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CLUB NEWS

Presidents Message

Presidents Report June 2016

After a bit of a bumpy start to the new **Bass Sydney** club year, we finally got enough members to our postponed AGM to form a quorum, so all was and is good.

I would encourage all members to check out the OzFish website and join up, it's only \$25.00 a year and if we can get it on a roll we will have a National body to work for us fixing up habitat, we may even end up with a chapter right here in Sydney.

There are a couple of things I have received in the mail recently, 1 is the "Go Fishing Day" on the 16th of October, we can get a grant for \$2000.00 to help defray costs, but will need numbers of members willing to spend some time on the day. Applications need to be in by the 30th of June.

We had our first outing for the new season on the 21st of May on the LCR at Wirrong Flat. There were 6 anglers along with John Stokes and Milton who showed up for lunch, Milton brought along his wife and sister for the day and also cooked the barbie. Fishing was excellent with all but 1 landing fish, and there were Aussie Salmon smashing bait fish in several places, caught my very first Aussie Salmon and dropped another, man, do they go hard. Doug had a really good day, catching quite a few bream along with the "lucky door" prize, and Matt shared the mystery size prize with Tham. Everyone really enjoyed the social gathering at lunch.

Big thanks to Milton for coming along and doing the cooking even though he could not have a fish.

Hope to see many of you at our next GM and at our next event at Phegans Bay on the central coast, an invitation will be sent out about that at a later date.

Alan Izzard.

The Editors Message

Welcome to the June 2016 edition of Bronze Battler, our club is going strong with recently five newly joined members. We had our AGM on May 10th. The original date for our AGM, scheduled for April 12th didn't have enough members in attendance in order to form a quorum. Our constitution states 13 members, so unfortunately we had to cancel the meeting and reschedule it. Thanks to Milton's prompting and gentle nudging via email, the AGM was well attended. Was this a first in our club's history where we nearly didn't have an AGM? Maybe some members can enlighten us?

As per the AGM minutes, this year the current committee broadened our scope of fishing with a much wider group of fishing events for the Bass Sydney Calendar 2016-17. With more saltwater events planned, especially during the closed Bass fishing season, we hope to continue fishing and enjoying the other species that abound during winter. Most fellow member anglers have expertise in other fishing specialities and can bring their skills and knowledge to the club, sharing tips and offering up alternative venues for the future calendar is certainly welcomed. I for one certainly enjoyed hooking up and playing a fine specimen of Australian Salmon at our club outing on May 21st at LCR – Werrong Flat. I had got well and truly busted off not long before, fishing with a jighead and soft plastic, when my under filled reel got spooled and the leader gave way. The second hook-up was on a surface popper, tied to a leader originating from a fuller spool, and the popper was launched into the general direction of a surface boil up that was happening just up ahead. At this point Tham and I had been patiently chaperoning Rico for more than a kilometre - as he got towed downstream by a decent fish that was hooked to a 4lb leader and Rico was playing the waiting game. And this fish that Rico was attached to was gaining in strength I'm sure, as the fight went on - Rico's kayak was moving faster. When Rico looked ahead and suggested Tham and I attack the boil-up just ahead, we quickly abandoned Rico to his softly softly approach to landing fish and within a few paddle strokes and a cast from each of us, resulted in both Tham and I hooking into decent fighting jumping fish and us hollering. Rico, Tham and I were simultaneously playing decent fish and it was exciting. For the next ten minutes or so my kayak was getting towed in circles as the Aussie Salmon took control and gave my bass fishing outfit a good workout with big rod bends and long running drags. I was happy to see Tham land his, Rico landed his and mine was eventually dragged over the net, soon to be held by my hands and the spare treble snagged itself close to the landing nets' rim. Within a moment, the Australian Salmon turned its head once and levered itself of the hook, hung for a moment, suspended in the water and waft its fins then slowly ambled off, sinking gently and deeper out of sight. Argh, the excitement and the loss! I tried not to swear as the missed opportunity, the lost fish was felt, it was near 50cms and in good condition, great colours as the overhead sun penetrated the clear water and bounced off the blue-green countershade along its back and at the dorsal, blackish spots running in rows along its back and the colours fading to a slivery white down its flank. It wasn't long before the feelings of loss were quelled as the excitement returned and the enjoyment of us all playing decent fighting fish and the laughing was still there. There were other boil ups that we chased and hooked-up and dropped fish but it didn't matter. I really enjoyed the day and the fact that we were getting into species that I'd never caught on the kayak before just added to the outing. Those salmon fight hard on light tackle, I had landed them fishing with beach casters and ganged hooks and

