

The Burley Line

October 2013



Darlene Quirk and Jason in a "photo op" with the renowned Canadian flyfisher April Vokey during Darlene's lessons recently at Manly. Don't you love Darlene's pink fly rod!

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**Newsletter of the CANBERRA ANGLER'S ASSOCIATION
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Coming Events

Next Meeting – Wed 9 Oct 7:30pm at Raiders Weston Club. Ross Rowe from Pro-Angler should be speaking about the latest gear available. Discussion on the special deal for shirts (for later embroidery with CAA logo) will also be had.

Lyle Knowles – Fri 11 to Sun 13 Oct – annual trophy for largest bag of two fish caught from the Eucumbene River on Saturday or Sunday. Most members are basing themselves at Providence Portal.

Fly Tying – Wed 23 Oct – to be confirmed what is being tied.

Notes About the Cover Photo

Darlene provided the following explanation:

Whilst perusing Facebook one evening before bed (as you do), I came across a post by April Vokey seeking interest for casting tuition session's during her visit to Australia. Immediately I responded, eager to improve my fly fishing skills and be better competition to Jas Q on the river.

For those who don't know or haven't heard of April before, she is one of the worlds most respected and leading fly ladies (www.flygal.ca).

Plans were firmed and I headed to Manly to meet with April for a two hour tuition. Jas tagged along but conditions were that there were to be no spectators. This was backed by April when we arrived and advised that observing partners can inhibit the learning process and sometimes unknowingly intimidate the student.

After Jas's meet and greet, he hesitatingly went to lunch. April then went through everything from how to identify a type of fly rod by looking at the specs printed on the rod, to perfecting my casting technique. I was taught how to choose line and taper to suit my fly rod (Sage GRACE), as well as identify various flies... We even had time to go through knot tying. We spent considerable time on loop control and I've many more hours to improve and perfect like Jas (or so he says!). April's teaching technique is very different to the tuition I've received previously and we connected instantly.

For any gals wanting tuition or a casting 'tune-up', I highly recommend April Vokey. She will be back in Aus in March 2014, to host a fly dishing tour of Tasmania with FlyShop 1864 and Riverfly team.

The Boat Report

Jason M has provided this update, he did remark *"I didn't put in the photo where Luke looked dead after slumping sideways asleep in the chair as the ride was too smooth, even into the breeze."*

Remember that members can hire the boat for the princely sum of \$5 per day. Contact the Secretary.

Members, here is an update on the boat. After much discussion in the last year, the boat is back up and running. We now have a permit for Lake Burley Griffin, and might run a training session or two in the coming year.

The motor now starts quite reliably. I have just taken the boat for a 1 hour run around Lake Burley Griffin. One of our youngest members enjoys dashing around the boat – everywhere from transom to forepeak – without much trouble in the stability.

The motor ran quite smoothly, and the cooling water remained nice and cool – a good indication of the water pump running well.



The echo sounder showed some interesting bottom features around the peninsular and across the water near the park at Yarralumla.

Thanks to Stuart for the sounder, and to Alan for the Type 2 adult lifejacket. Next job will be mounting the winch.



The boat storage



Some minor maintenance



Black mountain Peninsular boatramp, ready for first boat trip



Is it my turn to drive yet? I'm not too sure if this is fun yet.



Some structure around the southern side



Practically a qualified mate

Fly Casting Classes

These were successfully conducted Sun 15, 22 and 29 Sep. Our old favourite haunt of the lawns of Old Parliament House near Questacon were booked out for the middle weekend so a relocation was required. Numbers were satisfying with the days varying between 60 odd and 40 odd.

CAA managed to get [an article in the Canberra Times](#) with an excellent photo of Alan teaching. However an approach to replicate the photo was responded (by Fairfax, not Canberra Times staff here) with “even not-for-profit organisations have to pay a royalty and you aren’t permitted to archive the image forever”. I chose to not continue. Instead I’ll include some photos provided by Life Member and past President Dr Bryan Pratt.



Nathan with a student who bears a slight similarity to Peter Morse ... surely not



Mark S – is that Anna in the background?



Martin



Randy



Selected members of the committee – heavily involved in the instruction!



