



CANBERRA ANGLER'S ASSOCIATION Inc.

GPO Box 2237
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

<http://www.canberra-anglers.websyte.com.au/>

Newsletter – May 2009

Coming Events

Wed 13 May – next meeting

Max's Report about Brogo

Hi Bill

I hope Stef managed to contact you not to visit Brogo. Fortunately my Next G mobile together with the vehicle black stick antenna had just sufficient reception to contact the outside world. I did have my satellite Iridium mobile but as I had to contact Jill to search the internet white pages to get Stefan's number (having mislaid it) it would have cost a fortune in call charges.

The trouble was that at the campsite all that is left is the creek which is dry. The nearest water in the creek is a couple of hundred metres away. The white blob in the centre of the second photo is a ute at that point. A boat trailer is also there but I don't know how they launched it, got into it, or will retrieve it. At least there was a hand winch on the trailer.

The problem is that there is about three metres of relatively steep dry bank down to the creek but the last eighty odd centimetres is almost vertical soft black mud. Even if the boat could be dropped in getting in and out from the mud would be very messy and I can't see how it could be retrieved. Mike and I looked for other launch spots without success. We decided we couldn't even launch my rubber ducky.

Another problem is water for the camp. It is muddy and would be very difficult to get.

Next time we will know 22% is too low. I think 50-60% is needed.

The attached photo is from the campsite. The bright green in the middle distance is weed normally covered with water. I didn't think to take a photo at the water as I was too busy trying to contact Stefan.

Max



Ian's Report about Tasmania

Hello Bill

I forgot about this fish the other night - the largest I saw in Tassie. It's in Cressy which promotes itself as the gateway to the nearby rivers and the Central Highlands. The light poles through the town have been painted with fishy artworks and the street names are on fish-shaped signs.
Ian



Kelly and Andrew's Report

*Bill,
as requested, here are the details of the barra charter that Andrew and I went on at Lake Proserpine.*

Our guide was Lindsay who owns and runs the Proserpine Bait and Tackle shop.

His contact email and web address are below.

lindsay@barramundicharters.com

www.barramundicharters.com

Here's a photo of Andrew and his 93.5cm barra.

Kel!



From Peter

Peter provided some information about my favourite fly – well, at least the parachute variant, always a good choice for the early evening rise on the Goodradigbee. Some general chit chat about fly choice will also be interest – note this is a Northern Hemisphere article, so you'll need to add six months to the discussion 😊:

Fly of the Month - The Adams Dry Fly

One of the most popular North America original dry flies is the Adam's. It can be used in a variety of waters, to imitate food items almost anywhere trout are found. It can be tied in various sizes to represent either mayfly or midge adults. In the early 1920's, fly fishermen on the Boardman River in northern lower Michigan were having problems. The Michigan grayling was gone. Rainbows had been stocked to provide fishing after the demise of the grayling but they were getting scarce and brook trout had been wiped out by over-fishing and habitat destruction. There was a newly stocked European trout that produced some good fishing, but it was creating a few headaches among fly fishermen. They found it so finicky that it was a source of frustration. That new fish was the brown trout. Because anglers and fly tiers were trying to find a fly the brown would take more readily, a new pattern was born.

In 1922, Leonard Halladay created the first Adams dry fly. His home was on the banks of Mayfield pond, Michigan. Charles F. Adams, an attorney in Lorrain, Ohio (later Judge Adams) was fishing the pond. He was an enthusiastic angler who loved to fish for brook and brown trout and was friends with Halladay. Adams was given Halladay's new fly to try out on the Boardman River that evening. When he came back next morning he wanted to know what it was called as it was "knock out." Since Charles Adams had made the first good catch on it Halladay named it the Adam's. The Adam's pattern combines brown and grizzly hackle; many trout anglers claim it is the best fly ever made. Some, in fact, declare that if they had to use only one fly for all of their trout fishing, it would be the Adams. It not only pleased the browns but shortly found wide acclaim across the country and world-wide.

