

OCTOBER 2014

The Burley Line



From the Editor

I am humbled and nervous in taking on this month's newsletter role from Bill; huge boots to fill!

I firstly wish to express on behalf of the club a huge thank you for your time as Editor and the contributions you made over the past 10 years, we wish you all the best in trying to fill in time you now have free that would normally be spent slaving over the PC scribing next month's CAA newsletter - cheers to you!

For the rest of us I challenge you to submit more gear review's, trip reports, jokes and any pro-tips on angling in the ACT.

I hope you find the read as interesting as previous issues and look forward to delivering you a jam-packed Burley Lines.

Tight Loops,
Jason Q

Upcoming Events

- **Sep 24th** – Fly Tying Carrot Fly
- **Sep 7, 14, 21** – Fly Casting on lawns of old Parliament House. Please promote this event using [flyers on the website](#).
- **October 8th** CAA lure making - S 35 deg 17.867 min, E 149 deg 04.312 @ 1915, followed by CCA Meeting 2015 @ Raiders Weston
- **October 10-12** - Lyle Knowles Eucumbene River



Spring Time Reddies start to Fire!

Inside This Issue

From the Editor's desk, Historic Trout Anniversary Function, SMH News Article, Fishing Reports, For Sale, Notable Fish Recorded, Presentation Night, September Minutes, Scottish Highlands Report, Into the backing and heaps, heaps more!

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Newsletter of the CANBERRA ANGLER'S ASSOCIATION Inc.
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CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601
<http://www.canberra-anglers.asn.au/>



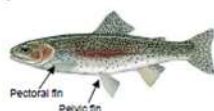
September 2014 edition of the NSW Freshwater Fisher
 This is just a small extract from September's newsletter, many more articles can be found here:
<http://www.freshwateranglers.com.au/>

How old is my fin-clipped trout?

Mark Year	Fin Clip	Recapture Year															
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
2000	Right Pelvic	-	1	2	3	4	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	Right Pectoral	-	-	1	2	3	4	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2002	Left Pelvic	-	-	-	1	2	3	4	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2003	Left Pectoral	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	4	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2004	Right Pelvic	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	2	3	4	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
2005	Right Pectoral	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	2	3	4	1.5	-	-	-	-	-
2006	Left Pelvic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	2	3	4	1.5	-	-	-	-
2007	Left Pectoral	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	2	3	4	1.5	-	-	-
2008	Right Pelvic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	2	3	4	1.5	-	-
2009	Right Pectoral	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	2	3	4	1.5	-
2010	Left Pelvic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	2	3	4	1.5
2011	Left Pectoral	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	2	3	4
2012	Right Pelvic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	2	3
2013	Right Pectoral	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	2
2014	Left Pelvic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5

How to use this chart:

1. Lay fish this direction, up is left



2. Identify clipped fins



3. Measure fish



4. Match fin clip with recapture year and the box will give you the age. If 1.5, the general rule is that if it is under 420mm it is 1 yr, if it is over 420mm it is 5 yr

Cooking Corner

Recipes required please!

Other great recipes can be found here: [CAA Recipe Page](#)

How old is that trout?

Ever caught a fin-clipped trout in Eucumbene or Jindabyne? If you have, you can determine its age by the position of the clipped fin. Every year thousands of trout are fin-clipped by volunteers at Gaden Trout Hatchery so that the age group can be identified.

Information courtesy of NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

HISTORIC TROUT ANNIVERSARY FUNCTION

To celebrate 150 years since the introduction of brown trout to Australia the Cooma Trout Acclimatisation Association and the Monaro Acclimatisation Society are combining their efforts to hold an anniversary function to celebrate the occasion. The anniversary function will be held at the Bidgee Lodge on Saturday 4 October 2014 commencing at 12 noon. It will include canapés, smoked trout, main courses, salads, desserts, and wine. Each guest will receive an historical souvenir menu.

Cost per person is \$50

Places for the function are limited, if you wish to attend, you need to book now.

All enquiries to Peter Batho, Event Coordinator
 Phone 0412 503704 Email: pbatho@webone.com.au



Privacy Act :

Members please note:
 If you do not want your details published in the newsletter, please advise the Secretary or Editor

OCTOBER 2014

Subject: article for next newsletter
Date: Fri, 29 Aug 2014 20:15:02

Stefan gave me a hardcopy of this article (has a nice photo of a brown being revived underwater). Rather provocative tale. I remain unconvinced when I see "He imagines the fish were brought to Australia because native fish were not particularly good sporting fish. This belief, though widespread, is probably mistaken" in the same article as "when trout move in, tiny native fish almost always move out". I've never read before that trout cod (I'm aware is threatened) are being threatened by trout - looked up Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trout_cod) where trout get a major blame for reducing trout cod stocks, however (unlike wikipedia's normal expectation) I could see no direct citations of research supporting the hypothesis rather just a large collection of references

Cheers
B2

[Rainbow's end?](#)

Author: By DANIEL FLITTON
Date: 09/08/2014
Words: 2379
Source: SMH

Publication: Sydney Morning Herald
Section: Good Weekend
Page: 14

It was introduced to Australian waters to make 19th-century colonists feel at home and continues to delight anglers, but for conservationists the trout is a pest on par with the fox.

