

December 2006.



Australian Bass, *MACQUARIA NOVEMACULEATA*



# THE BRONZE BATTLER

**NEXT MEETING**  
**TUESDAY**  
**12th DECEMBER**  
**Christmas Dinner**  
**Meeting**

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

Merry Christmas all,

The festive season is almost upon us and if you have been good all year, I know Santa will be kind. Christmas is usually a time for reflection, and for most of us anglers it's a time to be at on holidays or at the very least at home away from work for the public holidays. It is usually a time spent eating, drinking (somewhat excessively) and catching up with family and friends. It can be a dangerous time often referred to as the silly season, so when you are out and about take care.

As with every year at Bass Sydney a Christmas Dinner has been organised for December the 12th at Northmead Bowling and Recreational Club at 19:00 for a 19:30 buffet in the Board Room. As per the notification sent out to members in November, part of the cost of the dinner will be subsidised by the club. It will be a great night so please come along.

Looking back over the year it has been an interesting and fulfilling one from the club perspective with it's involvement in environmental, planning and research assistance, such as South Creek plantings, Lane Cove carp catch, securing a Federal Government grant of \$45,000 towards the building of four Parramatta Fishways, and being bestowed an award by CFA, just to name a few.

Congratulations to everyone involved throughout the year for allocating valuable time and resources to ensure the exceptional work is delivered, sometimes at personal expense. I am very happy to be associated and friends with a great group of people, thank you.

The Recent Bass Catch on the Williams River with Hunter Native Fishing Club was another great event. Again this year my son Joseph and brother in law attended, with Joseph bagging 3 fish in the three hundreds, i.e 350, 340 and 325 mm bass in the first two days of fishing. Alberto catching two big bass that went 320 and 345 mm and a carp that was 6 Kg and 695 mm. The carp catch was pretty extraordinary, being caught on a squidgy wriggler in blood worm colour on his new 2-6 lb rod with 6 lb mono and 1000 series reel. The capture taking some very fancy boat and rod work for 10 minutes before I finally netting her. (see photos attached). This year saw smaller total numbers of fish being captured, however with the overall catches being much bigger individual fish. My son is becoming a veteran at the ripe age of 11 Years old and already looking forward to the next Williams River Bass Catch.

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Thanks you all for the support of our club over the year. Have a safe and Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Domenic  
President  
Bass Sydney Fishing Club  
*Photos attached on separate page. Editor*

Williams River

This years trip saw us head from Glen William downstream to a property bellow the mills falls. Dave C and Nev our newest member of the club made the journey.

We arose early and took our time having breakfast before we were on the water at roughly 7:30, Dave and myself had made this journey back in May when the water levels were down so we had a fair idea of what was to be expected this time round the water levels were up and the river was totally different. It did not take long for Dave C to take the first fish of the day, before long Dave had tallied 5 more before neither Nev nor myself had turned a real. Dave was on song and casting well hooking the majority of his fish deep within the overhanging plants that are common on the Williams River.

Nev received a baptism of fire by hooking up to a pugnacious bronze battler that towed him 7 meters into the timber it sure made for an amusing site however Nev was the one who was all smiles after releasing a healthy 330mm specimen, which is monster for the Williams river.

My first fish came not long after which was taken on the drop using a betts spinner. All

Fish on the trip all were taken on Betts spinners with natural colors doing the damage, A deadly technique was to cast into the rapids and multiple fish were taken in this manner.

Overall we all caught fish, With day belonging to Dave C who amassed roughly 35 fish for the day it was a fine effort and a pleasure to watch his unique high stick method which he utilized well to blast the little fish from there cover, another highlight of the trip was to see the rookie Nev knock up a perfect 10 on his first bass catch top effort.

Overall are great trip with a good time had by all as always the Hunter Bass guys put on an excellent weekend and many thanks to Harold for organizing for us to use his friends property,

Look forward to the next trip next year.

