

The Burley Line

Issue 107 – February 2016



Ray A's first wild trout on fly.

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**Newsletter of the CANBERRA ANGLER'S ASSOCIATION
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From the Editor's Desk

Welcome back. I hope your summer break was enjoyable and successful. Peter and I have been having limited success in the local lakes as well as up in the Snowies but the social aspects have made the trips still worthwhile. JQ has taken his beloved to New Zealand and we look forward to his full report. Ray A has become a new contributor (long may it continue) to regale us with his Christmas activities. Our trusty President has given the newsletter email account a running commentary on his travel north in the trusty Triton.

Alert readers will see that we've changed the email address for the editors of Burley Line (and indeed the CAA Facebook page). This is in an attempt to get away from spammers. I'm afraid you'll have to retype the address (below is an image designed to fool the automatic robots on the Internet):

burley-line@canberra-anglers.asn.au

Similarly, we've amended the address for the Secretary (copied also the Assistant Secretary and Treasurer to ensure continuous monitoring):

contact-us@canberra-anglers.asn.au

Coming Events

Next Meetings:

Wed 10 Feb – back to our usual routine of 7:30pm at Raiders Weston Club – Ben will be speaking on streamcraft with the option to chat about rod building during the break.

Wed 9 Mar – at our normal meeting we'll be auctioning off one of three travel rods being built by Jason M, Lyall and Ben. Lyall has provided a photo of his work in progress. Anyone who wins one of these custom, back country, #5, 9' seven piece rods at the CAA meeting on 9 March will be getting a fantastic rod.



If we get another of the same colours then this perhaps provides proof that Lyall is not the only one of the rod makers who reads The Burley Line.



Next Events:

Sat/Sun 13-14th Feb – Lyle Knowles. This is the new time of year for the Lyle Knowles trophy outing. We'll still be going to the Eucumbene River, but at a totally different time of year hopefully for greater success with angler catches. An email will be sent out again soon with details.

Wed 24th Feb – Fly Tying. Unless we have an alternative enthusiastic volunteer, Nathan has agreed to show us how to make articulated salt water flies suitable for use at the March Coastal/Estuary outing to Burrill Lake..

Charlie's Natives Outing 16 Jan

Well the hot weather leading up to this event, then the forecast (but not achieved?) of big storms and rain did not bode well on the weather front. As it turned out, the temperatures were moderate, a bit of wind and high cloud, but all in all a great day for fishing – shame the fish didn't realise this! A good collection of folk turned up during the day for a fish and most stayed for a lunch time barbeque. Charlie landed a small redfin (on worm) as he packed up for the day, whereas Bill managed to fluke one mud marlin on Charlie's not too secret burley/bait rig.



Barry, Thalia and Peter watch to see if Bill can actually land it.



One of the rowing coaches came across to see what the catch was.



I think Nathan's response to the word that no natives had actually been caught summed up the situation perfectly "better than being at work". We'll just have to try better next year. Many thanks Charlie for an excellent outing.

Tips From Members for Members

I'm starting to run low in my collection of Tips. So, if you've got some up your sleeve that you'd like to share to fellow members, please send them in. From another of our prolific advisors – Jason Q with some help from Luke:

One tip could be as simple as don't walk to the edge of the bank, that's where the fish may be sitting!! Yeah I am still very amateur at this! The undercut banks make it very difficult as they often feel the vibrations before we or they see us I am sure.

And while you are at it, stealthy walking might mean that snake doesn't hear to you coming either.

End of Year Barbeque Part 2



Lyall was delayed in sending this excellent photo of the two chefs at last year's end of year meeting – chief organiser Stefan (R) and Vice President/Sous Chef Greg W.



And this 'late entry' came from Ben. Nathan, Stefan, Geoff (back turned) and obscured Alan? So what is the collective noun for double handed rod casters?

Jason M's Reports

Jason headed north for the summer break and sent some images of what's been going on:



Ray A's battery lasted fine with an hour or so of trolling motor use on Awoonga Dam. After short troll it was 12.3v, later 11.9 then slowly went to 11.4v under load, ended about 1.5nm from boat ramp at southern end of Awoonga, with pretty much that distance covered one way on 30lb motor. Even trolled back to ramp after recovering red claw traps (no luck).

Also got up to 5kn, averaged



4.6kn with old club 4Hp on the tinnie, even when dragging the lures behind the boat.

