



Australian Bass, *MACQUARIA NOVEMACULEATA*



# THE BRONZE BATTLER

PATRON: Dr Wayne Erskine PhD

PRESIDENT: Ashley Thamm  
VICE PRESIDENT: Chris Ghosh  
SECRETARY: Gary Perry  
TREASURER John Stokes

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICERS: Alan Izzard, Garry Blount  
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Andre Dukino  
EDITOR: Peter Hatzidimitriou  
EVENTS, POINTS SCORE & BASSCATCH OFFICER: HS Tham

GENERAL COMMITTEE: Daniel Flood, Derek Sonter, Rico van de Kerkhof and Paul Matten

Contact: [info@basssydney.com](mailto:info@basssydney.com)

## President's Message

The festive season is now among us, I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual Bass Sydney Fishing Club Christmas Party, including our members and more importantly our club sponsors. On the fishing side of things, the cicadas are now in full swing, roaring in the trees while the water boils below. The recent rain should push fish up the rivers and really fire things up for the Christmas Break. I hope everyone has a safe and fun festive season, Merry Christmas and tight lines. – **Ash Thamm.**

## NEWS

### Additional committee members of 2013

Events Coordinator & Basscatch officer - HS Tham  
Lane Cover River - Daniel Flood & Ron Rogers  
Georges River and Raffles - Paul Matten

Parramatta River – Ashley Thamm  
Hacking River - Warren Hackshall

## Welcome to Our New Members

**Matt McHugh** – *“I have always been a keen fisherman, something that my father and I did together, starting from when I was quite young. I’m married with two boys and so far they both share my love for fishing and the outdoors. Fishing for us is about being together and being outside. We practice a conservative approach to fishing, endeavouring to leave no trace and to only keep the fish we will immediately use. Our primary targets are whiting, flathead and blackfish. Lately I have started introducing the boys to casting lures and what better target than estuary perch and bass, perhaps the Barra of the south! I work at Foxtel and live in Epping, and most days I pedal to work alongside the headwaters of one of your favourite bass waters. I was impressed with the ideals of Bass Sydney, a fishing club with a conservative approach and a friendly group of people. I have met a few of you already and hope to meet more over time. All the best.”*

**Kerith Power** – *“I am a lecturer in early childhood education at CSU; this means that I help teachers in preschools and child care centres to get higher qualifications. My only fishing credentials are that years ago I spent time on the Richmond River bank and on other estuaries fishing for flathead, bream and whiting. As a lifelong conservationist I joined the Bass Sydney fishers to help regenerate the Nepean River bank near my home in Emu Heights. At some time I'd like to get on the river in my kayak. I also like to paddle in the Myall River near Tea Gardens and look forward to an active retirement in the near future that includes weeding, paddling and maybe learning how to fish for bass. Cheers.”*

**The Editors message:** Since we last spoke, my season has taken a massive turn. I upgraded my PB not once but twice since the last edition. The use of a new rod and reel has dramatically improved my casting accuracy and has resulted in more fish. Just goes to show the difference a quality set up can make to producing results, particularly in water ways where casting accuracy can mean all the difference. See below my current PB of 430mm to the fork. The latest lot of wet weather and flooding should bring about some exciting fishing leading into January. Enjoy the Christmas edition of the Bronze Battler as we say goodbye to 2013. – Pete Hatzidimitriou



<https://www.facebook.com/BassSydneyFishing>

### **PARRAMATTA RIVER BASS CATCH 14 & 15/12/13**

Our annual Parra River Bass catch is on again next month. Yes. . . it's a tough gig, but it's something that we need to do, especially in light of the Parramatta R Fishways project being at a critical juncture right now. We need the data and its part of our grant obligations.

As always with a Bass Catch on this system, fish wherever or whenever you want anywhere upstream of the first weir at Charles St, Parramatta. Any tributaries running into the Parra R are eligible (e.g. Toongabie Ck).

Treat this as you would any Bass Catch, recording fish length (to the fork), river reach and fishing times. Also record if you catch any other species. "The Pound" (between Charles St weir and Marsden St weir) will need to be fished on foot. If you fish The Pound, be aware that you'll be fishing in close proximity to the general public so be careful. A landing net with a decent length handle will be very handy there. It is here, at The Pound that you will most likely catch a bass.

Upstream of Marsden St is kayak country and there are a few access points – have a look in your street directory!

See map for the river reaches.

Please let me know if you fished and send your data to me.

