

The Burley Line

March 2014



Randy's wife Lindsay with her guide holding a 64 cm Rainbow, Banana Lake, Chubut Patagonia

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**Newsletter of the CANBERRA ANGLER'S ASSOCIATION
Inc.**

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Coming Events

Fly Tying – Wed 26 Feb. Nathan's native woolly bugger variant, no need to bring anything special by way of materials – Jason M has some club supplies and Nathan/Bryan Pratt is donating hooks.

"Bondi Forest Lodge Expedition" – Fri 8 to Sun 10 Mar (Canberra Day Long Weekend) – more details below describing changes, Jason M is organising.

Next Meeting – Wed 12 Mar – 7:30pm at Raiders Weston Club. James Morgan from Tackle World will give a talk on how to use, and rig spinner baits.

Fly Tying – Wed 26 Mar, fly to be advised later.

Randy and Patagonia

I'm still working out how I can become part of Randy's extended family! Every now and then he gets invited to go to Patagonia with his father-in-law and extended family – five or more star resort at a very special price! Photo of the month comes from this trip along with the one below. Randy will speak about his experiences at our April meeting.



Randy with his Rainbow at Banana Lake. According to Randy: "I am/was the best photographer, so everyone else looks great". He assures me that 'Banana Lake' is not a secret code word and it can be seen on Google Maps satellite view "Try 42°57'25.77"S 71°30'44.01"W - on private property, but that's it".



Ian and Bill in New Zealand (Again!)

After the lousy season we've had in the Snowies so far, it took only a little coaxing from Bill to convince Ian that a fortnight in New Zealand was not just a good idea, but indeed essential to our fishing psyches. To say that the two weeks were the best fishing we've had in New Zealand would not be an exaggeration. The Mataura River in New Zealand's Southland was very low and clear making the fish quite spooky but it did mean that we spotted more fish (even without the assistance of expert guiding). Having said that, spotting is one thing – getting them to take the fly is another thing entirely. Dry fly action was patchy (though some really violent explosions of rises were experienced on a number of evenings – caddis hatches?). One day was spent out with local guide Barry Perkins giving excellent results. This was way downstream past Wyndham, but the rest of the days were spent no further than a couple of kilometres from our accommodation in Gore – often we just walked to the water! Amazingly, we had almost the entire two weeks without wind or rain – this came only at the end of the trip and mostly when we were in cleaning/drying mode. Please don't raise the question of "what happened to your waders?"



Bill shows off his best fish (58cm) while Ian pretends to display the size of the fish that slipped out of his hands while waiting for Barry to take the photo after a double hookup – Bill on dry and Ian on nymph.



Coast Outing 21-23 Feb

From: Owen
Sent: Sunday, 23 February 2014 6:52 PM
Subject: Potato Point Round-up

Hi Bill

The venue at Potato Point was very good, very nice cabin and campground. The fishing was ordinary with very low tides. Mike caught a reasonable flathead and Jason caught a bag of mixed species mostly undersized. I caught a salmon, flathead and a small whiting. Not sure about Alan he was empty handed this morning but he may have fished before coming home.

We fished a combination of the beach at Potato Point and trawling with the club boat and Alan's canoe in the Tuross Lake.

The weather was good and it was a very enjoyable weekend.

From: Mike
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2014 9:31 AM
To: CAA Newsletter
Subject: Re: Tuross outing words

Thanks, to all, for all the help. I had a blast! Jason caught the most species in one day, with 4 (or 8 if you count the "non" fish species). I also caught a crab on a soft plastic off the beach, a snail on bait in the front of Tuross Lakes, and a few Tree Bass in the river.

Mike

Jason M provided the following report on behalf of the group:

It was a pleasant weekend down the coast. After an early getaway, the boat made it for an early afternoon fish, and a dusky flathead was bagged (about 38cm) on the flats near the boatramp. Word at the boatramp was there wasn't much about, with most fish caught near the ramp off the sandbar – some whiting and bream, mostly, and on worms or prawns. This was the only catch for Friday, and was duly shared from the smoker in the cabin. Alan appeared from the dark half charged, but was rectified with locating a powerpoint for his battery. With high tide a midday, a slow morning was planned.