He'd be a redhead. Freckled, with a hooked jaw stuck forward. An out-of-towner. He'd put you on your arse in a bar fight but no matter who started it, when the cops turned up, they'd take his side. *Salmo trutta*. The brown trout. Cunning? For sure. Prized? Absolutely. A pest? Don't ask Australia's 3.4 million fishing fanatics. They almost certainly don't want to know.

Trout - both browns and rainbows, *Oncorhynchus mykiss* - are beloved invaders of Australia, and yet they are also ravenous foreign killers given a privileged pass to Australia's most beautiful and bountiful river systems. Since their introduction in 1864, some native fish, frogs and aquatic insects have been driven to extinction by the outsider, leaving scientists in quiet dismay. Most fishing stories run to exaggeration, but the cost of the colonial experiment that brought trout to Australia is a tale routinely ignored.

Like their feral offshoots, foxes and rabbits, trout were originally shipped to the colony for the pleasure of the hunt. But while the former are now branded vermin and have become targets for eradication, the most remarkable aspect of the trout's life in Australia is the special treatment it still receives.

Laws prevent the removal of breeding fish from mountain streams and anybody seen catching too many of them can be fined. Every year, state authorities release millions of the palm-sized foreigners into Australia's southern waterways. Budgets running to tens of millions, collected from compulsory fishing licences and taxpayers, have been allocated to the settlement and prosperity of the exotic predator. Just a pity it makes such a bloody environmental mess.

It's hard to explain to someone who has never fished Australia's fresh waters the veneration the trout inspires. Anglers don't capture them to eat them: they pursue them for the pure enjoyment of the dance - and the trout is a more than worthy partner.

I know this because I fish. Chasing rainbows - or, rather, rainbow trout, carefree cousin to the brown - was a happy boyhood pastime around the volcanic lakes of western Victoria. Nothing could make me happier than the glint of a silver torpedo bursting from the surface as the rod kicked and bowed. Somehow, I'd always just assumed they belonged there.

Neil Hyatt dips a hand into a deep tub and lifts up a thumping female rainbow, the fish slightly dulled by the tranquilliser he's mixed into the water. He holds it carefully for an instant, feeling its weight in his hand, only to send it splashing into a pond behind him. He's been working with trout for more than a decade and knows his charges well. This one's not ready.

"Another week or two away," he says. Today, Hyatt's job is to examine the brood fish at the Snobs Creek Fish Hatchery in Victoria's east. The fish farm is a collection of tin sheds and shallow ponds, each watched over by a small, newly installed robot-like head that "coughs" food pellets into the water. Hyatt selects another female and discovers her to be ripe. He runs his fingers down her belly and a cascade of tiny, bright-orange bubbles squirt into a bucket below. He gives her a gentle shake and again "milks" her. Each hen can surrender as many as 2000 eggs in a single stripping. "You just shake them down," he says.

His colleague, David Ambrens, is waist-deep in a nearby pond, herding male trout - or jacks - into a corner to be netted. He hoists one out and, holding it suspended over the bucket of eggs, runs his fingers down the jack's body to harvest its milt, sending a jet of white seminal fluid into the same bucket.

This is how humans manage what nature alone cannot, breeding and exporting trout to every corner of the earth, including Australia's coolest watery reaches. It's become big business; in the lakes around Jindabyne in the Snowy Mountains, for instance, the NSW government puts the value of trout fishing to the local economy at \$70 million in tourist dollars. You can also find trout in the Adelaide Hills of South Australia, the southern tip of Western Australia, and in lagoons such as Little Pine and Penstock in Tasmania. They are there because people like Hyatt and Ambrens put them there - all for the thrill of the "dance".

After a few weeks spent in well-oxygenated water maintained at four to seven degrees, the Snobs Creek eggs hatch. The hatchlings, only a few millimetres in length, eat the egg remnants and are then carefully fed ground fish food. Over the next 12 months they are kept in tubs inside a shed and then moved into outdoor "races", long pools that meander down a gentle slope like a running track. Here, they grow to between 10 and 15 centimetres, each weighing about 20 grams.

