

# The Burley Line

April 2014



*Alan and his 53 cm brown at Bondi Forest Lodge outing.*

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

**Fly Tying** – Wed 26 Mar, Stuart is leading and has provided following advice:

*As we are off to Koorabri I thought it would be good to tie a couple of flies as searching patterns. Especially a fly that can take a dropper nymph to search the water column.*

*Fly's selected are:*

- *Stimulator*
- *Deer hair caddis*
- *Bead head nymph*

*Materials:*

**Stimulator:** *hook LS size 4 to 10. Natural Elk Hair, yellow and orange antron or sim dubbing, hackle furnace/rusty red and grizzly saddle hackle, thread red.*

**Deer Hair caddis** – *to be fished on its own in the evening. Hook size 14-16 -18, dubbing cream beige or the like, small hackle to suit hook size ginger, grizzle or furnace, fine gold wire, Natural Elk Hair, thread brown or cream.*

**Bead head nymph.** *Hook 16 to 18, tungsten bead black, dubbing of choice, ribbing gold wire, pheasant tail for tail and thorax if u tie on a bigger hook.*

**Next Meeting** – Wed 9 Apr – 7:30pm at Raiders Weston Club. Randy will be speaking about his recent trip to Patagonia.

**Next Outing – Goodradigbee** – Fri 11 to Sun 13 Apr. Greg W is organising. All places but one taken due to severe limits on accommodation. “Day Trippers” can be arranged.

## March Outing to Bondi Forest Lodge

Jason M provided the following:





### March Outing – Exploration to Bondi Forest

With the intent to explore new waters for one of the outings this year, the March outing headed down the Monaro Highway south of Bombala to Bondi Forest, basing at Bondi Forest Lodge. Despite early indications of a reasonable crowd, the club slowly whittled down to three anglers, Alan S, Jason M and junior angler Luke.

With a pleasant drive south, including a lunch at Cooma, consideration of pinching some fly tying fur from a recently deceased fox, and then enjoying an old-fashioned cattle drive along the Monaro, the anglers arrived early in the afternoon. Alan went exploring in search of rivers, whilst Jason and Luke setup the home away from home. Our only other visitors were a couple of other anglers, who had been exploring the waters near Craigie when we arrived.



*Settled in for the weekend*

Mid afternoon found us all trying our luck on the stocked dam near the lodge, and after a slow start a few small bow waves kept us going, until the other anglers landed a nice trout that had some trouble fitting in the landing net. We noted the Loop nets were probably going to be a bit small with that fish appearing to be at least 60cm, but fortunately we had a larger folding net.



*Giving it a good go, and the “other” anglers land a fish*

Spurred on, we kept at it, at least until a little angler needed some dinner, but the call for help was heard from the BBQ area as Alan christened his new switch rod, requiring a barefoot dash to the water with the net. After some nice acrobatics, a 53cm 2kg brown trout was landed (one of the benefits of fishing so near to the accommodation). Alan kept on trying for a repeat whilst I sizzled some steaks, and despite some bulldozing trout charging through



the reeds after mudeyes, it was the last trout of the day as Alan succumbed to the luxuries of the lodge with some port and cheese in the recliner.



*Alan's fish – playing, acrobatics*



*Bondi Forest Lodge and lake by moonlight, and in the morning with Skippy for breaky and hoping for a dry fly take*

Despite a nice moon rise over the water about 10:30pm, it was pretty quiet (and a bit chilly on the bare feet) but a pleasant pre-bed flick, and after short nap soon the race was on to the water pre-dawn – at least until a little boy woke up. After a break for breaky (and a short wade to retrieve some flies and leaders from the reeds), the flogging resumed. Alan was just re-entering the dam when a summons for the larger landing net was again issued, as a rainbow had decided Jason's wooly bugger was a nice snack. A nice 47cm trout was landed – probably also christening my Lamson reel and frequent flyer rod - timed nicely before the next call to action for Dad and the toilet training.



*Jason's rainbow – landing, and landed (our cabin in the background) before being released*



*The lodge has a relaxed dress code for the trip from the dam to the lodge*

Although the dam was given another good working, and a nice 14” rainbow was spotted nearby chasing mudeyes, no more fish were landed (despite Luke’s best slow and steady retrieves). Alan had to return to Canberra for work on Monday, and an explore out to Craigie and Qinburrah Rd showed some potential for river fishing in skinny water (reportedly some small grasshoppers are about), but the dam was hard to pass up with easy access, clear backcasts (mostly), and good-sized fish. A brief afternoon thunderstorm stirred the action a little, but not quite enough to convert it to a fish – at least not when being called away to assist a young chap (or save the chickens from a wannabe farm hand).



