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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Arguably the best time of year in Sydney is Autumn. The weather is consistent with warm days and cool nights. The sea temperatures will remain high for some time yet. With the advent of the winter sports on T.V and the end of daylight saving it's not hard to lament on the loss of another Bass season. However, I would urge anybody experiencing that melancholy feeling to remain positive as there is still good fishing to be had amongst some beautiful sparkling days.

Being involved with Bass Sydney has been one of the most positive life experiences I have ever had. I have met a lot of friends and had many great experiences that I will never forget. I have had the opportunity to travel all over the eastern sea board of NSW and shared many a great meal, beer and glass of wine around camp. These memories will remain an integral part of my life. As the number of fishing days available to me has diminished in recent times I am ever grateful that I made every effort to involve myself with club events and fishing with others. I thank everyone for all they have taught me about fishing and life, and for the many laugh's we have shared, these things are very precious to me. I am really energised by seeing the number of new members at meetings and events and encourage everybody to get involved in whatever capacity they are able to. There is such a wealth of knowledge amongst all the guys and everyone is just more than happy to share it, just ask. Good fishing to you all

Regards and tight lines, Chris Ghosn.

## NEWS

The Club welcomes 6 new members –

1. **Colin Crocker** – Colin registered for the BassCatch, attended the briefing & joined. Welcome Colin!! We hope you got some fishing in.
2. **Nick Bayley** - Nick is an ex-workmate of *El Presidente* Chris Ghosn. Nick joined just before the Feb BassCatch
3. **Kent Andrews** - Kent is Nick's friend & they put in a fine effort that weekend fishing Wallacia & Bents Basin.
4. **Tyron McFarlane** – Tyron is a mate of Ben Richards
5. **Greg Rouland** – Greg is a long-time member who has rejoined after a break of a couple of years. Welcome back!
6. **Garry Perry** – Garry is a workmate of Milton's & is interested in Bass fishing.

### Fowkesy's 50<sup>th</sup>



Veteran member Alan Fowkes recently celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday with a gathering at Coolendel on the Shoalhaven with dozens of his closest friends. A small contingent of long-time & ex-Bass Sydney members made it down there to partake of the festivities. A nice weekend of eating n' drinking & a bit of fishing was the plan, but the weather didn't cooperate with heavy rain on the near South Coast the whole time. Some BS members who got there Friday got some fishing in, but the rain really settled in on Sat. A great feed was had on the Sat evening before we were all told on Sunday that we better leave due to incoming 'EXTREME' weather or it might be a few days! *I headed home with the yak never coming off the car the whole wkend! The Ed.*

**Hawkesbury-Nepean February BassCatch (20 & 21/2/10)**

The recent Feb BassCatch was not as well attended as usual. I think we had some competition from rock legends AC/DC! At time of writing, Al Izzard had 19 catch cards returned, with a few cards MIA. Conditions were actually pretty good that weekend, considering that we had so much rain barely a couple of weeks earlier. The flooding had washed away a lot of the weed from the lower stretches of the Nepean system and it made things pretty comfy for fishing. The river certainly looked good, with the only downside being the cancellation of camping at Wilberforce as the ground was too boggy. Results –

Total No. of fish caught:	253	Largest bass:	341mm (Bill Raffle, Reach 3a)
Smallest bass:	62mm (Ashley T)	Most fish:	66 (Gary Blount, Reach 4)
BassCatch participation prize:	Ashley Thamm		

The Ed, Ashley & Bill Raffle fished Wallacia and our main aim that day was to go below the Wallacia weir (Reach 3b). It was tough fishing at Wallacia and it certainly wasn't made easier when we got to the weir where a work crew was working on the new fishway. It's being constructed on the opposite side to the existing one. Great to see them working on it, even on a Saturday, but the downside for us was that it was very muddy downstream from there. For the first ~400m below the works, the water was like milky tea. We didn't catch a thing from that stretch before the mud settled. I got a half dozen tiny bass fishing the rapids & riffles above Norton's Basin on foot, but we went no further.