Then the fingerlings' journey begins. A pair of 10-tonne trucks, equipped with tanks and oxygen bottles, trundle back and forth across Victoria, from east to far west, covering as many as 88,000 kilometres - the equivalent of more than two trips around the entire coastline of the Australian mainland - in a bid to populate the state's waterways with the fish.

When the creatures are released, local fishing clubs are happy to help, usually transporting their intended quarry straight to their pet angling spots. Almost 500,000 brown and rainbow trout were introduced last year in Victoria, while the NSW government claims to have "liberated" about three million trout and salmon over the same period.

A fair few of them have been duly unliberated by former prime minister and keen fly fisherman Malcolm Fraser. Many years ago, when Fraser was a new member of parliament, a much older colleague grabbed a couple of cane rods and took him away from Canberra for the weekend. They drove south to Adaminaby and Eucumbene Dam. Fraser had been going through a difficult time ("When you have a rough week [in politics], it's always with your own party, not a political enemy," he says) but now, on his first fishing trip, he captured a trout of such size that, in all the intervening years, he's never been able to snare a larger one. He also found mental release. "If you're thinking about fishing, you can't think about politics," he says. Over the years, he has filled the dams on his Victorian property with trout.

"They are unpredictable," he says, "and fun and difficult to catch." He imagines the fish were brought to Australia because native fish were not particularly good sporting fish. This belief, though widespread, is probably mistaken. The real reason more likely had more to do with homesickness - and the preservation of an old European habit - than the qualities, or lack thereof, of antipodean species.

James Arndell Youl, a grazier whose family moved to Tasmania in 1819, earned a knighthood after succeeding in his determined mission to introduce the first salmonoids, as members of the trout and salmon family are collectively known, into Australia. It was no easy feat. His delicate cargo of ova had failed to survive passage through the tropics on several voyages. But in 1864, aboard a ship called the Norfolk, Youl's fish eggs finally survived a 94-day voyage lovingly packed in damp moss in the vessel's ice house.

Fraser, who has fished a lot of waters, counts Australian, and particularly Tasmanian, trout fisheries as among the best in the world. "There are people who say we should get rid of trout in Victorian waters," he says. "I think that quite ludicrous."

Fraser's is a curious blind spot, and a common one. Studies have shown that when trout move in, tiny native fish almost always move out. Many species of local galaxias - minnow-like fish named for the shimmering stars on their scales - only exist in ghettos now, corralled above waterfalls where trout cannot go. Scientists in Tasmania spent \$25,000 logging 78 working days and 51 nights at one lake to save one of the last breeding grounds of the almost extinct Clarence galaxias after zealous anglers had introduced trout. (Finger-sized trout can be bought from private farms. Releasing them into public waters without a permit is prohibited, but authorities make no effort to track their final destination.)

When bushfires in years past soured water with ash killing all the fish, trout were quickly reintroduced. The big-mouthed invaders stake out prime territory, around tangled tree branches in a river or the sunken boulders of cool-running streams. Trout hatch earlier than native fish and then hungrily patrol waters where local fish spawn. "They are just really effective predators," explains Susan Lawler, head of La Trobe University's department of environmental management and ecology. "They'll eat anything that fits into their mouths."

The international union for the conservation of Nature, the standard bearer for animal protection, now ranks brown and rainbow trout in the top 100 of the world's worst invasive alien creatures. The spotted tree frog in northern Victoria and southern NSW is critically endangered because trout eat the tadpoles that local fish leave undisturbed. Rainbow trout also carry a fish smallpox that has cruelled numbers of native Macquarie perch.

Scientists speak of "impact" - the effect of the trout on native habitat - but, in Australia, the reckoning is imperfect. No one carried clipboards down to the river banks to count populations of native fish in the time before the foreigners arrived and, in many areas, trout no longer coexist with local species.

"This lack of precision is often used by supporters of the trout industry to infer that there is no hard evidence of trout impacts," one study concluded.

Victoria's fish-release policy was savaged last year by an official, though largely ignored, audit of the state's fresh waterways that revealed a lack of "robust scientific information or reliable data". The authorities, it reported, have a "structured, timely and transparent approach" when consulting recreational fishing groups, but there is "limited or no engagement" with natural-resource managers or conservation groups. The tension is obvious: the same authority responsible for protecting native species is also charged with filling lakes, rivers and streams with trout.

Yet Australia does have a contender to rival, or even surpass, the trout as a freshwater sport fish, if only it could be given the chance. The "bluenose", as it's often called, is considered by many anglers to be the fastest and strongest freshwater fish on the line. It's misnamed the "trout cod" for its speckles, but it's not related to the trout. It is, in fact, a relative of the Murray cod.