Because of the Adams' success, there have been many, many variations on the original pattern. The Adams parachute is another *must* have in the fly box. It imitates a wide range of mayflies and is arguably the most productive fly one can have tethered to one's tippet. If I don't see an obvious hatch, I'll start with a Royal Wulff. Those white wings are easy to see and it's as good an attractor as any, in my experience. After that, it's the parachute Adams. Usually I use 16, since smaller than that seems to be less effective in the chalk streams I fish. I use a 12 if I'm prospecting in heavier water as it floats better. I use both standard Adams pattern in sizes 14 or 16. The standard tie is a good general bug imitation for trout fishing. It can be fished dead drift or moved if needed on the water. The parachute tie has a decent mayfly shape and is a good imitation of darker mayflies on the surface. It seems to bring up even wary native browns as consistently as any pattern I know of. Using an Adams I have also caught Atlantic Char, Cutthroat, Grayling and Rainbow Trout. The combination of grizzle and brown hackles with a medium-grey body has produced a fantastic general dry fly that catches fish around the world again and again in a wide range of water types. This is why the Adams is one of the most popular trout flies in use today even though it was designed in the 1920's

DRY FLIES

The dry fly is designed to float on the surface of the water. To prevent it sinking, water repellent hackles are wound around the hook to distribute the weight over the surface of the water. The hackles also simulate the legs and splash of an aquatic or terrestrial insect trapped on the water surface. Most Dry flies are deceivers designed to imitate a specific natural fly like the crane fly, ant and hopper series of flies. Other flies like the Adams are more general designs that are just intended to produce an edible looking fly. Dry fly fishing has always been regarded as the supreme art in fly fishing circles. Accurate presentation of the fly can be essential. Trout will rise to a variety of natural flies but as far as the dry fly fisherman is concerned the mayfly hatch has to be the favored time. In almost all instances where trout feed on drowning insects the rule is not to move the fly. An imitation is far more likely to succeed if it is cast out and then left. So long as it is cast in the right spot.

The color of the fly is always important when matching the hatch, then size is the next important decision. The artificial fly does not have to be a precise imitation of the natural insect, but what is important is how and where it is presented in relation to the depth of water. This includes the height at which the fly floats above the surface of the water. Some fish will greedily take flies that are floating in the surface but ignore flies that are floating above it and visa versa depending on the conditions that day. Use your eyes to see which natural insects the fish are taking. A high-floating dry fly will have more chance of being taken on a bright day because of its visibility, but if it does not dent the surface film on a dull day it will be less effective. A fly floating in the surface on a sunless day leaves a much more visible halo of outlining light which surrounds it.

Always try and get the leader immediately in front of the fly to sink under the water as this makes it harder for the fish to spot. This can make the difference between a blank day or one with lots of action. When putting on floatant make sure you keep it off the leader. This is a common mistake that can affect your fish catching chances. Degrease the front 10 inches. Do not try and fish this pattern downstream as it will drown. Fish it upstream and look in front of you for where the fish are rising for the natural insect. Be observant. If the trout start to dine on spent spinners rather than duns consider changing fly patterns.

MAYFLIES

Some adult mayflies hatch throughout the year but other species hatch only during certain months of the year. The term Mayfly applies to all members of the order of insects not just those that emerge in May. There are hundreds of fly patterns tied to imitate the many different mayflies and stages of their development. The natural insect belongs to the group of insects called Ephemeroptera. Ephemeros means 'lasting a day' and pteron means 'a wing'. Mayflies have cylindrical bodies, slender legs and two pairs of veined wings which are held vertical when at rest. They are found all over the world and are commonly called up-winged flies in some areas. The adults do not feed and live for only a very short time: most less than a day and some only for a few minutes.