Nathan presenting the major raffle prize – full fly rod kit provided by Pratt's Tackle Box.



Cooking Corner

Vice President Greg (known to his mates as “Kevin”) has provided his secret recipe for Buffalo Wings now on our [website](#). (Watch out, they’re spicy!) I can see a ‘bake-off’ will be required to compare Sue’s Spicy Chicken Wings and Greg’s offering. Still looking for more contributions dudes.

Lyle Knowles

The competition is coming up 11-13 Oct. Alan has booked a cabin at Providence Portal and there may be chance for a bed in there. Meantime, some hardy souls are looking to camp out at the Denison camping area. Jason M has done a recent recce down to the river and emailed in his observations about the camp site for the information of those who might join him:

Attached is a shot of Denison a week ago (Editor: ie around 23 Sep) in case anyone other than Alan and myself are thinking of camping. Looking quite nice, and the road in was (at least back before the long weekend) flatter than a Canberra carpark.



Some Tips for Season Opening

Jason M got these from [Flyshop NZ](#). Also included is some ideas about fishing etiquette in New Zealand – someone must have mentioned the slight fracas we had on the Ahuriri



River earlier this year! While it is written for New Zealand, much of the material here is just as applicable to Australia.

Ten Tips for the new season;

1. New leaders and tippetts all-round - it's easy to just pick up the rod and rush off to the river but tippet material and leaders weaken with age so pop on some fresh ones.
2. Fly lines like a bit of lube to keep them shooting nicely through the guides - my favourite is the Tiemco Line Cleaner - it's a nice big bottle that lasts for ever - apply some to a small cloth, treat your line, then pop the cloth in a clip lock plastic bag and into your vest so it's always with you.
3. If your line is showing signs of a bit of memory having sat unused over winter - give it a gentle stretch, that's usually an instant fix.
4. Lube your reel too! - A quick clean to remove all the dust and grime that accumulates then apply a light grease to keep it performing well for when you hook into that big one
5. Fix those leaky waders, it's cold early season particularly if you rediscover that hole you forgot to fix - a drop or two of Stormsure - a rubberised glue fixes those small holes, leave to set overnight
6. And when you rush out the door - don't forget your frigging net!! - invariably it's the net that's left hanging on my garage wall...
7. Check the fly box, you'll need nymphs - something with a little flash and weight usually work well early on - and with the milder winter expect some mayfly action too
8. It always surprises me when fish refuse my offering early season - they are supposed to be hungry and not so wary - always good to go back to basics which means "Good Presentations" - that's what will catch fish first and foremost.
9. Check the forecast, could be windy in the south with a Nor-wester coming in, plan for those sheltered streams, and I always head for those little places where there's less likelihood of find someone ahead of you
10. We've all done it - in the excitement of the moment, remember to - *Turn Off Your Car Lights :)*

NZ Angling Etiquette - Recommendations on sharing available fishing water

Flowing waterways where trout can be spotted are in general low fish density locations and a greater amount of fishable water is needed. People often look for solitude and the aim is to limit encounters between different fishing parties and thus possible conflicts. A voluntary fishing etiquette has established itself in New Zealand to maximise everybody's enjoyment and to minimize arguments on the water. It is recommended that all anglers abide by it. Below are a few points to help anglers to understand, but it really boils down to:

"Be fair and treat other anglers the way you would like to be treated".



General knowledge

- * It is common practice for anglers to fish the water upstream of an access point.
- * A three kilometers stretch of river / creek is about right for a day's fishing in most locations.
- * Usually trout will not spook for the entire day, after anglers have fished a bit of water. The fish will often be feeding again after a couple of hours.

Before starting to fish:

- * Use F&G access points where available. These are set apart in a way to allow enough fishing water for all.
- * If there are no F&G access signs and you want to fish a stretch of river along a road, drive along the chosen stretch of water first, to make sure there is not already somebody fishing it.
- * If no F&G access sign is present, do not drive down through private land without permission of the landowner. Always ask permission, abide by the laws of the land and the landowner's requests. Do not drive through paddocks, if a short walk will get you there.
- * Leave your intentions on your vehicle's windscreen (fishing upstream or downstream & how what time you left).
- * It is good practice, no matter where you fish, to give other anglers an indication of your whereabouts and intentions.
- * If fishing by helicopter, make sure you check if nobody else is on the water you intend to fish, by flying over the area first.

