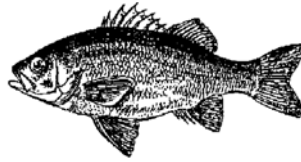


June 2006.



Australian Bass, MACQUARIA NOVEMACULEATA



THE BRONZE BATTLER

NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY
7th June
GUEST SPEAKER

No speaker at time of printing.

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

PATRON: Dr Wayne Erskine, PhD

President Domenic Squadrito..9799-1796(H)
Vice President Dave Sanegor.....0413 136 678
Past President Dave Claydon..... 9829-1503 (H)
Secretary Jim Taylor..... 9631 7485 (H)

Treasurer/Membership
Secretary Garnet Noble.....9476-3881(H)
Points score &
Basscatch Officer Geoff Shadbolt.....9636-4340(H)
Publicity Officer Alan Izzard.....9653-2309(H)
Editor: Alan Izzard.....9653 2309(H)
Event Co-Ordinator Chris Ghosn.....9636 6896 (H)
Project Officers:
Parramatta River Alan Fowkes.....9626-9938(H)
Hacking River Warren Hackshall....9525 0090(H)

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hi all,

I am writing this message as one of my first duties as the newly appointed president. I would like to thank Dave Claydon and the outgoing committee for their contribution to the club over the last two years and look forward to my newly appointed role. I will certainly be dedicating as much of my time and effort to ensure that the club grows and increases it's involvement in the care and education of Bass and the environment.

Bass Sydney has had a long association with environmental management and the protection of fish habitat. Recently Alan Izzard, Alan Fowkes, Garnet Nooble, Geoff Shadbolt and Jim Taylor from Bass Sydney gave up their own time to do this and on the 13th of May were responsible for the planting of approx 1400 Lomandra's, to help revegetate South Creek, which is an amazing effort. This is now the third time Bass Sydney members have assisted Greening Western Sydney with such a revegetation project.

As you may have noticed, the 2006/ 2007 Calendar was loaded onto the Bass Sydney website. A considerable amount of thought and planning went into selecting the venues and dates to encourage as many members to attend as many of the events as possible. I would strongly urge that all members take an active part in the club by either attending as many events as possible, even if it is only for a day, evening or the whole weekend. For the members that attended Bass Sydney events late last year and earlier this year, would agree that the events were a great success. Some of the events were open up to members and also guest fishing clubs with a great response and turn out. Please assist the club and take every opportunity to encourage new membership, even if it is to just invite potential new members to meetings or club events. The ongoing success of success of the club is in everyone's hands.

I look forward to seeing and swapping fishing stories at the next General Meeting in June.

Take care and successful fishing.
Domenic Squadrito
President

June 2006.

From **Hunter Native Fish**

Bass catch march 06

The week leading up to the weekend did not look great, days where rain was set in. But weekend fined up with only scattered showers Friday and Saturday morning. Fishing looked as if was going to be firing but soon proved to be otherwise.

Cool nights to allow a fire and some stories.

Weekend weather.

Saturday : patchy cloud cover with scattered showers in the AM. Light breeze, getting little stronger in the afternoon.

Sunday : clear skies with very little breeze.

River height week leading up to basscatch 1.2m but soon subsided to 0.6m for Saturday up a little, where participants did not have to get out of canoes as much this year to get over rapids and runs.

Water clarity overall was clean but not clear. Normal colour for the Williams.

A variety of fish were caught by all participants. This time some large herring taking spinnerbaits and wet fly.

There were some fish that were slightly deformed/abnormalities, dorsal fin stunted on a couple of fish, also the webbing between the fins either missing/damaged and red. One fish that I caught had this along with additional spines about 4-5mm long protruding sideways in between the dorsal spines. There were 2-3 sets of these additional spines between stunted dorsal spines.

Total fisherman for the weekend was 18. Participants from local area, with great attendance from our Sydney mates. Lower reaches producing mainly smaller fish where upper reaches a few larger. Many fish in the high 200's. The dreaded carp showed up on the catch cards again but only 1 this year.

Largest fish was 410 mm and smallest 70mm.