Wallacia weir fishway, work-in-progress - (Pic Ashley)



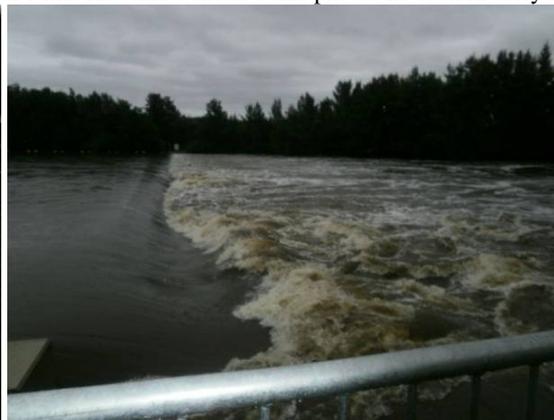
Bill & The Ed portaging –



**Penrith weir & fishway**

Some of you may be aware of the hoo-ha being caused by a small number of vested interests since the Penrith weir & fishway works have been completed. Allegations are that the new weir & fishway have resulted in a lowering of the water level above the weir, inconveniencing said vested interests. *Gee whiz! You just can't win can you!?* As far as The Editor is concerned, it's a f@!%#\*# RIVER!! It's the decades of backed-up waters caused by the weir that *ain't natural!* If the new fishway/weir results in better access to bass & other native fish and makes it less attractive for the ski boats, then I'm all for it!

Far from low water, the rains at the end of January & early Feb have provided some huge rises in water levels in the Nepean. It's been wonderful seeing the river get a good flush. Our Mike Hawkins sent us some photos he took in early Feb →



### **Bents Basin State Conservation Area**

Bass Sydney was recently invited to participate in a Workshop organised by the NSW NPWS for our "input into the role our organisation & members would like to see fulfilled by Bents Basin SCA to meet future recreational needs" on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2010 (our BassCatch Saturday). Ashley & I volunteered to represent the club. It was cancelled due to lack of response (only 2 groups, inc. us, responded out of 95 invitations!), but I sent through what we were to present on the day. Among other things, we wanted improved vehicle access to the water for launching kayaks & canoes. The upshot of subsequent communications between me & the NPWS is that we may be involved in another Club Volunteer project where we provide the labour to clear a launch site, just below the riffle zone downstream from the Basin. This will provide vehicle access to the water at a site which opens up around 11k's of the Nepean R, all the way to Wallacia. Right now, one would have to launch in the Basin, after a considerable drag from the car to the water, go down through ~200m of the riffle zone, before getting to the pool. We are at the earliest stages of discussion and I'll keep you all informed. Stay tuned and prepare yourselves to donate some hard labour for improving access to our Aussie bass!

### **Yellomundi**

On the same lines as the Bents Basin project above, our friends at the Blue Mountains & Nepean District Angling Club (the Springwood club) have negotiated with the NPWS to donate labour to clear an area at Yellomundi Recreation Area. Some of us have been to this area before, when Springwood's Gary Blount is given the key during the BassCatch. It provides direct vehicle access to a campsite &/or launch site at the bottom end of the large pool above Devlins Lane. Getting to this area has involved going upstream from Devlins, often an arduous journey through the weed & channels. A series of dates have been suggested, between May & October and will replace the Grose R lantana-clearing work. These dates will be printed in the Bass Sydney 2010/2011 Calendar. Again, prepare to donate some hard labour in return for better access.

**HS Tham, Editor**

*New member, Bill Raffle writes about his first trip away with the club, attending Hunter Native Fish's BassCatch on the Williams R -*

### **Williams R BassCatch**

(by Bill Raffle)

My first weekend away with the club to the Williams River was a cracker. Great hosts from Hunter Native Fish, a lot of laughs, a lovely river, and a very easy job for me when it came to filling in the score card at the end of the two days.

Upon arrival at about 5pm on Friday afternoon Garnet and Jim had a beer in my hand before I could say buzzbait. Ashley arrived soon after and quick smart we were into the river for a few evening casts. Not a breath of wind on the water and a beautiful pink sunset was reflecting off the surface. Ash and Garnet got a handful each so the expectation was high for a good day on the river on Saturday.

