who think stocking rivers is a good idea will go charging headlong into it just in case the EIS puts a stop to it in the future.

- Have not heard, up till this point in time, about tree planting on South Creek. It would appear that GWS is being run off their feet with people wanting to green up the west. Will let you know when I have something more positive.

DARRYL FLETCHER

Bass Sydney member, fly fisherman extraordinaire and all-round good bloke has been in hospital for the last 3 weeks with major health complications. It was touch and go for four days, but Darryl has responded and is improving slowly.

Darryl, from all your friends at Bass Sydney, we wish you a speedy recovery mate.

Better still, what about giving Darryl a call at Blacktown Hospital on 9881-8000, he's in surgical 2. Nothing like a chat with a fishing mate, to cheer you up.

A SILENT KILLER DRAINING LIFE FROM OUR RIVERS

A silent killer has struck the creatures that live in Sydney's waterways, with the heat, rain and rotting garden waste combining to suffocate them.

Hundreds of fish, including native eels, which inhabit Sydney's rivers, creeks and lagoons are dying because garden waste has been washing into waterways and rotting.

As the weather warms, the organic matter decomposes and sucks oxygen from the water. The water then turns black, emitting a foul odour and the fish die.

"It shows that even natural materials like leaves and grass clippings can have an absolutely lethal impact on the ecosystem if there's too much of them" said John Dengate, a spokesman for the NSW Department of Environment Protection Authority.

The department noted five cases in the past ten days in which hundreds of fish had been smothered.

At Werrington Lake, near Penrith, 300 Bass, Carp, Mullet and Eels died in mid January.

Chlorpyrifos, an organo-phosphate used as a termite pesticide that is commonly found in urban run-off, is thought to have contributed to the problem.

There were other deaths at Manly Lagoon, Duck River at Auburn and Flat Rock Creek at Willoughby. Mullet were also seen gasping for air in Careel Creek, at Avalon.

Up to 100 Eels were killed in the Cooks River near Strathfield Golf Club. The department found no evidence of chemicals from tests of Eel tissue.

Bruce Pease, a senior scientist with the NSW department of Fisheries, said native Eels lived for up to 50 years and were a keystone predator that prevented other species from taking over waterways.

Eels are very territorial. If the toxic conditions happen to be confined to where their home area is, they might not think about leaving the area to get away from it.

Troublesome freshwater Carp and Eels are hardy creatures, so water would have to be quite toxic to prompt a quick death, he said.

Mr Dengate said he expected the problem to ease if forecasted storms brought heavier rains. The moral of this story is don't put stuff like grass clippings where it can get into our waterways. They're really good for the garden but really bad for the environment.

This article appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on about the 23rd January and was written by Claire O'Rourke, Urban Affairs Reporter.

BASS SYDNEY

BASSCATCH

14th & 15th of February

Number 32 Season 16

The number of Bass caught was...133.

Geoff Bennett caught.....
24 fish.

The largest Bass was.....
333mm.

This fish was caught by a non member, Kevin Attard who joined in our Basscatch and fished Yarramundi.

The number of anglers and fish per reach was:

Reach 1, 3 anglers.....

2 Bass

Reach 2, 2 anglers.....

11 Bass

Reach 3a/3b, 7 anglers.....

42 Bass

Reach 4, 8 anglers.....

78 Bass

Reach 5, 2 anglers.....0

Bass.

The points-score winner was Geoff Bennett on 108 points with our visitor Kevin Attard on 86 points.

Thank you, to all those members who made the effort and a special thanks to our friends from the Blue Mountains who always support our Basscatch each October and February.

WILLIAMS RIVER

BASSCATCH

Results: Number of fisherman.....13
Total number of Bass.....424
Largest Bass.....400mm Les Simshauser
Smallest Bass.....85 mm Dick Alder
Most Bass 100.....Peter Kennedy
Next best 85.....Peter Hughes
Others.....55.....Arie Van Spronsen
51.....Les Shimshauser.

Reaches 1,2 & 3 produced the most fish and the largest, generally in the 2-300 range, whereas reaches 4 & 5 (downstream) only produced fish in the 100's.

Saturday was a great day for fishing, but on Sunday the heavens opened, so effectively 424 Bass were caught in one day and each angler averaging almost 33 fish each, really amazing. The water was clear and the river in good condition. Thanks to Harold Strachan

the resident Basscatch officer from Hunter Native Fish for these results.

LAKE YARRUNGA
BASSCOMP

Bass Sydney member Geoff Bennett along with 5 of his fellow Springwood members made the trip down to Kangaroo Valley for this event.

The water level was down dramatically due to the drought and this is compounded by the fact that Sydney Water pump water up and into the Sydney system.

During the Friday night briefing it was suggested that competitors head for the dam wall as most fish were being caught there trolling deep divers.

Early on Saturday morning it was like Pitt St in the car park at the dam.

Geoff and Co finally got on the water by 7am and had 50 minutes good fishing until the barometer crashed and the fish went off. Midmorning a strong south easter came up and paddling back to the wall was quite exciting with white caps everywhere.

The Saturday night raffle went off well as usual, with John Slattery of Australis donating a Saratoga kayak, a wonderful gesture. The Saratoga is perfectly suited to Lake Yarrunga, 3.8 meters long with excellent dry storage behind you.