One thing to note is that one angler used surface popper till 2pm on Saturday which produced fish across the period fished, also producing the larger fish for the weekend. Area being fished was reach 4.

Camp fire activities were not as active on the weekend with a few of the entertainers not able to attend. The raffle again drew a few laughs.

Thanking You

Harold Strahan
Bass Catch Officer / Treasurer
Hunter Native fish Inc.

DAVE'S REDEMPTION.

Williams River, 2006.

5thMay

After the Williams River Basscatch in March where Dave Claydon failed to catch a fish on day 1 he decided that he had a point to prove. So in his infinite wisdom Dave decided to organise another trip to show us that he could actually catch fish in the Williams River. Nine hardy souls from Bass Sydney decided that we should join him in his endeavour, just to keep him honest. As the weather was getting colder and the river height was dropping daily we decided to stay in the onsite cabins at Clarence Town, a very good decision it turned out to be. My younger brother, David, was invited along for the trip, he has only just been bitten by the Bass bug and thought that if he came along to a

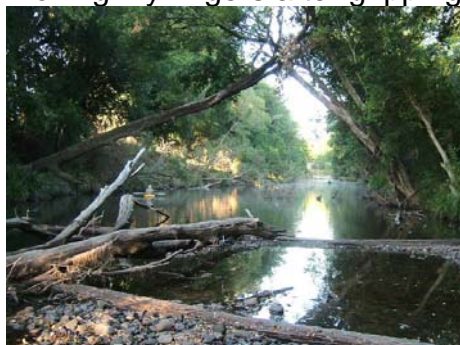
June 2006.

club outing he might pick up some pointers, he refers to himself as the worlds worst fisherman and says that he is more of a kayaker that fishes than a fisherman. David and I arrived at Clarence Town early on Friday afternoon and went for a fish around the camping ground, we caught nothing but both had a couple of *expressions of interest*, so we thought that things were going to be OK on Saturday upriver. You know what thought did? Another 6 of the guy's arrived in drib and drabs in the afternoon making a total of 8 for an early start on Saturday. We had a bar-b-q dinner and sat around afterwards consuming copious quantities of the red nectar, some more than others I might add. As the wine bottles became depleted the conversation became more boisterous and pretty soon the roast was on. The 2 Dave's and Geoff seemed to be competing for the limelight while the rest of us just through in the occasional remark to keep things on the boil. At nights end we all agreed that Geoff should be careful of the 6's and 9's when having a shower in future. It was decided to start at daylight the next day so we turned in for a good nights rest.

6th May.

Up bright and early, 5am, a quick breakfast and we set of for today's destination. Geoff, Jim, David and myself had opted to fish from Dungog down to Alison, the trip some of us had done only a couple of weeks earlier and caught and released 80 odd fish. Milton and Garnet were to put in at Glen William and paddle upstream and then fish back to their starting point. Dave C and Chris had decided to put in at Glen William and paddle all the way to Clarence Town.

After the usual shuffle with vehicles we were ready to go fishing, the water was well down and I was expecting a long day. There were a couple of workers at the bridge at Dungog and they mentioned that if we caught anything we would be doing well, prophetic words as it turned out. We floated down to the first shallows and had to portage, we had travelled no more than 100 meters, this was to be the pattern for the rest of the day. It was so cold this morning that the paddle felt like ice and I had trouble moving my fingers after gripping it for a couple of minutes.



The first obstruction.

We usually paddle over this section, but as you can see the water is well down, approx. 16cm from 6 weeks previous. Geoff decided to keep a count of the number of times he portaged but lost count after the 28th. Rough day!