*Craigie River at the bridge, and loo with a view – but no fish*

In all, it has turned out to be quite a successful trip. Despite appearing like a low-result lake, the small stocked dam held some large fish, despite the recent drop in level, and with the next rise in level, more fish are planned to be stocked. Being catch-and-release ensures these larger fish remain for all to enjoy. Alan and I both landed fish – which for me, I think is the first trout in Australia since 2012!

The proximity of the dam was quite handy for opportunity fishing, ducking off for 5 or 15 minutes when the time suited to have a cast, and the facilities are quite kid-friendly, resulting in Luke and I staying an extra night. The rooms served their purpose well, and the kitchen/lounge remains well stocked, with almost everything needed to assist with prepping and cooking meals (e.g. alfoil, paper towels, some spices), with the grill, oven, stove, microwave, toaster and BBQ all made full use of. As I sit here with my rod and reel drying on the kitchen sink, enjoying a port and coffee by the fireplace, I can hear the bats and plovers flying around the dam, satisfied in the knowledge that although I could be out there wetting a line, those fish will still be there next time I return.



See ya later.

## **Murray Cod at Burrinjuck**

Local fishing legend, Life Member and past President of CAA, Dr Bryan Pratt, has passed some observations from an early Feb trip to Burrinjuck with his son Tim testing a range of the new surface lures that are all the rage at the moment for catching Murray Cod in regional waterways.

It would be an understatement to say we had a magnificent day. We raised 27 fish to different lures, nearly all in the morning session and the largest of the fish was over a metre long and weighed well in excess of 30 kg. The fish came from water varying from 2 metres to 15 metres deep and the best locations were along the rocky shoreline of the Murrumbidgee Arm. The larger fish all came from deep water. The strikes were impressive sometimes showering us in the boat with water and making a huge noise which echoed across the lake. The fish sometimes came up immediately below the lure and inhaled it but at other times came to the surface then porpoised across to take the lure side-on. The noise, splash and impact of the take made it incredibly exciting, heart-stopping fishing and we were mentally exhausted by the time we finished the session. We learned a lot from the testing - which lures to use, how far to cast, where to cast, how to pause and retrieve and how often to put the lure back in the same spot for a second try at a fish. It was interesting to note that there were plenty of strikes but only a few hook-ups, so we will need to investigate possible alternative hooking arrangements for the lures.



From our testing here and earlier testing in Canberra's urban lakes we now know which of the big range of Australian-made and imported lures are worth a try. The good ones include Taylor Made Surface Breaker and Cod Walloper, Kingfisher Mantis, Koolabung Cod Walker, Arbogast Jitterbug, Heddon Crazy Crawler and Torpedo, Halco Night Walker, Live Target Mouse and Frog and any lure that is fitted with a fizzer propeller or swims like a cicada. If you haven't tried this new form of fishing I can heartily recommend it, but be prepared for some heart-stopping action, sometimes when you least expect it.





## Nathan's Report from New Zealand

Hey Guys,

Just returned from a reasonably successful trip to the South Island of New Zealand.

Myself and good mate Ben Elliott spent 9 days there. We based ourselves in Omarama for the majority of the time as it was very central to the places that we fished.

The first few days there were shocking weather wise! We encountered everything from sleet, rain, hail and even snow!...Of course accompanied by NZ's relentless wind! So not a great deal of fishing was done, but a lot of reconnoitering!

Our most successful days were fishing the iconic Ahuriri River. The quality of fish was unbelievable. No huge fish to report, but the average fish was around 2lbs up to just shy of 4lbs.

The most successful techniques were indicator nymphing followed by casting dries to rising fish. Very small flies were the order of the day...16's and even 18's!.

I'm feeling homesick already! Can't wait to get back!

Cheers,

Nathan

p.s...Ben came up with a genius idea to dry our wading boots on the way back to Christchurch Airport