Once prolific - it's thought to have previously ranged throughout the waters of the Murray Darling basin - the bluenose is now under threat, having been chased, literally, from their territories by trout. By the 1970s, the only remaining self-sustaining population in Victoria could be found in a stretch of creek below Polly McQuinn's Weir near Strathbogie, Victoria. Only a few existed in NSW. Breeding programs and catch bans have since managed to pull the fish back from the brink of extinction in trout-free lowland rivers. In a few short generations, it seems, the trout has conquered the collective memory.

As a young man in the 1920s, local angler Bert McKenzie recalled catching bluenose on fly, spinners and bait in central northern Victoria, often while fishing for trout. The native, he used to laugh, made a real mess of his trout tackle. "I was never so sick of a fish in all my life. I wanted him to get away but I also didn't want to lose him. Anyone who wants real sport, should go to trout cod water."

McKenzie, from Ruffy in the Shire of Strathbogie, was no slouch. He knew the deep holes in the rivers, was secretary of the local fishing club, and understood what Australia had lost. Waters once famed for their bluenose - the Goulburn River, Acheron River, Rubicon River and Big River - have become trout domain.

McKenzie died in the early 1980s but his story emerges thanks to painstaking efforts by Will Trueman, a biologist and native fish enthusiast. His 2011 book, True Tales of the Trout Cod, comprises nearly 600 pages of oral testimony on early fishing in Australia. Old-timers such as McKenzie relate how the trout "went up every creek, every pothole, they grew fantastic", and how the natives, as a result, "got real scarce". This oral history has added to the scientific evidence of the trout's impact - and to demands for authorities to protect and cultivate local species.

Over the decades, state governments have slowly embraced natives and now breed and release them in great numbers. Murray cod and golden perch (or yellowbelly) are favourites, with more than 1.8 million released in Victoria's warmer waters - those above 20 degrees, where trout struggle to survive - in the past year. Another 25,000 bluenose have also found new homes in the Goulburn River and at Beechworth. The locals are more difficult fish to rear in captivity, demanding live food such as yabbies, grubs or other fish. So while more natives are entering Australia's waters than trout, they are typically much smaller in size.

The Victorian government, spurred into action by last year's audit, has begun a study of the effects of trout release on native populations and upgraded its database. Scientists have no doubt that native fish populations would recover in the better-quality streams if trout stocking was halted. In many areas, trout populations are not wholly self-sustaining; they need humans as an ally.

Eradicating trout completely might be near impossible, yet trout-proof fences can be built. Thin wire gill nets have been stretched across mountain lakes in California's Sierra Nevada to kill the rainbow trout that were once transplanted there for the enjoyment of anglers. In mountain creeks in Victoria and NSW - the locations have not been revealed - barriers have been erected to protect endangered local fish by preventing trout leaping into cooler shallow waters.

Perhaps the process has already begun. It is possible that global warming will spoil many of the cool waters trout colonise. When the trout go, the bluenose and others like it will be there to reclaim their birthright.

Equipment Review

Received anything shiny and new? Let us know all about it...

Email:

newsletter@canberra-anglers.asn.au

Consider this...

<http://www.elmcottage.com.au/> - Pet Friendly too!



Canberra Anglers Association Presents

Learn to fly cast

Sept. 7, 14 & 21 10am-noon

FREE coaching by CAA members including IFFF certified instructor

ON THE LAWS OF OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE[®]
Opposite the Treasury Building across Parkes Place West

All Ages and Levels Welcome!

BOBS PROVIDES OR BRING YOUR OWN
Sunblock or eye protection essential to participants

SAUSAGE SIZZLE * SOFTDRINKS * RAFFLES

Whether pouring, it's the way you do it that you'll find your own skills in the water. See website for details. www.canberra-anglers.asn.au

OCTOBER 2014

Presentation Night – AGM Photos

Lyle Knowles Trophy – Sam 62cm brown Trout/40cm Rainbow Trout (no photo)

Angler's Art Trophy

For best trout on an outing – Jason Q 57cm Brown Trout

Mick Cornick Trophy

For best stream trout on fly for the season – Geoff 65.5cm Brown Trout

Mick O'Brien Trophy

For best trout, any method, for the year – Jason Q 8.5lb Brown Trout

Keith Shields Trophy

For native for the year – 85cm Murray Cod

Carp Trophy

For best carp in local lakes for the year – Charlie 66.5cm

ACT Angler's Trophy

For best salt water – Owen 48cm Salmon (no photo)

Hardy Rod

President's Award for Year Long Contribution – Jason M (no photo)



Prizes

Canberra Anglers Association wishes to thank the following businesses and persons for their generous donations to the recent Annual General Meeting:

- Anglers Art Phillip
- Pratt's Tackle Box Belconnen
- Tackle World Fyshwick
- Raiders Weston Club
- CAA Exec Committee
- Jason Q

For Sale

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

The major items for sale are from Frances Aschenberger (long term member Fred's widow).

