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Editor's Message

If anyone is interested in the opportunity to take over the role of Editor for the Battler, please let myself or a committee member know.

~ Pete

President's Message

Hi all, it's that dreaded time of year again, Bass Season is closed. Myself and a fair few people will be chasing some estuary species during the winter months, so If you want to catch up sometime, have a chat, hopefully catch a few fish as well, flick me an email, sent me a txt or call.

The club is doing well, most members have signed up again for this year, thank you and thanks for your support and effort you put in to our little club each and every time. Our new events calendar is out, pick one up at the next general meeting in June. Matt will sent out invites and locations to all members 2 weeks before as well. There are some nice trips on the calendar: some salt water outings and a black fish session in Sydney harbour. The Karuah trip will be the first Bass trip of the year on the 15-16 of September. I have booked my holiday back to the Netherlands after I knew when this weekend was on as I don't want to miss it. It can be cool in the mornings, but it's a great weekend away and if the water is flowing, there's some great bass to be caught. So check out the calendar and hope to see you at one of the events one day. October we have besides our bass catch the Gone

Fishing Day. This will be held on the 14th of October. A small subcommittee has been working behind the scenes for a few months now to make this a big event. More on this in the next Battler.

Our Site at Emu Plains is looking fantastic! If you haven't been in a while, It's good to come and see how the plants have kicked along and how big the trees are we planted 3 years ago. Thanks to all the volunteers who put in a few hours on the first Saturday of the month.

We'll I'm off to Darwin for a 4wd trip to Cairns and Cape York. Unfortunately my mate doesn't like fishing, he hate's it with a passion(I know, how is it still a mate!) But I'm bringing a little travel rod and have a few cast if I can. More on this trip in the next battler (with some pictures of a barra would be nice!)

~ Rico Van De Kerkhof

Club General Meeting 12th June

Our next club general meeting will be held on the 12th June 2018 @ 7:30 pm in the board room if available and in a quiet area of the bar if not.

Location: NBC Club, 166 Windsor Road, Northmead, NSW. ([Link to NBC Map](#))

If you are interested in joining the Bass Sydney Club, this is a good opportunity to see what it's about and meet some of the other members. After the meeting we will be having a reel maintenance session. The pictures below show a despairing Rico after a previous session we had. We got it back together good as new in the end!



Davidson Park - Roseville

Date: Saturday 16th June 2018 BBQ at 2:30pm

Where: Davidson Park Roseville – Please note: NPWS fees apply \$8 per car per day

<https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/Davidson+Park>



This event is a salt water event, fishing for bream, flathead, trevally and whatever else you may catch. Be prepared for surface fish such as tailor and salmon and there is even the chance of an EP!

Roseville is suitable for boats, with a good ramp and parking and also plenty of yak territory, It is also suitable for land-based fishing and a great place to take the kids.

We propose that we have a Barbecue lunch (BYO) at about 2.30pm on the day.

We will have some raffles and hopefully a lucky door prize. Please bring whatever you want to eat and drink and we will fire up the barbecue. Tea and coffee will be provided,

Tides at Roseville Bridge

Low	4:19am	0.22m
High	10:23am	1.5m
Low	4:02pm	0.42m

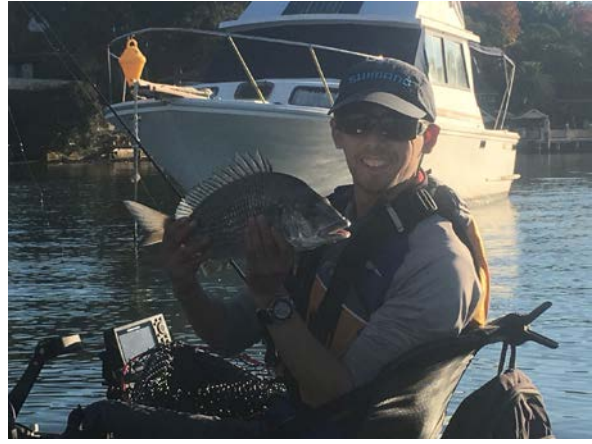
Burns Bay May 2018

Our first club outing of the year after the end of Bass season was a good one. We had a great turnout, 4 pairs in boats and 4 kayaks. The weather was sensational, crisp early and then warm in the sun with not a cloud in the sky.

