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Presidents Message

Dear members and affiliates,

Time has flown past the last two months. I just realised this month is the bass catch month again. I've only fished once for Bass this season as work has been hectic — this was our Karuah outing. I won't tell you just yet how we all did as that would spoil Milton's story. Last month we had a well attended bush regen day at Bents Basin. We made a start at cleaning the African olives near the dam. The rangers were impressed by how much we did, but there's still a lot to do. We're planning on going again at the beginning of next year. So come and join us in helping to get rid of this pest. Doug and Alan have been working hard behind the scenes to get a new grant for our Emu Plains site, fingers crossed.

Last thing i would like to mention, yes it's a bit early, but our Christmas dinner for members and sponsors is going to be a bit different this year. It'll be a Saturday lunch for the whole family so keep Saturday the 9th of December free! More info to follow.

~ Rico

What's new:

- Bass Sydney would like to welcome its newest sponser **Australian Bass Angler** in Penrith. They will generously offer a store discount to all Bass Sydney members which amounts to 10% off most items in store. When it comes to up-market (expensive) items like top shelf reels, fish finders, Minn Motas etc. they will surf around the net and find the best prices in Australia and will match or beat. See the sponsors section for store details.

- Bass Sydney Sponsor Dreamfish is offering club members a 20% discount through their online store. Just add “Bass Sydney 20” as the coupon code. Welcome aboard to our newest sponsors!

Bass Stranded in LNCP fishway 03/10/17

Unfortunately due to the drought Bass have been unable to access the freshwater above the weir on their return from spawning. They are able to reach the large pool half way up the fish way shown below, but cannot travel any further as there is no water flow to allow it.



The pool is about five metres long by three metres wide and up to a metre deep. National Parks are aware of the problem and Rob Porter the head Ranger has set up a pump to move water from the upstream side of the weir into the pool in an attempt to maintain the water oxygenation and allow the fish to stay healthy until they can be caught and released above the weir. The problem with trying to net the fish is they move so fast it's pretty much impossible to catch them as National Parks are finding.

Alan, Matt, Rico and I were going down on Sunday or Monday to help, but in the end cancelled out as Ranger Andrew Duffy advised he was reasonably confident they had finally caught all the Bass and the remaining fish were Mullet.

Bass Sydney Photo Competition

Hi members—after some nice pics circulating from recent fishing trips we've decided to run a monthly photo competition open to all members. You are encouraged to get involved and submit one photo per month. Photos can be of anything fishing related and do not need to include Bass so be as creative as you like. There are a few rules:

- Photos must be from the current season only (from April 2017 onwards)
- No Bass photos to be entered during closed season (May 1 to August 31)
- One photo per member per month

All entries to be emailed to Jason at nmcmasterj@tradies.com.au and the Committee will decide on one winner each month and will be published in the Battler. Each monthly winner will then be considered for the Photo of the Year to be voted on by all members before the 2018 AGM. The winner will receive a great prize (to be confirmed soon). We look forward to seeing some great pics!!

Cheers,
~ Jason

The Editors Message

Hi guys, I've just spent a month overseas sailing the Dalmatian coastline in Croatia, then headed to Mykonos and Samos in Greece, and finished with a few days in Ho Chi Min City in Vietnam, so I've done zero fishing and nothing to report. As it pertains to the Battler I've been getting some great submissions which really helps to keep each edition interesting and full of content. One thing I would like to mention though is that submissions should be free from personal formatting. I change all the formatting to suit the Battler anyway, so please do not spend all your time formatting text and images to make them look a certain way because it actually takes me long to remove all your formatting and change it to the correct formatting for the Battler — thanks for your understanding (it will save us both time so a win-win). Hope everyone will start chasing some Bass now that the season has officially begun!

