

The Burley Line

Issue 110 – May 2016



*Ian with a fine brown caught in "a river somewhere in the South Island of New Zealand".
Photo by our guide in Gore, Barry Perkins of [Fly Fish Mataura](#)*

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

The 'editorial staff' have been somewhat distracted this month – JQ has moved house, while Bill spent some time in New Zealand. One might argue over whose fish was best out of Ian, Lyall and Bill, but Ian has the real "Wayne Grafton" knack of holding the fish. We also took time out to inspect a cottage being offered for rental to CAA members in a Southland town called Riversdale (near the iconic Mataura River). More information in due course for those tempted to cross the ditch.

A Note from the "President in Exile"

G'Day again Members,

Well, it was a balmy autumn week just gone, and although the water was low up in the Snowies, it was great weather to get out and walk the water, and have a cast – and even better, some fish chased my flies! It sounds like a few of the members have been onto the fish, both locally and overseas, so there should be plenty of reports at the upcoming meeting. I hear Bill might need a tip or two after his trip. No doubt that rain the last day or two might get some more anglers stimulated for a fish – please don't forget 1 May saw the change of bag limits (if you do decide to keep fish) in spawning streams like the Eucumbene.

Interest in our club continues to grow, perhaps aided by the imminent spawning runs. Just this week, I've met a couple of potential new members, eager to build their Canberra region fishing knowledge and get back into fly fishing. I see the new shirts are also out and about, raising the profile of the club.

The MAS work with Denison continues to develop. It was obviously quiet there on Wednesday, with only two campers and about five cars, but the fresh tracks were obvious from those where were staying on the river over the long weekend. Peter is also off to CRFA on 2 May as our representative, and possibly some local Tuggeranong community engagement about the lakes on Tuesday. It was also interesting to see fishing making it into the national news tonight with an announcement on the carp herpes program getting \$15m funding for 2018 release, including some representation from RFA in the news.

I'm sure you're all looking forward to some chestnuts around a warm fire up in Tumut this month.

Tight lines,

Pres

Coming Events

Next Meeting:

Wed 11th May –usual routine of 7:30pm at Raiders Weston Club – speaker is to be advised.



Next Events:

Sat/Sun 21-22nd May – Tumut. Steve is unavailable to host this event, but it will go ahead organised by Bill or perhaps Stefan. More information will be sent out via email ASP.

Wed 25th May – Fly Tying. A lot of “to be advised” I’m sorry to say.

Fri 3rd Jun – International Fly Fishing Film Festival. A large selection of films being brought to Canberra by Compleat Angler/Pratt’s Tackle Box – should be great! More info [here](#).

Fly Tying 27 Apr

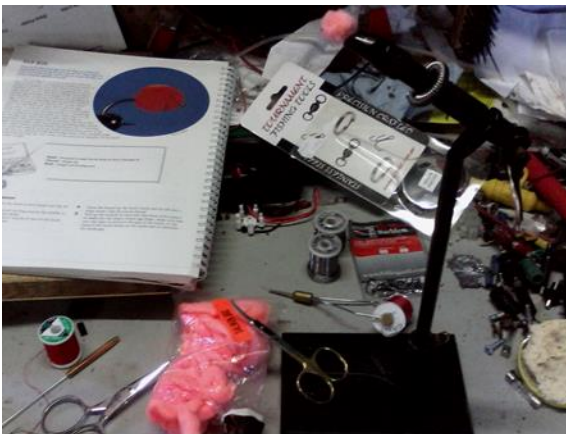
JM led the team with some egg pattern variants.



“this is what they call the muppet show”

Jason provided some words “more fishing than tying”:

Going Buggy



Last week for fly tying we gave the humble glo bug a go. We had a good turn up (especially with a number of regular tyers over some seas to our south, east, and north), and I guess what might be seen as a simple tie had some nuances which saw lengths of intense, silent concentration as the skills were developed on the tying. The good thing I like about tying it, is that it’s a bit like spinning deer hair without it being as fragile, and from my own perspective, a



glo bug is like dry fly fishing – except it's underwater! Unlike nymph fishing, instead of watching an indicator, you are actually watching the fish take your fly. It was also a great practice for mending to minimise drag on the fly, but compensated by the undercurrents and surges allowing a bit of forgiveness from the fish.