Jason and Damian fished the early session. They hit the water just before 7am and were greeted by salmon busting up just near the ramp in Burns Bay. But, as others confirmed during the day, they were small schools and flighty and no one caught a salmon this time round. They had a good early bite downstream towards Longueville wharf until about 8:45. Best bream a 38 FL that fell to a cranka crab, there were a few more on an atomic crank and slim swimz. Damian got a nice flathead and a few small tailor rounded out the morning. Brian fished with Milton in his boat, but they sadly went fishless, but they did give Nathan a tow, he also went fishless! But you wouldn't know it, I think we were all just glad to be alive and out and about on such a beautiful day.



Doug and Jeremy were out and about after lunch and concentrated on boat hulls. They hit a bit of a sweet spot just downstream opposite Tambourine Bay. They got some nice fish off boat hulls in about 4m of water on the run out tide. Jeremy got three, with a 36FL the best, Doug ended up with 13 including a 38FL all on slim swimz. Jeremy lost a nice fish at the mouth of Burns Bay when the hook snapped!



I fished with my mate Rod, and we had a strange sort of a day. We were getting bites continuously, especially up the river towards the starch factory where there were some pretty large schools of tailor. Rod got a couple of flathead, one of them the only legal fish we caught. I ended up with eight or so small bream of various sizes and we both caught chopper tailor. I had a good few moments just before we motored home. I got busted off twice to good fish in the same spot, before hooking up a big flathead which we got to the net before it pinged the 4lb leader and got away. It always felt like we were going to land some nice fish but it never really happened.



Matt H, Tham and Andre all reported slow fishing, Andre got a couple of legal bream, but again slow going unless you found the patches of bigger fish, out in the current under the boat hulls.

As always we had a BBQ, and as always Milton kindly brought it along and set it up and brought tea and coffee. This sort of dedication is what makes the club great and days like Sunday so worthwhile. It was nice to have a good crowd of a dozen, with plenty of tales to tell. It was also great to see Milton's boat, pretty jealous I must say!



We took the time to present Matt Hahn with his biggest bass trophy, for his late season 411. Well done Matt. Thanks to all who turned out and made it a great club day.

~ Matt McHugh

The Northern Rivers of NSW

Doug and I (Rico) have been planning a trip to the Northern Rivers of NSW for 2 years. Every time we get close of going, something came up. This time we booked it with Dave from Wild river tours: <https://wildrivertours.com.au/>. We've seen his trips and client stories on Facebook and that's exactly what we wanted. Damian's supervisors gave him the week off so he joined us as well. Of we went to Jackadgery. This is where we would meet Dave. After a quick stop at Mo tackle, we arrived at the campsite around 430. When Dave got there we quickly put our gear on and in his trailer, grabbed a burger for dinner and set off to the banks of the Nymboida at Buccarumbi— 4 days and around 44km of river to conquer (at least for some it was). After setting up our tent Doug and I went out for a flick. Started fishing around the rapid and soon there was interest in my lure. After a few more cast it was back and I was on. After a short fight I was in a way disappointed, not a 40+cm bass but a

nice healthy 45cm Eastern cod. Happy as this was my first cod. After a few snaps it went back to where it came from. That was all the action for the first night.



In the morning we skipped brekkie, sorted and packed our gear in the yaks and canoes (Damian was in one of Dave's canoes) and a safety briefing, we really set of for our adventure.



Water was clear and Dave told us, stealth is the key. We had a few surface hits but no hook ups. As the sun came up higher it got harder to get hits on the surface. We changed to spinnerbaits, chatterbaits divers. After lunch on the banks of the river we changed our retrieves and we started to find some fish. No bass yet, but that couldn't be for long, or could it be. The best for that day was a nice 60cm Eastern cod. A quick photo and back to casting.



First day Damian and I had caught a few EC, but Doug was still on a donut for the trip. We arrived at our first camp spot around 4 that afternoon. Setting up camp and a few cold ones, this is life! Dave cooked up a great dinner and after washing up, we decided to try our luck at night. The rapids seemed to always hold a few fish. And yep we got a few EC again. Where are those bass!! The flow took us slowly down the river.