Sunday, down to the wall again, early start, on the water by 6.10 am, the dreaded south easter brought drizzle so it was a tad uncomfortable. When it was time to pack up and head back to camp, the wind dropped and the drizzle stopped. The water was like a mill pond, it's always the way when you have to go.

The results:

Champion Male..... Mike Saunders,
best 5 fish1878 mm.

Champion Female.....Samantha
Luxford.....991mm.

Champion team Mike Saunders & Greg
Catt from Southern Bass.....1921mm.

Conclusion: Hard fishing, cool and sometimes wet, well organised with about 75 attending.

Two possible changes suggested for next time by the Southern Bass committee: Move the competition to November, because the fishing is always better and the possibility of catering for Saturday evening dinner for about \$25.00 per head.

The total number of Bass and competitors was not available at the presentation.

Thanks to Geoff Bennett for this report.

ANOTHER COLO EPIC

Bass Sydney member and adventurer David Sanegor has been working in the U.K. since late last year. Dave has been sending regular emails to keep us up to date with his fishing exploits and how bloody cold it is there.

Unbeknown to us, Dave made a lightening trip home this February to visit his beloved Colo. He was in Sydney for 11 days, spent 4 days with the folks and 7 up the Colo. Can you believe that.

Well, his solo trip was a success, catching 119 Bass with an epic fish of 465mm to the fork (490 overall and 3.7 kg on 6lb mono, awesome!).

Dave emailed a very detailed day by day story of his adventure. It's too big to fit in one Battler, so we will split it up over a number of future issues. It makes great reading.

MORE LITTLE GEMS

Once again from Mike Hawkin's great little book "The Sure Catch Anglers Guide".

ANGLER & FISHERMAN

"Anglo Saxon," writing in the New York Press uses the term "gentlemen anglers". He should have applied the term "gentlemen fishermen" because all anglers are gentlemen, regardless of their business calling, appearance, personal character, companionship etc. When a man, fisherman or no fisherman, develops into an angler, he first has to become a gentle. All anglers are gentle or they could not pass as anglers, regardless of what they may have been as mere men or fishermen. Every angler is a fisherman, but a great many fishermen are not anglers.

BAIT-CASTING

Bait-casting is the sport of a thousand thrills; the most modern, successful and in many respects most refined method of practising the "gentle art." It has added new delights to angling, appealing to the sportsman whose red blood leads him to pursue his quarry rather than sit down and wait for the game to come to him; it appeals to the woman as well as to the man, and is well within the province of her accomplishments. Its pleasures are offered alike to young and old, and its pursuit is ennobling. Learn to bait-cast; learn to fish successfully, scientifically, it is

natures most enjoyable and ennobling pastime.

CLYDE RIVER WEEKEND

We discovered an error in our club calendar. Somehow we selected April 10 & 11 for the Clyde trip not realising this was Easter Saturday and Sunday. Oh dear, what a stuff up. This is what can happen when you plan so far ahead.

After a look at the calendar, we have rescheduled it to May 1& 2. A bit late in the season you say, well don't worry, imagine sitting around the campfire in the cold, all rugged up with a glass of good red or a classic port. Can't wait.

This is a camping trip only with kayaks and canoes. The Clyde is a pristine river with some quality Bass, so it's worth the effort if you can make it.

Anybody interested in going down should stay in touch with the committee after the AGM as there are a few final details to be organised.

We camp on private property at Brooman and the cost is \$10.00 per head per night. It is bush camping with a pit toilet, but no showers.

BASS SYDNEY CALENDAR

We have decided to try a different approach with the calendar this year as its always difficult to organise a full year of events in advance and have the membership cards ready for the AGM.

Events for 2 months only, will be published in each issue of the Battler, for example: This Battler gives events up until the beginning of June.

These events are:

- # South Creek Sunday April 18th
Tree planting with GWS and HNBA.
- # Saturday & Sunday the 1st & 2nd of May, the Clyde river.
- # Sunday the 6th of June, the Bass Sydney Bar-B-Que at Prospect Reservoir.

More information about the above events will be available at the AGM.

MEMBERSHIP
SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note Club membership fees are due at the AGM on April the 7th. If you cannot make it (remember, there's no excuse), please pop a cheque in the mail made payable to Bass Sydney Fishing Club Inc. for your renewal.

The fee structure is:

Full members.....	\$30.00
Family members.....	\$30.00
Senior members.....	\$10.00

Mailing Details are:

Bass Sydney Fishing Club,
P.O. BOX 136 NORTHMEAD NSW
2152.

Thank you.

LAKE PARRAMATTA - SWIM
TOWARDS 2005
SUNDAY 14th MARCH

Bass Sydney had a stand at this event manned by Alan Fowkes and Dave Claydon. Charlie Mangion

popped in as well. It was a chance to promote the club and encourage people to come along to our meetings and learn about Bass. Alan had plans of the proposed fishways for the Parramatta river, photos of fishways and Bass, club literature and his kayak on display, but from all accounts it was hard going drumming up interested parties. Thanks guys for the effort.

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.

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.

MY FINAL B.B.

Well this is my last Bronze Battler. It's hard to believe that I've been Editor for 5 years, but like all things, eventually you need a break.

It would be nice for someone to put their hand up and have a go, maybe with a new format including the odd photo to increase the interest.

I hope all of you that have been reading this publication over the last 5 years have found it interesting, informative and have derived some pleasure from it.

I would like to thank all those people who kindly contributed articles making my job that little bit easier.

It's been fun.

Cheers.

Milton Lazarus.