Meeting the locals – who's eying who?



The shack & another terrible sunrise



After a leisurely breakfast with the kookaburras (and Alan had an early start catching a few crustaceans), Owen, Jason, and Mike heading the beach. After a couple of hours it was pretty quiet, time for a cuppa, and back to the lake, whilst Owen soldiered on, getting a nice salmon later that afternoon on his last whole pilchard, as well as catching a small whiting earlier in the day.



Friday flattie on a curly grub tail in the boat



Another flattie on the flats

In the boat, we found Alan casting in his secret spot, and as the wind came up a little, anchored off the last dry sand and spent a few hours casting lures and bait. Some small bream, luderick, mullet, and a flathead were caught before the bigger lizards started appearing, and Mike landed a nice 40cm one. With the wind getting a little stiffer, and not much else around, Mike and Jason moved the boat up the creek to flick some soft plastics. Mike had a couple of nice hits, and got a nice flathead of about 38cm, which was released back into the wild. Returning on dusk, Mike's keeper met a similar fate to Jason's after a hunger was worked up on the water.



Before



After

Owen landed a nice little flathead about 6am, the biggest of the weekend. Alan headed back to the beach after packing up, whilst Jason and Mike went back up the creek, but despite a few taps, it was pretty quiet – but otherwise another lovely day, drifting in the sun and tossing lures into snags.



How did it measure up?
42cm, the biggest flathead



Some catches from the beach



Some poachers of the bait



Alan has another cast while we rough it on the boat

Charlie's Report on Local Lakes

From: charles

Sent: Sunday, 23 February 2014 8:55 PM

Hi Bill,

Peter Green and myself fished last Thursday from 2:30 to 6:30pm at the boat house. The waves were pretty big but the fish were on the bite, we caught 15 carp between us and lost 7. Had a great time.

Mitta Mitta Expedition Relocated

Jason M has advised that the Blue Duck Inn (Mitta River) is booked out for the 8-10 March Expedition, but Bondi Forest Lodge has lots of room for us so the event has been relocated into Southern NSW. I've put more information in a separate [document](#) on our website.

Map: <http://www.bondiforestlodge.com.au/contactus.html>



From Jason:

Our own private catch & release fly only lake, plus more fishing nearby in NSW and Vic. It's just before the border, so it's a few hours down there, but you get a bed & chair, with communal hot showers, kitchen, fireplace & lounge for only \$30 per night. Also nice big fridge, oven, and microwave.

I'm planning to take the whole family – the cost is \$30 per adult, \$10 for kids, and for the really wee ones bunked up with Mum and Dad, Brian said there's usually no charge for them (although there might be a return fee if you try to leave one behind). They don't have eftpos out there, so bring cash.

I'll probably head down on afternoon/evening of the 7th, or early on the 8th. So far I have a few starters, so it should be a good long weekend (the 10th is a public holiday), but feel free to come down for only a night or two. Ideally let me know by the start of March, but they can probably accommodate an extra room or two for the indecisive.

Barry's Latest Project

Many will know that Barry is a man of many talents ... photography was displayed in the last newsletter. Now we find the guy has his own CNC mill and all the other toys to go with it.

From: Barry

Subject: boat

Necessity, the Mother of invention it is said.

A few months ago I was beginning to think that recovery from injury was going to be a very long process. I couldn't get my brand new boat into the water!

So, I decided that the time spent vertical should be put to good use.

Into the workshop, select a model boat hull that I had built many years ago, originally powered by two double acting twin cylinder steam engines.

A week later it is now powered by two German Decaperm geared electric motors.

Original superstructure highly modified.

Last week I worked on the bait launching system, swing mount brackets, tipping bucket.

Today I've started to fabricate the tipping mechanism and servo control rods.

What's this all about I hear you say?, Well If I have problems launching my full size boat, I simply launch my 48" displacement hull.



