

August 2018

www.basssydney.com



PRESIDENT:	Rico van de Kerkhof	Emu Plains P/O	Alan Izzard
VICE PRESIDENT:	Matt McHugh	Lane Cove Environmental L/O:	Matt McHugh
PAST PRESIDENT	Alan Izzard	Parramatta River Environmental P/O	HS Tham
TRESURER	Doug Chang	Bents Basin P/O	Rico van de Kerkhof
SECRETARY	Milton Lazarus	Bass Catch and Point Score Officer:	John Stokes
EDITOR	Lyn Lazarus	Raffles	Nathan Horgan
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members and affiliates,

Another two months have gone since the last Battler - time flies.

Thanks to Pete Hatzidimitriou for the last two years as the editor for the Battler. Job well done mate! And of course, a welcome and "thank you" to Milton and Lyn for putting your hands up, taking over the editor's job from Pete.

We've had the shortest day, now back to the warmer weather. Only another month 'til we can chase our beloved Australian Bass again.

Winter is, for me, a good time to check my lures, change the rusty hooks and organize them so come September, all is good for the new season.

There has been a lot of work done behind the scenes for the Gone Fishing Day (14th of October). We could use some more volunteers for the day, so, if you've got some time that day and would like to help or just need some more information about the day, please contact Alan Izzard by email: alan.izzard.2159@gmail.com

Enjoy the stories in this month's Battler and hope to see a good turnout at the next club outing on the 12th of August. Info has been sent out by Matt McHugh - check your inbox for information

Last but not least:

Just want to thank everyone for putting some time and effort into our little club by showing up to the monthly outings, meetings and the bush regeneration sites.

That's what makes this small club Great!

Rico van de Kerkhof
President, Bass Sydney.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Hello to members of Bass Sydney...

I am happy to take over the editing job of the Battler from Pete.

I have been editing the state newsletter of Riding for the Disabled Association NSW for over 20 years now – a job I enjoy doing now that I am not involved in the more physical work of working with the horses. RDA provides horse related activities for people with a disability. At the time of the equine flu epidemic a few years ago, our seven horses were quarantined at home which was the Royal Rehabilitation Centre at Top Ryde. The time came when the Rehab Centre wanted to sell off their land and develop so the “boys” had to be agisted until a new site could be found. All this took a couple of years, so for me it was a good time to retire.

I have edited your newsletter much the same way as I tackle
“Bits ‘n’ Pieces for RDA.

I am open to suggestions on how you would like it presented etc.

Looking forward to receiving articles at any time.....
Lyn Lazarus

lynlazarus@optusnet.com.au

JUNE GENERAL MEETING

Milton Lazarus

Only seven attended, most of the committee members and Gary Blount. I'm sure members would rather stay at home in the warmth than venture out, which is understandable during the winter months, but disappointing.

Alan and Doug successfully applied for a \$2000 grant to support our efforts at Russell Street so thanks gentlemen for the effort. This will allow us to buy equipment and labour if required.

As you are probably aware the NSW Department of Primary Industries run a Gone Fishing Day annually and this year it is on 14th October at Doll's Point on Botany Bay. Other locations are Albury, Coffs Harbour, Inverell & Lake Illawarra. The Club believes a freshwater event would be more suitable to folk in the western Sydney area, but could not convince NSW DPI to commit so we are going to organise one at Penrith ourselves along with the help of others. Alan and our sub-committee have been busy pulling it all together.

The following is a brief of those prepared to help: BCF, Fish Habitat Network, OzFish Hawkesbury Nepean chapter and Penrith Council so we are extremely thankful for their commitment. There's a lot to do so more detailed information will be published in the October Battler.

After general business was completed Matt presented our Club Person Of The Year trophies. First with 115 points was Alan Izzard & second with 105 points was yours truly. Points are accrued for attending meetings, events, Russell Street and so forth.



At our July Committee Meeting Vice President Matt McHugh presented President Rico van de Kerkhof with the Bass Catch trophy. Rico just beat Gary Blount by a whisker, as it turned out Gary caught more fish, but Rico caught bigger fish which accrued more points.