First light and the fog was sitting low over the water and the fields around the camp site - a chill still in the air. Ashley looked a bit worse for wear and I thought it may be the effects of Harold's home made Sambuca from the night before, but on further enquiry Ashley had forgotten a minor piece of camping equipment - his sleeping bag!

After some impromptu 4WDing from Garnet in his Daewoo we made it to the drop off point on Saturday morning. Dave Claydon's solo man launch in the river impressed the hell out of me (as did the stories of his recent 400 plus Bass up north) and Anthony and Neville followed soon after. Anthony's new rod and reel was a beauty, it was seriously lightweight which was just as well as the boys were paddling upstream. They did well and Neville smashed his previous record with a PB for a day on the Williams.

I was pleased we were travelling downstream but a set of swivel hips would have come in handy through some of the faster moving stuff. The kayak was going one way, I was casting at an eddy the other way, my head was rotating in a third direction whilst my brain was working overdrive on trigonometry calculations to determine precisely when I would be wearing the upcoming log. As I was to find out, securing a snag at speed is certainly one of life's little pleasures.

The trade off between self preservation and catching fish made for some interesting incidents. I approached one rapid behind Garnet and was trying to get my yak in the right line when lo and behold, at the start of the rapid a lure shot out from the side of Garnet's yak into a swirling eddy of cappuccino froth. Bang! and he was on, rod held high in one hand, paddle in the other, drop off approaching, log approaching, a corner to negotiate, and some high pitched squeals coming from the yak. Who ever said bass fishing wasn't a spectator sport! Somehow Garnet stayed upright and the fish stayed on but the poor little bugger could have done with a Bex and a good lie down after his beating.

At lunch I had about 20 casts from the bank into one spot for no result. Garnet came over and had one cast and got a fish. Well done Garnet I am so pleased for you, what are you up to now, 15! Ashley took a few steps down stream and had a cast - whack he was on. Well done Ashley, I am also so pleased for you!

I did make a contribution to the lunch spot and it was by losing my car keys. We retraced steps around the bank and Ashley found them in the water - he is a very capable bloke to go fishing with. Garnet did make me feel a bit better when he

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announced that he also had a bad key day which would require us to walk back to our drop in point at the end of the day – luckily we hitched a ride from another basser we met. Ashley completed the bad key trifecta by losing his later that night.

Anyway, back to the river and the local farmer came down for a chat at lunch which thankfully moved my mind away from keys and fishing. He was a great guy but I could see Ashley gagging on his chain as the farmer told us proudly with a broad smile on his face how they had taken half a dozen “plate sized perch” from the river a couple of weeks ago.

My first weekend away with the club was summed up by a time after Garnet snared a 340mm leaping bass (christened the barrabass) at the entrance to a nice looking little creek and immediately he called me over to go in front of him as there were more fish in there. Over the weekend Garnet and Ashley offered me their lures to use, shared tips with me and kept offering for me to go in front. It says a lot about them and the club when new members are treated so well.

Coming back to camp I made the mistake of asking how everyone else had gone. As I stared misty eyed at the trophy I received a sudden jolt of hope when we were informed that the winner wasn't solely anointed on the basis of the number of fish caught – *phew!* my 4 fish still had a chance against the tally of 76 from the incumbent champion. I am still waiting for that congratulatory phone call - perhaps it is taking a while to collate the results...

**Bill Raffle**

### **BUZZBAITING AUSSIE BASS**

Buzzbaits are “wirebaits” like spinnerbaits & Betts spins and consist of a wire frame, jighead & hook, propeller-like blade(s) and are designed to plane and churn on the water surface. While still relatively uncommonly used for Aussie bass (but catching on fast!), they are a well-used and familiar part of the American bassing scene, especially in Spring & Autumn when the American basses go on a bit of a feeding binge. In North America, buzzbaits are mainly used for Largemouth, Spotted & Smallmouth bass, Northern Pike and Muskies too!

