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CLUB NEWS

19-21 Feb 2016 - BASS CATCH

Friday 19th Feb - arrive for camping & fishing, raffles, indepth discussion, chit-chat & socialisation.

Bass Catch Camp site: 877 Springwood Rd, Yellowmundee Regional park.

Access is via Padlock'd gate: combination number has been emailed to all who've registered.

Where: first clearance on the left immediately after Shaws Creek.

Our Bass Catch flag (blue & yellow) will hang near the entrance of the park.

Padlock will be placed through the N.P. Padlock. Please put it back the same way you found it.

* Please be aware, this area is used by Mountain bikers quite a lot. So drive safe & slowly once on the camp-ground, especially on the short road in.

Mountain bike crossroads will be marked with red and white tape: drive extra carefully in these areas.

And a reminder:

* There are no showers nor any electrical power.

* BYO water (and ETOH/grog to share).

* Campsite is not secure so don't leave valuables in & around your tent when you're not there.

Keep it basic and either don't bring valuables & desirables or lock them in your car – out of sight.

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There's a great club raffle in progress for a rather spiffing Miller rod.

Tickets can be purchased by club members at club meetings,

electronic money transfer and at the Bass Catch.

<http://www.millerods.com.au/>

Presidents Message

Club president gets a 'bye' this edition, Alan is rumoured to be concentrating on recovering his health in order to fish hard this weekend. His message to club members and anglers is allegedly 'fish hard this weekend'; 'set those barbless hooks, measure those bass, photograph and release': 'the rewards & 400's are all there for the taking'.

Alan Izzard (I've read his mind, Ed.).

The Editors Message

Port Appreciation Club is rumoured to be in attendance at this weekend's Bass Catch for those who wish to partake in a tipple accompanied by fine dark chocolate and promising a warm salubrious welcome to all.

In December 2015, Bass Sydney embarked on a new and exciting venture, participating in physical research involving Australian Bass tagging in Lane Cove R. We've received an exciting update from **A/Prof. Culum Brown** via Tham, this should make for an interesting period as we follow the research process, test hypothesis and await the results.

A huge welcome to Matt Hahn and Steve Peach, both are new members to Bass Sydney. They bring with them their many years of fishing experience & angling skills and will fit right in: we hope you find the club ideal and enjoy the riparian rejuvenation aspect of the club; ensuring habitat for our Aussie bass and future fishing success.

With the Bass Catch this weekend, keep in mind Rod at www.dreamfish.com.au for those Buzzbaits and other lures that prove irresistible to Bass. Rod has been a long time sponsor of Bass Sydney and can be reached at the above link or on Facebook. There is also a great 'How to catch Fish' section with techniques that work and what tackle to use: see how to use those [lures](#).

New Member – an introduction by Steve Peach

It's nice to meet some like-minded anglers and to find out more about the mighty Aussie bass!

Ok a few lines about myself:

I got the fishing bug over 40 years ago dangling a hand line over the banks of the Murray River at Thologolong with my dad and granddad near Albury, where we used to visit my granddad and other relatives. I remember wandering off at the Hume weir with an old spinning rod at about 7 yrs of age and finding a school of redfin by chance, and that was it - I was hooked for life! I was very fortunate to grow up close to the water on middle harbour, where I have fished since my childhood, if there's one stretch of water I know like the back of my hand it's lower middle harbour. Getting a tinny expanded my horizons, and I then ended up owning a few boats over the years, though these days I fish out of a kayak or on foot. Around 15 years ago I finally got around to trying fly fishing, and once again I quickly caught the bug and never looked back. I've had the time of my life targeting many fantastic species on fly, from kingfish, salmon, tuna, trout, barramundi, mahi-mahi, trevally, queenfish, flathead, mullet, carp, and of course the great Aussie bass! Now that I'm living in North West Sydney bass seemed a great choice to focus my efforts on. What I have discovered is that for a fly fisherman the bass combines many of the best features of 2 of my all-time favourite fly targets - the trout and the barramundi. Throwing surface flies in tight around snags for big bass is heart stopping, visual stuff that rivals the best *fly fishing* in the world in my opinion. Can't get enough of it!

Hope that's not too long!

Cheers,

Steve :)

LANE COVE RIVER Bass TAGGING rescheduled.

On Saturday 12th of December 2015, the requisite number of bass were caught and released after some local anesthesia, minimal abdominal surgery and the implantation of tiny acoustic devices. How are those ten bass doing?

Well thanks to Tham (H.S. Tham) we've have not one but two '*just-in news breaks*' for you: as per Tham's email, with thanks:

FW: LCR bass tagging info part I

From: **Culum Brown**
Sent: **Thursday, 18 February 2016 4:36 PM**
To: **Hock-sook Tham**
Subject: **bass**

G'day Tham,

We've been out checking the receivers and the news is all good.