Cheers,
~ Pete

BASS SYDNEY CALENDAR 2017		
<i>Emu Plains Working Bees are normally the first Saturday of the month</i>		
May	20	LCR– Wirrong Flat
June	13	General Meeting
	18	Roseville Saltwater
July	23	Sydney Harbour Luderick
August	8	GENERAL MEETING
	13	Burns Bay Saltwater
September	16/17	Karuah River
October	10	GENERAL MEETING
	21/22	H/NEPEAN BASS CATCH Yarra
November	11	LANE COVE RIVER Bass
	18/19	Williams River Bass Catch
December	9	CHRISTMAS Function
BASS SYDNEY CALENDAR 2018		
January	20/21	Colo River
February	13	GENERAL MEETING
	17/18	H/NEPEAN BASS CATCH Bents
March	17/18	Williams River Bass Catch
	24	Nepean Reach 5
April	10	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
* EVENTS IN BOLD ARE POINT SCORE EVENTS *		

Bass Sydney Bents Basin Bush Regeneration

On Saturday September 23 six members Rico, Doug, Brian, Jason, Milton & Damian along with some family spent the morning cutting, poisoning and removing African Olive seedlings, shrubs and trees that infest the bush within this conservation area. It was hot hard work with the temperature hovering around 36 degrees, but the enthusiasm shown by all was impressive considering the conditions. A break around ten with cool drinks, Rico's cookies and hot tea kept members going. A BBQ under a shady wattle tree followed around 1pm with food provided by Ranger Toni.



Then Damian & Jason grabbed their rods and headed for the Basin to have a flick or two. Damian set up with Mia (?) & Grace whilst Rico, Jason & Milton headed off downstream to find some decent fishable water. Jason got the fright of his life almost stepping on a black snake, luckily, it beat a hasty retreat across the river and up the opposite bank. The highlight of the walk downstream was a very nice 350 landed by Jason which I think made up for the snake fright five minutes earlier. Thanks to all who made the effort and it was nice to see Doug bring his teenage family members Jacinta & Justin.



Bass Sydney Karuah Weekend

I'm sure most Bass fishers were eagerly awaiting an opportunity to wet a line when the season opened on September 1, however the first real chance came during our Club weekend on September 16/17 beside the Karuah River at Booral. Some members were lucky enough to make it an extra-long weekend from Thursday to Monday.

John and mate Shayne arrived on Thursday and after setting up camp were eager to fish the camp pool. The river was extremely low after the long dry spell and just a trickle flowed down through the river stones at the launching spot. Not only that, but the water was icy, a bad sign no doubt and these factors together with the ever present cool wind were a major reason why the fishing was really tough going all weekend.

However, we just have to take this stuff on the chin and press on and try our best to land a fish or two. Doug and Rico left Chatswood early on Friday and fished the Branch river on the way and the results were negative. Alan and I arrived on Friday around lunch and whilst setting up John & Shayne returned from a session on the camp pool for zilch. Sadly, this was to be a tough introduction for Shayne as his first Bass fishing experience. As we all know when one starts chasing Bass for the first time it can become a steep learning curve initially and the catch rate is extremely low mainly due to casting inaccuracy and lure presentation particularly if the fish are shut down.



Once Rico and Doug set up camp they joined Alan and I for a fish on the camp pool later in the afternoon. There was absolutely nothing happening, no Cicadas, no moths or water dragons which pretty much summed up the afternoon. The river was just dead and the air was cool with a keen breeze blowing downstream, typical of early season fishing after a drought. Amazingly not long after we started I managed to land a healthy Bass that went 355 on a 1/16 ounce Chatterbait, a solid fish and would you believe the leader knot parted just as the fish was scooped up in the net. I always struggled with that improved Albright. Doug had issues with his leader too, but did not have any spare, I had some leader, but couldn't remember how to tie a leader knot, truly a comedy of errors. So, we rafted our kayaks together midstream while Doug retied two new leaders using Slim Beauties. Being blown into the overhanging branches didn't help where Doug's line became hopelessly tangled just down from the rod tip. Fishing rivers with low branches and snags is a test of one's patience. At the end of the session the total was two fish, my 355 and a 329 to Rico.

Matt launched his boat at Allworth on the way to camp and fished the racks and caught two bream then tried the Branch river up to the first rock bar, but the wind was brutal and made fishing difficult for a nil result. John & Shayne fished downstream of Booral bridge and John caught a nice 380 in the riffles. Arriving back at camp it was time to scurry around and find some kindling to light the fire. John had kindly bought a load of firewood and Keith arrived with another so we were set for a night or two. Matt arrived with his boat, kayak and set up camp.