Doug had a few cast and came up empty. After a retrieve he let his lure just hanging in the water and BOOF! A big fish took his nice \$400 combo (Stradic 2500) over the edge of his kayak and it was gone before he could get a good grip on it. Well that ended our night fish session a bit early.

The next morning Damian, Doug and I were on the water early for a fish and a look for Doug's pride possession he lost the night before. No luck. A big breakkie cooked on the fire by Dave and on the water we went again. Damian went in Doug's Kayak and Doug in the canoe for the day.



When Dave got on the water he quickly found Doug's rod. Problem was, about 3mtr down in a fast flowing section of the river. We anchored up the crafts and Doug grabbed his goggles and put on my go pro.



After a first go coming up fruitless he tried again. On the video you see the rod just out of reach. Getting tired he gave it one more go, and this time he came back to the surface with his rod and reel. Could this be the change for Doug? We got to the first rapid and had to get out and walk it down to get past it. Dave went first and showed us what to do. Letting go is the key part especially when Dave tells you to...



... Doug's canoe got caught on a rock. I tried to get there in time to straighten it up but before we knew the canoe filled up with water and all the gear was floating everywhere down the river.



I got most stuff downstream as Doug, Dave and Damian got the canoe floating again and grabbed all the gear that was floating around in the eddies.



What more can go wrong for Dangerous Doug!? Well I tell you. Damian still had Doug's Stradic in his kayak from previous incident. As Damian tried to hand it over to Doug, Doug hit Damian's hand with the paddle and there went the Stradic, in the drink again. It was laying 2mtrs down on a edge of a 4mtr drop off. Damian got it and of we went fishing again. And this was just day 2.



We finally got a few fish each on day 2 and still, all eastern cod. Are there any bass in this system, if so where are they?? We camped just above the intersection of the Nymboida and Mann on day 2. The country had changed and was much more like a gorge. On the way there Dave told us that this was holding some nice bass. A quick dinner and setting up the camp and out fishing again. We all got a few cod and decided to go out just before sunrise.



YES! I got the first Bass. The trick was long casts next to the big rocks with eddies behind them. I got 5 in total that morning.



As our campsite for the next night wasn't too far downstream, we took it easy. We also had a nice big waterfall to conquer, just after where the Mann and Nymboida meet. A slow day fishing wise. A few hits, but no hook ups. Dave was convinced we would get some fish at night near the campsite. The water was very warm and it was nice to swim out a bit and enjoy a cold one in the middle of the river.



At just after sunset the plan was to go out and walk the banks. There was about 300mtrs of flowing water with tussocks, rocks and a little island. Match the hatch was the way to go on the bass.

We tied our big surface lures on and waded in the river to get as far as we could. I think Damian was the first to land a nice cod on the Dreamfish bug. Doug had one too and I was still waiting. As we were leapfrogging along the banks, it was Damian's turn to cast. 'You go Rico, I already got one' he said. Words he would regret soon after. I had to walk in the river to get past and stand on a big rock to cast towards the island. First retrieve nothing. Next cast landed a little bit further upstream. A slow roll and Boof. No hook up, I kept it cool and didn't strike. 'Was that you' yelled Dave. Yep I answered, are you on? No, missed it. BOOF he had another go at it. Are you on yet, no still not. Nervously waited for a 3rd one, 3 winds in and a big loud Boof and I yelled, 'now I'm on'.

'What is it??' I said, can't see mate to dark but doesn't fight like a cod! When it came in closer I turned my head torch on and 'Yes, big Bass'. Climbed down the rock and guided it between the rocks to the shore. Did I finally crack the 400!!??



On the brag matt, and it came just short. 390fl and 400 total length. But I upgraded my pb and that's what I came for. I slept well that night! From here it was a half day peddle down to the bridge in Jackadgery. We packed our gear up and thanked Dave for an awesome trip.

If you have plans to do a trip like this, get an experienced guide!