## Jason Q's Report from Points North

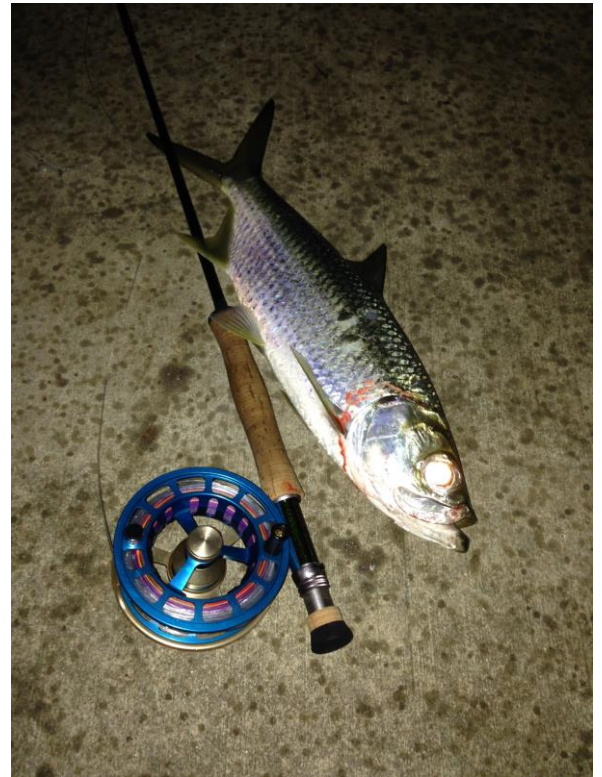
Jason Q variously described his photos as "Cairns" and "Daintree River", but was cagy about specific locations. Would appear some barra in the Daintree and tarpon in Cairns:





Can send you this for photo of the month!

Respecting the local guys wishes not to show background in the photos for fear of over populating the area.



## Jason M's Lure Making Project

Jason introduced his lure making project at the February meeting. The outline program is described below:

### Segment 1

Design Selection and lure features

Balsa, pine, and hardwood

Lure weight & buoyancy – casting, sinking, suspending, and floating

Bib drag

Tow points and hook mounts

Where do fish hit the lure – hook positioning. Weedless/snagproofing

Treble weights and strengths. Single hooks

Rattles – plastic and glass, solid mounting

Lead weighting

Ability to create your own unique or bling existing lures with items often found in fly tying, model making, and craft boxes

Design – magazines, catalogues, tracing paper and grid paper

- Modern – internet – product pages, photos, and scalable printing
- Tackle junkie is a good mag, also FWF lure specials, MO Tackle

### Segment 2

Body building

- Jigsaw
- Sanding/shaping



- Fine tuning
- Don't overdo it. Easy to take too much off
- Keep it even
- Can wait until swim test before smoothing off not confident in final design

#### Bib

- Adds action
- If emulating, go for front edge of plastic bibs (can be quite thick)
- Aluminium can, aluminium sheet (bought by club?), stainless sheet, plastic
- Tweak it, try to keep even
- Some metal can be bent/shaped

#### Tow Point

- Selection done early, but can be flexible
- Nose, bib, top of head
- Can tweak it to even out swimming
- Can add hook anchors at same time, or leave until later. Where would the fish bite it?
- Give it a test swim

Hand out wood for homework. Option to loan hobby sander/drill bit. Can do by hand, dremel/rotary tool, or belt sander.

Show turning tow points

#### Segment 3

All is not lost – less action – more angler effort

- Can trim off tow points and put in another
- Can trim/change bib
- Might still work in other situations – surface lure etc
  
- Treble selection
- Split ring selection
- Rattles – save for more complex lures? Glass vs plastic, positioning
- Tuning with weight – heavy hooks/light hooks etc
- Painting part 1 – undercoat, base layers, homework for next time

Finish – rough versus smooth

#### Painting

- Undercoat
- Think about features – scales etc
- Paint main body and underlying features – paint in order

#### Segment 4

##### Painting Part 2

- Eyes – pen/dowel ends/drillbits or stick-on, or rattly eyes

Bling – feathers on trebles, glitter, holographic stickers, scales, and handpainting features

Gloss finish?

Final tuning – bib/head tow, split rings, knots, turn the eye



## Message from Monaro Acclimatisation Society

Further to our story last month “Debunking Some Stocking Myths”, I recently received this email:

Dear all

I have just had a conversation with Cameron Westaway (NSW Fisheries Manager) concerning the current state of affairs with our rainbow trout in the two lakes. This update is designed to keep you informed.

Fisheries are bringing over a rainbow trout expert scientist from New Zealand to assist with identifying issues with the fisheries. Fisheries still need to obtain funding to conduct the research – the more money they can get the bigger and better the research can be. To assist with this MAS is sending a letter to the Minister to encourage her to dig deep in her pockets. The Snowy Lakes Strategy Working Group will meet on 28 May to consider the way forward with this research (MAS sits on this group), however Cameron has expressed a desire to hold a public meeting prior to this meeting to explain to the fishing community what the issues are and what we might be able to do about it. No details for this meeting at present but when I know more I will ensure you are all informed.

I hope this update gives you some satisfaction that things are being done to ensure our two premier fisheries are being looked after.