Happy hour was approaching so it was time for pre-dinner drinks and think about the dinner menu. As we finished dinner the temperature began to fall so it was time to sit around the fire, warm up and nut out a plan for Saturday. Of course the Bass Sydney Port Appreciation Club reconvened since our last meeting and we started with a bottle Rico bought along with tea, coffee and dark chocolate. Definitely the way to go and I can assure you the evenings around the campfire were really something special. Friday night was cold, but we all managed to get some sleep apart from Matt who unfortunately ended up with a very upset tummy and had to make two dashes to the loo during the night. According to

Matt, it was bloody freezing at 3am and the five-minute sprint to the toilet isn't great when you need to get there in a hurry. Thankfully he recovered and felt better by Saturday evening.

Saturday dawned and the plan was: John, Shayne and Matt would fish from Booral bridge down, Doug & Rico would fish from Booral bridge up. Whilst fishing about 400 meters from the bridge Rico came across a calf stuck beside the bank up to the chin in water, very cold and exhausted. Rico spent considerable time making a platform from branches and weeds and dug steps in the bank. He got a rope around the neck and was pulling whilst Doug was pushing from behind. That didn't work so Rico paddled back to the bridge and went up to the farm there, but there was no one home. When Rico returned he saw a wet trail along the bank and could hear the calf calling for mother, so a happy ending for one calf and the boys. One very lucky animal and full credit to Mark, Rico and Doug for their efforts and perseverance never giving up. They couldn't paddle away and just leave it to drown.



John, Shayne and Matt fished below the bridge for nil whilst Doug and Rico fared the same so that was it for Saturday.

Alan & I decided to give fishing a miss with drive to Gloucester and check out the river there, also have a look at the Barrington. Sadly, Keith arrived just as we were about to leave so the idea of making Gloucester for lunch went out the window. Two bananas each a Woolies in Gloucester was about the best we could do although a cup of coffee at Wards River on the return journey saved the day. Both the Barrington and Gloucester rivers looked good with ample depth and flow, much better than the Karuah. We took the loop road from Barrington back to Buckets way and you Ford the rivers

twice on the way. I think it would be worth camping in the caravan park in Gloucester and fishing both these rivers as they are close together.

Happy hour sitting around the fire with cheeses, dips, nuts and a glass of red on Saturday evening was a wonderful way to end a rather fishless day, but it's definitely the next best thing if it's cold. Matt calmed his tummy with a scotch or two so he must have been feeling better.

On Sunday morning there was an impromptu trophy presentation at camp as Alan presented Rico with the Club Person of the Year Award, nice and well deserved for one of the most liked and enthusiastic members and of course our new President. Congratulations Rico.



John had to hit the road so we helped pack up his gazebo etc. and bid him farewell. Shayne had left on Saturday afternoon. Doug & Rico headed to Bulahdelah to fish the Myall, whilst Alan & I decided to check out the boat ramp at Allworth. The Myall didn't fire so Doug & Rico joined by Matt headed for the Williams. After looking over Allworth Alan & I headed for Clarence Town hopefully to catch up with the boys, but whilst we saw their cars at the boat ramp they were still downstream. The Williams fished better than the other rivers and the end result was Doug managed two, Matt 2 and Rico 4 all around 250 so things were looking up. On return to camp Matt a packed up and left as he had to work on Monday.

Trent and mate Taz arrived at camp just before dinner on Sunday evening after fishing above Stroud Road. They essentially walked the river, dragged their kayaks and fished the small pools, it was tough going and one fish each was the best they could do. Like Shayne, Taz had never been Bass fishing either, but he loved it and the bush bashing didn't seem to bother him. As the sun began to set below the hill behind camp a very cold southerly wind started to blow upstream and the temperature plummeted, Sunday night was freezing and most had two or three layers on to keep warm. By this time we were on the third bottle of port and we really needed it to keep warm.

After a leisurely breakfast Alan, Doug, Rico & I began the unenviable task of packing up ready to head home on Monday. Doug & Rico went home via Seaham and fished the Williams for nil result, but you have to give these two boys ten out of ten for perseverance and effort. I was last to leave and will look forward to returning after some rain when the river receives a rise and the weather warms up, hopefully with some Bass Sydney member company.



It was a wonderful weekend, whilst the fishing could have been a lot better the social aspect was excellent and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Also great to see guys like Matt, John and Trent with mates join us and experience the great campsite at Booral on the Karuah and give them the opportunity to fish some new spots.