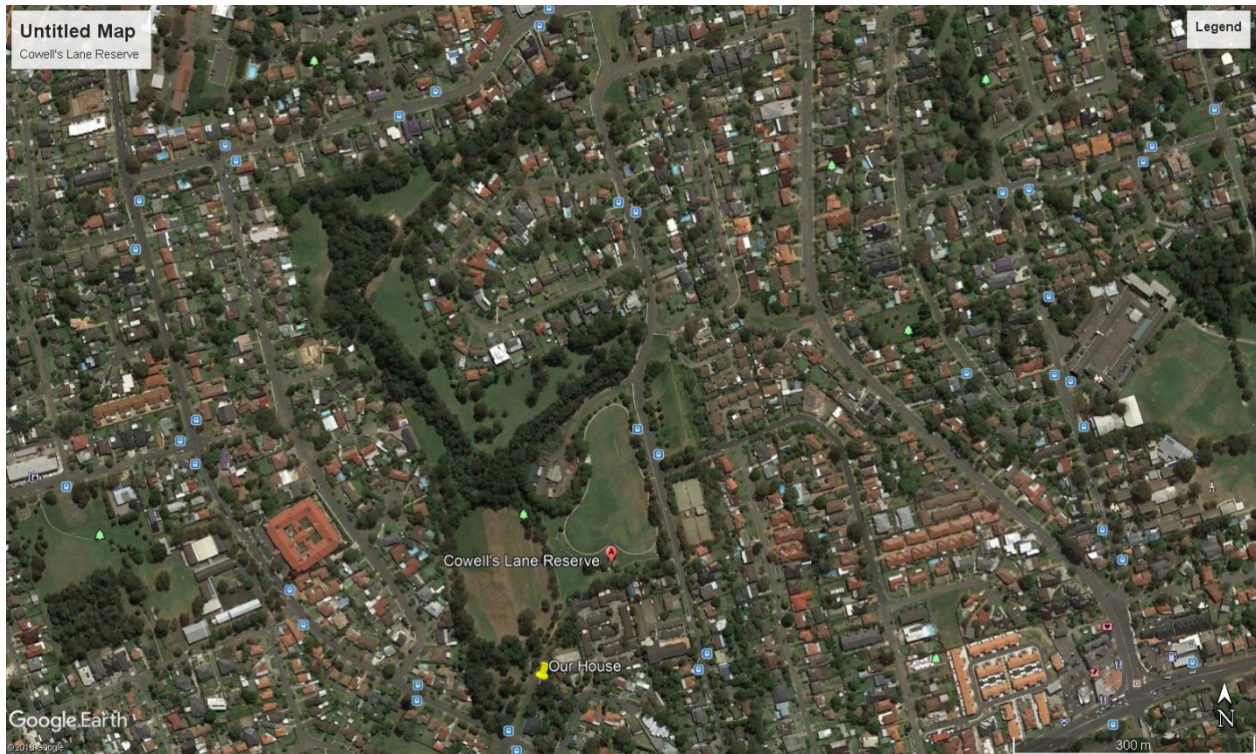
Knowledge about the area, rapids and falls as well as water heights and weather is crucial to make it safely back down to camp and catch a few fish along the way as well.

Check out: <https://wildrivertours.com.au/> and get in contact with Dave. He's more than helpful and he'll make it an unforgettable trip. (And he's not a bad cook either!)

~ Rico

PADDOCK TO PARK

This is not a boating or fishing article, it's about what you can achieve with a bit of hard work, enthusiasm, a few neighbours, persistence and a great Council. I live in Ermington and our block backs on to Cowells Lane Reserve. Apart from a portion of Cowell's Lane and a short length of Kissing Point road the entire reserve is surrounded by the back fences of houses with various entry paths here and there.



THE RESERVE WITH TREE LINES FOLLOWING THE CREEKS

When we bought our house 46 years ago the reserve was just a grassy wasteland with a creek and a lot of dumped rubbish. There were few trees and the creek would often overflow after heavy rain and flood the properties downstream.

Some years later Parramatta Council had a vision to develop it into a park. They placed an advertisement in our local paper asking for expressions of interest from people in the area to form a bush regeneration group and turn it into a place for the local community. There was a good response, so we formed a committee, had monthly meetings and applied to Council for a small grant, that being part of their offer.