These fork tailed catfish like a deep trolled yellow/gold lure. Two more today.

Geoff D passed south today, didn't stop in but said he got some mackerel etc.

Ray A's Report

Ray and his family decided on a remote locality camp over Christmas and he has provided a substantial report for the entertainment and information of members. Rather than take my editor's red pen to Ray's excellent production I've put it up in full on the web ([click here](#)). Ray provides some great advice on making the camping experience that much more genteel with a selection of items including solar power and hot showers – all modified to be more useful to the family. To give you an idea of what is in store, the following is an extract. You'll need to read the full version to get all the detail.



A Bush Christmas

Having left all the relatives in WA with a move to Canberra, Ray A and family decided a camping bush Christmas was in order. Running the mantra that “the adventure starts when reception stops” a suitable camping location also needed close access to a body of fishable water. With two such challenging requirements it didn't take long to decide to explore the Murray River with a base camp at Tom Groggin...



Now anybody who has watched ‘A River Somewhere’ would recall Tom and Rob’s aversion to the ‘comfortable ain’t camping’ philosophy. We also, are staunch opponents to the discomforts afforded by leaving life’s little luxuries behind so set about applying a few little tweaks to our Adventure Pack... There were two necessities that went in for an early delivery from the Jolly Fat Bloke in red; increased off grid endurance for the fridge and being able to remove the grime and chill from a day’s wading in cold alpine streams.

Pondering the plethora of information on the interweb from

varying degrees of experts and well intentioned, but a tad misguided, opinions on solar charging, battery technology and a world of acronyms (AWG, PWM, MPPT, AGM, LiIon, Pb, DoD ...); dusting off some diesel electric submarine theory and finding my slide rule buried in the back of the home office drawer, it was the K.I.S.S principle that won the day... One is sure that the trade instructors who imparted their knowledge over 30 years ago would be impressed to see old knowledge and skills still produce a work of art!

If you are not familiar with Tom Groggin campground, it is a fantastic site. Acres of open grassland that abound with kangaroos that appeared quite comfortable with human activity. We were fortunate to find only a few sites occupied and we set up in what was probably the choice



spot with plenty of shade, a short stroll to the ‘facility’ and an even shorter stroll to the river. Once the camp was setup, it was time to reconnoitre the river for activity...

Our first ‘Bush Christmas’ was a grand affair. Father C had managed to find us in the dark and left a haul under our little camping Christmas tree that would have made Ronnie Biggs quite envious... Post lunch cleanup and some relaxation then it was time to spread some Christmas cheer around the Murray. My Christmas day was made extra special with my first ever wild trout that succumbed to a bead headed nymph and on a new reel straight out of the stocking that was deployed on an older spare rod.

Boxing Day saw rain pretty much all day. It was anticipated from the forecast so I took fly tying materials just in case. I wasn’t motivated to fish so instead spent the day filling up my fly box with Ray’s

interpretation of a few flies...



It was a tad sad to strike camp after a great few days but we thoroughly enjoyed our bush Christmas and look forward very much to exploring more of the highlands as I build my skills. Meanwhile, as I pine for a return to the water, I read and further my education on all things trout and aspire to develop what truly is the art of fly fishing.

Report from Peter – Hard Luck Story

Got this from Peter:

Went down to Frying Pan area last Thursday arriving as storm finished passing through. Lake calmed down and fish rising to ants but as I did not have any used the emerger fly and immediately had violent hook up and running leaping rainbow which I figured in excess of 600mm only to lose it as it made a desperate leap for freedom. Inspected the fly after losing the fish to find the hook had broken despite the fact I was using 4lb tippet... go figure. Caught a small rainbow approx 30cms later on using same type emerger but still spewing over how a hook could break when using 4lb tippet and reel was running. Took a photo of the fly this morning and have attached. Water at Musselbrook creek has dropped at least 5ft vertically since you and I were there.