- 1) All the receivers are still there and working.
- 2) All the tagged fish were detected (so they are all still alive).
- 3) We already have 100,000s of hits (more data than your average computer can handle).
- 4) Three fish were detected in the pool at de Burghs bridge.
- 5) One fish went over the weir and came back up. Looks like it used the ladder based on the timing of high tide.

Will keep you updated when we do the next download.

Cheers

Culum

A/Prof. Culum Brown

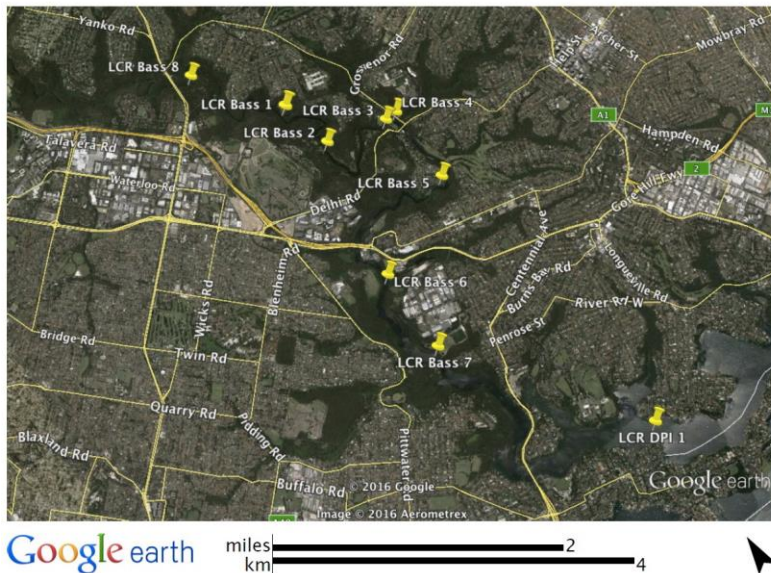
Dpt Biological Sciences, Macquarie University, Assistant Editor Journal of Fish Biology.

Tham (H.S.Tham)

RE: LCR bass tagging info part II

Dear All,

Further info from Prof Culum Brown – a map of the 8 receivers that were deployed by them.



NB: there is also an array of receivers in the Harbour that can be accessed by Culum's team if our LCR bass get that far.

- The receiver marked "LCR DPI" on the map is one set by DPI/Fisheries and is situated at the junction of the LCR & the Parramatta R.
- Culum installed 4 above the weir and 4 below the weir
- The LCR weir is between No. 3 & 4
- The receiver furthest upstream is No. 8 and that is in the pool below De Burghs Bridge.
- Currently, all 10 tagged bass are still above the weir.

I look forward to getting further info especially in a few months' time when it's spawning season.

Tham (H.S.Tham)

The Bass Journey – working them out.

I'm fairly new to bass fishing. Before joining Bass Sydney, I could count on one hand how many times I had targeted them in the past. I wouldn't say I have exactly cracked the code, especially on my local water. I have at least started to gain some confidence in technique, lure types and retrieves and most importantly positioning of the kayak.



This last point is probably the most important for me. I love the little Australis Bass pictured above. It's very second hand, not much to look at and until recently tracked very poorly. But thanks to Al Izzard via Tham, I was given the little skeg that attaches to the rear of the kayak and can be raised and lowered as necessary. So now it tracks a bit better when paddling, but more importantly it will stay on course as you slowly drift into a spot.

One of the things I have learnt is to be a lot more careful with my paddling. Doing everything more slowly means that you can very slowly approach a spot without overshooting and ending up too close. Not having the yak turn as it slowly drifts in makes the hugest difference to casting, retrieving and not having it spinning in circles when landing a fish is refreshing. Thanks for the skeg fellas!



Casting accuracy is probably the next most important aspect to catching fish. If it's too short its useless, too long and it's in the timber and you usually bugger the spot up by having to get in close to retrieve the lure. The perfect cast is the one that land an inch or two away from cover and can only be achieved by practice.

A decent reel (a Shimano Ci4 Stradic) retrieved left handed for a right hander is also essential. I can't believe I never made this jump before, it's so obviously better, yet I was always too lazy to get with the program. Especially when you are trying to get good casts in and get that jig spin at the right depth there is no time for mucking around changing hands.