**HS Tham**  
**Bass Catch Officer**

## October 2013 Hawkesbury Nepean Bass Catch Report

It was another tough Bass Catch! This time it was due to the bushfires in close proximity to the river around Penrith. Many participants were busy saving their homes instead of bassin'. Our thoughts and hearts go out towards the brave firefighters and the residents of Springwood, Winmalee and other Blue Mountains locations. In spite of this, we ran the Bass Catch anyway. Our campsite at Cattai was unaffected by the fires. A slightly reduced number of attendees rolled up on Friday night. BBQ sausages were consumed and the first installment of the Port Appreciation Club Meeting was convened with a small band of port lovers. Nearly 2 bottles were consumed between only 5 people! I was nearly drummed out of the PAC for my poor choice of tipple!

We met Mark Williams and Matt McHugh, visitors fishing their first Bass Catch. Matt is a blackfishing guru who camped with us both nights with his 2 boys. Mark is a regular on KFDU and Yakbass. Many of our regulars were not able to make it, including our sponsor Rod Cumming from Dreamfish. Our other sponsor, Al from Al's tackle Store, also couldn't make it for the same reason.

After a sleepless night where I found it too cold for sleep!; Damian, Craig and I managed to get on the water at around 7am. Damian was feeling "a wee seedy" in the morning! The fires meant that I had to change my plan to do a float from Russell St as I didn't want to park cars there! Instead, we did a float between Devlin Rd and Yarramundi. The early birds André, Josh and Pete H were already there since 4:30am and we soon caught them after we launched. They had pushed upstream first before turning around to go back to the main Devlin pool. That stretch did not seem to hold many fish this time, with only a handful to each of us.

Back at the campsite, it was revealed that the fish were still mainly lower down in the system and people who fished North Richmond and downstream did a lot better. Congratulations to Milton who landed a spectacular 445 in that stretch. What a beauty! On a tiny 1/16oz chatterbait too!



About 15 people gathered for the Saturday night festivities. This is roughly half the numbers we have been getting at other Bass Catch's. Some people from Friday couldn't stay Saturday, while we were joined by others who couldn't make it Friday. There was plenty of food. Raffle was run with plenty of prizes for everybody. Our Raffle Organiser, Paul Matten came to Cattai just in time to have dinner and to run the raffles after having other commitments and being unavailable to fish during the day. Thanks Paul! Our Prez managed to make off with both the rod and the reel which were the top raffle prizes on the night!! Rigged!

The PAC reconvened for the second installment of the weekend. I didn't over indulge as I was spaced-out from lack of sleep anyway. At least I was able to sleep well that night! Before I knew it, I

got woken at 7:45am Sunday morning for breakfast! After doing the cooking Fri & Sat nights, I was glad to sleep in and wake up to bacon & eggs!! That went down very well and after breaking camp; Rico, Damian and I managed to get away not long after 10:30am.

The 3 of us decided to go where the fish were and we were on the water at North Richmond around 11:30am Sunday. The father & son team of Dave & Josh Claydon were just finishing up their session there when we turned up. They fished both days and racked up some numbers. Josh outfished his dad for the weekend. We fished until dark and added a few more fish to our tally. I think we were all in double figures for the day. Damian did particularly well, with a new PB (345mm) and also managed his most bass in a day with 12. Our Scottish funny man was in his element after capturing his PB (as he also was on Friday & Saturday night)! Rico and I just wanted to drown him! They both managed some bass over 300mm, but I had to content myself with only 1 bass over 300mm over the weekend. I landed several fish on surface lures (Sammy & the Nobroko Sofcada), but am still to land a buzzbait fish so far this season.

A few others also fished on Sunday. Gary Perry and Paul Matten were keen to fish after being unavailable on Saturday. Others went home with their tails between their legs. It was a tough day at the office this time. The lack of rain in the last 2 months has not helped the bass move upstream.

Honorable mention must be made of our friends the Springwood guys. I did not expect any cards to be returned from them with all the bushfires on their turf, but Wayne Bennett managed to return 7 cards from the Springwood contingent. They were all from the Saturday. Thanks for that Wayne and for coordinating the cards from Springwood!

On this note, I can also report the great news that nobody from either Springwood Club or Bass Sydney suffered any loss of their properties. Quite a few people from the 2 clubs live in the recent Blue Mountains bushfire-affected areas!