pilchards from the beach both here in NSW and in NZ. In NZ I first encountered them and knew them as kahawai, which I thought was a great name. On one occasion I had to stop fishing with two rods off the pontoon in Auckland as I couldn't keep up with the rapid pace of hook up's. I continued fishing with just the one rod and was kept busy right up to sunset. But on light bass gear they are really exciting and fight well and sometimes jump, which all makes for exciting kayak fishing. Later when we rendezvoused at Werrong Flat and Milton had the BBQ going, John Stokes came by after his 90km morning cycle and the other anglers Doug, Tham, Rico, Alan and Matt were all on land it was obvious that a good outing was had, as a nice variety of fish were landed. One advantage of fishing with other club members is that feeling of a great day's fishing, even if like me, you didn't land a fish all day. Having those around you catch nice fish and being part of it was certainly great fun.

Hope to see you all at the next outing – July 17th Sydney Harbour Luderick. Venue to be announced soon by Matt McHugh, so check your emails and look out those long thin floats, as you'll need them. Milton's account of **Blackfishing**, published next is well timed. We'll be Ludericking.

Bass Sydney have just received our new club caps and they look good. The embroidery is more orange than deep yellow, a slight variation on our previous caps, they are fine attire and I know of three people in Scotland who have them in their prized possession – (I posted some to my mates).

Buy them at the next meeting or club outing.

This edition of Bronze Battler is very late; please accept my humble apologies as publication should have been in early June. Life and work unfortunately gets in the way sometime; and as you've noticed there's scant photos in this and the last edition. Looking ahead to the August edition, I hope to have everything back to full production as I've had my computer overhauled and it's only me that's now trying to work out this new operating system. Future submissions please are lovingly accepted. Stories, tails, tales, cartoons and photos are needed, please post to the email address day or night time.

Damian

Bronze Battler submissions to bronzebattler@yahoo.com

BLACK FISH TO BASS - Milton Lazarus

From as far back as I can remember Dad was a keen Black fisherman. Years ago they were referred to as 'Niggers', let's go 'Niggering' or do you want to go 'Nigger fishin', but today you don't refer to them as such in case of offending. As we know, the correct name is Luderick, but you can't say let's go Ludericking, so I guess it's lets go Black fishing.

In those early days of Black fishing, the rod of style and choice was split cane. My dad had a beautiful split cane rod and thankfully, I now have it. After Mum died, Dad had a huge clean out and all his tackle went to the tip. He lived in Esperance WA 4000k's away so I was very lucky that rod was put away after a phone call from me. Had I not asked I'm sure it would have gone too. Sadly, Dad threw out all the family photos, a real tragedy for my sisters and I.

Dad's rod was made up of six small equilateral triangles of cane glued together to form a hexagon cross section and bound every 75mm about 2mm wide. At the tip it's 3mm across the hex and 13mm at the butt. All the ferrules are brass and the reel is locked in place with two tapered ferrules. No high tech Fuji reel seats and guides in those days. Unfortunately, the makers name has worn off so there's no way of tracing the age now, but I'm sure it was made in the UK. Dad had it stripped and reglued at some stage as the constant flexing cracked the adhesive.

Dad only fished the rivers, no coastal rocks, so the floats were as light as possible. His favourite floats were made from porcupine quills! Hooks are really small (12's for the rivers and 10's for the coast) as Black fish have very small mouths. In fact, in those days' hooks had a flattened end, no eye like hooks of today, so a very special knot was tied around the shank to prevent losing the hook. Small lead split shots were squeezed on the line so the tip of the float was an inch above the water when baited. The line from the reel to float was greased with Vaseline so it floated making it easier to strike if you got a "down" (bite). A small piece of wool was tied on the line as a stopper knot to form a float stop and trimmed to about 1cm long. This adjustable stop made it easy to change depths between runs so you could establish at what depths the fish were feeding.

The spot I remember that Dad loved so much was called the Oaks. This was upstream from Halverson's boat shed at Bobbin Head. It was a long walk along a rough bush track and the black snakes were often about in the summer months. From memory, this was a run out spot, you stood on a specific rock and cast up as far as possible against the tide and drifted down with it. About five years ago I tried to find his spot, but the trees have grown and everything looks different, but I'll try to find it again soon.