Needless to say the fishing (?) was difficult with not even a bump all morning and the constant getting out of the kayak's and portaging over shoals was very tiring. David had gotten a little bored with the lack of action and had gone forward quite a way and eventually I decided to catch him up and see how he was faring. No better. He asked if the fish had maybe moved downstream to spawn and we discussed this fair a bit. My opinion was that only the bigger fish would have moved, if at all, but I doubted that they would have as there had been no rain for some time and it was my understanding that they needed a rain event to get them moving. So, I figured, there had to be some fish about, and surely there must be some that were hungry. Now David has 3 dogs at his place, a Blue Heeler, a mutt and a Beagle. David's theory was that of all the dogs, the Beagle is always hungry no matter how much food it had consumed, so all we had to do was find the Beagle's of the Bass world and we would do OK. About 10 minutes later we drifted over a log that had fallen across the river years ago and had made a small dam and the water was very deep on the downstream side. We decided to sit in the sun to warm up a bit as it was still very cold, and of course as we sat we could not help having a couple of casts, and David with his third cast hooked up to a Beagle. Finally a

June 2006.

fish, 315mm Bass to be exact, his best fish to date and he was very happy. We both threw to every corner of that pool, me for nothing but David had another follow, things were looking up, at least for him. Eventually I realised that I was not going to share in the fish catching and slowly moved downstream to the bottom of the pool, as I neared the end a very large Bass was sitting in the shallows, probably enjoying the sun, and scurried off as I drifted over it, at least I had seen a fish.



David and the "Beagle"



Sat. night dinner

The rest of the day continued in the same pattern, drifting, casting and portaging, but no more fish. When Jim and Geoff caught us up we discussed the implication of our lack of success, what if the others were catching fish downstream, we were in for a razzing when we got back and to make it worse the only fish we caught was caught by a novice, Oh the embarrassment. When we finally arrived back at camp we asked the question, "How many did you guys get?" and Dave C jumped straight in with the answer 10, however there was something in the way it was said. A little later he admitted that there were no fish caught by himself or Chris and Milton and Garnet had as much luck. Alan Fowkes had arrived with a mate during the day and fished around Clarence Town with the same result, so the only fish of the day, "The Beagle", was caught by the self confessed "Worlds Worst Fisherman", and believe me he made sure we knew it.

Another Bar-b-q for dinner and some drama here, the bloody thing caught fire. It was a gas bar-bie and the fat tray underneath had not been cleaned out, flames everywhere. After that died down we settled in for another session of BS inflamed by red wine and good humour. We decided that fishing on Sunday was pointless so we agreed to sleep in, have a barbecued brekkie and head home. Before retiring someone turned on the telly and somehow SBS was picked up. Most of us went to bed but some decided to watch the movie, draw your own conclusions as to the nature of the movie, but I believe that the young lady in the leading role spent more time undressing than anything else. At the end of the weekend I was obvious that Dave C's redemption was not achieved and to make it worse he had dragged us all back to his level, not a good place to be. Maybe next season we will redeem ourselves. I am looking forward to Hunter Native Fish's first bass catch in November.

So another trip, with no fish, but we all enjoyed the weekend very much, regardless.

Alan Izzard.

Dave's Northern Adventure

I just got back from a very wet ending to my north coast fly selling and fishing trip.

I fished the tweed river around Uki. It was flooded and only caught 5 all inlow 300's. I also fished clarrie hall. a beaut lake with lilies all around but only 2 fish around 290 and 320 I think. I fished the Brunswick river at Brunswick heads, the Brunswick at Mullumbimby, the Clarence at MacLean, the Evans at Evans head. Caught zilch in all those places. All caravan parks were packed and so was the water. So I headed to Copmanhurst and found the Clarence in receding flood and milk coffee in colour. Fished the flooded backwater there and caught zero. On wed morn I headed south to Bellbrook on the Macleay I had a great session on the Macleay. It rained all day. No fish under 350. Ten fish landed best was 435 on lure hard body and 380 was best on fly. 2 fish in mid 300s were lost boat side. Fish

June 2006.

were beautiful gold colour and really broad and very solid. They all pulled exceptionally hard of that fast flowing gravel bottomed river. The river was up over a meter so trip down from Bellbrook to midnight ck was fast to say the least and the rapids were really pumping! I used a 9-weight fly rod, as that's all I had with me, and the 380 pulled line so hard that it bent the rod right to the butt and most of it was under the kayak! It was quite prolonged fight as I tried to seriously wrestle it whilst floating down a very fast stretch of water. The highlight was the 435, which was caught on hard body on literally my last cast as I approached the take out point. It smashed the lure on impact and I had to keep it on the surface as I headed straight into a willow tree. I got it in just in time. Then the rains came, and it did not stop all night and today. It was pouring all the way to Newcastle. Will have to leave the wollamba and Crawford Myall till next time. The Macleay rocks!