Frances also has two fly rods: a brand new Loomis IMX 9' #7 two piece (\$450 – Nathan tells me this would be \$700 or \$800 new) and a good condition Sage SLT 9' #6 two piece (\$350). She also has a number of old beach rods for sale. These are with Bryan Pratt at the Belconnen store, phone him or Nathan at Pratt's Tackle 6251 7733.

Frances' phone contact can be gained by contacting the CAA Secretary.



She has books too, these have not been costed.



OCTOBER 2014

Randy still has these for sale:

Snowbee felt sole boots, Used, but still good sole. \$10 or best offer.



Stuart has the following for a donation to the club:

Size 8 with socks, but with neoprene booties suitable for size 7.

I am a size 8.5/9 but over time the leather has shrunk and my foot has spread. Still very serviceable.

Regards

Stuart.



Notable Fish Recorded

Season 14/15 Catch Register:

Angler	Species	Length	Method	Location/Event/Date
Nathan	Cod	68cm	Fly	Yerrabi Ponds, 28 Jul
Nathan	Brown	56cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 3 Aug
Jason Q	Brown	53cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 13 Aug 2200hrs - Anglers Reach

OCTOBER 2014

CAA Minutes

3 September 2014

Members present: Geoff D, Peter K, Stefan F, Charlie D, Ian K, Jason M, Lyall C.

Apologies: Bill B

The meeting was preceded by lure making led by Jason M at Scrivener Dam. Meeting opened at 8.45 pm.

Minutes

Minutes of the August meeting as promulgated in the September newsletter were accepted.

Correspondence

Following elections in August, papers were submitted to the ACT Government to provide an updated list of office bearers. On 29 August an Incorporation Association Extract was received by the Secretary confirming the CAA's re-registration as an incorporated association.

Treasurer's Report

Account Balance stands at \$ 2,495.15 plus \$100 cash float. Payment is yet to be made to CFA.

General Business

Members were updated on the CAA bumper stickers being printed by Kelly.

Preparations for introductory fly casting weekends 7, 14 and 21 Sept were discussed, including Mark's preparation of a document to be signed by participants. Allocation of duties was discussed and CAA members reminded to arrive at 09.30 at the fly casting venue on 7 September.

Outing Update

Secretary is to e-mail members canvassing interest and accommodation preferences for Lyle Knowles weekend on the Eucumbene River 10 to 12 October.

Fishing Reports

Catches over the last month has been slow in the region. Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Geoff D
President

Lyall C
Secretary

OCTOBER 2014

Trip Schedule and Reports

Alan S is organising the Lyle Knowles competition at Eucumbene on 10 – 12 October.

Accommodation is booked at Providence Portal Caravan Park for a cabin for four.

We currently have Alan and Lyall as definite starters and can accommodate two or three more keen anglers.

Please contact Alan early on alanflyfish@gmail.com or 0413 043 664 before all the bunks are taken.

It promises to be a competitive and fantastic weekend!



Where's Lyall Been?!

Scottish Highlands Salmon – Great Gillies and Good Luck



Dateline: April 2014, Inverness and surrounds

Expectation level: zero to very low

Target: spring-run salmon (*salmo salar*)

The season for salmon was just opening as we arrived at Inverness airport, picked up a hire car then drove fifteen minutes to Ness Castle Estate and our cottage beside the River Ness. Ness Castle Estate is set up especially for salmon fly fishing with its own resident world champion spey caster and fishing guide or “gillie”.



View of the bothy in the foreground, River Ness in the middle and what looked like a ship on a hill in the background. It turned out to be a tourist ferry plying the Caledonian Canal en route to Loch Ness

Each fishing day began at around 09.00 at fishing HQ otherwise known as a “bothy” in front of an open wood fire, to plan the day and be allocated a morning beat and an afternoon beat, and to meet other fisher folk who had arrived at Ness Castle. For me day one was to be on a beat for a couple of hours in the morning fishing from a wooden rowing boat anchored in the middle of the river with a long anchor rope wound between two pegs. After three spey casts forty five degrees and allowed to swing to directly behind the boat, a metre of rope would be unwound and the process repeated, moving down the beat metre by metre and covering all the water. For the afternoon I was to be left to my own devices wading a shallower beat.

OCTOBER 2014

To my astonishment, after an hour or so, a strip strike saw a fish on and it was a salmon.



Under instruction from the gillie, care was taken not to play the fish for too long for fear of wearing it out and it not surviving revival and release. It was a handsome kelt salmon and surpassed my expectation. Rather than migrating out to sea to feed, this salmon had remained in the river over winter. . Just catching one salmon would have made the trip ... but it was followed by another kelt on my Jimmy Gray fly !!!