Chris Ghosn

### **Just another weekend in Paradise.**

As the season started off a little slow for me this year I decided to organise a trip up to the Hunter Valley. I was wanting to get back to one of the prettiest rivers that I have ever fished, the Karuah. I had invited some mates along for the weekend, but some had other plans, their loss, because those that made it had a great weekend. We arrived early on Friday morning and found the river still up quite a way, after the rain a week or so before, running fast and discoloured. We fished the pool near the campsite in the afternoon and again early evening, and managed a few fish, surprising to me as it gets a bit of a flogging. Sitting around the camp fire that night we worked out a plan of action, we would split into 2 groups on Saturday leave cars at different bridges and make runs from bridge to bridge so to speak. Jim, Alan, Geoff and myself were to fish from the Washpool bridge to the weir pool bridge while Garnet, Milton and Les (HNF) would fish from the weir pool bridge back to camp.

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With the water moving fairly quickly it was difficult to find fish, but when you managed to get one a decent size you were assured of a good fight, the fish fought much harder than I remembered from previous trips. What made things more interesting was collecting DNA samples as well, a fair bit of mucking about cutting clippings, measuring, putting the clippings into the vials certainly kept some of us busy. As usual, not everyone had a great time with the fish, some were very put out, but realised that that is the nature of fishing, you never know when you are going to dip out. From memory I think we all managed some fish. The good news from the guys who fished the weir pool down was that the weir had been completely modified/removed and a very large fishway installed, can only be a good thing. Fishing from the washpool down was a pretty interesting trip, with the water up most of the riffles were passable without getting out of the kayaks, but a couple of the rapids became a little more scary, and discretion was used on those, especially one about half way along with pressure wave about two foot high and very large rocks that would have to be negotiated around. This was definitely a portage for about 300 meters and when we found a place to put back in there was still a little riffle below. The picture below shows Jim coming through this section.



After dinner and around another campfire we decided on the next days activities, Jim who was a little knocked up decided to fish the camp pool and also would drive up and fish the weir pool so that there would be no portaging. The rest of us decided to fish the top pool back to Washpool bridge. Again a fairly easy and quick trip with the height of the water, and we managed about 20-30 fish between us. The good news was when we got back Jim had managed to get a few as well bringing his total to 11 for the weekend, if memory serves me correctly. All in all a great trip with about 100+ fish caught and released, some red wine and port consumed. Hopefully we will be able to go back later in the season and do it all again.  
*Alan Izzard.*

### The way it was

Over the years I have started collecting outdoor magazines from the 60s and 70s, and sorting through some old tackle I came across a publication called "Freshwater Fishing" from 1960. I thought I would share some of its knowledge.

Back in the day;

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"The Bellbrook flatfish" has a wriggling motion required to instantly bring on the bite.

Hmmm, raised eyebrow.

Or the more discerning angler could choose the "Bellbrook brat" finished in the traditional Southam style, the flatfish and brat will suit the most fastidious angler. Manufactured by Southam & Sons Pty Ltd  
119 Pacific Highway, Lane Cove, NSW..

The Australian bass "Eastern bass" or, wait for it, "Perca latipes" (Gunther)

"My first introduction to bass fishing was nearly 35 years ago when I was invited to the Nepean gorge. Although we cut oak sticks for rods and used "tuffa" lines and a bottle cork...I know of no other fish so accommodating to the angler as it can be taken on all manner of tackle. So whether you fish spinner, off a bottle or cast a fly ... the bass will accommodate"

The funniest thing about this extract is the pic. of the so called "Bass" weighing 4lb 6 ounces when it is actually a golden perch, defined by its fan tale as apposed to a fork tail.

## Another Williams River Bass Catch

November once again saw 11 Bass Sydney members make the pilgrimage to Clarence Town for this event. This year the HNF boys actually had as many anglers as us , for a little while, and a great time ensued. Gordon ( Grumpy) Murphy had also made the trip from Bribie Island again. Most of us arrived at the campground on Friday and we were well set up by night fall. I had picked Gordon up from Hornsby station on the way through and caught up on things during the trip.