I want to do a downriver trip from the upper reaches of the Macleay (in the national park) next summer. Any takers?



cheers
David

next trip is the Colo before I start work

tight lines
David sanegor

From AAP NewsCentre
Author: James Woodford
Publisher: Fairfax
Publication: Sydney Morning Herald, Page 5 (Tue 18 Apr 2006)
Keywords: Snowy (5), River (5), Hydro (1), flows (1)
Edition: First
Section: News and Features

From feast to famine: the fish from Snowy River

DURING the Great Depression it was possible for a high country local to catch a feast of dozens of "slipperies" in a single afternoon.

Before that the Snowy River blackfish was a staple food of Aborigines for thousands of years and, until the construction of the Snowy Hydro-Electric Scheme, was found throughout the upper reaches of the river.

But today the species is confined to a single tributary - the Delegate River - and teams of scientists, working for weeks at 60 different sites, using high-tech electro-fishing equipment, have caught a mere 50.

So bleak is the future of the blackfish that the Department of Primary Industries, Premier's Department and the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority have embarked on a program of collecting 25 adult pairs and bringing them into captivity. Scientists are also attempting to

June 2006.

establish what habitat blackfish need to survive.

Adult fish will be used as brood stock so that once habitat is repaired thousands of fingerlings can be released into parts of the Snowy River where they are now extinct.

Also under way is the first comprehensive survey of the status of all native fish throughout the Snowy Catchment.

It is thought that the 99 per cent reduction in the Snowy's flows is not the only factor that has devastated blackfish. Agriculture and weeds as well as feral fish species have also massively degraded the catchment.

Blackfish need submerged timber hollows to breed and introduced willows, unlike native trees, rot away quickly when they fall in the water.

Another major factor in the decline is that each year millions of exotic trout are released, directly preying on the blackfish. This trout stocking program is run by the Department of Primary Industries.

This week fisheries technicians Peter Boyd and Vanessa Carracher were electro fishing within sight of the tiny town of Delegate, wading in waist-deep rapids in search of blackfish and other Snowy River natives. The bend in the Delegate River where the pair were working has proved to be one of the main strongholds of the slipperies - nicknamed for their incredibly slimy skin.

"We are fishing with 600 volts," Mr Boyd said as he pushed the electric probe under the tangled banks. As the stunned fish floated to the surface, Ms Carracher scooped them up.

Within half an hour the pair had caught three blackfish, including one big enough to be kept for the breeding program, several mountain galaxids, half a dozen brown trout and an eel.

The co-ordinator of the project, Dr Dean Gilligan, said the only native species which did not seem to have been significantly impacted in recent decades were eels. "All the other native species are still here but their numbers are really low and their distribution really restricted," he said.



South Creek Revisited

In May this year several Bass Sydney members re-attended the South Creek planting site where, earlier in the year, we had put in a swag of native plants. The object was to plant as many Lomandra's as possible and Ben and Evan Smith from GWS must of thought that we were all supermen, they had brought along about 2000 that needed to be planted. We managed to get about 1400 in, 2 reasons for so many in such a short time was that the holes had been pre-drilled and the fact that we did not have to stake and bag them. The best thing on the day was seeing just how well our previous planting was doing. Some of the trees are well over 6 feet high as can be seen in the photos. Many thanks to Ben and Evan as well to Shayne Fell, Garnet Nobel, Alan Fowkes, Geoff

June 2006.

Shadbolt and Jim Taylor for all the effort put in on the day. Ben informed me later that the plants would be staked and bagged in the next couple of weeks as well as some weed spraying. The height of the trees can be judged by Alan Fowkes walking amongst them.



Alan amongst the plants

The site after the first planting

The same area today.

Alan Izzard.

.....