The pressure was off having caught two salmon and I was left to my own devices. Wading waste deep in a fairly swift current I was casting double spey across and down. Being very relaxed and happy with my earlier success, I was taken by surprise when there was a distinct tug on the fly. Low drag setting, let it turn and run then run some more. Strip strike without excessive force then raise the thirteen foot spey rod smoothly and I was on !!!

The fish had to be landed and released from the shore as they are too big to man-handle in the middle of the river. Between me and the bank was a stretch of water I knew was much deeper than the waste deep water I was standing in but such was the excitement of catching a salmon by myself that I was prepared to swim to shore if I had to. Waste deep turned to chest deep and keeping the rod almost vertical to maintain tension on the line was essential. Half floating as you do when you are chest deep in a fast flowing river, I did a very good impression of a Highland Fling in my camo fly fishing kilt floating up around my ears as I half staggered, half floated from slippery round rock to slippery round rock to the grassy bank.

As with many fly fisher people, my instinct was to land the fish and unhook it. The double salar hooks halve the pressure a single hook would put on the mouth of a salmon so they don't cause as much damage. The hook came out easily. OK, so now to get the evidentiary photo. Out came the camera with the fish on the bank. Looking down at the salmon, the water from my wet sleeves dripped down to the camera and on to the lens. I got one photo then another and the salmon bucked once and was back in the water. Result?

OCTOBER 2014

A bad photo of a salmon with a glaucoma style spot in the middle!

At mid-afternoon I headed back to the bothy and was asked by the gillie if I had any luck. I whipped out the camera and showed him the photo of the glaucoma salmon. In a grand Scottish accent he said "Do you know what you've done?" Oh no, I must have broken a sacred Scottish salmon fishing rule I was unaware of. "You've only caught the very first spring-run salmon on the beat for this year". Spring-run salmon are those which go to sea to feed over winter then return to the rivers to spawn and are the prize of salmon fly fishing.



The next day I was downstream fishing at Ness Side with a different fly fishing guide and we had the usual introduction to fellow fly fishers. "Have you had any luck?" one of my fellow anglers asked out of politeness. "I caught a springer." He said "where did you catch it?". "Near Laggan Pool." "That was YOU???" It was a bigger deal than I thought ...

My fishing log notes the following:

Friday 4 April

- 2 Atlantic salmon kelt
- 1 spring-run Atlantic salmon
- 1 brown trout

Monday 7 April

- 2 Atlantic salmon kelt
- 1 brown trout
- 1 sea run-trout



Top: A "buttery brown" caught on a bead-head nymph.

Left: River Ness sea run trout.



OCTOBER 2014

I could not leave the Highlands without fishing the River Spey. The gillie managed to score me a day on the River Spey which was magic. The visit was fish-less but picturesque and was eight hours of spey casting instruction. My fellow spey fisherman was a member of the Spey Fishery Board. At lunch at the bothy we chatted about life, fishing and families. When he asked if I had caught any fish during my visit to Scotland and I mentioned the spring salmon on the Ness, he said "Let me put that into perspective for you young man" (old men like me like being called "young man"). "I have now fished forty four times on the Spey and I have caught four spring salmon. You are a very lucky man."



Loading up on the Spey

That sums it up. I spent two weeks fishing for salmon in Ireland in 2013 and the total score was one brown trout and a handful of juvenile trout. Inverness in the Scottish Highlands saw me land one spring salmon and four salmon kelts plus sundry trout. The Scottish Highlands is most certainly one of the 101 Places to Fish Before You Give It Away and, for me, a place of great gillies and good luck.

Flights

Flybe has flights to Inverness Airport from Belfast, Manchester and Amsterdam to name a few. We flew Singapore to Amsterdam then Amsterdam to Inverness – very convenient.

Accommodation

Accommodation options in and around Inverness are numerous. After a great deal of research, I can say in retrospect that we hit the fly fishing accommodation jackpot.



Weir Cottage is one half of the building on the right

OCTOBER 2014

On a property just outside Inverness is Ness Castle Estate. I can only assume that the estate of Ness Castle in the centre of Inverness city extended widely in the past as Ness Castle Estate is just outside the city limits of Inverness and situated on the banks of the River Ness on the road which runs along the south of Nessy's home turf, Loch Ness.