First up we hired a large truck, cleaned up all the rubbish, then began procuring trees in tubes and started the task of planting along the creek and around some of the perimeter. To slow the rush of water during sustained heavy rain, a large retention basin was built to arrest the



flow and allow a controlled amount to continue down the creek. It was like a big shallow bath tub with a small outlet. This was a huge undertaking as it's larger than a football field, 200 x 100 x 3 metres deep. The top soil was removed, heavy machinery formed the basin into shape and once finished the top soil was replaced allowing grass and shrubs to grow. In our time living here, I have seen it full twice and you could sail a boat from one end to the other. The basin is visible just behind the 'Our House' pin in the bottom left hand corner of the reserve on the Google photo.



A RECENT ADDITION & JUST COMPLETED IS A STONE & ROCK SPILLWAY LEADING INTO THE RETENTION BASIN. THE SIDES HAVE BEEN PEGGED USING HESSIAN THEN PLANTED OUT. THE WATER FLOW IS FROM THE RIGHT AND FLOWS INTO THE BASIN TO THE LEFT. THE ROCKS REDUCE WATER VELOCITY.



THE RETENTION BASIN BBQ, PLAY AREA & FITNESS PATH TREES WE PLANTED

Unfortunately, I don't have any old photos showing how it was, but to see it today after our tree planting efforts over 36 years ago is really amazing. The Council has since built a 500 metre concrete

fitness path on the top level with various types of exercise machines, a children's play area complete with shade sails, picnic tables, shelters and two electric BBQ's. An old sewer pump out dumping facility was converted into a Council nurse which now employs three staff, two propagating trees and shrubs for the Parramatta area, whilst the other works full time on mowing, planting, general maintenance and watering.



TREES WE PLANTED AND THE GRANITE PATH OUR TREES ALONG THE CREEK BED

In 2015, a crushed granite pathway 1.5 kilometres long was laid meandering through the trees and over a bridge or two which provides a very pleasant place to walk. The whole park is now a leash free area and Council have provided plastic doggy bag dispensers and collection points. It's a safe and exciting place for dogs to roam free and play, because of the layout and security provided by the surrounding back fences. The number of pet owners who drive from other suburbs to use the park is surprising and Council now treat Cowells Lane Reserve as a high priority.





A NEW BRIDGE A SMALL NATIVE GARDEN PLANTED BY A LOCAL UPSTREAM OF THE NEW BRIDGE THE RETENTION BASIN OUTLET WITH SPRAY GRASS

When we chat to people in the park and they comment on how nice it is and I look back at what it was, and what it is now, it does give me, my wife Lyn & others who helped a great sense of satisfaction. I've written this article because Lyn and I love this park, we walk our small dog Fletcher there every day and meet the regulars with their dogs. In fact, we've formed a small social group with these people and celebrate everyone's birthday with lunch out. Human's birthdays, not dog birthdays too. I've also written this article to show what can be done with some effort, and whilst our site at Emu Plains is on a much smaller scale it's a similar thing. As Alan mentioned recently, the member effort is waning, so I hope this may rekindle some enthusiasm and if you could spare the odd half day now and again it would be appreciated.

~ Cheers, Milton.

Endless Summer

Whilst it's officially autumn, it still felt like summer until we awoke on Friday the 11th May and stepped outside into a brisk 17 degrees, so it looks like the wonderful weather has finally ended. Sadly, I guess it couldn't last and being a 28-degree man 17 was pretty fresh, almost scarf and beanie weather for me.



Anyhow, I took the opportunity in the past two weeks to launch the tinny and wet a line. My first outing was with Doug Chang to learn some of his tried and proven tactics finesse fishing for Bream on the Lane Cove River, his home patch. As mentioned in previous articles I'm pretty hopeless at catching anything in the salt and any fish that ends up on my line has just been plain unlucky.