Thanks to Alan who kindly gave me an in depth lesson tying the Improved Albright with some heavy cord so now I'm confident that my leaders and any future Bass will stay attached. He had showed me a number of times in the past, but I didn't practice and tie it enough to remember.

Finally thanks also to those that made the effort to come along and make it an enjoyable weekend.

~Milton

Flying Doctor issues new snakebite advice, PUBLISHED - 05 Oct 2017

The Royal Flying Doctor Service South Eastern (RFDS SE) Section has updated its advice and procedures following the publication of a new snakebite study. [The Australian Snakebite Project](#) is the most comprehensive ever carried out, involved over 1500 patients and collated snakebite data from the past 10 years (2005-15).

“The publication of this study is very timely as the warm, dry winter and sudden rise in temperatures has brought snakes out early this year,” said Tracey King, Senior Flight Nurse at RFDS SE, who has attended snakebites during her career.

“As venomous snakes are found in every state and territory we urge everyone, not just those in the warmer Outback locations, to be vigilant.”

[“There are around 3,000 reported snakebites each year in Australia, resulting in 500 hospital admissions and an average of two fatalities.”](#)

The Australian Snakebite Project threw up some surprising statistics, which challenges many long-held perceptions about where snake attacks occur and how to treat them.

In those attacks in which the snake was positively identified, the brown snake was the most common biter (41%), followed by the tiger snake (17%) and red-bellied black snake (16%).

Three-quarters of the people bitten are males aged in their 30's. Most snake attacks occur near houses, not in the bush. Half of all bites occurred while people were out walking, with gardening and trying to catch a snake the most common other scenarios.

While only 20- 25 out of 835 cases they studied resulted in death, the effects of a snakebite can be debilitating and far-reaching. Three-quarters of those bitten experienced venom-induced consumption coagulopathy, which causes blood clotting and life-threatening hemorrhages. Acute kidney injuries, brain and muscle damage and cardiac arrest are other possible side effects.

“That’s why it’s important that people act quickly after a possible bite,”

said Tracey. “Surprisingly, they’re often painless and may go unnoticed as tissue damage is mostly light – lacerations, scratches or light bruising along with some bleeding or swelling. As over 90% of snakebites we found to occur on the upper and lower limbs, these are the places to check first.”

“Common symptoms include an unexplained collapse, vomiting and abdominal pain, bleeding or paralysis.”

Many dangerous myths surround the treatment of snakebites. The most important dos and don'ts include.

Do NOT wash the area of the bite or try to suck out the venom. It is extremely important to retain traces of venom for use with venom identification kits.

Do NOT incise or cut the bite, or apply a high tourniquet. Cutting or incising the bite won't help. High tourniquets are ineffective and can be fatal if released.

Do bandage firmly, splint and immobilise to stop the spread of venom. All the major medical associations recommend slowing the spread of venom by placing a folded pad over the bite area and then applying a firm bandage. It should not stop blood flow to the limb or congest the veins. Only remove the bandage in a medical facility, as the release of pressure will cause a rapid flow of venom through the bloodstream.

Do NOT allow the victim to walk or move their limbs. Use a splint or sling to minimise all limb movement. Put the patient on a stretcher or bring transportation to the patient.

Do seek medical help immediately as the venom can cause severe damage to health or even death within a few hours.

The new study has prompted the RFDS SE to reverse previous long-standing advice about the importance of identifying the colour and type of snake.

“Staying in the area after an attack can be dangerous and recent advances in medication mean we can now treat any snakebite with a generic polyvalent anti-venom, so identification is no longer necessary.”

Original article from: <https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/news/flying-doctor-issues-new-snakebite-advice/>

New Bass Sydney Trophy

Former long-term committee member and local Bass enthusiast Warren Willoughby who moved from Glendenning to Narromine many years ago kindly donated a new club trophy. The trophy is for the Largest Bass of the Year and applies to wild river fish caught in the period from one AGM to the next.



Your fish must be witnessed by another member with photographic proof to be eligible.

The nameplate along the bottom is engraved BASS SYDNEY Donated by Warren Willoughby.

The committee would like to thank Warren for his generosity and we look forward to engraving the name of the member who manages to catch the largest Bass each year.

Monthly Fishing Cartoon



**Next Meeting is on Tuesday
November 7
7:30pm at
Northmead Bowling Club**

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