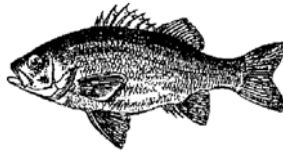


Australian Bass, *MACQUARIA NOVEMACULEATA*

THE BRONZE BATTLER

CHRISTMAS DINNER WEDNESDAY 1st DECEMBER

GUEST SPEAKER

**DANIEL WILLIAMS FROM
GREENING WESTERN SYDNEY**
Northmead Bowling, Recreation and Sporting
Club Ltd.
166 Windsor Rd Northmead.
7.30 pm start till 11pm.

PATRON:	Dr Wayne Erskine, PhD
President	Dave Claydon..... 9829-1503 (H)
Vice President	Domenic Squadrito..9799-1796(H)
Past President	Alan Izzard..... 9653- 2309 (H)
Secretary	Domenic Squadrito..9799-1796(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:	Milton Lazarus.....9874-7323(H)
Project Officers:	
Parramatta River	Alan Fowkes.....9626-9938(H)
Hacking River	Warren Hackshall....9525 0090(H)

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello all,

Next month we have two events that I encourage you to attend. The first one is the annual Christmas dinner on Wednesday December 1st. It should start around 6.30 pm, so we have time to finish dinner before the general meeting. The food is very good, so why not come along have a meal, drink and chat.

After the meeting our guest speaker Dan Williams from Greening Western Sydney will be giving an update on South creek. If you cast your mind back to our general meeting in August 2003, Dan gave a very interesting talk and slide presentation about his endeavours in regenerating areas of the west. As many of you are aware, Bass Sydney have been involved in assisting Dan with manpower to plant native shrubs on the banks of South creek.

Second is the Georges river Basscatch on Saturday December the 4th. This event is important as it allows us to perform sampling to collect data on how well the fishway at Liverpool weir is operating. There is easy access on the Georges from the following points. Liverpool weir, Power House Casula, Cambridge Avenue Glenfield, Simmo's beach and Ingleburn weir. If you need some advice on where or how to fish please give me a call. My phone number is on page 1. One hint, "black cricket hoppers" will catch a couple.

After fishing I invite you to come back to our house nearby at Glenfield, for a BBQ starting at 7pm. I will supply the BBQ and some home brew if you are game, whilst my wife Sue will provide the salads and plates etc. All you need to do is bring your own meat and noddly juice. If you would like to stay overnight, you are welcome, there will be some space in our house or you may like to pitch your tent in the backyard. Please let me know if you intend to stay.

Looking forward to seeing you.

GENERAL MEETING

Our guest speaker Peter Morse gave a wonderful talk on a variety of fly fishing related subjects. Those that were able to make it enjoyed a very entertaining evening and Peter is without doubt an excellent speaker, very witty and always able to tell a good yarn. Really enthralling and I'm sure those members with a fly rod at home were certainly thinking about dusting it off again. I know I did.

Peter's slides covered a good cross section of locations and fish species from fresh to salt. There was Bass, Barramundi, Bream and stunning Murray Cod etc. (eat your heart out Simon) Peter discussed rods, reels, lines, leaders, various fly's and even gave a fly casting demonstration in front of the audience without taking out the spot lights above. Peter donated some tee shirts plus a big handful of fly's for our raffle and there was also tee shirts for sale at the right price. We were encouraged to ask questions during the evening and finally I found out how to prevent those dreaded wind knots in your leader.

In conclusion, from all those members and visitors and there were a few, we would like to say a big thank you to Peter Morse for donating his time and effort to come and talk. Peter was on a plane the following morning to Tasmania fly fishing of course. Oh forgot to mention there were 43 at the meeting. Well done members and visitors.

BASS SYDNEY WEEKEND AT GLENBAWN Sept 2004

What if you had a club outing and nobody turned up?

It was pretty much that way at Glenbawn this year. Only 3 other members and myself turned up at this year's event. Our 2 newest members Domenic and Alberto, Geoff Shadbolt and myself made the trip. Although the fishing sucked for most of it, Domenic managed 2 Bass and Alberto 1. Although Geoff and I remained fishless we still had a bloody good weekend. The weather was beautiful, the water clear and the wine fantastic. For all you poor suckers who did not get there Alberto makes his own red and bought along a sample for the weekend, about 4 litres of it and it was great. Certainly took the chill off the night air.