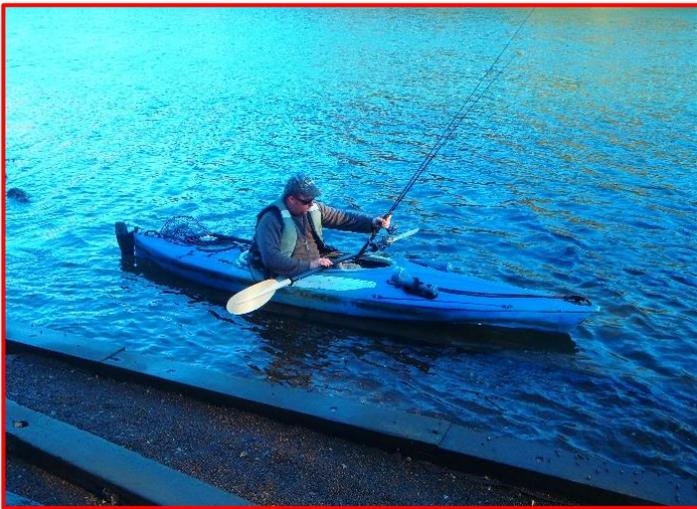
Congratulations to all

ROSEVILLE BRIDGE EVENT

Milton Lazarus

A clear crisp morning with a gentle breeze greeted those attending our second saltwater outing at Davidson Park. This is a great location with a newish dual boat ramp, separate mooring pontoon nearby, two kayak launching ramps and multiple picnic spots, one covered, with electric BBQ's.

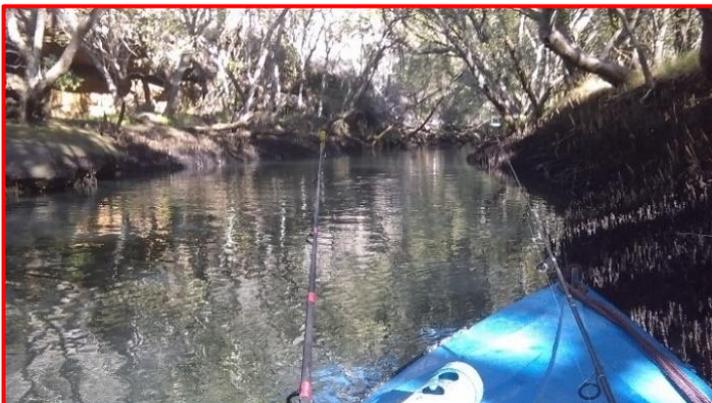
A 2.30pm high tide meant the keen ones could have a decent session before the scheduled BBQ afterwards. Matt was there with his boat and fished down near Sailors Bay for bream & jewfish then retired to the pontoon for a comfortable luderick session. Damian fished upstream in his kayak for tailor whilst Doug decided to join Matt rather than bringing his kayak. My job was to unhook and release the small blackfish that Doug kept catching.



Damian ready for afternoon tea



The kayak ramp



A sneaky creek upstream of the bridge



Doug & Matt chasing luderick

By midday the forecast cold south westerly was building, but luckily the pontoon was reasonably sheltered so the boys kept fishing to the high tide. At that point Damian returned, so we all retired to a sheltered spot in the car park to boil the billy and discuss the morning.

Unfortunately, I think the forecast put a lot of members off and it was in stark contrast to our previous saltwater event at Burns Bay where at least ten members fished. Winter also tends to dampen the enthusiasm of some too, me in particular, so thanks to Matt for preparing the flyer and for his enthusiasm.

Must mention Damian's effort of driving all the way up from Bomaderry to join us.