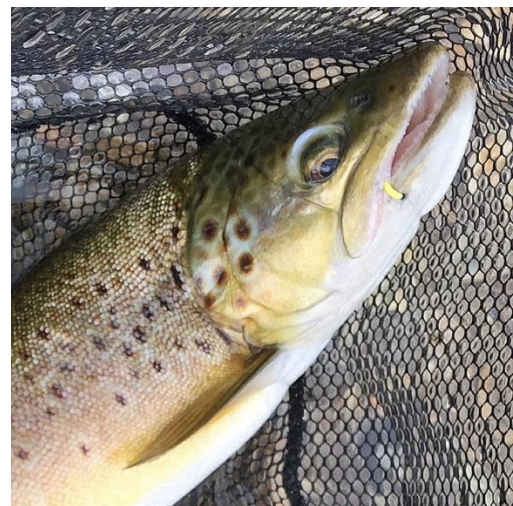


Jason Q in New Zealand

CAA has been approached by an Australian who owns a cottage for rent in Southland. Lyall, Bill and Ian will be checking it out during our trip later this year to see if we'll promote it within the club. Meantime the owner has been enticing us with reports from that region: "Southland weather has continued to be cool & wet. Mataura ran dirty for 4 days but some good hatches on clearing. Size 16 sparkle back Nymphs suspended under a Royal Wulff was good medicine as was the Deer Hair Emerger. Waikaia River with its numerous Willows has provided good sport on the grub eaters. Not hot enough for Cicadas which seems likely to be a February option."

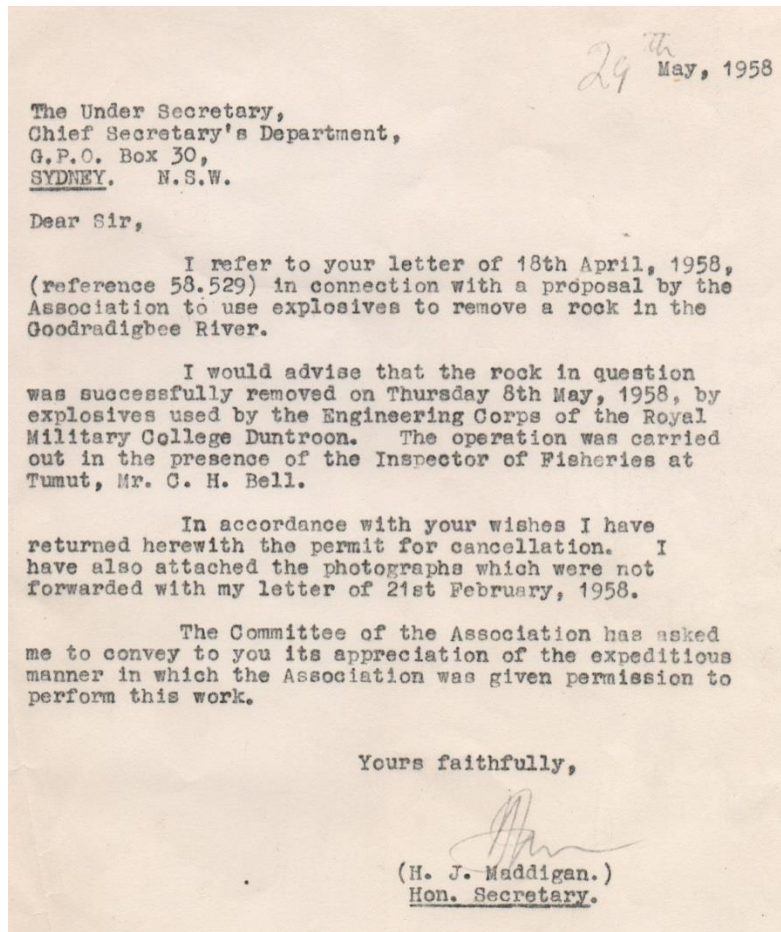
JQ, who is currently in that area, responded quickly with: "Completely agree with the Waikaia, managed 11 to the net with loads of bust offs. Had to stop fishing because I ran out of grub flies! Also fished the Otamita and that was also on fire with grub feeders. Currently in Cromwell enjoying a bakery afternoon tea."

He responded poorly to my comment that the fly looked like a Stu Tripney willow grub which is tantamount to bait fishing in that part of the world where casting dry flies to rising fish is the only way for them to be counted. 😊 We can expect a full report next *Burley Line*.