Domenic was like a dog with 2 tails when he caught a 400+ Bass the first morning just below where we were camped. Alberto had to wait

until Sunday before he caught his first Bass, a fish of about 380mm. Although we managed to locate schools of fish in a couple of bays near the dam wall, we could not entice them to strike. The fish were plainly visible and if any one was watching they would have seen 4 grown (?) men carrying on like lunatics, casting and changing lures with reckless abandon, trying to find something to entice the little B's. It's infuriating watching a school of fish swim up to your lure and then just make a slight turn and pass on. The only action Geoff and I managed was a couple of hits on Sunday, but alas no hook-ups. Oh well, maybe next time.

We packed up and headed home after lunch on Sunday, it was some consolation to learn that very few others were landing fish either, most fish landed were caught on bait was the info we were given.

Alan Izzard.

Karuah River November 2004

After some good reports of the fishing on the Karuah last year the committee organised a weekend at Stroud to fish this very pretty waterway. After recent rain the water level was up which promised to make passage down river much easier, less portage. However as the weekend arrived the Bass Sydney weather demon showed it's fickle self once again. Beautiful weather all week up until Thursday afternoon and then the heavens opened on Friday morning. Not to be put off we went anyway. It was still raining when we arrived, but was looking like it may clear, so we decided not to put the tent up straight away but leave it till later in the day, forgot we were on a Bass Sydney trip did'ent we. We thought that a fish in the pool near where we were camped would be a good idea and then come back, have lunch, put up the tent and get ready for a night session. This is when that demon showed himself in all his glory. He waited till we were on the water and then let it piss down. Bucket loads of the stuff. It was about then that I discovered that my rain jacket wasn't. I had remembered to put the spray deck for my kayak in and thought I would be OK. I was wrong, the rain went straight through the bloody jacket and I was soaked. We all, well nearly all, caught a couple of fish before we decided to call it quits for the session and head back for lunch. The rain did ease after lunch but new sleeping arrangements had to be made.

At this stage there were 4 of us, Dave C, Geoff S, Tham and myself. Geoff, as Dave pointed out, is slightly vertically challenged and decided to sleep in the car and Tham and myself camped in the back of the Ute. Longer standing members will remember our first introduction to our current President at Tallowa, where he slept in my tent for the night and was thereafter nicknamed chainsaw. Well Dave you now have competition in the snoring championships, Tham is more than just a novice in this department.

Saturday dawned bright and beautiful, sun shining, birds singing, at about 5.00 am, not that that mattered, I was already awake, not sure that I actually got any sleep. We had brekkie and headed off to our put in spot further up river. I had estimated about a 6-hour trip but because of the water level this was shortened considerably. Again we all managed some fish, some of us more than others, but that was deserved after the previous night. Everything went well until the very last rapid/rifle where there were a couple of large rocks that had to be negotiated around, unfortunately yours truly and Geoff did not quite manage this very well and ended up with about 4 inches of water aboard. Luckily we were only about 100 meters from the campsite so were able to survive any serious damage.

After lunch we headed out again, by this time Bruce Abbot from HNF and a friend of mine and his son who I had invited to join us for the weekend joined us. Bruce decided to come along with us while my friend Geoff and his son Owen decided on a rest and then to fish the pool near the camp. After dropping of kayaks and moving cars about Bruce and I hit the water about 10 minutes after the others. Bruce caught a fish in the first 10 minutes, the water was clearer and everything was looking good. HOWEVER, that demon was still hanging about and seemed to take a liking to Tham. He managed a couple of good fish, which was a decided improvement on the morning's session, BUT as he neared the finishing rapid the demon struck. I did not see the incident myself but had it relayed to me by Dave. As he neared the final hurdle the kayak slewed, was caught on a boulder and tipped on its side. He managed to stay aboard but had to climb out and walk the boat to shore. The demon wasn't finished yet, he slipped and went arse over, completely wetting everything including his digital camera and phone. Once ashore he pulled the camera apart, removed the batteries and memory stick and dried everything out. We all managed to make it back to camp in one piece, well almost. Tham's luck was still with him, he could not find the memory stick. It was too late to go back so he decided to head back the next day and search for it.