The accommodation options run from the huge Ness River Lodge which sleeps 14 in style to Weir Cottage which has a double and single room (read fly tying room), an open fire, a fully equipped kitchen with oven, and a lounge room with views of the river (see <http://nesscastlelodges.co.uk>). It is the

kind of place two people could easily live permanently with roe deer making appearances behind Weir Cottage at dawn and dusk. All of the beats on the property are walking distance from Weir Cottage, Tesco supermarket is five minutes' drive away and Inverness with its restaurants and pubs only ten minutes away. Bookings can be made through <http://homefarms.co.uk>

Nearby Waters

Like all United Kingdom waters, permission and usually payment is required to fish the most prized waters. Neighboring waters are Ness Side which is just downstream from Ness Castle Lodge and there are many lochs with self-sustaining trout populations such as Lochindorb Estate which has the ruins of an ancient castle rising in the middle of the loch no less.



The famous River Spey is approximately an hour's drive away and, if you are lucky enough to book an available beat through a guide or "gillie", the experience of spey fishing in the River Spey is unique with all of its attached history and ceremony.

It should be noted that fishing on a Sunday in Scotland is frowned upon, if not banned.

Salmon Fishing Licenses

Salmon fishing in Scotland is governed by the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Scotland) Act. For all practical purposes, it is illegal to fish any beat for salmon without paying the owner of the beat, be they a land owner, a gillie or fishing club and receiving their permission for a particular beat. More information about permits for fishing the River Ness in the city of Inverness is available from the Inverness Angling Club at <http://www.invernessanglingclub.co.uk/tickets/tickets.htm>

Booking Beats

Premium salmon beats are often booked by the same people, or group of people, in blocks of one week, at the same time every year. For example on the River Spey at Castle Stuart, Simon the gillie mentioned that anyone who books a week's fishing gets first refusal on the same week the following year. Sometimes, there are last minute cancellations on prime beats.

Beats are less expensive and more available in spring (April to June) than autumn (August and September) which sees the best runs of salmon and the highest chance of success.

Gillies

Contact Wes at info@youfishscotland.com

See also <http://www.youfishscotland.com/>

For Ness Castle Estate contact dfs@homefarms.co.uk

See also <http://nesscastlelodges.co.uk/>

Flies

Sea run Atlantic salmon start to enter Scottish Highland rivers in April or May after feeding voraciously in the vicinity of Greenland. When they enter the rivers they are intent on spawning and cease to eat. Flies are intended to get the attention of the salmon or even annoy it into striking. Salmon flies are traditionally tied on double salar eye-up hooks but tube flies with treble hooks tied with the same dressing as double salars are increasingly used but not usually by purists. All of my salmon flies were tied on sizes 9, 7 and 5 double salars for respectively faster sink rates, noting that over dressing a salmon fly will slow its sink rate when you need to get it down deep to the salmon. Partridge brand hand-made British double salar hooks are available by mail order from Farlows in London (see <http://www.farlows.co.uk/>) which provided all of the harder-to-get salmon fly tying material not available locally.

Scottish fly tyer Davie McPhail has a huge array of instructional salmon fly tying videos on Youtube with all the popular flies including the Jimmy Gray, Orange Flame Thrower, Purple Charm, Stoat's Tail and so on. My self-tied Jimmy Gray did the business with the salmon.

OCTOBER 2014



Above: A rainbow of traditional self-tied salmon flies.

Below: Jimmy Gray salmon fly.



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NOTE:

"With the exception of Official Club Policy or Official Reports the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Canberra Anglers Association

Stonefly Lodge NZ would like to celebrate their 5th Birthday by offering a one off- special!

Click [here](#) for more details.



Canberra Anglers Wishes to thank the following for their ongoing patronage and support:

- Anglers Art Phillip
- Pratts Tackle Box Belconnen
- Raiders Club Weston
- Tackle World Fyshwick

Jim @ FLYFINZ is here to assist Canberra Anglers.

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Let's show our support and get involved!

From: upperbidgeereach@gmail.com
[\[mailto:upperbidgeereach@gmail.com\]](mailto:upperbidgeereach@gmail.com) On Behalf Of UMDR
Facilitator
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2014
12:46 PM
To: facilitator@upperbidgeereach.org.au
Cc: Helen Shimitras;
riverguide@outlook.com
Subject: Upcoming canoe days
on the Murrumbidgee River

Hi everyone,
The dates for the next willow control canoe days have been set and are included in the attached schedule. We will be paddling sections of the river between Bumbalong Crossing and Michelago Creek on these days.
This is a very scenic section, parts which are mostly flat water, but some sections do have small rapids (maximum grade 2).
Please let me know on which days you would like to come along.

Cheers

Antia Brademann
Upper Murrumbidgee
Demonstration Reach
Facilitator
0429 778 633
www.upperbidgeereach.org.au



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project has been funded by the NSW Habitat Action Grants-
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forestry/habitat/rehabilitation/eh-grants-program

PARTNERS & SUPPORT

- NSW Trade & Investment Crown Lands
- NSW DPI
- Willow Warriors
- Bush Heritage Australia
- ACT Government
- SE LLS
- Capital Region Fishing Alliance



Young, in-stream willows are an emerging threat to aquatic habitat and on the upper Murrumbidgee River.