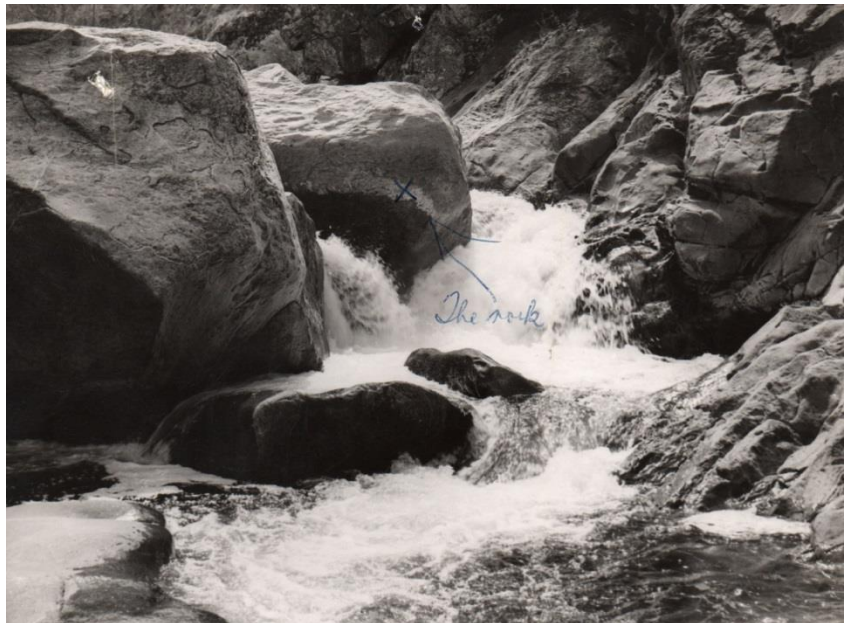




From the Archives



Some of our longer serving members speak of this incident with a mix of hushed tones and good humoured incredulity. The time that CAA sought to blast a rock from the Goodradigbee River to assist upstream migration of trout.





CRFA News

CRFA will be operating a stand at the Queanbeyan 4WD Show with the Canberra Fisherman's Club (30-31st Jan. See the website for details, <http://4wdspectacular.org.au/>) and also the Jerrabomberra Wetlands



World Wetlands Day on Sunday 7th Feb (see <http://www.jerrabomberrawetlands.org/>). CAA will participate as members. CRFA recently had their AGM. Key points from the meeting are:

- CRFA should focus on completing the Carp tracking project and progressing the ACT trout stocking proposal.
- CRFA will look to use \$1500 of monies donated to it to stock cod in Yerrabi – this money was donated by Adam Samios from his Canberra on the Water Competition and separate from funds raised in the context of ACT trout stocking proposal.

UMDR News

Received the following from Antia along with the 2015 Annual Review now [available on our webpage](#):



Dear UMDR partners, supporters and friends.

Happy New Year to all of you. Thankyou for your support in 2015 and we look forward to working with you in 2016.

For your reading pleasure and as you welcome 2016, please find attached our UMDR '2015 year in review'- meant as a small celebration of the things we achieved in 2015 as we step forward into 2016.

All the best for the year.

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News

January issue is [here](#) and February [here](#). Some interesting items. The item about access to Eucumbene was processed through MAS. Matter was not resolved and more discussions will had. We'll keep you informed.



Angler survey to measure fishing in Lake Eucumbene



The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is undertaking a survey of anglers in Lake Eucumbene over summer, to measure all aspects of recreational fishing in the area. It aims to quantify fishing effort, catch-and-release, harvest, reasons for release, species composition (brown versus rainbow trout), and size structure within the Lake Eucumbene recreational fishery.



“Preliminary results suggest rainbow trout are in the early stages of population recovery following two years of low catches and reduced fish numbers in the annual spawning run,” Mr Westaway said. “It is reported there is a strong cohort of rainbow trout between 27 and 32 cm, which many fishers are voluntarily releasing. It is these fish that should grow and strengthen the fishery in coming years.

Expressions of Interest - Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council

Expressions of interest are sought for a person to represent the recreational fishing sector on the Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council.

The Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council WAS established to provide the Minister for Primary Industries with high-level strategic policy advice on issues relating to the management of fisheries resources in NSW. *(Editor: the council currently has no recreational angler on the panel)*

Unified call to action on carp management

Industry and environment groups have come together to call on State and Federal governments to take action against Australia’s worst freshwater aquatic pest, the European carp.

Carp currently make up more than 80% of fish biomass in the Murray-Darling Basin. Over half of our native fish species in the Murray-Darling Basin are now listed as vulnerable or threatened with extinction. Invasive pests including carp are a major cause in this decline.

Australian’s deep concern about the threat carp pose to the environment has been the catalyst for this unique alliance comprising the Australian Conservation Foundation, Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation, Invasive Species Council, National Farmers’ Federation and the National Irrigator’s Council.