Damian's catch of the day



The boss was happy with Dad's catch



Time to head home

YAMBA IN JULY

Matt McHugh

My July trip to Yamba was a bit different to previous trips. July in Yamba is usually all about blackfish. long rods, black weed and spots tucked out of the cool westerly are usually what makes Yamba great in July. This time however, the blackfish were very hard to find and even my backstop, the T-piece, was unfishable due to the area being very sanded up. The water was also very clear around the lower river especially on the high tide. So, I concentrated on bottom fishing with soft plastics and I'm very glad I did. I've never really fished with soft plastics much at Yamba, usually we use bait or troll divers for flathead, or fish for blackfish, or target whiting with worms. This was also the first time I have been up there with a fully functioning electric motor and I think this is essential to get the best out of soft plastic fishing there. The river has many rock walls and steep banks and heavy tidal flows, without an electric, you just can't get into the positions required to really present your lure effectively.

I started by targeting a series of jetties and pontoons directly on Oyster Channel. The water is between 10 and 20 feet deep and the tide moves quite quickly in the middle of the tide. First cast back upstream with a 1/8th jig and motor oil slim swimz got taken on the drop, as indicated by the line moving unnaturally.



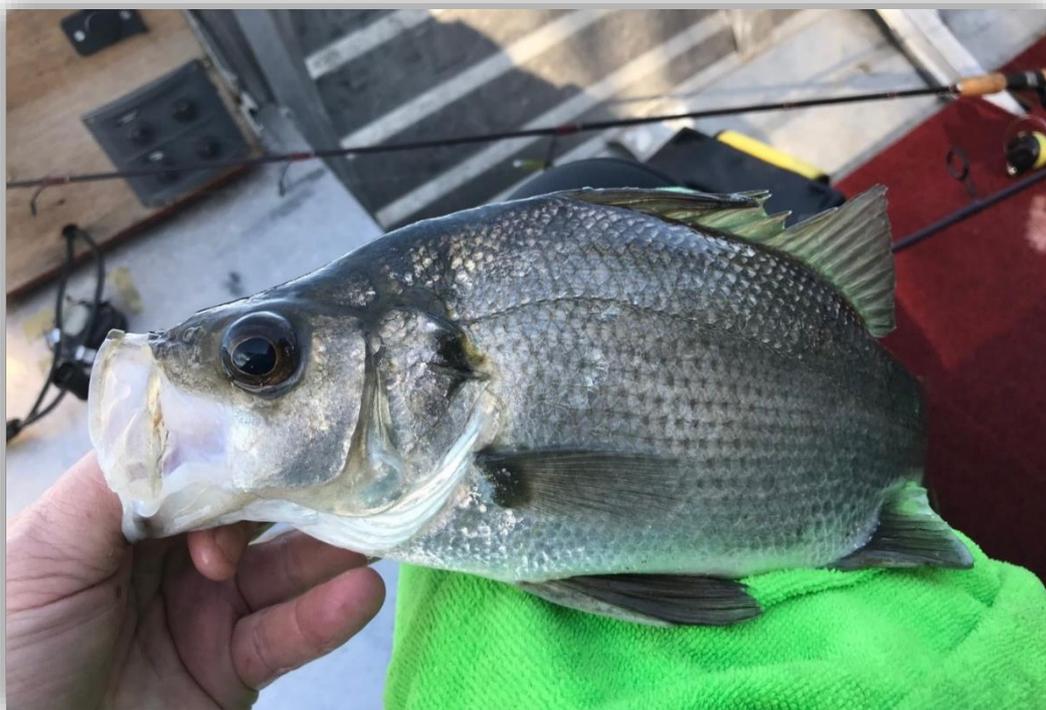
I lifted the rod tip and was into a solid fish and used the electric to steer myself away from the pontoons and into the main river channel. After a bit of to and fro it was obvious that the circling fish was a trevally. A GT as it happens and a nice chunky fish in the mid-thirties. My wife loves sashimi and this one was dispatched and put on ice for dinner.

My next casts were closer into the rock wall but still under the pontoons and nearly every cast was getting a touch, usually as the lure hit the bottom, or on the first crank of the handle. A steady stream of fish started hitting the net, all bream from 28-35 fork and solid fish. They really put up a great fight at

this size. I targeted this stretch over the next few days and found it very productive, with a mix of trevally and bream coming to the net.



