

The Burley Line

Issue 113 – Aug 2016



Darlene with her first flathead – South Coast NSW – see Jason's report later

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

The depths of Canberra's winter has seen a number of us head north to warmer climes. Surprisingly some are back in Canberra already, just in time for the snow! In this issue JQ has shown us that we don't need to go so far away from home to benefit from nice weather – the sky and sea look perfect in the cover photo. Lyall has also provided some enticement for us to pursue local opportunities – nice looking fish there mate. Hope to see you all at the AGM.

A Note from the "President in Exile"

G'day members, and welcome to another great newsletter. Hopefully you have been enjoying the cooler months, either shifting species, or working on getting your gear ready for the season opening. It was great to hear last meeting we have a fill calendar in the next year with outing leaders, with some interesting shifts, and returns, to our calendar. This year we tried some dry fly fishing in summer, which then coincided with the opportunity for trying Lyle Knowles with that outing instead of the usual October outing, but we are reverting back so get ready for that competition in coming months. Brogo has now slipped off the cards (I'll have to head there myself anyway), with some more good native fishing on the cards. Lyall has also coordinated a great return to Tuross, down where one of our former Presidents, and Life Member, Stuart has been enjoying becoming a local.

I have just been pre-recording some items for the AGM in a few weeks, and it will be our typical fine evening with nibbles, raffles, and of course seeking nominations, and some decisions from the floor. The other committee members have also been beavering away, with the trophies, awards, reports, and agenda items all also being assembled, and thanks for all the effort to get all this together. Whilst we try to get through the official events as quickly as possible, it is important to get the issues resolved, and this year we are hoping to close a few ongoing discussions with some outcomes. So make sure you all get along to have a say in your club, make all those efforts worthwhile, and you may even win a prize or collect a trophy.

It was great to see everyone at the last meeting, and we had some interesting discussion on the regional fishing, including the CFA NSW outcomes. You'll also find in this newsletter a short article aimed at stimulating thought and discussion amongst the members, and the topic below that was spotted by our editor certainly has berleyed some interest in the wider recreational fishing groups.

We will be returning to Bondi Forest Lodge again, and it was a great time down there last August. Whilst the Committee and Council will be down there initially for some teambuilding and roadmapping, it's also a great spot for a cast and the waters are open for the broader membership. If you want a crack at the new fish Brian stocked down there, you'd better come.

After a short flick or two in my boardies down by the water yesterday, and talking to my mate from Honiara this morning in the airport who was discussing the black bass in Samoa, I will join you in some more great armchair fishing as we get into another bumper newsletter.

Tight lines,

Pres



Coming Events

Next Meeting:

Wed 10th Aug – this is our Annual General Meeting. Important that folk attend, there are some critical decisions to be made. Of course there'll be the annual trophy awards and nibbles, but no speeches. Don't worry, all executive committee positions have at least one nominee.

Next Events:

Wed 24th Aug – CAA Fly Tying. Topic to be advised.

Sun 4th, 11th and 18th Sep – Our annual fly casting lessons.

July Meeting Outcomes

Members can obtain a copy of the formal minutes from the Secretary – key points are:

- The boat issues paper will be distributed prior to AGM by Lyall. Still open for contributions to Secretary by 1 Aug.
- The draft 2016/17 outing program was endorsed. (Subsequent events have led to the 'Back to Buckenderra' event being subsumed into a club outing/club executive meeting at Bondi Forest 19-21 Aug. All members welcome to come along for the fishing.)
- AGM Agenda points are to be sent to Secretary by end of Jul.

The Educated Angler – the First Chapter in a Series from Jason M?

I had thought about a picture of a guillotine and fish tail for Heads and Tails, but thought a different angle on Sautelle's book might be less likely to be misconstrued in providing some balanced information on some angling topics. Following on from my note in July's newsletter and the recent meeting, I thought some short articles might be useful to raise awareness of some adverse publicity to our local angling scenes, and highlight some of the benefits for our side of the argument, to help keep us informed for the next time it may crop up in public, at a barbeque, or other occasion. Such topics might be trout pest status versus benefits to the local region, or cod catch and release versus catch rates, survival rates, the slot limit, and the role large cod play in a system. For the first one, I thought I'd keep it broad.

As mentioned in the previous discussions, social license is an area that can be a risk to fishing, and I used catch and release as an example, compared to the recent events with the greyhound industry. Whilst there are lots of greyhound tracks in NSW, and lots of greyhounds, but recent public backlash on this has seen that loss of social license. As the outlawing is yet to come, the suspension of the racing can be likened to potential backlash on angling methods, even if there are plenty of fishing areas and plenty of fish stocks.



In addition to the other recreational fishing advocacy groups, KeepAustraliaFishing.org is a good source of information to look at the community benefits of fishing. We will also be adding a bunch of links for other information sites. A good example of where angling is different to greyhound racing is that fishing is the highest participation sport in Australia, even if it is dropping from 1 in 5 to 1 in 6. It also encourages people to get outdoors, be it in our cities, or out in our lovely parks and bush. And as per our own charter and ethics, to also encourage us to look after the habitat around our fish. It also has further community benefit, as seen by the success of Casting for Recovery...which, by the way, is seeking a couple more volunteers from the club for its November event.

Hopefully this primer will serve to keep you all talking, and promote not only the club but the broader benefits of our sport.