- 1/ Place the lure/bait into the bucket, drive the boat to a known GPS mark.
- 2/ Actuate the tipping servo to drop the pay-load.
- 3/ bring the boat back to shore.
- 4/ Sit on comfortable chair, .. let the un-weighted offering sink slowly down through the water column, retrieve in normal manner.

I can deliver flies several hundred meters with ease!

Oh well It's fun building anyway!

Cheers ... Baz



Fishing Pale Morning Dun

Peter received the following in an email from The English Fly Shop:

Pale Morning Dun mayflies molt into spinners within 24 hours of emerging during the dun hatch. You will start to see mating swarms full of Male PMD mayflies appear over the water. Keep your mouth closed if you get in the middle of one of those swarms. Females will fly into the middle of this frenzy and mate with a couple of the males that catch her eye. The exhausted males fall onto the water as spent spinners. The female PMD's fly back to rest on riverbank vegetation. They wait until their fertilised eggs are mature, before returning to the water. They dip their tail into the water and deposit their eggs. Finally they fall onto the water spent.

There is no specific time for spinner falls. They can occur at any time during the day but are more common on windless mornings or evenings. These short lived adult insects do not rise into the air again once they



have fallen spent onto the water surface. They drown and become fish food. Trout do not like working for their food. They are lazy though some would say clever. They seek out locations where there would be a log jam of floating spent spinners, an abundance of easy to get food. These occur at pool run outs. The spent spinners fall down to their death in a scattered pattern over the whole pool surface and gradually all float with the current to where the water leaves the pool. This is normally a narrow channel and during a heavy spent spinner fall not all the floating corpses can exit the pool at the same time. They bang into each other and clog the exit up. This situation is an easy fishing bonanza for hungry trout. I approach these calm water quietly, slowly and stay low as not to spook the waiting trout. I place my cast down gently and allow my Yellow French Partridge mayfly spent spinner fly pattern to slowly drift amongst the real spent spinners to the pool tailout. If you are experiencing only a light spent spinner fall then the trout might not rise in their normal pool tailout locations. I check out the local eddies. The swirling water collects and concentrates spent PMD spinners. The trout know this and exploit this additional food providing location. Just drift your fly pattern into an eddy on a slack leader. Watch where it goes all the time.

It is important to keep your leader slack. Allow your fly to do a dead drift. If your line is too tight it will cause your artificial fly pattern to drag. This is disastrous as it causes ripples and a disturbance in the water that will get noticed by your target fish and spook them. Their dead food does not normally start to swim against the current. It is not natural. They do not expect this type of behaviour and their fright and flight instincts kick in.

If you are new to a stretch of water when there is a PMD spent spinner fall, try to catch one using a child's fishing net on a long pole or, my favourite, a tropical fish tank fine white net on a long pole. Pale Morning Dun spinners have light wings but their body colour varies from yellow, olive-yellow and brown, depending on the species. The males have larger eyes than the female. They all have three tails. Examine your captured dead spent spinner and try to match the size and body colour with a fly from your tackle box. Carry a few Pale Morning Dun Spent Spinner patterns in different sizes and body colours. As well as the yellow French Partridge Mayfly pattern, parachute and soft hackle fly patterns work well. The latter pattern is particularly good imitating spent spinners that have drowned and started to drift down to the river bottom.

One of my favourite rigs is to fish a yellow French partridge mayfly pattern on the surface but tie a length of 6X tippet onto the bend in the hook and trail a partridge and yellow or partridge and orange soft hackle fly 18 inches behind under the surface. This way I am offering imitation food above and below the surface at the same time. Always keep your rod tip pointed at your surface fly. You must be ready to react and set the hook by raising the rod immediately you see movement. It is important to have some slack on the line as I already mentioned but if there is too much slack then you will fail to hook up your fish.



