

October 2022

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Australian Bass



Percalates Novemaculatea

# THE BRONZE BATTLER

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## President's Message

As another year draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the committee and members for all their support and participation over the year. People is what make clubs & this is a great club due to great people. Hoping the wet weather is behind us and we can head into 2023 with some consistent weather which will enable us to get plenty of bass fishing done. I am looking forward to our annual Christmas dinner and hope to see you all then.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Regards & Tight Lines

Chris Ghosn

## From The Editor

This is a very thin edition of the Battler. I will make no apologies for it as it has been out of our hands, no Bass Catch to review and not much in the way of fishing happening. Keep an eye out at the end for the Christmas Party invitation

Thanks, and Best Regards

Matt McHugh

## Thousand Cast Dam

**Steve Peach sent this quick blurb and beautiful photos in late July 2022:**

Just back from a weekend at Thompsons Creek Dam (sometimes affectionately known as Thousand Cast Dam). It was nice and clear despite heavy rain as it has a very small catchment, most of the water is pumped up there from Lake Lyell. The wind was pretty horrendous on Friday arvo and Saturday, but the fish didn't mind, if you were able to fish in the conditions they were there to be caught. Being mid-winter, the water was cool (12C), and the fish were not chasing anything. So, I found success fishing midge patterns very, very slowly and fairly high in the water column.

I ended up with 21 rainbows for the weekend, best around 45cm. Best flies were a size 18 zebra midge and a size 16 bead head in black, with some flash and a bit of soft hackle. The hard part is retrieving so slowly, just enough to keep in touch without moving the flies much at all, you let the wind and waves do most of the work for you and watch for the line to tighten. Long leaders seem to be essential too.

It can be a frustrating dam to fish but it's also really cool, some great polaroiding around the edges at times, and if you manage to crack the code it can be pretty productive.

Cheers,  
Steve :)











## **A Couple of Bass Matters for a Slow Issue**

I have been having some good sessions on bass and estuary perch in the Hawkesbury in recent weeks and paying a lot of attention to what makes the difference between catching fish and coming up empty.

Confidence in the lure of choice is a good start. Good equipment, rods and reels that are reliable, really help as does braid and leaders that you can trust tied with dependable knots. Some of it is where you fish, shaded banks on the deep corners, submerged snags or man-made structure, eddies out of the current all have their appeal.

However, I believe the aspect that makes the most difference is the cast and the retrieve that follows. Most of the time the lure must be right in tight to whatever it is you are throwing it at. Too far and you get hung up. This is bad, sometimes it is a perfect spot and once hung up you can forget pulling a fish out of there. Too short and you just will not get the fish interested. It really is a matter of inches.

The retrieve that follows is equally as important. Quite often your lure is dropping on top of submerged structure, rock, timber and so on. You want to be retrieving as soon as the lure hits the water for a sinking lure like a chatterbait. Once out from the bank you can give it a few pauses, but that instant retrieve for the jig spins and chatterbaits is important. You may want to modify that approach when you know there is a steep rocky bank or a weed drop off, where you can flutter a sinking lure down, but you need to know that from experience of the spot beforehand.

The opposite is true of floating lures and surface lures, leaving them in one place with several twitches can be a good approach and, on some days, leaving them in place for 30 seconds or so can make all the difference.

A few years into my bass journey I decided to make all my reels left hand wind. This has made a massive difference to my fishing. It is so much quicker to cast, hand flick the bail and retrieve quickly. I don't get snagged as often and I believe that with some lures like chatterbaits, they have taken it as it lands and that quick retrieve effectively set the hook.

Hand flicking the bail is also hugely important, this will reduce wind knots in braid to the point where it happens occasionally. Of course good reels also help to reduce this.

Another thing that helps is having similar rods and reels so that when you are changing between outfits, there isn't so much adjustment to your casting. So, in the kayak, I have a pair of 601 Raiders and when in the tinny have 3 seven-foot Loomis.

Having said all that the most important thing is always to get the lure as close to the structure, feature as you can without hitting it, this is where the bulk of success comes from.

On another point, I caught a 390 estuary perch and a 390 bass on the weekend and photographed them both on the brag mat. It's uncanny how many 390s I have caught over the years! However, I thought I would put the photos here as they are a good demonstration of the differences between Bass and Estuary Perch. Both fish were caught 200 metres apart. Photos on next page.

**Matt McHugh**





# Christmas Dinner – Partners/Spouses Welcome

Where: **Bay Tinh Vietnamese Restaurant**

Date & Time: **Tuesday 13 December at 7:30pm.**

Address: **318 Victoria Rd, Marrickville**

Phone: **95608673**

RSVP: **Hs Tham [ozzybass@yahoo.com](mailto:ozzybass@yahoo.com) before 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

GF – Gluten free | GFO – Gluten free option  
VO – Vegan option available  
*Please advise us of allergies / dietary  
Requirements | gluten free version on request*

## **Bay Tinh Royal Banquet** **\$42 Per Person – minimum four people**

### **Entrées**

- 1 **Duck Salad – Goi Vit. (GFO)**  
Harry's signature duck salad. Twice cooked with aromatic spices; dressed with lime juice, kaffir lime and special Vietnamese ingredients, served with lightly pickle salad in lettuce leaves, accompanied by prawn crackers
- 2 **Spring Rolls – Cha Gio**  
Vietnamese spring rolls served with fish sauce.
- 3 **Crispy Pancake – Banh Xeo (GF)**  
Authentic specialty pancake, filled with prawns, pork, bean sprouts and served with salad, pickles and fish sauce. The light and crispy pancake makes this a repeat favourite
- 4 **Tender Beef Cubes – Bo Luc Lac (GF)**  
Selected yearling grain fed-beef, marinated with the Chef's special recipe and flash seared in high flame to seal in the flavour and juices; served with classic pepper, salt and lemon juice

### **Main Course**

- 5 **Bonfire Prawns and Beef – Tom Bo Quanh Lua Hong (GF)**  
Marinated prawns and beef with onion, cooked in a pot at the table and served with rice paper, lettuce, herbs, pickles and special anchovy sauce.
- 6 **Ballotine of Chicken with Steamed Rice (GF)**  
Boneless Chicken stuffed with pork and egg, grilled to a golden brown, served with a tasty plum sauce and sesame seeds.  
Or  
**Salt & Pepper Calamari with Steamed Rice (GFO)**  
Arguably the best in Sydney! Deep-fried to a taste sensation, served with Harry's spicy lime dipping sauce.  
Or  
**Crispy Noodles Combination – Mi Xao Don Thap Cam**  
Crispy fried egg noodles smothered with seafood, pork and vegetables.



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