Whenever it would go quiet I'd head downstream and try somewhere different. The next productive spot down the river was the steep bank on the eastern side of Sleeper Island. Again, it is 10-20 feet deep with a steep sand/mud bank and fallen trees. At the end of the Island it meets the shortcut of the Clarence River and a natural ambush point for the bait schools that congregate there. The best technique here was to motor against the run-out tide and cast upstream and let the jig wash down. Again, bream were the main quarry here, but I also hooked estuary perch and something big which I never saw. At the junction point, where the Island ends and meets the river, there were trevally and tailor chasing the bait schools, they would also happily take a soft plastic.



The last spot I targeted was the Middle Wall, finding that the best stretch was the southern side on the most upriver section from Freeman Island to the first gap. The fishing here was sensational and was best fished drifting with the tide about 25 metres out from the wall and casting in towards the wall, letting the jig drop about two metres short. The jig would sink avoiding the rocks and kelp and as soon as they hit the bottom on about 15 feet they would be nailed almost every time.



This is fishing at its simplest and most active, lots of casts, lots of bites. I lost the occasional jig, but not as many as you would expect and I only used the one lure, the motor oil slim swimz on a 1/8th 1/0 TT headlockz.



I saw some truly spectacular sights on this trip as well, numerous encounters with dolphins, a couple of turtles, sea eagles and plenty of roos bounding around on the islands. But, the best of all was the kangaroo I saw on the Middle Wall in the middle of the river! He must have swum there and got caught in the tide. I spoke to a couple of pros and they said they see them a couple of times a year, they must try to swim to or from the numerous islands in the river!

KARUAH RIVER WEEKEND

The Club has a weekend away on the

14,15 & 16th September 2018

to celebrate the opening of the Bass Season.

A detailed flyer will be emailed to members later in August so put the date on your calendar, dig out the camping gear, some warm clothes and join us around the campfire for a glass of port or two.

OZFISH HAWKESBURY NEPEAN CHAPTER

Bass Sydney members and others have been invited to join this local new chapter. The Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter is the only Sydney based "Ozfish" group. The name was picked because it represents virtually the entire freshwater system of the Sydney Basin. "Ozfish"s objective is habitat restoration in both the rivers and riparian zone, but always with the focus of improving native fish habitat and fishing opportunities.

Bass Sydney members have a wealth of experience in this field, and "Ozfish" can see a synergy with us working together, but they can also see a better future if members were also members of "Ozfish". It's an inexpensive membership and opens up insurance and future funding possibilities. 'Ozfish' is funded by BCF, and all the Sydney BCF stores are excited by this newly formed chapter. They are eager to help in any way needed.

We have been invited to join via the website at: <https://ozfish.org.au/membership> should you see the advantage. New membership is \$25 for an individual which includes a hat, a tidy bag, a sticker and some Squidgies. Renewing members get a hat for their \$20 fee.

A year ago, Mark Schmidt, (Secretary of "Ozfish" Unlimited Ltd, Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter) decided to join "Ozfish" and found the help he received organizing the Inaugural Australian Fly Fishing Festival was outstanding. Mark was so impressed by their ethics, their funding model, their business structure and their publicity that he decided to continue his membership and relationship. Mark hopes that members of Bass Sydney will find the same experience.

If you would like to discuss membership further you are welcome to call

Mark on 0428 653 080

or talk over the matter with

Craig Copeland, "Ozfish"s founder on 0419 185 538.

BASS SYDNEY – WIRRONG FLAT, LANE COVE RIVER

WORKING BEE

Sunday 12th August 2018
from 0800



Where: Meet corner of River Avenue and Quebec Road,
Chatswood West

BYO BBQ lunch at midday, cooking gear and tea/coffee will be provided.

We will be doing some river bank maintenance with LCR National Park Rangers

<https://www.google.com.au/maps/place/River+Ave,+Chatswood+West+NSW+2067/@-33.7997706,151.1560558,198m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x6b12af4cf51c3b61:0xaf1bcb568b468850!8m2!3d-33.7965035!4d151.1566526>



Lucky door prize for the morning maintenance session will be a **DAIWA PRIZE PACK** including a Team Daiwa combo

<https://www.motackle.com.au/daiwateam-daiwa-s-combo.html> TDS701MLFS

thanks to Daiwa Australia



The tides aren't great, but we will fish in the afternoon for bream, flathead etc. There is a small concrete ramp (a bit industrial) there amongst the trees for launching kayaks and canoes.