Some numbers:

- 26 anglers fished
- 4 donuts recorded
- 255 fish caught (compared with 471 in October 2012)
- Most fish: 26 (Rico v d Kerkhof)
- Average No. of fish per angler: 7
- Largest bass: 445mm (Milton Lazarus), 2nd Largest: 345mm (Damian Balfour)
- Smallest bass: 80mm (Josh Claydon)
- Average fish size: 194mm (211mm in October 2012)



*Damian's PB 345mm*





*Rico in action on Sunday*

**- HS Tham**

### **Lane Cove River Bass Catch – 9/10/13**

The November Bass Sydney social outing was our annual Lane Cove session with some of our members taking the opportunity to fish into nightfall. Upon arriving at the weir members were confronted with the lowest water levels in recent memory. The good news was that the weir itself was relatively clear of debris and obstructions so we decided to head straight to our launch site.

We not only had Bass Sydney members on the water but were also joined by Lee and Vic, with Vic not only scoring his first bass but a not too shabby 370mm model, congratulations Vic!

The gun fisherman for the afternoon was Pete Hatzis although he had somewhat controversially pre-fished the night before. Almost everyone caught fish of a variety of sizes making the afternoon a success. I did my best to target the smaller bass and left the larger fish to others.

Damien who only a year ago caught his first bass at this event and after breaking his PB at the Hawkesbury Nepean Basscatch is going from strength to strength with yet another PB coming his way scoring a 375mm bass, bringing him ever closer to the 400 club.

Thanks to Ashley Thamm club president for organising dinner, the BBQ chicken rolls were much appreciated (and necessary in a fire ban) after quite a few hours on the water. Tham once again as per the annual ritual had to be dragged off the water so everyone could exit the park together. We sat around and had a good yarn which is what is equally important to these social events as the fishing and research. Stories were told, some light ribbing and a general good time were had.

Then Monday while taking the key back I checked on the weir which after a day of rain now had water cascading over it, it just shows how quickly things can change. The weir I am told was to have a leak repaired during the month of November and there were workers there on Monday. Rain may delay this further though.

**Kind Regards**  
**Daniel flood**

## New Water

Milton and I decided we needed to find some new challenges so we headed off to the mid north coast again only this time we drove past Kempsey to try a river that we had never been to before. After a long drive we finally made the showground where we were to camp for the next 4 days. We were told to camp wherever we liked as it looked like rain coming, so we picked a spot on high ground next to a couple of grandstands, the seating was very useful over the next couple of days. The people here seem to be very “arty”.



Not only arty but also very forthcoming when they found out we were there to catch “Perch”, offering much info as to where we might go. We decided that on day 1 we would drive upstream to see what was the go, the river was down quite a bit and although there is plenty of access upstream there was very little water, more portaging than yakking we figured. We did find 1 bridge with a nice looking pool and could not resist it, so off with the yaks and away we went. We caught a couple of fish in this pool, it looked really fishy, the best being a bruiser just nudging the 400 mark.



*Just on 400*



*shallow downstream*

We moved further upstream looking for more fishable water, crossing several bridges on the way. Finally we found another spot and decided to give it a go, another fish in the 300's but not much else here. We met the local postie here and he was keen for a chat and he told us that the best fishing at the moment was about a mile either side of town, the reasoning was the lack of water. Day 2 saw us up early at 4.30am, yes Josh 4.30am, with the Kookaburra alarm system that works there, trouble is you cannot turn them off. We launched about 500 meters from the showground and headed upstream into a very nice pool, on my 3<sup>rd</sup> cast I had such a hit that Milton was laughing at my reaction, he thought I was going to exit the yak backwards I had jumped so much, the fish missed the hooks unfortunately. We managed a few small fish in the first pool and 1 in the mid 300's before portaging up to the next pool, also saw 2 Platypus, 1 in each pool. Caught a few more smallish fish before calling it a morning and heading back for brunch. We decided to do some more investigating afterwards and as we drove out spoke to 1 of the caretakers who put us onto another spot. We decided to give that spot a go and found one of the prettiest reaches I have ever seen, the trees were



covered with Stag and Elkhorns, magnificent. Also caught plenty of fish, all on surface, had heaps of missed strikes and dropped about as many as we landed, no real size to them but was great fun.



*Stags high up*



*What you see when the levees are down*



*Water level very low*

Day 3 up with the Kookas again and we had decided that today we were going to fish fly. Now I don't know who the idiot was that invented fly fishing, some kind of insane pommie I guess, but he should rot in hell. To say that I was having a difficult time of it would be an understatement and I figured the only way I was not going to paddle back to the car to get my spin gear, and accidentally drop the fly rod over the side on the way, was to move up to the next pool. I think poor Milton did not know what to do or say, he kept trying to give advice and I kept bighting his head off. Anyway, all was not lost, after the portage up I had settled a bit and finally managed to start getting the fly somewhere near to where I wanted it, and low and behold caught 2 Bass, silly little bastards. Milton also caught 2, best one was 292mm, so at least we managed something. After brunch we decided to go back to the same spot we fished the day before and go downstream. We caught quite a few fish and found the most crystal clear river flowing in. We got out and walked up, I caught 1 fish in the mid 300's, did not take a measure with us, all on surface again.

