



CANBERRA ANGLER'S ASSOCIATION Inc.

GPO Box 2237
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

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

Newsletter – Feb 2010

Coming Events

20-21 Mar – Estuary, Tuross Head. Tuross Lakeside Tourist Park, 211 Hector McWilliam Drive, Tuross Head NSW 2537 - (02) 4473 8181, turosslakeside@dodo.com.au or website www.turosslakeside.com.au

Good Idea or not?

Members are encouraged to think about this idea floated by the Capital Region Fishing Alliance:

Anglers float idea for dedicated fishing zone in Lake Burley Griffin

By MICHAEL INMAN

LAKE Burley Griffin could soon contain a recreational fishing zone if an ambitious plan by a Canberra group gets the green light.

The newly formed Capital Region Fishing Alliance raised the concept at the December meeting of the Lake User Group of zoning an area for angling.

The suggestion generated no objections and the National Capital Authority requested a formal proposal be presented for discussion

at the Lake User Group's March meeting.

The fishing alliance's secretary, Shane Jasprizza, said swimmers, sailors, rowers, kayakers, commercial operators and anglers were often forced to compete for space on the lake during the busy warmer months.

He said the alliance – a coalition of five local fishing clubs – believed a zoned recreational fishing area would help ease the gridlock during peak periods.

“You go down on the weekend and it's like Pitt



Street Mall in Sydney on some parts of the lake,” Mr Jasprizza said.

“There are boats, kayaks, rowers and dragon boats

going every which way, so sometimes it's hard to find a quiet spot for a fish.

“It will take pressure off other areas, so people won't fish in areas where there are sailors or rowers. Then down the track they might put in a boat ramp, fishing pontoons or a jetty.”

While Mr Jasprizza stressed the area was only at the concept stage, he believed the western end of the lake, near Scrivener Dam, would be an ideal location.

“You need to get away from the rowing and sailing

area, and it needs to be reasonable water, so the area up near Kingston is too shallow and heats up too much in summer,” Mr Jasprizza said.

“I raised the concept at the meeting to get an idea of what other users thought and no one kicked up a stink, so it's probably something we can work towards. But it might take 12 months or a couple of years.”

In the meantime, Mr Jasprizza will canvass opinion and draw up the proposal for the March 10 meeting of the Lake User Group.

8 JANUARY 3, 2010 SUNDAY CANBERRA TIMES

Recent “Bad Press” in Canberra Times

Members may have noted an article criticising fishermen for discarding line beside Lake Burley Griffin which resulted in the death of a number of platypuses.

C.T. 15 Jan 2010

ACT anglers warned to give wildlife a fair go

By Claire Low

The carelessness of Canberra anglers has resulted in the death of at least two platypuses and severe injuries for other native wildlife.

On Wednesday, recreational fisherman Dusan Tomasev was saddened to find that a platypus he had seen swimming on several occasions in Lake Burley Griffin near the National Museum of Australia had been strangled by someone else's discarded fishing line.

Mr Tomasev tried to lift the platypus out of the water but couldn't – the creature was trapped by a line tied to a tree, with the other end wrapped around its neck. He had to cut the line to take it out of the lake.

He was saddened by the loss of the comparatively tame creature.

"He was very friendly. He used to sit there watching people. I saw him swimming in different spots. Very nice, you know. Shamefully enough, he died the way he did."

RSPCA ACT is pleading that people who fish remember how their activities can harm native wildlife.

In the last few days, the animal welfare charity received into care a seriously harmed platypus, a swan and a turtle. The turtle and swan are recovering in Weston, but the platypus died.

Chief executive Michael Linke said it was "a tragedy for this unique and rare animal".



POINTLESS DEATH: A discarded fishing line strangled this platypus.

Bryan Pratt, of Pratt's Tackle Box, said anglers needed to dispose of fishing lines safely and properly.

"Give wildlife a fair go," he said.

Mr Linke also warned anglers to consider how their actions might affect the environment and wild creatures.

"If you are going to fish, it is an absolute imperative that you manage your hooks and lines and any other debris so they can't pose a threat to native wildlife," he said.

"The principle 'leave things as you found them' should be at the forefront of every fisherman's mind."

Consequent to this, a discussion amongst executive of the Capital Region Fishing Alliance revealed:

At its national conference last year, Recfish Australia revised the National Code of Practice for Recreational and Sport Fishing. It covers the following principles:

Treating fish humanely by:

- Quickly and correctly returning unwanted or illegal catch to the water
- Quickly and humanely killing fish that are kept for consumption.
- Using only appropriate, legal tackle, attending all fishing gear and valuing our catch

Looking after our fisheries by:

- Taking no more than our immediate needs

- Supporting and encouraging activities that preserve, restore and enhance fisheries and fish habitat
- Understanding and observing all fishing regulations and reporting illegal fishing activities

Protecting the environment by:

- Preventing pollution and protecting wildlife by removing rubbish
- Taking care when boating and anchoring to avoid damage to wildlife and habitat
- Using established roads and tracks
- Reporting environmental damage
- Avoiding unnecessary interactions with wildlife species and their habitats

Respecting the rights of others by:

- Practising courtesy towards all those who use inland and coastal waters
- Obtaining permission from landholders and traditional owners before entering land
- Caring for our own safety and the safety of others when fishing

You can download a pdf version here:

<http://www.ansa.com.au/Recfish%20Australia%20NCOP%20brochure.pdf>

MINUTES OF CAA MEETING 10 Feb 2010

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

Members present: Ian, Bill, Stefan, Max, Damien, Charlie, Norm, Alan, Derek, Greg, Peter, Lyall, Randy, Owen and Jason.

Apologies: Stuart, Geoff and Fiore.

Ian declared the meeting opened.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes read.

Correspondence

Canberra Fishermans Club raffle (in support of local native fish stocking). A number of members committed to purchasing books.

Email on Googong/Jerrabomberra fish stocking on 1 Mar.

CAA have submitted an application to be recognized via the Chief Minister's gold awards.

NSW CFA meeting is forthcoming – check their website.

Treasurer's Report

\$2827.35 at bank. There has been boat expenses of \$80 to be deducted.

Forthcoming Club Events

- a. 20-21 Feb – Natives hosted by Charles. Decision was taken to conduct on Sat 20 Feb only on banks of Molonglo opposite Duntroon. Suggest little point arriving till late in the afternoon – opportunity for a sausage sizzle.
- b. 20-21 Mar – Estuary. Decision was taken to conduct at Tuross Head. Bill to email information in regards to suggested caravan park.
- c. 7 Mar – Clean up Australia Day. Ian to explore opportunity to participate as club.
- d. 13 Mar – Canberra Fishermans Club Clinic. Anyone interested in helping out CFC should contact Shane Jasprizza.

Fishing reports

Member's present participated in a round table discussion of fishing report. A highlight was a self-published book "Trout Tales" donated to the club by the author's descendants. Derek currently holding.

Closure

President declared the meeting closed. The next meeting is to be held on 10 Mar 2010. No fly tying until after March meeting (ie starts 24 Mar)

Guest Speaker

Lyall presented an interesting report on his Christmas travels across Tasmania.

Ian
President

Bill
Secretary