If other people are on the water you intend to fish, the following points are recommended:

- * If you arrive at an access and somebody's car is there already, check the windscreen for a sign noting the angler's intentions. You may choose to fish behind the party or to go in the other direction. However, if you wish to walk downstream from an angler's access point, be mindful of others fishing up from the access point below and how far downstream from the upper access you will walk.
- * If you can see the anglers on the river, maybe find out their intentions and discuss on how the available water could best be shared. Respect those already on the water before you and stand by any water sharing arrangements made.
- * If no note is left by the anglers already present, try your best to move to another area or another part of the water body.



* If choosing to stay on the same water body, make sure to leave enough water for the other fishing party. Note that it is seen to be very poor manners to enter the river ahead of those who got there first.

* Be tolerant of those who do inadvertently jump in and fish ahead of you, as it may be a genuine mistake or sheer ignorance.

* Enjoy your angling and ensure that things remain fair for all.

Shared to us by Peter K

DEEPLY PROFOUND THOUGHTS BY MEN WHILE FISHING

Two men are out ice fishing at their favourite fishing hole, just fishing quietly and drinking beer.



Almost silently, so as not to scare the fish, Bob says, 'I think I'm gonna divorce my wife. She hasn't spoken to me in over 2 months.'

Earl continues slowly sipping his beer, then thoughtfully says, 'You better think it over, Bob. Women like that are hard to find.'

For Sale

Any fishing related items that members would like to advertise here, please email newsletter@canberra-anglers.asn.au



While we await finalisation of Jason Q's badge embroidery arrangements, members might like to take advantage of our clearance sale of the older coloured sew-on CAA patches. Enquire with Treasurer, the last few are going for a song at \$5 each.

Notable Fish Recorded

As at 1 Oct, following notable fish have been recorded for the 2013/2014 season

Angler	Species	Length	Method	Event/Date
Damien	Brown Trout	53cm	Bait	"Back to Buckenderra" 23-25 Aug
Jason Q	Brown Trout	51cm	Fly	"Back to Buckenderra" 23-25 Aug

A New Mobile Phone App

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, has announced the release of the first mobile phone application for accessing real-time water data in Australia.

"The NSW RealTime Water Data app allows water users to search for a monitoring site within their river basin to see a variety of information recorded at that site," Ms Hodgkinson said.

The NSW Office of Water manages a real-time database that provides immediate access to information from more than 770 river sites, 12 weather stations and 385 groundwater sites. The application will enable water users to instantly access information on stream levels and salinity levels for surface water, major dam levels and inflows and water table data instantly from handheld devices.

Real-time data is also collected from 139 sites from other agencies, bringing the total number of real-time sites handled to more than 1300. The data is typically recorded every 15 minutes and pushed to a central location hourly.

The app is available in the Android Play Store and Apple App Store.



MINUTES OF CAA MEETING 11 Sep 2013

<http://www.canberra-anglers.asn.au/>

Members present: Peter K, Jason M, Greg W, Randy, Charlie, Stefan, Damien, Stuart, Ian, Bill, Mark S, Mark F, Alan, Norm, Greg S and Nathan.

Apologies: Geoff, Kelly, Susan and Jason Q

This meeting was conducted under new arrangements with the speaker, Stuart, presenting first about his recent trip to North Queensland particularly chasing milkfish on worm flies. This talk went over extremely well and the reversed order was appreciated.

Minutes

Bill read the minutes of the previous meeting.

Matters Arising

Nil

Treasurer's Report

\$3169 at bank.

Action will be undertaken to submit subscriptions to Council for Freshwater Angling based on membership numbers reported at the AGM. Decision has to be made on who should be our delegates.

Audit of books is about to commence.

Some minor costs have been attributed for essential boat maintenance.

General Business

Members are reminded of the forthcoming Fly Casting days.

Club Events

Alan has made a booking for a four person cabin for Friday and Saturday at Providence Portal for Lyle Knowles.

Greg W
Vice President

Bill
Secretary