Confidence is a big factor in many pursuits, but if you don't have confidence in the lures you are using, you will end up spending valuable time changing lures endlessly. The jig spin is the go to lure for me, and can be used in many situations by varying the weight of the jig that you use. I have found that recently I have been having success on very light jigs, 1/16 and lighter and using them only just sub surface. The big win for me has been the colour of the tail and thanks to other members of Bass Sydney I now use the purple and chartreuse sliders which really seem to work better than other colours I have used.



Apart from the jig spin, I love using divers and especially the Jackall Chubby in natural colours and both the shallow and mid depth versions. They are an expensive lure, thankfully I haven't lost many of them. I really love a lure that I can crank down across the snags, on quitter days this can really get results when the fish are a bit more shut down.

What's next for me in my Bass pursuits? Different rivers certainly, I would love to fish some new water and plan on going to the Karuah some time. I would love to catch a 40cm fish, and one off the surface on a cicada, well any surface lure really. Hopefully I can write about some of these things next time.

Matt McHugh (Vice President)

Spey rod & a Bunny style leach.

I fished the upper Murray over xmas & caught a few cod, this one was landed using a 5-6 weight spey rod on a bunny style leach stripped slowly through tree roots - put up a great fight. Under legal size larger fish were caught in excess of 57 cm. Also chased & caught Rainbows in Mitta Mitta R. – unfortunately, water released from dams to supply SA with water drove temperatures down and raised flows making fishing hard.



Planning to fish SA in the future, just need to avoid that damn dam water.

I have a list and directions to free great fishing and camping areas but be aware most locations require chemical toilets.

Capt Baldy(Craig Somerville)

FIRST BASS FOR THE BROTHER IN LAW - January 2016



The day after New Year's Day I managed to wet a line for only the 2nd time this season, having the first being a donut at North Richmond in the afternoon. I had managed to get my brother in law Mark from Western Australia, onto the water after a couple false starts that happens over Christmas and New Year's. I decided that we would fish above the Penrith Weir as I had not fished this part of the Nepean before, and it was handy as he hired a SOT kayak at Emu Plains. We launched just above the weir after a brunch with our better halves, which was the deal any way. There were a few fishing on the eastern bank from the shore so we decided to go to the western bank, having not fished this area it was a bit of a hit and miss. I explained what we were looking for and getting some casting practice in as well, the water however was really shallow and held no structure. We slowly worked up this side towards the railway bridge, I dropped a few Jig spins and a couple of blades that my son bought for me for xmas, as he only just told me he worked for Greg Catt of feralcat lures! We failed to get a hit; it was around 1.30pm so I decided to paddle up a bit further and past the park on the right. This looked a lot better, a couple of more instructions and he was getting the hang of it.

I went over to my favourite slider jig spin, Mark had been casting his now for a while, with my first cast I had a hit. Because we were close, I told him to cast where I had and sure enough he was on, only a little one to his surprise,

he was fascinated on how hard they hit and fought. After a couple of photos and some encouragement we continued on, I managed to land 2 over the 200mm mark so that was good, as we had only been in the water for an hour approximately. We decided to go over to the eastern bank, as there were a few kayakers and boats going up the western side? Why no idea. Having all the homes on this side of the bank was a new experience but turned out not too bad. I managed to land another one, I was experimenting getting in over the top of logs and rolling the jig over them and it seemed to work as a Bass took it on the 3rd cast. Another spot looked good, but some kids decided to start using the rope swing, so we moved down stream some more.

We came across a really good overhanging tree, I explained to Mark that he should see if he could cast in between the hole between the trees overhang that is touching the water, land it directly underneath this overhang. There was not much room and I had a good feeling, so I moved downstream a little more and found a good spot, 1st cast was right on the bank and fell into the water, and I had one on. This was a bit bigger and put up a good fight, I landed it and quick measured and it was around 310mm. I called out to Mark but he already landed a 275mm roughly after taking a photo with his thong next to it, which we measured when we got home. The time was around 3.30pm so we made our way back to the weir as we had to get his kayak back by 5.00pm, I managed to land another one about the same size as the other small ones. We got back and had a beer, and his first comments to my wife was I know why Derek does this, "it so addictive not only the fish and how they hit and fight, but the whole casting the lure in the right place makes such a difference, and just floating around the water in nature". Amen to that I said.

- Derek Sonter.

October's Bass Catch (2015)

After a fruitless or should I say Bassless first month I finally got in to some Bass at the Bass catch in October.

I had planned to get at the campsite early to set everything up with Garry Blount, but things never turn out the way you plan. Thursday night I thought I'll quickly mow the lawn to get in the good books with the missus. All went well till I did the edges at the front. Shot a little pebble straight through the side window of my van. By the time it got fixed it was 3pm and I still had an hour of driving to get there.

Finally arrived at the campsite, quickly set up the tent, unloaded the van and went down to the river to have a quick fish for some carp.