There are many models to choose from - different sizes, all sorts of blade configurations & colours, with or without 'clackers', different shapes, offset or inline & different skirts. After-market customizing includes trailer hooks and soft plastic trailers. Some are huge or more correctly, very long (18"/45cm long). The smallest sizes are about 3" (7.5/8cm) long & in the  $\frac{1}{8}$  oz weight range, with the “standard” American size being in the 14 - 20cm &  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz weight range. Some with clackers are loud enough to wake the dead!

With their noise, speed and bubble trail, they are the ultimate “reaction lure”. They usually work well when the fish are hungry or aggro, but can at times, wake 'em up to have a go. The US bass pros write that they can call fish up from 30ft of water, but that is not something I've had the experience of, mainly because I didn't fish lakes much.

In the USA, I loved using them in lakes, ponds and of course, my favourite - in rivers. I would use them in flooded grass, weedbeds, edges and among lily pads; sometimes in water only a few inches deep and even under lily pads, it might only be less than a meter.

Part of their appeal to me is that they are fairly snagproof and depending on the type of weed, pretty weedless too. Slime, algae and fragile or floating weeds make things difficult, but grass and ribbon-weeds and water lilies are ideal for running a buzzer over. I used to love buzzing shallow bays of water lilies in early to mid-Summer, even when you can barely see any water for big green pads & pretty flowers. The turned-up hook, sturdy wire frame and blades kept them pretty snag-free and all you had to do was to drag them over the lily pads and into the small bits of water before the buzzbait would get up on another lily pad. Yes, you can do the same with a Scum Frog or plastics rigged weedless, but a lot slower. The fish see and hear the buzzer make its way along and would ambush it when it makes contact with water. Where there's more water, it was not uncommon to see a bow wave making a bee-line for your lure!

Another advantage to them is that it doesn't require a lot of casting skill to use them. No pinpoint casting to a 1m patch of shade under heavy cover needed here! There are of course “techniques” and buzzing is no exception - more about that later.

During my years in the US, I had been corresponding with a couple of locals - Dave Sanegor and ex-member Matt Bloomfield who both maintained that Aussie Bass can be caught on buzzbaits. What surprised me when talking to Matt was that he liked the  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz models for Aust Bass which I thought a bit big.

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The Aust Bass-on-buzzbait thing lay dormant for about 4yrs until I got home and fished the October '08 BassCatch with a borrowed kayak & borrowed lures. On the Sunday, after spending the night at Yellomundi, I fished the pool below the campsite. It was already after 8 or 8:30 when I got on the water which had been flogged to death the day before and by the early risers that day. I decided to try the funky-looking, plastic-bladed  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz Aussie-made buzzbait Milton had. I don't think he'd ever used it. I was soon impressed with the way this model worked at lower speeds than the ones I was used to. I was still a little suss of its overall size though.

I soon found out it worked just fine! The sun was up, but the morning shadows were still long. I wanted to utilise the shade before it disappeared. Almost opposite the campsite, I found some weedbeds where the shade reached out to, maybe a good 20m out from the bank. I started casting the buzzer with long casts, in the relative open and within a few minutes I had a good take and landed what turned out to be my largest fish for the weekend. I whooped for joy!

I started to work closer to the bank when the shadows were rapidly receding. Not far from where I landed the first bass, I found a classic looking "channel" deep into the bankside cover. It was a good 3 or 4m in length from the back end to the 'mouth' and would appeal to any bass fisho. It must've been flogged several times by people that were on the water ahead of me, with crankbaits, surface lures & spinnerbaits, but I decided to give it a go with the buzzer anyway. A good cast right up the guts of the channel saw the buzzer make its way back towards me. Just after it passed the mouth, it got hammered by a better fish, but after a few seconds, it all went slack. *Aaaargh! Dropped him!* When I got the buzzer back, the whole skirt had been ripped off! Gone! I put a skirt from a spinnerbait on it and continued with it for a little while longer. I thought buzzers must select for larger fish until I landed a 12 or 13cm fish on it! I don't know how it managed to hook itself, nor what it thought it was going to do with something bigger than it was!