It is very important to make good fish attracting berley. Green weed was chopped up finely, mixed with damp sand and bread crumbs or perhaps a little pollard. The berley must have the correct consistency so it can be formed into a ball in the palm of your hand and lobbed near your float.

You cast up and drifted down as far as you could see, watching your float like a hawk. If the fish were on, you would get a quick "down", but if they were a bit picky and nibbled on the end of your bait you would only see little nudges. Often black fish will make the float rise up above the set position, which in most cases is caused by the fish fiddling with the weed and lifting the bait thus reducing the lead weight. That's what my Dad said anyway.

I don't remember where Dad got his weed, but it was always fresh with lovely fine strands. You tease out a thin piece about 8cm long, pick the centre and wrap the strands around the line just above the hook then down past the barb. You don't want it to hang too far below the neck of the hook otherwise a fish will just bite the end off and you will miss the "down". I always remember Dad saying the bait should be the length of a match and the thickness of two. No button baits, ok. Of the coast you use cabbage weed (green weed) that abounds on the rocks between high and low water. Just one leaf, carefully attached to the hook and half hitched above the shank to hold it on.

I was only about 10 when I went to the Oaks with Dad and was too young to try my hand, but I still remember the day when I fell over on the oysters. Dad was not impressed as the fish were on.

Once I grew up, cars, beers and girls came along so Black fishing was forgotten until after I got married. My wife's Father and Brother were into Black fishing, but mainly off the coast, so we decided to make new rods and have a big go. We bought three Butterworth MT5144 blanks, medium taper, five wraps of glass and 12 feet long. We used Fuji runners (just on the market in those days) and all the best fittings. The reel of choice was

made in England by Avon, called the Royale and was cast aluminium. It was a classic centre pin reel of 110mm diameter with construction similar to a fly reel with a number of aluminium pins set out close to the outside of the spool. This outfit could stop the biggest Black fish off the coat and quite a few medium sized Drummer, although these days it's too heavy for me and hard on the back if you fish for half a day or more. Way back then this combo cost about \$150 tops with a basic centre pin reel and that's because we made our own floats and the bait was free. I'm talking late 60's early 70's.

An old work mate of mine Gordon Murphy bought a bait caster and somehow we became interested in Macquaria Novemaculeataing, Bass fishin'. I had a canoe, so away we went. By chance we met Tham and old member Warren Willoughby on the Nepean one Saturday afternoon at Devlin's Lane and they convinced us to join Bass Sydney. Suddenly the fishing tackle budget was completely blown out of the water.

A Perception Craft Minnow followed, a Shimano Calcutta 50, two lovely Aussie made Silstar Traverse X's, a stack of lures, a Minn Kota electric motor for the canoe, two more bait casters, two more rods, a fly rod, two reels, two fly lines and a stack of flies, three more spin sticks, four thread line reels and so on. Bloody hell, what next, more rods, reels and lures of course.



Sadly the old Butterworth Black fishing rod has gathered dust, but thanks to Matt McHugh joining Bass Sydney my interest has been rekindled. I bought a Wilson RBF102 10' two piece black fishing rod which is much lighter and easier to use in the river, but need to put more effort and get out there and catch a Black fish or two. Alan Izzard and I have fished Berowra Creek a few times in different places, but so far I haven't hooked a fish, however Al did on our first outing so he is hooked now. Actually it's a good winter time activity.

Contrary to some belief Black fish are good eating and whilst some people turn up their noses, if prepared correctly they are very good eating. If cooked for the evening meal after a session of Ludericking they are hard to beat. It's a good idea to clean out the black stomach lining as it is bitter. Being a bit lazy I place the whole cleaned fish in foil with chopped tomato, onion, herbs & spices then bake until the flesh just goes white – this way they are very tasty. The foil prevents losing all the juices. If you like to have nice brown crispy skin

on top, slice the fish with some parallel cuts along the top side about 1cm apart and leave the foil open. My brother in law skins his, but I can't be bothered. Everyone has their own special method of preparing and cooking and at the end of a great day on the water sitting down to some fresh Black fish is hard to beat. Of course one must chase the meal down with a glass or two of their favourite white wine.

Good luck, downs and tight lines – Milton Lazarus.

Milton

Murray Cod over Xmas – Craig Somerville

Last Xmas I did a trip along the Murray Cod and trout fishing. Camped the whole way starting at the base of the snowy mountains to the wine region of the Murray Valley this is my route with free camping the whole way The only thing needed is a chemical toilet. Most camp sites don't have toilets & the river is your bath. Importantly, near the end of the trip you can do wine tasting at about 30 wineries!