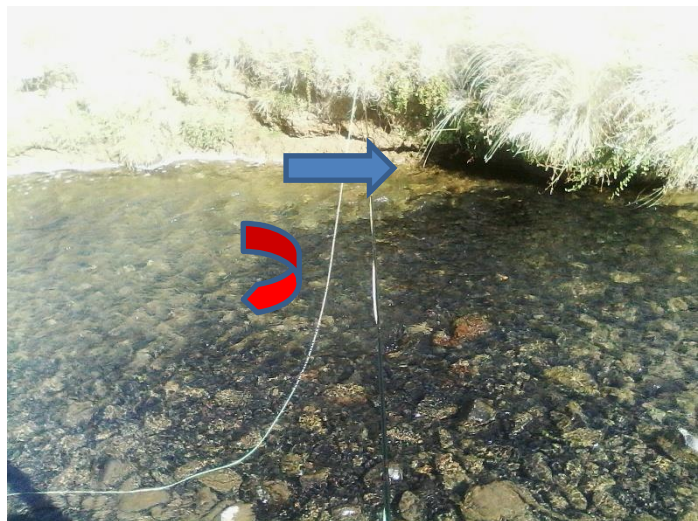
I had some success – on hook-ups at least – two years ago, which was really my first attempt at fishing glo bugs. With wide river water flowing fast and glo bugs deep, by the time I saw the rainbow take the fly I barely was able to set the hook before losing it in the river. That was early May from memory when Bill and I went off driving through the fog.

In New Zealand in April/May last year I also had a glo bug and nymph on, and was busted off. Then, fishing a glo bug under a red foam indicator (the water was opaque with mud after heavy rain), and a nice trout took my indicator!

So, after practicing my tying on Tuesday (all those flies were without glue, but held up fine), I decided to do some market research and refresh my fishing methods. Whilst you can tie the glo bug so woolly it will be an indicator with a hook, most sink once they are wet, but they hold their shape well. Mine all were a bit negatively buoyant, able to bounce up and down in the flow.

The sinking can be aided by squashing the bubbles out before casting. It can be fished upstream, mending on the way down. Also fish down past you, and this is where it is also good to be able to see where it is running. This method though is also great for drifting down below the overhangs of the bank. You can also cast it downstream, as the fly is usually visible however this can get stuck in holes between the rocks and pebbles without the tension to help bump it back up into the waterflow. So, the bug can be fished in deep water, murky water, and even in shallow water. Also let it hang at the end of the drift – a couple of times I had a small trout in the water opposite or below me jump onto the glo bug. Even fish under 10cm were hammering the fly. In the image below, the blue arrow is pointing to a nice 30cm+ rainbow that came out hit once, turned and hit a second time (red arrow) the fly when I was able to set the hook. Unfortunately after a nice little fight for about a minute or two, in trying to get the net over the rocks in the foreground it flipped off and went back to his hole. I think I might change my hook type.

Despite the lack of a photogenic fish on the bank, it was great fun spending a few hours just fishing glo bugs before heading back to do the tying session on Wednesday night. I was a little worried after getting my gear out and practice casting and seeing a spry take a caddis or BWO flying at the bottom of the pool that I should be fishing dries instead, but I persisted with the glo bug and was rewarded with a number of fish coming out from the bottom of the rapids and chasing the fly down the run in eagerness of some nice eggs for breakfast.





A river somewhere – lots of great water for tying a glo bug in. Despite the low water, there was probably four fish chasing my fly just in these few runs up to the bend.

April Meeting Outcomes

Members can obtain a copy of the formal minutes – there were no significant outcomes. Mark's talk on campervanning around New Zealand's South Island was entertaining and inspired some to plan an emulation.

Seen in the Canberra Times

Seems our favourite Canberra Times correspondent has been talking up the [early spawning brown run](#). One of our 'certified' members gets a specific mention!

Some good news for 'card carrying Seniors'

Those members who are ACT or NSW Seniors might be interested in something Bill learnt during a recent visit to Victoria. He was chatting to the shopkeeper of a tackle shop in Bright. The fellow cautiously enquired whether Bill was a senior. Bill was surprised to learn that Seniors are exempt from the need to have a Victorian fishing licence. Another sign of Victorian Fisheries innovative thinking and not targeted for change in this current round of licence consideration.

Casting for Recovery News

Pop Thu 21st Jul into your diaries. CfR will be running a fund raising quiz night. More info soon.