*My buzzbait collection -*



*My 1st Australian Bass on Milton's buzzbait -*



I would go the rest of the 2008/2009 Summer throwing a buzzbait very occasionally without success. Truth be told, I didn't go bassing that often. But that first weekend of Aussie bassing made me think more about the best techniques for using them here. I wondered if it was an early-season thing, but I got a report of David Sanegor taking "The Cod" of AusBass fame wild country bassing and absolutely braining them on Dreamfish buzzers in mid-summer. So they worked then too. *Hmmmm... excellent!*

OK, so they work and wild bass loved them. For more pressured waters, what could I do to increase my chances? I thought I should start with my original thought and downsized. I had a couple of small 3 - 4" buzzbaits from the US. I put small trailer hooks on a dark coloured one and a yellow one. I never used trailer hooks on buzzbaits in the US, but in spite of the zeal of that 12cm fish in October, I thought my chances of success on the smaller Sydney fish would increase with a smaller trailer hook. I waited for the opportunity to come again.

Roll forward to Season 2009/2010 and the October BassCatch again. Fishing with my daughter, I landed a few small fish on the modified black & purple buzzer. Nothing to write home about, but they were certainly drawing strikes. Then it was the Williams R BassCatch in November - starting at first light, my first few fish were caught on the buzzbait. Again, nothing big, 200's, but a couple of fish consumed the buzzer with gusto, swallowing both sets of hooks!

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Another lean trot followed, with not too many successful trips to "10,000 cast fisheries" like the Lane Cove R and the Parramatta R, but I never gave up on finding the best conditions for using the buzzbait. Meanwhile, the "old school" approach of using small crankbaits accounted for the most fish. I clung to my belief that the weedy Nepean was as good a place as any for using buzzbaits.

Roll forward again to the recent February BassCatch. I had a disappointing Saturday at Wallacia, but it seemed that everybody else there did too. I did manage one buzzbait fish in Reach 3a. It was classic - bringing it back next to a stump well out from the bank (still in shade), it got taken just when it passed the stump. A long day with little to show for it.

The next day I woke refreshed and headed to fish near Penrith. I had about 5hrs before dark. The barometer was around 1015 and either steady or dropping very slowly, bright & sunny, temperature was warm and humidity was high. The area is fairly shallow and quite open and shade was hard to find. It was a BassCatch and the ol' fave, the black Crickhopper racked up the numbers of tiddlers. The fish were active. Around 7/7:30pm I tied on the little black & purple buzzbait as the sun dropped below the tree-line & shadows spread out.

In the low light of late arvo until it was dark, the buzzbait bite was ON! I had more strikes than I could count even though I actually only landed 4 fish. It was working where other slower & more subtle surface offerings were being ignored. I had a paddler on another rod for contrast. Even with a small trailer hook, it was difficult hooking sub-200mm bass. I started with a 23cm fish, then a 21, then a 26 and my last fish of the day was a nice 322mm model which exploded on it less than a rod-length from the yak! It dragged me sideways into the bank and my other 2 outfits tangled up with the vegetation. *Trouble!!* I thought, but the fish got tangled in the bankside rubbish & obligingly popped up and didn't move again! I managed to untangle my other 2 outfits and duly landed the bass. It had both hooks in its gob, but I managed to de-hook him without much damage.

While these few experiences hardly make me an expert on buzzbaiting Aussie Bass, the following tips may be handy for those starting out buzzing -

#### Where:

- Weedbeds (& where available, water lilies) and especially their edges. Salvinia & water hyacinth is problematic, but you can still work their edges.
- Parallel to riverbanks, the deeper or more undercut the bank, the better
- Across & over the top of woody snags
- "Points" - rock, wood, vegetation; anything jutting out into the water creating cover or a break in the current
- Like any Aussie bass fishing, all of the above should be in shade, **SHADE, SHADE !**
- Something I haven't tried yet, but which worked well on US bass rivers is to work the heads & tails of pools. Casting downstream into the fast riffle water at the head of a pool, you only had to wind very slowly. The buzzbait stays in the strike zone longer. Worthwhile trying at night??