The aquatic Mayfly nymphs moult anything from 12 to 50 times and take up to two years to reach adulthood. In any square yard or meter of a stream there may be a few hundred to many thousand mayfly nymphs. They are an important part of any predator fish's diet. The fully grown nymph swallows air and floats to the surface where it emerges into the subimaginal stage. The Dun sits on the water surface for a few seconds after hatching to enable the blood to pump up it's wings and for them to dry. The colder the weather the longer this takes. It is very vulnerable to attack at this time from under the water surface. On windy days, gusts can topple over the drifting duns and drown them. If you cannot see any rises for surface floating duns during a hatch on windy days the fish are feasting sub surface on the unlucky sinking drowned duns as well as the emerging nymphs. Try using a partridge and Yellow Soft hackled spider wet fly, Gold Ribbed Hares Ear Wet fly, Blue Dun or Light Cahill wet fly to imitate drowned duns, depending on the

local insects body color that can range from pale yellow, olive to tan. Wing color also varies throughout the world from pale gray to pale yellow. I often fish these wet flies on a dropper about 18 inches behind a dry fly. The soft hackle or wet fly imitating the drowned dun often catches the fish when nothing else works.

If the drifting newly emerged duns have not been eaten by a fish during this vulnerable time, they fly off and hide on the surrounding vegetation. Within 24 hours the duns molt into spinners and are ready to mate. Mating swarms are formed by the males to attract females. They also occur at dawn or dusk to reduce the chances of single insects being taken. When a female flies into the swarm she mates with a male. The males fall onto the water spent and drown. They are known as 'spent spinners'. The females return to the riverside vegetation for a short period whilst the eggs mature. When the eggs are ready the females fly out over the water, dip into the water, lay their eggs and then fall into the water spent. Some females species swim down to attach their eggs to submerged vegetation or objects. Others just land on the water surface making tempting targets for hungry trout. Try and scoop up a natural spinner floating dead in the water surface and match the body color

Have a great day, go fly fishing!

Tell your friends about us.

Tight Lines,

Craig Moore

The English Fly Fishing Shop

5 Woodland Way, Morden

Surrey SM4 4DS, England

www.flyfishing-flies.com

Bill's Reports

I was away over Easter. Fished Jindabyne at night for no luck - blasted moon? An hour on Swampy Plains River with no luck until I headed down to the riffles next to the camp site. Had no confidence as a woman had just come out of the water with her lilo but managed two fish - one was definitely legal!

No luck again down at Merimbula but picked up one 30cm rainbow in Lake Williams on way home.

Meantime, here is my 53cm Brown taken in Jindabyne two weeks before Easter just before bed time (2am) on a muddler.



Stuart's Flytying Class

They're on again. Here is the group working on their woolly worm (later hare and copper)





Minutes

Apologies – pressure of work has prevented me for keeping up my duties.

MINUTES OF CAA MEETING 11 Feb 2009

<http://www.canberra-anglers.websyte.com.au/>

Members present: Ian, Stefan, Bill, Bob M, Owen, Alan, Max, Michael, Norm, Steve H, Derek, Les, Charlie, Greg and Peter.

Apologies: Damian H, Fiore and Steve P.

President Ian declared the meeting opened.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes were not read.

Matters Arising

Nil.

Inwards Correspondence

Sat 21 Feb CFA meeting invitation.

Treasurers' Report

Currently \$2077.80 at bank. Printing costs for card membership remains outstanding.

Other Business

Stuart is away so his fly tying class for 25 Mar will not be run.

Club Events Program

Tumut 21-22 Feb. Stefan is running and he has suggested making own arrangements with the caravan park.

Brogo 21-22 Nov. Bill is running, though concerns were expressed about the 20% water level.

Fishing Report

Bill reported his best bream at Mallacoota on Australia Day – 41 cm.

Peter went to Kiandra over Christmas fishing with dries. Tuggers were providing some redfin before the algae came. LBG produced a 4kg yellowbelly at the steamboat wharf.

Speaker for the night (James Mogen from Tackle World) reported better fishing on the 'Bidgee near the border in his kayak.

Charlie reported some redfin only.

Owen has had some good flathead and a shark over Christmas. Also trout at Seven Gates.

Norm had troubles with the Easterly wind at Seven Gates but got into flathead and bream down the coast.

Derek has been working hard off his kayak: Burrunjuck troubling with fickle winds, Paddy's River Dam for brook, brown and rainbows, a 72cm flathead at Genoa with a bigger one lost, very small cod but good yellowbelly at Yerrabi after dark.