Day 4 decided to ignore the Kookas and lie in. Today we launched in town and went downstream, I had 4 fish before passing under the bridge, all low 200's. This pattern continued for some time until



Milton caught 2 high 300's in successive casts and I followed up with a 408 about 50 meters downstream.



*Milton with his brace of high 300 Bass, caught in successive casts without moving.*



*Biggest fish of the trip 408mm.*

We managed to hook, land and drop several more fish in this stretch, it was amazing to drop a cicada pattern into about a ½ a square meter of shade and have a little sucker come up and smash it, went on all day. On the way back we came to the spot, a riffle, where we had caught the bigger fish that morning and both tried to paddle up it, managing to get to about a meter from the top before running out of puff and dropping back, this was to prove a big problem for Milt. Because as he got out of his yak to do the portage with 1 foot on the ground his yak was pulled away by the current with the inevitable result, Milton has now joined the BS Swimming Team.

All in all a great 4 days, looking forward to going back after there has been some more rain. It was also my Aspire's maiden voyage, proved extremely comfortable and stable.

**Alan Izzard.**



**Christmas Party 7:00pm at  
New Empress Chinese  
Restaurant  
8/2 Marsden Rd, Ermington  
Tuesday, December 10, 2013  
Cost: \$33/head**

### **Kayak Raffle**

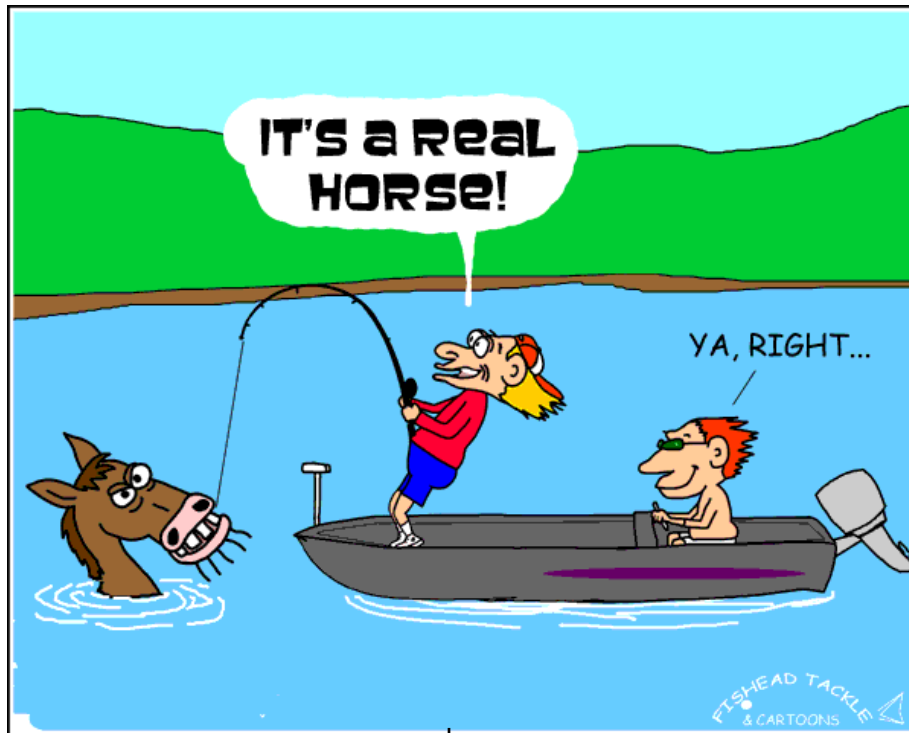
Wilderness Systems Aspire 100 kayak.  
Worth \$900+ retail  
For BASS SYDNEY MEMBERS ONLY  
\$2 per ticket  
Unlimited no. of tickets can be bought  
Will be drawn at the Christmas Party 2014



### Specifications

Length:	10' / 305 cm
Width:	27.5" / 70 cm
Max Capacity:	300 lbs. / 136 kg
Deck Height:	14" / 36 cm
Weight:	44 lbs. / 20 kg
Cockpit Length:	49" / 124 cm
Cockpit Width:	22.25" / 57 cm

## Monthly Fishing Cartoon Funny



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