#### When:

- Low light conditions early and late in the day. Gotta try it at night, that's got to work!
- High barometer or whenever you think the fish are active
- The jury is still out as to the best part of the bassing season - maybe its irrelevant & ambient conditions are more important than seasonality.

#### How:

- Cast along the edges of the choice areas and track the buzzer very close to the target
- Parallel to weedbed edges is obvious, but don't overlook the holes and gaps within a big weedbed. You can cast on to the top of the weeds and bring it over the gaps.
- For woody snags, you can work the buzzer along the outside edge or right across the top of them. They are fairly snagproof and bouncing them off the wood is good.
- Engage your reel as soon as, or better still, before the buzzbait hits the water.
- A fast reel should be used. Any modern 2000+ size spin reels are fine as they have sufficient retrieve speed. With a baitcaster, reels of 6:1 will make life much more comfortable & a 7:1 ratio reel should be even better!
- Having made the above point, the buzzer should be retrieved as slow as you can while ensuring it is working the surface & churning.

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- I've used them successfully with braid straight through (a Palomar knot is good for tying braid direct), but most of the time I would have a mono leader on anyway. It's a technique which relies on a bit of give in your rod, so an ultra-stiff pole with braid straight through may result in fewer strikes that stick.
- Where possible, avoid casting ahead & retrieving while you're still moving forward on your boat as you have to reel much faster and it may take longer for it to pop up.
- Boat positioning is vital to ensure you're working those good areas efficiently. This can also cause problems as demonstrated by my 322mm Penrith fish as you may be very close to the bank. Weedbeds are less of a problem, but bass can bury themselves in the weeds instead. It all adds to the excitement!
- If you're lucky enough to fish Big Bass waters, it might be a good idea to upgrade your line class if fishing weedy & snaggy country because of the above point.
- Most single-prop buzzbaits have a natural "bias" to them in that they track either left or right slightly; some more than others. This can be used to your advantage as you can work it closer or even, in the case of overhangs, under your target, depending on your boat position. My little 1/8 oz black & purple number tracks to the left for example, so it's better if I position myself with the target to my left. Maybe some judicious bending of the wire frame can accentuate or cancel the bias, but I haven't bothered.
- Trailer hooks - I'm convinced they improve my chances, but if the fish are big & active, they may not be necessary. Trailer hooks will increase the chance of snagging up, but in context, is it more snag-prone than a diving crankbait with 2 sets of trebles? Pointing the trailer hook downwards may also increase your hookup rate, but highly unlikely that I'd try that as it will increase snagging substantially. I guess if the fish are short-striking and you're fishing a fairly clean area, it might work.

Drag a buzzbait along here -



Lily pad Largemouth



Give buzzbaits a go the next time you go bassing - it's a BUZZ !

HS Tham

*2wks after the above Sunday, I wanted to get some photos of prime buzzing territory and to try for a few more fish →*

### BUZZDAY 7/3/2010

MISSION: Get on the water early, use a buzzbait for as long as the buzzbait bite lasts & take photos of prime buzzing locations

0537h: Get out of bed (37 mins late). Seabreeze.com says barometer 1012 & rising, NE wind. Breezy.

0620h: Leave apartment. Didn't take the baitcaster. Took 2 spin outfits (L & UL).

0704h: On the water at the same place as last time, 2wks ago. Cloudy, but not so breezy out west. It would remain cloudy the rest of the session.

0710h: Monster hit within a couple of cranks! Good fish around 35/36cm to the yak twice. Just about to lift it on board when it drops off! *Aaaaarggh!* Would've been my largest AB on a buzzbait. *Good sign!?*

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0743: 1<sup>st</sup> buzzbait fish landed (~27cm from a weedy bank edge)

0827h: 2<sup>nd</sup> buzzbait fish (small)

*Start (0704h) -*



*Shallow, running water with lots of weedbeds -*



*1<sup>st</sup> buzzbait bass*



*0901h: 3<sup>rd</sup> buzzbait bass (~200)*



*Weedbed gaps, channels & holes*



*Bankside edge (0920h)*



*0922h: 2 mins after last photo, 4<sup>th</sup> buzzer fish (323mm)-*

*Good girl!*



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0955h: Worked a short cast along the outer edge of a snag & got monstered a rod length away when I was looking away! *Splash! Zzzzzz* & straight back into the snag! *Oops!* Snagged & couldn't shift it. Flipped open the bail arm & paddled out towards the middle & engaged reel again. Is it going to come free? Yes!!