Tide info: Fig Tree bridge. 9:07 am 1.54m
H 2:53 pm 0.27m L

PLEASE NOTE

Members of Bass Sydney and any visitors participate in this Event at their own risk and are solely responsible for their own safety and should be aware and compliant with current maritime safety rules such as use of personal floatation devices. Members and visitors should make their own decision about safety requirements and whether conditions on the day of the event are suitable or not for their participation. Participation in this event is purely voluntary and at the sole discretion of the member or the visitor. Neither Bass Sydney Fishing Club Incorporated nor any of its organising Committee members accept any liability whatsoever for any accident, harm or damage otherwise suffered by any member or visitor because of participating or attending this event.

BIRCHGROVE BLACK FISH

Milton Lazarus

It was a stunning day, very fresh early but it soon warmed up so members arriving were super enthusiastic to get rigged up and start fishing. Matt kindly bought some Yamba weed so it was all go. Brian, Nathan, Matt and myself decided to catch a ferry from Valentia street wharf in Woolwich rather than battle to find a parking spot and that worked very well as it's only two stops and we were there.

At this point I'd like to say "thanks" to all those who made the effort to come along and catch a feed. There were 16 of us including Rico & Jeremy in kayaks which is probably an event record, with 14 fishing. There were even four past Presidents too, who we haven't seen in quite a while, Ashley Thamm, Dave Claydon, Chris Ghosn and HS Tham. Nice to see them all.

By 1pm there was absolutely no action, not a down and not a nibble so we called time and set up three butane stoves and fry pans to cook lunch. Butane stoves are much lighter than LPG cylinders and easier to carry on the ferry. As usual there was stacks of food so anyone who forgot to self-cater was well fed. Burgers, marinated chicken breast pieces, sausages, cole slaw, bread rolls and salad etc.



After lunch everyone resumed fishing, however by 2-5pm there was absolutely no action so Brian & I elected to catch the 3pm ferry and head home, leaving the enthusiasts to catch a bag. Unfortunately, the bag didn't happen and by the sound of it, not one fish was landed. Frustratingly, a guy fishing nearby caught two fish simultaneously on a double hook rig, but after that I think he went fishless too. I'm not sure what time the boys eventually pulled the pin, but it's unbelievable that 12 guys could fish all day without getting a bite. This didn't include Rico & Jeremy - Rico caught four fish and Jeremy three, but nothing to write home about.

Never mind, that's fishing as they say, but the scenery is amazing, the boating public were out in force and I think for the most part everyone enjoyed themselves. Maybe some even had to stop at the fish and chip shop on the way home so they could present something to the family.

Probably the highlight of the day, apart from the weather, was Sheriff, who decided to rig up and flick a prawn or two around only to hook something mega and got totally demolished, then rigged up again and landed a Trevally.



Sydney Hobart boat super maxi "Infotrack" going for a leisurely Sunday afternoon cruise. Nice - imagine being on deck heading to Hobart in a 25 knot north easterly travelling at 30 knots or more - scary stuff indeed - that is 55kph and maybe faster in the gusts. Just like racing an oversize Sydney 18-footer.

Matt Hahn bought along an offsider - his faithful Cocker Spaniel "Hoover" - not sure what his real name is but he was hanging around the BBQ area for a hand out as most four-legged companions do.



So, a very nice day, a good time to be social and catch up with old members but fishing wise it was a non-event.

Never mind, that's fishing as they say...



AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

Our next meeting will be held at

Northmead Bowling, Recreation & Sporting Club,

166 Windsor Rd Northmead

at

7 -30pm on 14 August 2018

in the Board Room if available.

If not, it will be somewhere in the general club area opposite the bar.

I know it's cold this time of year, but we hope you will venture out
and join us for a chat and beer,
hear the latest about our



Gone Fishing Day on the 14th October

and...
you may even win
a prize in Nathan's raffle!



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