Sunday morning, same as Sat, those bloody birds. Got up had breakfast and tried to sort out just what and where we were going to do. Dave decided that he wanted to leave early, Tham wanted to look for the missing part and my mate and his son decided to head downstream to fish the salt. Geoff and I figured that we might as well fish the camp pool and head off early as well. Well Tham's luck was still holding, he got a flat tyre, had trouble changing it then lost his sunnies, when you're on a roll as they say. Anyway all was not lost, he changed the tyre, found the memory stick and his sunnies and if I know Tham, he probably had another fish before he also headed off. What a great weekend when all the shitty stuff happens to someone else. Will head back there another weekend when the water warms up. I think we managed about 50 fish between all of us, not good but I have had worse.

Alan Izzard.

OCTOBER BASSCATCH

Al and I put in below Penrith weir on Saturday and headed downstream. We were feeling confident as this was our first real outing for the new season. Little did we know how good it was going to be. We had the best days fishing on the Nepean we have had for years. We got our first fish within half an hour and fished for about 5 hours on this stretch of river. During this time we had picked up 24 between us. I managed to pick up a nice fish at 384mm. We had a break about lunch time and headed back to set up our camp at Yarramundi. Wayne Bennett from the Springwood club together with Bass Sydney members Darrel Bell and Rob Lauterbach were already set up.

Although the Council has cleaned up a lot of the Salvinia there was still quite a bit close to the banks and this will almost certainly spread, other than the Salvinia the water was very clean and clear.

It turned pretty cold on the Saturday night, but not much noddy juice was consumed as we were all fairly tired from a long day on the water. We were also looking forward to another good day on Sunday, so it was into bed early. On Sunday we went downstream from the Yarramundi Bridge and fished for about 3 hours. Alan had another good morning getting 14 more whilst I managed just a couple.

Overall most of the guys who fished had a pretty good weekend as can be seen by the Bass catch results.

We had 16 Bass catch forms returned by the time I wrote this report.

There were 385 fish caught and recorded.

Gary Blount again was the most successful fisho catching 110 over the weekend, big effort.

The largest caught was 384mm by myself and the smallest was 75mm caught by Wayne Bennett.

Geoff Shadbolt, Basscatch Officer.

PLEASE NOTE: OUR FEBRUARY BASSCATCH HAS BEEN MOVED FROM THE 3RD TO THE 4TH WEEKEND Another reminder will appear in the February Battler.

BLACKTOWN FISHING TACKLE

As mentioned before, Glen Inglis, one of the original Bass Sydney members and owner of Blacktown Fishing Tackle has very kindly donated a thread-line reel , a very nice tackle box and some lures to Bass Sydney for raffle prizes. We acknowledge Glen's generosity and in response ask that any members or friends that are looking for new tackle to call in and see Glen at shop 3/28 Alpha Rd Blacktown. You can call Glen on 9671-3545.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to Robert Elliot from Epping. Robert came along to our October meeting, listened to Peter Morse and decided to join. Hope to see you at the Christmas dinner Robert so we can catch up and have a chat.

COLO RIVER

Just a reminder to members about our outing on the Colo river on January 8th. Could interested members raise this at the Christmas dinner, so we can work out a plan of attack.

\$ FOR \$ STOCKING

Bass Sydney Treasurer, Garnet Noble has put together a very interesting summary of the whole dollar for dollar scheme. The summary includes catchment, waterway, nearest town, group or fishing club, the amount of funding, date and number of fish. Please find this summary following as a separate attachment. Thanks Garnet.

BRONZE BATTLER BY EMAIL

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. Please note: You will not receive any viruses as adequate precautions are in place to prevent this.

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

Please note the committee decided not to hold the normal general meeting after our guest speaker, so there are no minutes available.

Finally, as Editor I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members, friends and other people that read this newsletter a very happy and safe Christmas, followed by a prosperous New Year and of course good Bass fishing.

Milton Lazarus.