### **Murphy cleans up!**

As many of you know, when Gordon moved from Sydney I acquired his kayak and have been able to use it as a loaner, many times over the last couple of years. However it has sat in my shed for a while lately and not been used and when I pulled it out it had a very thick layer of dust all over it. Being the caring type that I am I gave about 2 seconds thought of washing it before loading it, but then I thought, bugger it I won't be in it. As I mentioned earlier, I picked Gordon up from the train station, he came straight from the airport, and the kayak was well covered with other stuff so he could not see it. As we set up camp and the kayak came off the ute the carry on was unbelievable, he threatened to take it home with him, blah blah blah. He was told in no uncertain terms that if he wanted it clean he could do it himself. Much to my surprise, the very next day he did just that. We arose early and had breakfast, we figured that with the height of the river there was no rush, we would have an easy paddle down river. Gordon, Jim, Geoff and myself decided ( well I decided) to put in at Fosterton and drift downstream to Dungog, I had fished there once a couple of years ago and did pretty well so I was keen to have another shot at it. We put in and was immediately impressed with the current, we would have to be careful on some of the rapids. As with all fishing trips not everything went to plan, there were very few (0) fish caught early and then Gordon set up his " Paddle in-Kayak Wash". We were negotiating a little bit of fast water, nothing too dangerous, and he went a little too far towards the right bank where there was the remains of the old retaining fence. He thought that if he grabbed hold of the old rusty hawser he could push himself off. WRONG!

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Welcome to the " Bass Sydney Swimming Team" mate. I still remember someone having a laugh at my expense last year, what goes around comes around they say.

The pic to the right shows the spot where he got hung up, luckily he was not hurt too much and only lost some clothes and a drink bottle, none of my fishing gear. It all happened so fast, I was only about 10 meters behind him and took my eyes off him for a split second to check my direction and when I looked up he was sideways against the post, just as well he was leading so the rest of us managed to land and help him out. Anyway when we got back to camp the kayak was nice and clean, hellava way of making a point though. To top it all off he did not catch a fish all day, I wonder if he will fly down next year? After some of the grumbling I doubt it. However the fishing was not all that good on that section of River, the rest of us only managing 12 between us, all about the same size class, between 250 and 350mm.



### **Dom's Dodgy Day!**

The next part of the story is all hearsay, however Dom was not a happy chappie on Sat. evening. Apparently he used up all his luck on Friday afternoon when he, Alberto and Joseph caught 21 Bass in pretty quick time. It would appear that no matter how hard he tried on Saturday everything turned to s\*#t . He was telling of the beautiful casts right in under the willows only to get caught over a small branch etc etc, you get the picture, we have all been there. Anyway things brightened up at the Sat. night barbie where he won a prize for, **wait for it**, "*the smallest fish of the day*". When your hot your hot! The picture shows Dom wearing his prize, I think he was a little disappointed when he had to give them back. The saddest face of the evening belonged to Dom's son Joseph Last year he cleaned up in the raffle and was itching to do so again, however this year he missed out, lady luck is a fickle bitch at times.



### **Sunday**

Most of the crew decided to fish around the camp on Sunday but Les and myself had arranged to travel cross country to Gresford and fish the Paterson River. We put in behind a very old and quite beautiful Church, St. Annes. The river was running reasonably fast but nowhere near as high and fast as the Williams. We paddled upstream and the idea was to paddle up and fish back, however Les , who was behind me, said that he just had to fish the overhang, it was too good to go past. He made a cast and I decided to cast to a small eddy a little further upstream. There was a flash and then I was hooked solidly into a Bass that must have been on steroids. It pulled upstream against the current then turned and pulled me into the trees while taking line as well. I thought, at last my 400+, bugger, not to be, only 370mm, but the best fight I can remember. We only managed 2 more fish for the day, both fairly small. The river here was very pretty, but also very shallow and crystal clear. If we had not had the rain a week or so earlier we would have had to do plenty of portaging across the shallow sand and gravel beds. Got back to camp

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about 3.00pm and the place was deserted of fishermen, so I was ensured of a quiet night. Woke up to the birds on Monday morning, had breakfast, packed up and made my way back home.

BUGGER.

*Alan Izzard*

This next story from our correspondent in the USA.