6<sup>th</sup> buzzbait fish 0955h, 337mm-



Repairs needed on the buzzbait –



She came from here & went back in there!



1022h: 7<sup>th</sup> buzzbait fish (small)

1154h: 8<sup>th</sup> buzzer fish (mid-200's)

1256h: 9<sup>th</sup> buzz bass (mid-200's)

From 1118h to ~1pm: 5 fish on a modified Dave Sanegor mini spinnerbait on the UL outfit, inc. a 280.

1259h: 10<sup>th</sup> buzz bass (small)

1332h: 11<sup>th</sup> buzz bass (low-200's)

1400h: Off the water

1530h: Home & Seabreeze.com said that the barometer went from 1012 to a max. of 1014 around midday & then slowly dropping back to 1012 by around 2pm.

#### Observations:

- The buzzer worked ALL day!
- I probably had IDEAL conditions for fishing with buzzbaits with the good barometer coupled with cloudy skies. I think, for once, I had all the planets aligned!
- Small bass were just as attracted to the buzzbait; they just didn't hook up very often.
- The location is quite shallow & weedy and if using standard techniques, the "fishable" areas are a fraction of what I was able to fish. The buzzbait allowed me to fish large areas which would not normally be fished. I.e. It opened up a much bigger fishing area than I had otherwise.
- Eddies, next to fast water is just as good with buzzbaits as standard lures.
- Follow-up casts, to buzzbait strikes or boils, with a sub-surface lure were ignored. Not once did I get another bite with a crankbait or spinnerbait as a follow-up! I can't explain this one! I'll have to work on a follow-up lure – a plastic worm rigged weedless perhaps?
- It was like the buzzer enraged them & made them bite! Reaction lures – crunch it now or miss out!
- Later in the day, I had to fish inside the weedbeds (gaps, holes, channels)
- The bass hooked on the buzzbaits seem to fight harder – maybe they were already fired up.

HS Tham

**NEW MEMBER PROFILES**

**Nick Bayley**

Age 35 and married. Been fishing since I was a kid, but that was merely soaking baits. Discovered Bass fishing back in 98, the last time they let water out of Warragamba dam. I waded into the swollen Nepean in September armed with a pocket full of spinner baits and was amazed at how well these Australian Bass fought when hooked.

Bass Sydney: I worked with President Chris Ghosn and he commented on a Kokoda fishing shirt I wore into work one day. He mentioned he was the President of Bass Sydney & the rest is history.

Other interests: Food & drink, cycling and basically anything that involves being outside.

**Gary Perry**

Age 58 and married. Live at Northmead, have two girls and one boy, all in their twenties. Interests: Golf, gym, rugby league especially when Parramatta play as I am a keen supporter. All types of fishing.

First introduction to Bass fishing was gained after a trip on the Nepean above Devlin's Lane with Milton in late 1998. I will never forget the peace and tranquillity of that day. It was a wonderful experience.

**NARRABEEN LAKE FISHING DAY**

Don't forget Narrabeen Lake on Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup>. It's just a few days before the Annual General Meeting. Being a week after Easter the weather will be great, so if you can sneak away from home, grab your kayak and come down. This a chance to paddle around somewhere different and maybe catch a flathead.

We will finish mid afternoon with a sausage sizzle compliments of the club.

If you have entered in the Pirtek Challenge come along and make Narrabeen your location.

The time and meeting place will be advised by email shortly.

**Next Meeting is the  
AGM  
7:30pm Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup>  
April, Northmead  
Bowling Club, Windsor  
Rd, Northmead**

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