NSW Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson and project partners at the project launch in January, 2014.

UMDR community willow control project

CALLING ALL ADVENTUROUS VOLUNTEERS!

The UMDR community willow control project is seeking adventurous volunteers to undertake 1 day guided canoe trips on the upper Murrumbidgee River (between Bredbo and Angle Crossing) to control young, emergent in-stream willows along the way.

All canoeing equipment, safety gear and training will be provided. Volunteers will be accompanied by qualified and experienced river guide. To take part you need to have an average-excellent level of fitness and be able to swim. Prior canoeing experience is not essential. Transport to and from trip meeting points is the responsibility of volunteers.

RIVER DAYS SCHEDULE

River days will be held on the following dates-

8 th September	
20 th September	21 st September
18 th October	19 th October

*Further days are also planned for November-January (dates TBA)

ITINERARY

The itinerary for a typical river day is set out below. You will be given more details appropriate to the specific trip day when you register which day you would like to attend.

8am- meet at river or meeting point, set up gear
8:30am- safety briefing and willow control training
9:30am- start river journey/willow control*
12:30pm – lunch
1:00pm- river journey/willow control*
5:30pm- complete trip/pack up gear/travel home

*We will be stopping for regular breaks and will ensure that volunteers spend their time engaging in both canoeing and willow control activities.

HOW TO BE INVOLVED

Contact the UMDR facilitator on the details below and let us know on which day you would like to participate.

Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach (UMDR)
www.upperbidgeereach.org.au | facilitator@upperbidgeereach.org.au | 0429778633

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CATCH AND RELEASE COMP

WHEN?
 Sunday Nov 9th, 8am 'til 4pm
Presentation @ Gryphons, 6:30pm
WHERE?
 Lake Burley Griffin, ACT
WHAT DO I NEED?
 Mobile phone with camera &
 credit

ADULTS
 \$30

U18's
 \$20

FAMILY
 \$80
 (2 adults 2 children)



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Boats must have NCA permit, insurance and safety gear

To Register:

SMS your email address to 0422717077 or email fishing@my2hooks.net

REGISTRATION CLOSES 2nd NOVEMBER

EARLY BIRDS—Register by 2nd OCT to save \$5!

OCTOBER 2014

All Correspondence to: Newsletter of the CANBERRA ANGLER'S ASSOCIATION Inc.

GPO Box 2237

CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

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



The Club

The Canberra Anglers Association has a long history dating back to immediately after World War 2. We are a small, intimate club - a bit like that old TV show *Cheers* "where everyone knows your name".


We do have an emphasis on trout and fly fishing, but members' interests are not limited to this so lure/bait, salt/freshwater, salmonid/natives in all the combinations are included in our program.

Meetings are held monthly (except for December and January) on the second Wednesday of the month starting 7:30pm at the [Raiders Weston Club](#) near Cooleman Court Shopping Centre in Weston.

Committee 2014/15

President - Geoff
 Vice President Greg W
 Secretary - Lyall
 Assistant Secretary - Bill
 Treasurer - Jason M
 Public Officer - Nathan
 Council Member - Peter K
 Council Member - Stefan
 Council Member - Jason Q
 Council Member - Charles

Join Canberra Anglers Association

		Canberra Anglers Association Membership Application		2014/15	Office Use: Receipt #:
Names: Include all names if a family membership	1)				Email Entered?
	2)				Membership Entered?
Phone:	3)				Membership Fees: (Circle Applicable)
	4)				
Mob:	Address:				Adult: \$20.00 Concession: \$10.00
	Town/Suburb:	State:	Postal Code:		Junior: \$10.00 Family(w/child) \$30.00
E-Mail Address:		Do you want your email address to be kept private to Secretary/Treasurer only? (Yes/No)			Payment Method: Cash() Chq() Bank () - BSB 032-727, A/C Number 24-0140
VOLUNTARY INFORMATION BELOW:					
What are your preferred areas of interest in the club?				TICK ALL APPLICABLE	
Family fishing	Bait fishing	Fly fishing	Rod building	Fly/Lure making	
Freshwater	Saltwater	Boat fishing	Camping and fishing	Fish Cookery	
Taxidermy	Photography	Nature writing	Travel	Fishing politics	
Other interest related to fishing:					
At what level can you / would you be willing to contribute to the club?				TICK APPLICABLE	
General membership	Active membership	Activity Organiser	Committee member	Newsletter contributor	
Speaker	Other:				