While BBQ-ing and having a couple of beers, Damian, Doug, Jeremy and I made a plan that night to fish from the campsite down to Yarramundi.

Getting up at 4 (always a struggle after a few beers), loading yaks, dropping them off at the river and bringing the two cars to Yarramundi we got on the river at 5 and made our way downstream.

Devlins was packed with 'yaks and we struggled to find a fish there. We had more luck further downstream and in the end we all caught fish and had about 50 bass between us with the biggest 320 and the smallest 110mm. Most fish were between the 150 - 250mm size.



Got off the water around 1830hr and headed back to the campsite. Quickly preparing for the BBQ - thanks Doug and Jeremy for lending a hand; Jeremy is now promoted to Chef du BBQ for the next bass catch.



After dinner it was time for the P.A.C. (Port appreciation club) The dark chocolate made its way to the table and I had a nice bottle of port in my tent. The Penfolds Grandfather was the drink of choice. In my humble opinion the best Australian port for under a \$100/bottle.

Unfortunately Sunday it rained, we got out for a quick session at the campsite, Damian got one (small) Garry got 5 and I got a big fat 0.

We had a nice brekkie cooked up by Milton and Matt and shortly after breakfast Al Phillis dropped in and we could hand him his well-deserved plaque. Thanks Al, for being a great sponsor, top cook & char lady at the Russel street events and all the other things you did and do for our club, you will be missed when you go to the other side of the country.



Packed the tent up and was contemplating to go for another fish further up the river, but weather was too bad and I bailed out.

Hopefully the weather gods are with us so we can fish both days of the Bass catch.

Hope to see you all at the campsite, for the BBQ, a raffle, few drinks and a lot of laughs!

Sign up on: <http://www.basssydney.com/basscatch/index.php>

PS. for our club members. We'll have a *Miller Rod* raffle. Come to our Meeting at the Northmead bowling club or buy them of me at the next Bass Catch!

Rico van de Kerkhof.

COD almighty – December 2015

Up North

Cracked some nice Murray Cod between Xmas and the New Year despite less then favourable conditions up North.

Unseasonal rain and dam releases meant options were slim and fish were hard to locate.

Of the 4 days fishing only one of the days produced decent fish. I also dropped a metre plus fish at my feet on the final night before heading home that will haunt me for years to come!

There is nothing more exciting than these fish hitting the surface in the dead of night!

Glenbawn Dam – Bass Extravaganza!

Hit Glenbawn dam in December '15 for a social comp. No surface action, as all the fish were holding in around 14-20ft of water. The old jigspin and pumpkinseed sliders doing the damage!

Local Sydney Bass

Local Bass had been playing well up until torrential downpours have inundated the systems with freshwater and runoff: turning them chocolate brown for weeks to come. Here are a few pics of some early January outings.









Cheers,
Pete

Editor's note:last BB edition heralded rumours of an even better Australian Bass by Pete H!! a detailed account perhap – how's about it?



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



Follow us on
Instagram

https://instagram.com/bass_sydney/

Username: @bass_sydney

**Next Meeting is our AGM
Tuesday 12th April - 7:00pm for 7:30pm start**

**Northmead Bowling, Recreation &
Sporting Club Ltd
166 Windsor Rd Northmead, 2152.**

**Free parking, fully stocked bar, in-house
restaurant & bowling.**

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Fishing Philosophy

Fishing is better than work.

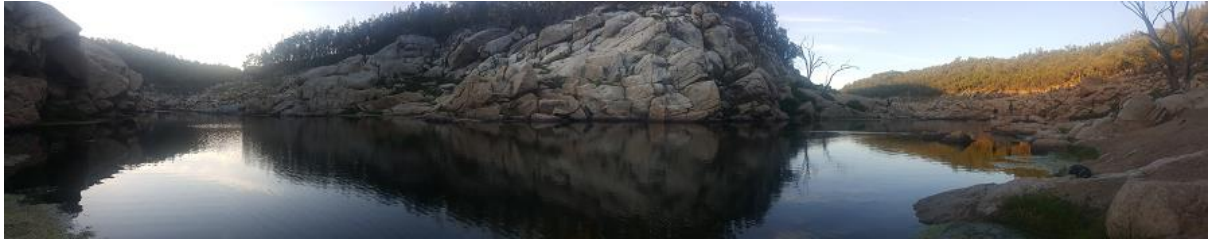


Photo Courtesy of Pete Hatzidimitriou.

Our great sponsors:

Nepean River Tours:



<http://www.nepeanrivertours.com.au/>

Millerods:



<http://www.millerods.com.au/>

Dreamfish:



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