Debunking Some Stocking Myths

In January the Editor spent a rather hot day in a shed at Gaden Hatchery fin clipping fish in preparation for their release into Lake Eucumbene. This year (and indeed last year), the trout stocked into Jindabyne were tagged with a small batch number engraved electronic wire tag inserted into their noses rather than fin clipping. Anglers won't see the tag even if they conduct a post-mortem, but DPI will be able to use scanners to harmlessly identify tagged/stocked fish when captured during the spawning run.

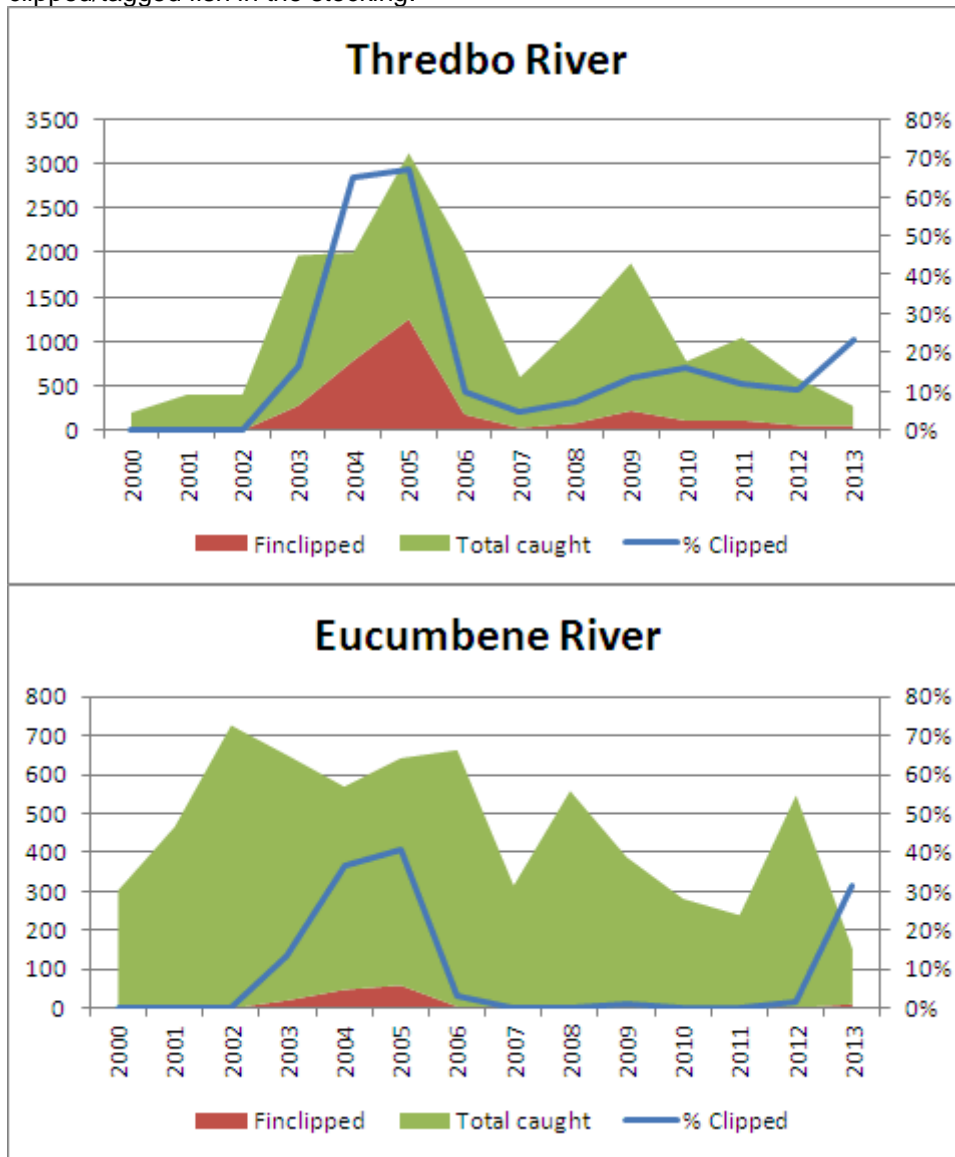
The opportunity was taken to have conversations with many of the major players in the fish management game especially over the topic of "where are the rainbows?". I'd heard a lot of speculation from *reduced (or no) fish being stocked all the way to fish are being released into feeder rivers rather than directly into lake with lower survival rates*. I've put a number of questions to Jamin Forbes, DPI's Senior Fishery Technician (currently studying for his PhD into Murray Cod) responsible for managing stocking and related research. With Jamin's kind permission, I reproduce his advice:

- Rainbow trout numbers stocked have been consistent every year for more than a decade (150,000 Lake Eucumbene, 50,000 Lake Jindabyne) in accordance with the Snowy Lakes Strategy Policy. Numbers stocked into some other impoundments were reduced in early 2013 due to a shortage of fingerlings available at the hatchery however stockings did not change in Eucumbene and Jindabyne. Fisheries NSW staff are working on displaying all impoundment stocking figures on the DPI website in the near future.
- We clip 25% of what goes into Eucumbene (37,500). We used to clip 25% of Jindabyne's, but in the past two years we have tagged all 50,000 in this lake. Until we get more machines, it is not feasible to tag all 150,000 of Eucumbene's trout (it would take a month), so we will continue to finclip 37,500 until I can scrounge enough money to get more tagging hardware. We will get far better data from the coded wire tags than finclips. For example, if we have a volunteer clipping the wrong fin all day it would add a thousand fish to the system that in future would be aged incorrectly!
- Half of the rainbow trout allocation for Lake Jindabyne (i.e. 25,000) was stocked into the Thredbo River and the remaining half (i.e. 25,000) were stocked into various sites within the lake in early 2010, 2011 and 2012. However the full allocation of 50,000 has been stocked into the lake in 2013 and again this year.
- The rivers have offered suitable conditions during winter/early spring for rainbow trout to spawn however numbers of fish haven't run up the Thredbo River. The Eucumbene River received several pulses of rainbow trout during the spawning run in 2013 in contrast to the usual single large pulse of fish experienced in previous years. Whilst it is unknown why the spawning runs have differed from the norm, the changes have occurred since the lakes have declined in levels following the high levels reached two years ago.
- Rainbow run last year in the Thredbo was poor in comparison to previous years. Some fish captured from Lake Eucumbene spawning streams (Gang Gang & Tolbar Creeks) using electro-fishing were stripped to supplement those taken from the Thredbo and fishing clinic ponds at Gaden Trout Hatchery.
- No conclusions have been reached over the low catches reported by anglers in either lake. Some anglers have reported locating rainbows in deeper water and those fishing with downriggers have continued to catch rainbow trout in Lake Eucumbene and Jindabyne, however this behaviour has not suited anglers fly fishing, bait fishing from the bank or surface trollers. We



are planning additional research in the near future to assist us to better understand these fisheries.

- Proportions of stocked fish contributing to the spawning runs are low in most years (0-20%) indicative that sustainability of the fishery isn't completely reliant on stocking. Two aberrant years, 2004 and 2005, had very high levels of stocked fish (65% & 67% in Jindabyne, 37% & 40% in Eucumbene respectively) based on clipped fish returns. In comparison stocked fish returns in 2013 were estimated at 23% in Jindabyne and 31% for Eucumbene. A clear pattern of stocked fish returns in comparison to total fish numbers is not evident.
- A picture tells a thousand words. Below are finclip summaries for the two spawning streams. The difference in fish numbers between the two is due to fishtrap collection at Gaden, whilst backpack electrofishing is used for the Eucumbene tributaries. The blue line is the proportion of clipped (hatchery) v wild spawned fish. The numbers have been adjusted for this proportion of clipped/tagged fish in the stocking.



Cooking Corner

Available on our [Cooking Page](#). More recipes from members welcome please.



Equipment Review

These can be found in our [Gear Review](#) page on the web. I haven't had time, but intend to do one soon on my new pair of Marine Optics sunglasses (with optional bifocal reading lens). Contributions from members on other items they've been using are welcome please.