Meanwhile, Rainbow Springs has put some info and photos from the first retreat onto their [Facebook page](#) including a link to the [SBS article](#) covering the event. Certainly some happy faces here. A number of joint CAA/ACTFF members can be seen in the photos.





CRFA News

CRFA are asking for volunteers 11-12 May to help out with a tree planting working bee at Scottsdale Reserve (run by Bush Heritage and associated with the Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach).



According to organisers 'all the hard work of hole digging is done' and they are looking for folk to plant the seedlings. Scottsdale is 75km south of Canberra 3897 Monaro Highway Bredbo. More information from Michelle at volunteers@bushheritage.org.au.

Next CRFA meeting is Mon 9 May. Hopefully Peter can attend as our representative.

Monaro Acclimatisation Society News – Eucumbene River Access

In April *Burley Line* we mentioned that Steve Samuels was preparing a press release. The key points have been put on our blog [here](#). Steve's actions have led to an interesting piece in the [Canberra Times](#).



NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News

The May edition hasn't arrived yet. CFA are offering up an [archive](#) (I've added this to our Useful Links page on our website).



The other news is that changes to the NSW Associations Incorporation Act 2009 have necessitated the writing of a new Constitution for the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Inc. (NSWCFA). The main changes relate to membership. The NSWCFA is made up of clubs and associations (organisations) and individual members (natural persons) but the current Constitution does not differentiate between the two. The proposed changes have been sighted by CAA and will resolve this matter. The new constitution will not change how CFA operates.

The draft is on the agenda for discussion and adoption at the next meeting on 21 May 2016 that Stefan is planning to attend.

NSW RecFish News

The April issue available [here](#). The news reiterates Steve's appointment to the new Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council, (replacement for the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing). Lots of discussion about the NSW deliberations on pest species, in particular carp plus an interesting report on [recreational fishing in NSW and ACT](#).



Fisheries Victoria News

Most recent issues, 388 and 389, have been published. (The best Internet resource is probably the [Victoria Fisheries Facebook page](#) where individual topics are posted up separately.) The key one that might interest our membership was from 389:





Mitta Mitta

Your fishing licence fees at work improving fish habitat on the Mitta.

Staff from [North East CMA](#) placed their 200th log today, as part of the Mitta Rehabilitation Program.

Currently two years into a three year project, thanks to funding from the Victorian Government using Recreational Fishing Licence Fees, this program focuses on re-snagging the river to increase native fish populations.

As the project enters its final 12 months, North East CMA are asking locals if they can provide us with access to more hardwood logs or root balls or if they would like to recommend a location for re-snagging within the project area (Eskdale to Hume Dam).



The Burley Line and other Contributions from Members

Contributions are always encouraged to *The Burley Line*. Welcome also are contributions to some other 'categories' on our new blog such as the cooking Page, Gear Review and 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
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



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Ian	Brown	55 cm (two of)	Fly	Bondi Forest Lodge 19 Sep (note, not eligible for trophies)
Bill	Brown	50 cm	Fly	Bondi Forest Lodge 19 Sep (note, not eligible for trophies)
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 C	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 C	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
Micheal	Rainbow	38 cm	Fly	Jindabyne Outing 11-13 Dec
Peter	Rainbow	31 cm	Fly	Jindabyne Outing 11-13 Dec
Bill	Carp	60 cm	Bait	Lake Burley Griffin 3 Feb
Jason M	Brown	47 cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles 13 Feb
Jason M	Brown	32 cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles 13 Feb
Bill	Brown	35 cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles 13 Feb
Bill	Brown	30 cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles 13 Feb
Jason M	Australian Salmon		Hard bodied lure	Coast Outing Burrill Lake 5 Mar



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Jason M	Sand Whiting	27 cm	Bait	Coast Outing Burrill Lake 5 Mar
Jason M	Blue Swimmer	10 cm	Baited dilly bag	Coast Outing Burrill Lake 5 Mar
Jason M	Salmon	32-33 cm (two)	Bait	Coast Outing Burrill Lake 5 Mar
Luke M	Bream	Four with best at 20 cm (undersize but Luke's first fish!)	Bait	Coast Outing Burrill Lake 5 Mar
Bill	Dusky Flathead	Four with best at 80 cm	Soft plastic	Coast Outing Burrill Lake 5 Mar
Darlene	Rainbow	36 cm	Fly	Providence Flats 27 Mar