Hi All,

I went for a fish on the yak last Sunday. I didn't go far as the little town where I live up here has a "town lake" called Mirror Lk which is less than 10 acres in size surrounded by a park, playground, etc. Its almost in the middle of town, about 2mins drive from my apartment. I was told that it contains good numbers of fish. No internal combustion engines allowed.

It was the tail end of a number of freezing cold days that I arrived back to after being in France for 10 days. Brittany, France is a very pleasant place with great seafood, history, etc, but that's another story. Anyway, when I got back into WI last week, it was below freezing point and there were snow flurries being blown about. On Sunday, it was a bright, sunny day with quite a nip still in the air (like 30 F/-1 C!), so I was not going fishing real early. I launched the yak after 10am into the little lake. There wasn't much structure to cast to so I clipped on the Hummingbird Smartcast remote sounder to a rod and let the wind drift me down the lake so that I had some idea of the depth. I also thought I'd only catch small fish or crappie, so I was also jigging a small jig+plastic as I drifted along. No bites on the jig.

After one drift, conveniently from one end of the lake to the other, I thought I'll just troll as I determined that the depth was around 12-14ft for most of it. I haven't caught a fish trolling from the yak since I left Oz 2 years ago & I pondered what to put on & decided I wanted a small-profile, deeper diving crankbait & I picked a small Rapala (Risto Rap I think) in a natural shad/baitfish colour (body length 2"/5cm in a deep bodied, shad shape). I'm not entirely sure of the pedigree of that lure as it was a foundling, but I've used it successfully both in Oz & Alabama. I thought it might dive to 6 - 8' trolling with 6lb line. I was using my UL spinning outfit to troll with.

Near the end of the first trolling run when I neared my starting point, I hooked up and it was a healthy little Largemouth bass, about 0.75lb weight. Hmmmm I thought, maybe things aren't as bad as I thought (I was starting to feel real cold as I was paddling really slowly, trolling). I continued trolling and worked my way across from my starting end to the other side of the lake & continued trolling this bank, keeping well clear of the edge, trying to stay in the deeper 10-12' depth. Right in front of the communal fishing jetty/dock where there were a couple of kids fishing, I hooked up again. I was well clear of the dock, at least 30-40ft out. It was a clone of the 1st fish. Moving on, I had barely moved 100' before I hooked up again & it was a rainbow trout, about the same weight as the LMB's. At this stage, I decided to keep the trout, so I had a fish in the boat. By the time I unhooked the trout, I was almost at the end of the lake and I cast to the back of this cove and I hooked another trout, but it became unpinned. Things were looking better & better!

I kept trolling for the next 2 - 3 hrs, up & down the little lake, in a circular pattern, keeping well out from the edge, in 10-12' depth; as well as exploring a few bays off the main body of the lake. There were areas in a couple of small baylets that were on the windward end of the lake which had ice up to ~0.75cm and my old kayak had its first experience of being used as an icebreaker !!

I landed another 2 or 3 bass trolling - nothing big, a couple more clones to my 1st 2 and a little fella. The weather in the meantime continued to be sunny & warming slowly, but the breeze kept up the whole time, nothing bad, but enough to keep me cold. Nearly 2pm, I'd had enough & I was on my last trolling run to the car when I hooked up to a much better fish. A well-conditioned largemouth that ultimately went 2.4lb was landed. That went into the bag as its a good eating size. Steamed up beautifully on Monday night at a couple of nice ladies' place in Eau Claire.

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So, nothing very exciting really, but I was happy to finally catch a fish after nearly 2 months of no fishing. I haven't even got TV at my place yet (waiting for the satellite man !!). I had been thinking of the good fishing that I would have been experiencing in Alabama this time of year !

H.S. THAM

**DON'T FORGET THAT OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER IS ON TUESDAY NOT WEDNESDAY NIGHT. IT WILL BE HELD IN THE BOARDROOM NEAR THE TOP ENTRANCE TO THE CLUB. WE WILL SUBSIDISE SOME OF THE MEMBERS MEALS, SO DO NOT WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THE EXPENSE. SEE YOU TUESDAY NIGHT ABOUT 7 O'CLOCK.**

Doms Photos:



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