For Sale

Any fishing related items that members would like to advertise here, please email newsletter@canberra-anglers.asn.au. If you don't know the email address of the advertiser, contact secretary.

Randy has some items for sale:



LLBean stripping basket (*I have only one now – the other was sold*) flexible with good waist belts, and Snowbee felt sole boots, Used, but still good sole, size 8. Prices \$20 for the basket, \$10 for the boots or best offer.



Rod And Fly backpack. Not used often enough, in good nick, \$75. Mine does not have hydration unit (Camelback), but easy to slot one in. Normal retail \$135

From Gilbert

3.75 m square nose punt for sale, it comes with:

- built wooden floor, side storage arrangement,
- Beachmaster inflatable launching wheels
- Lowrance X-4Pro Fishfinder Dual beam transducer
- Sealed lead acid gel battery, maintenance free, 12v 20Ah
- 12V 4.5 W solar panel
- 3 paddles



Asking price with the above equipment is \$1,500.00 negotiable

There is no trailer, however additional trailer top roller and bar can be had if needed, for an additionally negotiable price. The bars with rollers can be seen in pic 2. They are not welded to the trailer, they can be removed and affixed to another trailer

The boat was bought in 2012 and used for a two weeks river trip in the NT, and has since been out once on lake Eucumbene.

See the boat specs here:

<http://www.waves.com.au/products/boats/aluminium-boats/open/horizon-375-punt/>



CAA Items For Sale

The club recently received a large body of fishing equipment as a donation. A number of items are being retained for inclusion with the club boat.







One long 2-piece surf rod/Alvey reel will be held for loan to members including for the coast trip. Contact Jason M to borrow it.

Other items are offered here as 'free to a good home' or, for more valuable items, offered for whatever seems to be a fair price by interested members. Items can be brought to the March meeting.

We also have a large collection of lures (especially Tassie Devils) and the intention is to keep these as 'give-aways' to members attending appropriate fishing outings.



Free to a good home (any kind donations accepted)

	 
<p><i>Nylon net and leather rod bucket belt.</i></p>	<p><i>Striker Nautilus 8' spinning rod (unused – RRP \$24) and Jarvis Walker AFT75 reel</i></p>
 	 
<p><i>Silstar CX40 and Redwolf 6' rod. Short butt rod, suitable for kids or kayaks</i></p>	<p><i>Redwolf reel and 6' rod. Short butt rod, suitable for kids or kayaks</i></p>



Whatever seems to be a fair price

<p>Penn Mariner Plus 6' rod, Penn 209M level-wind reel and gimbal belt (reel alone seen on EBay for \$50) SOLD</p>	<p>Shimano Bantam Mag 50SG reel (with level wind system parts) (seen on EBay for \$85)</p>
<p>Miscellaneous tackle</p>	<p>27lb lead core line (price tag says \$39)</p>

Notable Fish Recorded

As at 20 Feb 2014, following notable fish have been recorded for the 2013/2014 season.

Angler	Species	Length	Method	Location/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
Owen	Brown Trout	45cm	NR	7 Gates 11 Oct
Jason Q	Rainbow Trout	46cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene 12 Oct



Sam	Brown Trout	62cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles 12-13 Oct
Sam	Rainbow Trout	40cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles 12-13 Oct
Peter	Brown Trout	59cm	Fly	Denison (Eucumbene River) 31 Oct
Nathan	Murray Cod	85cm	Spinner Bait	Yerrabi Pond 2 Dec
Damon	Murray Cod	65cm	Surface Popper	Casuarina Sands 3 Dec
Ian	Brown Trout	52cm	Mudeye under float	Jindabyne outing 14 Dec
Jason M	Flathead	38cm	Soft plastic	Coast outing 21-23 Feb
Mike	Flathead	40cm	Bait	Coast outing 21-23 Feb
Mike	Flathead	38cm	Soft plastic	Coast outing 21-23 Feb
Owen	Flathead	42cm	Bait	Coast outing 21-23 Feb

Minutes

Many thanks to Peter for standing in for an absent secretary. Note that Stefan has subsequently confirmed that the Tumut outing in May will stay with the currently advertised dates of 16-18 May.