Marine Rescue NSW rescues anglers on Jindabyne

On 23 January, two wet, cold fishermen who had made it to the western shore of Lake Jindabyne after their boat capsized were more fortunate when they were able to attract a Marine Rescue Alpine Lakes crew training on the lake.

The men, one from Queanbeyan and his brother, visiting from overseas, had been fishing when their 3.4 m runabout overturned.

New Waterways Guide from PaddleNSW

PaddleNSW has launched its new Waterways Guide at <http://www.waterwaysguide.org.au/>

The online Waterways Guide is a paddling guide to Australian waterways. It provides descriptions of rivers, lakes, estuaries and the seas off the coast of Australia.



NSW RecFish News

January issue is [here](#) and February [here](#). Mostly saltwater/boatie stuff, but one item from this region in the January issue is Steve Williamson's Lake Jindabyne beginners fly fishing course 5th and 6th March 2016. Price is \$410 all in included including morning and afternoon tea and Saturday's lunch. The February issue notes that RecFish has been representing recreational anglers at the Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council pending appointment of a suitable member.



Fisheries Victoria News

Latest news is that the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide for 2016 is available (click [here](#)). The collection of fortnightly newsletters is available [here](#) though they always seem to be quite out of date. (A better source is the [Victoria Fisheries Facebook page](#) where individual topics are posted up separately.) Most recent issue is 382 – Key item is:



- The 'Talking Wild Trout' Conference was conducted in November at Mansfield, videos of the 10 key presentations are now available [here](#). The conference showcased learnings from the first year of a three year project, which is investigating wild trout populations across Victoria. The project is funded by recreational fishing licence fees. I was fascinated to watch the video on trout size limits – shows how ignorant I am, didn't realise there are no size or catch limits in Victoria! The video shows how they are trying to balance the science (growth factors/survival characteristics) with social aspects (eg giving visitors a good angling experience).

Gaden Hatchery Monthly Report

October report (issued early Nov) has been received and is available to members.

Burley Line and other Contributions from Members

Contributions are always encouraged to *The Burley Line*; also our [Cooking Page](#) and reviews from members on any items they've been in our [Gear Review](#) page as well as [places to visit](#). Recall that if you have any fishing related items that you would like to advertise here for sale, please email burley-line@canberra-anglers.asn.au

Notable Fish Recorded

The intent of this segment is to encourage folk to get out fishing (reporting on recent catches) and to encourage entries for consideration for [club trophies](#). So far:

Angler	Species	Length	Method	Location/Event/Date
Bill	Brown	53 cm	Fly	Bondi Forest Lodge outing 21-23 Aug
Leon	Brown	43 cm	Fly	Bondi Forest Lodge outing 21-23 Aug



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Leon	Brown	51 cm	Fly	Bondi Forest Lodge outing 21-23 Aug
Jason Q	Brown	'a lot more than 50 cm mate!'	Fly	Bondi Forest Lodge outing 21-23 Aug
Lyall	Brown	55 cm	Fly	Bondi Forest Lodge outing 21-23 Aug
Nathan	Brown	45 cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene 23 Aug
Leon	Brown	59 cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene 4 Sep
Ian	Brown	55 cm (two of)	Fly	Bondi Forest Lodge 19 Sep
Bill	Brown	50 cm	Fly	Bondi Forest Lodge 19 Sep
Ben E	Brown	'more than 50 cm'	Fly	Casting Weekend 20 Sep
Alan	Rainbow	31 cm	Fly	Casting Weekend 20 Sep
Nathan	Rainbow	'30 odd' cm	Fly	Casting Weekend 20 Sep
Luke	Yellowbelly	60 cm	Fly	Burrinjuck 3-4 Oct
Leon	Rainbow	51 cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene 3 Nov
Leon	Brown	50 cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene 3 Nov
Stefan	Bass	37 cm	Lure	Brogo Outing 22 Nov
Luke	Murray Cod	68 cm	Fly	Murrumbidgee 4 Dec
Nathan	Murray Cod	68 cm	Lure	Murrumbidgee 4 Dec
Jason Q	Rainbow	62 cm	Fly	Jindabyne Outing 11-13 Dec
Bill	Brown	32 cm	Fly	Jindabyne Outing 11-13 Dec



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Micheal	Rainbow	38 cm	Fly	Jindabyne Outing 11-13 Dec
Peter	Rainbow	31 cm	Fly	Jindabyne Outing 11-13 Dec