Doug kindly downsized my Bass leader from 12 to 6lbs and tied on his trusty Z-Man Slim SwimZ with a 1/12 oz jig head. We pottered out of Burns Bay with a flick here and there down the sides on moored yachts to no avail, then motored up under Figtree Bridge and set the Minn Kota up to hold us within casting distance on the starboard channel pylon just upstream of the bridge. We cast either side and just behind the pylon on the run-out tide and eventually low and behold I hooked up to something. Doug was diagnosing what type of fish it was looking at my rod tip and as always, it's an exciting time waiting to see what you have managed to capture. Blow me down it was a Trevally and don't these guys go on a light rod. It was a first for me and I was stoked. Good for shichimi according to Doug, but I'm over killing a fish these days so after a photo back it went, not without sucking my thumb for a while like Bass do. As you see in the photos, once again my sort of weather, about 28 degrees and very pleasant on the water. My next fish was a Flattie about 350 who unkindly punched his gill spike into my index finger as I was attempting to remove the hook. Very inconsiderate I thought and it bled for a while, ever tried to cast a thread line with a tissue wrapped around your index finger. It just doesn't work. Doug followed up with a Flattie before we decided to try our luck and fish along the shore just upstream of the southern end of the bridge. No real action here so we moved downstream and tried the shady side of yacht hulls again, but the big Bream that often lurk here where elsewhere. Doug enjoyed his bacon and egg roll whilst operating the Minn Kota remote. It takes five minutes or so to get the hang of the operation and if someone is up on the front casting deck you often can't see the motor head to figure out which is forward. The Bluetooth remote combined with the Spot-Lock is an amazing feature which enables you to place and hold the boat wherever you like irrespective of wind and current. A GPS built into the motor head constantly keeps you in position. Anyone considering a new electric bow mount motor should maybe consider one although they are expensive.



We spent the remaining afternoon fishing the hulls with mediocre success, just a few small Bream and



chopper Tailor. About 4pm we pulled the pin and headed back to the ramp, loaded the boat, bid farewell and headed home. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and thanks to Doug for showing me his techniques. With new found enthusiasm I will look forward to trying what I've learnt and seeing if I can manage a Bream or two. The second trip was with Brian Shanley the following week, but beforehand I headed to my local BCF to stock up with Z-Mann Slim

Swimz, GrubZ, 1/12, 1/20 and some six-pound fluorocarbon leader. We launched at the Wharf road boat ramp, my local, being just two kays down the road. A stunning morning and the Parramatta River was a mill pond. We headed downstream and into Hen & Chicken Bay, Brian's patch as he was raised near Abbotsford and has extensive fishing experience in the Bay. We just poked along hoping to see if there was any surface action and blow me down just past Concord jetty and the boat-ramp there were some fishing surfacing. You know the feeling when you see that, the excitement takes over and you try and stay calm whilst grabbing a rod and getting ready to cast. It's usually impossible to do so. Off with the outboard, deploy the Minn Kota and sneak up on the action. Whatever the fish where they played ball, didn't head off and more or less stayed around so we began casting our Z-Man's here and there and bang I hooked into something solid. Again, my trusty 1-3 kg Shimano Light spin was under the pump as this fish took multiple runs and my little Shimano Stradic 1000 was getting a decent work out until I managed to get the fish near the boat. Finally, Brian netted a nice Trevally, a larger one than my fish in the Lane Cove and boy don't these things go. Just can't imagine how a decent GT would be to play and land. We tried to follow the surfacing fish so Brian could hook up, but it wasn't to be as they kept moving ahead of us and out of casting range. Brian did get a solid Flattie only to lose it at the boat and I managed a small Bream. It was such a beautiful day, about 28 degrees and no wind so we made a cuppa, had lunch and just enjoyed being there. After we fished the hulls, but to no avail so we headed down to Gladesville Bridge for a look around, checked out the possibility of fishing Howley Park by boat for Luderick then set out for the ramp.

We did stop for 10 minutes trying our luck at the Jewfish highway, a long deep hole in a bay on the northern shore using larger plastics and jig heads, but to no avail. Then Brian's daughter called saying the loo had blocked up so we high tailed it back at 20 knots so he could rush off and get that sorted. Apart from Brian not hooking into a Trevally we both enjoyed the outing, the weather made it almost perfect.

~ Tight lines all, Milton.

Monthly Fishing Cartoon



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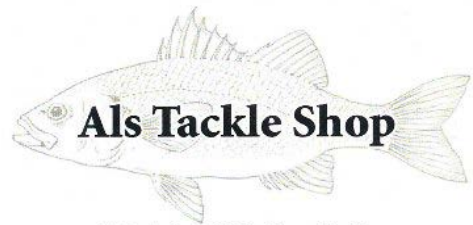
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