Alan fished Thredbo above the Diggings with some big browns up to 47cm in the village. Eucumbene at Kiandra was skunked. Spent 14 days in NZ near Taupo and Rotorua with a 9lb out of some very scruffy water.

Les reported on his trip to Bermagui with mowong and some nice tailor in the lake. Reporte 35cm+ redfin by colleagues in LBG.

Michael's report is in the Feb newsletter – well done.

Guest Speaker

James then gave an excellent talk about rigs in general, but especially for natives.

Closure

The President declared the meeting closed with the next meeting to be held on 11 Mar 2009.

Ian
President

Bill
Secretary

MINUTES OF CAA MEETING 11 Mar 2009

<http://www.canberra-anglers.websyte.com.au/>

Members present: Stefan, Peter, Max, Derek, Owen, Michael, Charlie, Bob M, Greg and Alan.

Apologies:
Bill and Les.

No formal minutes were taken and there was no speaker.

From Alan: "For one hour we had a round table discussion about fishin'."

MINUTES OF CAA MEETING 8 Apr 2009

<http://www.canberra-anglers.websyte.com.au/>

Members present: Ian, Stefan, Bill, Max, Charlie, Kelly, Greg, Stuart, Andrew, Peter and Fred.

Apologies: Bob M, Fiore and Michael.

President Ian declared the meeting opened.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes were not available.

Matters Arising

Nil.

Inwards Correspondence

Nil except for bills.

Treasurers' Report

Currently \$2169.19at bank. Stefan will chase outstanding membership

Other Business

Ross Rowe from ProAngler has proposed to the club to arrange for clothing (shirts/jackets and hats) to have CAA logo. A 10% discount would be made available either as refund to member or to the club. A minimum of ten items were needed to cover initial setup. He would anticipate "recognition of ProAngler on the club's website and newsletter as a part of this sponsorship arrangement".

Concerns were raised that other tackle shops and personalities around Canberra who have been very loyal to club were not similarly recognized and provision of such recognition

might be seen as pressuring them to continue support. Secretary to correspond with Mr Rowe to see if the recognition was an essential part of the bargain.

Mr Rowe was also invited to speak to the club next meeting, show off his gear and discuss the logo issue.

Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President indicated that pressure of work is impacting on their ability to fulfill duties and would be seeking to be relieved at the next AGM. Efforts will be required to seek volunteers before the AGM lest members avoid the meeting.

The lack of speakers has been a consequence of inability of secretary to balance work and CAA duties. He promised to do better in the future. A suggestion was made that Derek Steele might be asked to speak on kayak fishing.

Stuart is resurrecting his fly tying classes. Will be run two weeks after normal meetings at Weston Club starting 7:30pm. There is a maximum of 12 that can be catered. Two kits are available for loan by those without a vice or tools.

Club Events Program

Brogo. Max went down early and discovered no water. A flurry of phone calls resulted in the event being cancelled. Several members went to Lake Eucumbene in lieu. Will move event back to November to avoid the summer irrigation drawdown of the dam.

Local Lakes 18-19 Apr. Charlie is running this and proposes only the Sunday. Suggests that, if not earlier, people meet at Lotus Bay for a barbeque starting at 4pm

Coast Charter 9-10 May. Stuart is arranging this. He is having troubles with arranging the boat and he will email details.

Fishing Report

Kelly and Andrew spoke on their recent trip to Lake Proserpine chasing barramundi – more details will be given in the newsletter.

Charlie said the local lakes were pretty slow except for small redfin. Bob Morton produced three 35cm redfin near the waterski area.

Stuart and Ian spoke about their recent (separate) trips to Tasmania. Both commented on the low water and limited success.

Peter found only small trout in the Eucumbene below the Portal.

Bill reported on his 53cm monster brown from Jindabyne only to be pipped by Stuart's from ?Tooma River?

Closure

The President declared the meeting closed with the next meeting to be held on 13 May 2009.

Ian
President

Bill
Secretary