Corryong fishing club
Jingellic-Walwa Fishing Club Inc.
Khancoban Angling Club

Adam Bloom 0407 068 819
Michael Houston 02 6037 6253
Tony McCallum 02 6076 959

Fished this route Xmas 2015/16

A few days at each site gives you a shot at cod and other natives
You need to use chemical toilets
The locals use cubes of cheese to bait fish
I have had great success with fly and lure from a Yak and the bank

Drive to Gundagai then Tumberumba then across the border to Corryong

Look for the grave of the *real man* from Snowy River

You may want to stock up in Corryong as this is the only large town till you reach near Albury

Follow the Murray River road, not Hwy

Clarke Lagoon Reserve camping area No toilet

This reserve is 6 km north of Tintaldra, off Murray River Rd. On the right if traveling from Tintaldra on the top of a rise. It's a decent spot to pitch a tent and have a fish. If approaching the site from the west, keep a lookout for Pine Mountain, a tree-covered monolith that's one and a half times the size of Uluru. South of Clarke Lagoon, in Mt Mittamatite Regional Park, there is a great lookout called Emberys

Burrowye (Natives) No toilet

<https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/Burrowye+Reserve/@-36.1321409,147.9608286,14z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x9382db08b544fa8a>

From Upper Murray Resort, 8680 Murray River Road
Walwa VIC 3709. Head north-west on Murray River Rd/C546 towards Jingellic (great pub with showers food and cold beer) don't turn off, and then go 21.4 km its about 1 km after the Burrowye sign, on the right

There is another one before it, but it has no shade

Dunpubin (Natives) No toilet

http://www.findacamp.com.au/camp-site.php?pc=BRINGENBRONG_NSW_3707&dis=200&camp=1583

Getting there

On the Murray River north of Mt Lawson. 45k on the Murray River Road [C546] (30k west of Walwa). About 300m east of Dunpubin (farm) (RMB 4033) at the top of a short rise, a narrow track descends north to the river. (About 400m further on east is an old W65 mile post and an Mt Lawson State Park sign.)

Kennedy's reserve (natives) No toilet

http://www.findacamp.com.au/camp-site.php?pc=BRINGENBRONG_NSW_3707&dis=200&camp=1580

Getting there

Situated by the upper reaches of the Murray Arm of Lake Hume. Access from Murray Valley Hwy [B400], left (north) 42k on the Murray River Road [C546] just by the W96 K post. In dry weather go down through the sign posted rest area left or right along the river.

Contd.

Alternatively 35k west of Walwa on the Murray Valley Hwy.

Pigs point (Trout river) Has a long drop toilet

<https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/Pigs+Point/@-36.2800475,147.2346382,888m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m2!3m1!1s0x6b23ed7f87327317:0xa57547975f7bb8a9!6m1!1e1>

On Omeo H/way

Caught rainbow trout at this spot

The town of Mitta Mitta further up Omeo Hwy has a GREAT PUB great food check it out

You can fish the Mitta Mitta dam with water craft but beware, its huge. They use it to restock Adelaide in SA via the Murray River

Other side of Albury

Rutherglen

Brew pub in main street (in restaurant)

Police paddocks (Natives) No toilet, many other camp spots in the region

Just before Rutherglen T

turn right onto Gooramadda Rd

8.2 km

Turn left onto Police Paddocks Rd

Follow till end turn left at private property

A visit to the wineries for tastings and you will find what is some of the best fortifieds in the world (fuel for the port society)

Lake Mulwala (Natives)

<http://www.australiancampsites.com.au/index.php/component/content/article?id=163:kyfinns-reserve>

Drive to Corowa follow federation drive/spring Rd to **DC on the lake** (left) but crowded on holidays

Parlos (Natives)

<http://www.findacamp.com.au/camp-site.php?camp=289>

Access from the Murray Valley Hwy [B400] on the eastern side of the Ovens River (Parolos) Bridge (24k west of Rutherglen, 22k east of Yarrawonga), north 0.2k on Williams Track, left 0.6k on Parolos Track (both well-formed earth)



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



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Username: @bass_sydney

**Next Meeting is on
Tuesday <9th August
2016> - 7:30pm at
Northmead Bowling Club**

Monthly Fishing Cartoon

Whenever it's the Bass 'closed season', it's family time.



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