Regards  
Steve Samuels  
President  
Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc

Since then there has been reporting in the Canberra Times identifying the expert as Dr Michel Dedual from New Zealand's Department of Conservation, who has been studying similar issues at Lake Taupo. See <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/fishy-business-mystery-of-missing-rainbow-trout-20140314-34so7.html>

## Compression Rig

Jason M recently brought to my attention a new technology to replace knots (sort of like crimping only better):

I saw some gadget news on Tight Lines on Sky whilst in the UK – It's called a compression rig. So far sold pre-rigged, but the company (Lynx, <http://www.lynx-fishing.com/>) is bring out the tool to make your own. Not so much for fly gear (although it could lead to some interesting murray cod flies) but good for bait and lures. I'm still happy with the knots though.

## 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.

If you are anything like me, the passage of time is making it harder and harder to get that x6 tippet through the #20 fly eye! Trust me to take up fly fishing just at the age that my body is starting to fall apart! I've recently acquired a new pair of Marine Optics sunglasses (with optional bifocal reading lens) and have added a review.

Jason M has submitted some observations on his new walkie-talkies: Uniden 0.5W handhelds - UH305SX-NB.

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](mailto:newsletter@canberra-anglers.asn.au).

Following items are from Jason Q – email secretary if you don't have his email address:

Bill, I trust all is well and you're still day dreaming about NZ as I do regularly!! Attached is some gear I've been told I must move. I've got enough gear to fit out 10 men! Here is the start and will send more photos through as they are unpacked from boxes from the move.





Offers are fine. Most would know a new value to offer a second hand price.

The reel is a 1000 that D is happy to move on. The rest is pretty self explanatory.





## Notable Fish Recorded

As at Mar 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    | Australian Salmon | 48cm   | Bait               | Coast outing 21-23 Feb             |
| Owen    | Flathead          | 43cm   | Bait               | Coast outing 21-23 Feb             |
| Alan    | Brown Trout       | 53cm   | Fly                | Bondi Forest Lodge outing 7-10 Mar |





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|         |               |      |     |                                       |
|---------|---------------|------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| Jason M | Rainbow Trout | 47cm | Fly | Bondi Forest Lodge<br>outing 7-10 Mar |
|---------|---------------|------|-----|---------------------------------------|

## Minutes

Many thanks to Peter for standing in for an absent secretary (again!).

### MINUTES OF CAA MEETING 12 Mar 2014

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

Members present: Peter, Charlie, Alan, Kelly, Owen, Greg S, Jason M, Mike, Geoff, Barry, Steve, Ian and Ray.

Apologies: Bill and Greg W.

The meeting was preceded by James Morgan from Tackle World with a presentation on using and modifying spinnerbaits. James also presented the meeting with a Bass Fisherman Tee shirt which the club will raffle at the AGM in August.

### Minutes

Ray (new member) was welcomed to the club by the president.

Minutes were not available but treasurer reported that the minutes as circulated were accurate in content.

### Correspondence

Monaro Acclimatisation Society (MAS) have initiated an investigation into the low numbers of rainbow trout being caught in Lakes Jindabyne and Eucumbene. The MAS have asked for help from a New Zealand expert on rainbow trout and NSW DPI. Donations may be asked for from Angling organisations to help fund the investigation.

Invitations have been sent to CAA to participate in Dollar for Dollar native fish stocking programs. CAA declined the initial invitation which closes on 4th April 2014 and have deferred a decision on nominating for the stocking of Murray Cod and Golden Perch which close on the 2nd May 2014 until the April meeting.

### Treasurer's Report

Account Balance stands at \$3393.02. The treasurer has identified a deep cycle recharger for \$175.00.



## **Outing Update**

**Potato Point Outing Feb 2014:** Owen gave the meeting a report on the coastal outing to Potato point.

**Bondi Forest Outing Mar 2014:** Jason and Alan attended this outing and both were quite impressed with the size of fish sighted and caught in the privately stocked pond. Alan landed a 53 cm brown in the pond and also saw a 75cm+ fish landed by another guest staying at the lodge.

**Koorabri Outing.** Greg W is contact for this trip 11-13 Apr and accommodation numbers are limited to 10 with first in best dressed. Nine places are currently booked in. Day trippers are also welcome. Greg can be contacted by email.

**May Outing:** Dates are as programmed for the Tumut River outing on our calendar (16-18 May) and Stefan is the trip organiser.

## **Fly Tying**

Fly tying recommenced 26 Feb 1930 hrs. Feb. The fly of the month was the large Woolly Bugger and tying was run by Stuart.

The next fly tying night is 26 Mar and details of requirements will be advised.

Fly tying date for April has been changed to 30 April.

## **Fishing Reports**

Fishing is very hard at the moment and no fish of consequence apart from large numbers of carp from LBG and Alan's Bondi trout were reported to the meeting.

The Annual LBG carp fishing competition (Carp Out) is programmed for 30 Mar 2014.

Geoff  
President

Peter  
Asst Secretary