Some people have all the luck, received the following from Tricia And Barry recently:

BASS TO BARRA TRIP

Recently Baz and I did a tour of some of the dams, our first stop Glenbawn. Barry said he had never seen the dam so low and there was an algae bloom, which was the worst around the Lakes End area. We spent two days on the dam for a tally of two silver perch, caught on a Manns, 2 bass caught on a small suspending Esoteric lure, 1 carp and a rod and reel. The rod and reel were caught after I became frustrated with the lack of action and decided to use a mussel I found on the bank while having lunch. After much rolling of the eyes Barry motored over to some trees where I dropped the mussel, after a couple of minutes I said, "I think I am snagged", more rolling of the eyes Barry took over and proceeded to wind in. I thought I had snagged a branch when in fact I had hooked a rod and reel. They had been in the water for quite a while but the Abu Cardinal reel worked perfectly. The only thing better would have been if there had of been a lure on the end of the line, not a bad catch.

When headed to Copeton where we once again found low water levels and algae. Barry caught a yellow belly on a Kakoda G-vibe (a jackal look alike). Although this was the only fish we caught in the three days we spent here it was a good camp and I am sure we will return when the conditions are better. We were going to fish Pindari next but were advised the dam was closed because of the low water levels. Maybe next time.

Boondooma was next, the fishing here was a little slow with 8 small bass and one silver perch caught, most of the bass were caught on a Marz Bot Fly. We had a hitch-hiker here, one morning at the boat ramp I spotted a green frog, fearing he would be squashed by a trailer I asked Barry to shift it, so he put it into the water, several days later we saw the frog in the boat, the day was very hot so we thought it would be better to put it in the water, so once again Barry put it in the water. A little later on the motor so Barry placed him in the rod holder where he seemed to be very happy having water poured over him to keep him cool. After a day on the water we arrived back at the boat ramp and let him out. I think he does it on a regular basis, either that or he was a little concerned being in the water with the fish.



Heading further north we had a look at Wuruma Dam and although the dam level was only 3% there were barra being caught and we spent a night there. We might have stayed a little longer but the boat ramp ran into the grass and you could drive across to the other side of the dam. The boats were being launched from a bank of fine black soil into what little water was left. We had a shower of rain overnight and decided it was best to move on.

Cania Dam, first week of the Queensland school holidays and the Easter holiday weekend, the camping area was busy but it was not too bad on the water. We fished the area on five

June 2006.

days, the best day we caught 14 bass and three saratoga, one of which was 620mm. In all we caught 33 bass and 9 saratoga with only two of the bass caught under 400mm the rest ranged between 400 and 440. Most of the bass caught on Berkley Drop Shots, these look like the snub nose gar the fish were feeding on.

Not having booked in any where over Easter, we looked for a free camp. The Callide Dam did not appeal to us although we found out later it was fishing very well for large barra.

Moving on we found a beaut camp on the Calliope River. A pretty spot and we caught fish, which was a real bonus. Barry caught two Mangrove Jack on a Golden Repalla and I put my favourite orange Esoteric lure to work for a nice flathead and a small salt-water cod. Other campers did well with prawns and mud crabs.

Awonga, I had been looking forward to going there again as the camping area and camp kitchen overlook the dam with a fuel stove and wood is provided, great for a bake dinner. The dam is ever changing and always interesting. Last year I caught my first barra there and I was hoping to repeat the experience. First day and Barry caught a nice barra 815mm on a Halco, thought we were in for a good week. We lost several big fish at the boat, just could not stay connected. I had no trouble hooking catfish, it did not matter which lure I put on I hooked them, and I am now known as the catfish queen. Finally Barry hooked a beauty, the fish jumped and gave him a real run for his money, and he got it to the boat and then could not lift it in. He has been complaining of a sore shoulder since. The fish was a whopper 1115mm and about 23kg, after a photo he tried to release it spending 15 minutes trying to swim it, to no avail.

Heading home we called in at the Leslie dam and Lakes Somerset and Wivenhoe, all have low water levels but show promise. They will all have to wait till next time. On to the coast and the Pacific Highway with all the trucks and traffic making me wish for the inland roads that are a far better option, great country towns and scenery. Think I will start planning the next trip, August maybe. I am already missing sitting around the campfires with a glass or two of red, I love retirement.



Bass



Jack



Barra

Tricia.

Thanks for that article and photo's Tricia.