MINUTES OF CAA MEETING 12 Feb 2014

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

Members present: Greg W, Peter, Charlie, Stuart, Alan, Kelly, Owen, Greg S, Jason Q, Jason M, Mike, Mark S, Geoff, Randy, Nathan, Barry, Steve and Brandon.

Apologies: Damien, Stefan, Susan, Ian, Bill and Marcel.

The meeting was preceded by Jason M with an introduction to the building of hard body lures. The introductory being the first of a four part seminar to be run over the next few months.

Minutes



Greg read the minutes of the previous meeting.

Matters Arising

The members who attended the stocking of cod into Queanbeyan in December were thanked for their participation.

The treasurer has reported tidying up some minor details for the auditor's report.

Bill has reported significant hits on the web site.

Treasurer's Report

Account Balance - \$3664.26 including \$129.73 yet to be reimbursed. Money to be reimbursed consists of \$129.73 for boat maintenance and \$50 for fly tying materials.

There were two boat usages over the Xmas period (\$10) and new SOP for the boat has been published on the web. A new boat email alias for bookings will set up email template to include pickup/drop-off preferred dates.

Proposal to buy a deep cycle battery and battery charger for club and boat use has been approved by the meeting with an amount not to exceed \$350 to be spent.

The boat can then be offered with or without the trolling motor with separate charges to be applied for the battery use to cover the costs of acquiring a new battery at the end of life of the battery. Costs for the providing of the deep cycle battery will be resolved at a later date.

The membership register has been updated and now stands at 49 members.

Asset Discussion

Several items have been donated to the club in recent years including all issues of Flylife from inception to current issue, rods and reels and a fly tying desk including fly tying materials. Interest has been shown by some members for particular copies of Flylife and some rods and reels and proceeds of sales of these items will go directly to the club. Some items may be offered as raffle prizes.

Associated Associations

NSW CFA Feb general meeting at Inverell to be held at Inverell. Membership fees for CAA have been paid to NSW CFA.

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFANSW) published their newsletter by email . Any member wishing to access the newsletter can contact me at Secretary CAA by email. The URL RFA NSW is <http://www.rfansw.com.au>



Snowy Mountains Alpine Cottages offer has been placed on hold by the CAA until a date closer to the Lyle Knowles outing.

Outing Update

Dec Jindy outing: fishing was very poor with only one brown trout caught by Ian and a small brook trout also caught by Ian . Accommodation at the CSIRO Ski lodge was excellent and many thanks to Randy for the initial accommodation contact.

Natives Jan outing: The outing was changed to Black Mountain Spur on Lake Burley Griffin. No catch reports or number of attendees were offered to the meeting.

Feb Potato point Update: Outing is for 21-23 Feb. Owen has arranged accommodation and is contact officer for this outing.

March Excursion: Jason M has booked accommodation to Bondi Forest Lodge. Cost is \$30 p/n p/p and includes use of private trout stocked lake. Families are welcome, and it's a nice safe area for the kids – more information on the lodge is at <http://www.bondiforestlodge.com.au/> So far those going are Bill , Glenys and Jason. Contact Jason if you wish to go.

Koorabri Outing. Greg W is contact for this trip 11-13 Apr and accommodation numbers are limited to 8 with first in best dressed. Day trippers are also welcome. Greg can be contacted by email.

May Outing: Dates are to be corrected and advised by Stefan.

Geoff has identified a possible private lake for the 3rd fly casting lesson in September and will follow up and advise members of progress.

Fly Tying

Fly tying recommences 26 Feb 1930 hrs. Feb fly is large Woolly Bugger . Nathan will be able to supply most materials but has asked attendees to provide their own marabou and medium chenille.

Fishing Reports

Fishing is very hard at the moment and no fish of consequence were reported to the meeting

Greg W
Vice President

Peter
Assistant Secretary