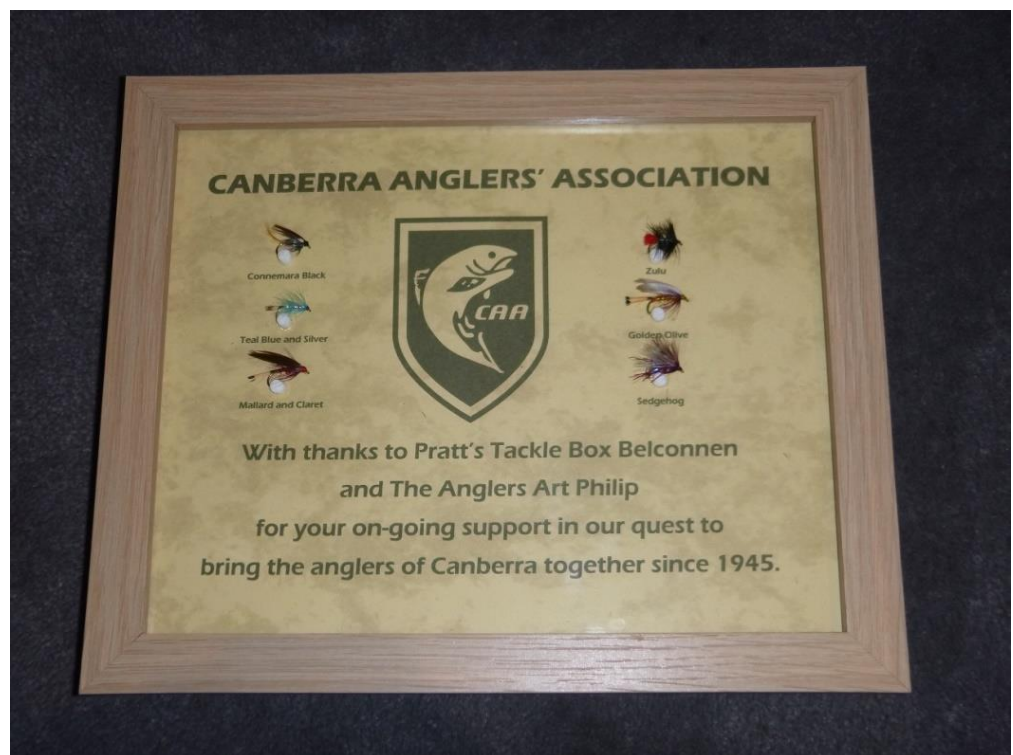
Also check out some PETA links on fishing that the Editor found recently.

<http://www.peta.org/about-peta/why-peta/catch-and-release-fishing/>

<http://www.peta.org/issues/animals-in-entertainment/cruel-sports/fishing/>

A Measure of our Appreciation

Lyall and Jason M recently called on CAA life member and supporter of many years Dr Bryan Pratt at Pratt's Tackle Box in Belconnen. The purpose was to thank the whole team at Pratt's Tackle Box Belconnen and Anglers Art Philip for their on-going support to all of Canberra's anglers. Most recently, Bryan has supported CAA with equipment donations to assist our proposed initiative with YMCA to bring the joy of fishing to disabled folk (of which more in a future *Burley Line*). Dr Pratt was presented with a plaque which featured an array of traditional Irish trout flies in recognition of CAA's deep appreciation.





Bryan with President (Jason M) and Nathan.

Some Notes from Lyall (a Tale of Two Handed Success with the Natives)

At the suggestion of Alan S, he and I visited Yerrabi Pond with two-handed switch rods to chase Yellowbelly on the fly. The water came alive



at dusk and a nice "yella" or golden perch temporarily gave up its liberty. We are very lucky in Canberra to have good recreational fishing waters on our door step. Put Sunday 19



March 2017 in your diaries when Nathan will be hosting our CAA Natives in Yerrabi outing.

Report from JQ

Hi Bill,

A quick trip report from our outing to St Georges Basin over the weekend.

Having fished Jervis Bay off HMAS Tobruk, Success and Arunta, fishing it from 6mr vessel was a little bit different!

We managed to fish JB and the Basin landing many species including Snapper, Tailor, Flathead, Whiting.

Our friends from Sydney landed the only Kingfish of the trip and measured in at 116cm, his new PB.

Darlene landed her first Flathead on a blade and multiple Tailor which seen her cheering and getting competitive against our friends on the boat!! We spent a good part of the weekend chasing squid to stock up on some fresh calamari.

The weather was amazing and we questioned ourselves why we don't get across to this part of the state more often. I think Spring and Summer may see us do a few more trips (if work permits). Time to get the bigger fly gear and salt flies out!

Cheers

Jason



Report from Angie

Immediately after the Cfr Trivia Night fundraiser, Angie and Mike headed off to Dixieland, braving "rain and ice and full gale winds". Angie seemed reluctant to record her catch, but since it is not eligible for a trophy (non-CAA outing onto stocked water), I'm adding it to the newsletter listing. Angie reported

Not newsletter worthy - just exciting for me as it was my first brown on fly! I am awaiting email from a fellow angler



containing the photo evidence – but would estimate length somewhere around 38cm to 40cm and weight around the 900/ 1kg?? I felt quite proud because other people had been unsuccessful in that particular spot over the weekend – 2 fish had been seen cruising, but none had a take. I drowned a size 16 pink tag thing on a sink tip line and got him after about 4 casts.

Editor: Angie, your first brownie on fly is always worth reporting!

Fly Tying – 27 Jul

Was a very full crowd who came along to learn the diawl bach. A record 16 attendees – lucky I wasn't tying as the table was full – perhaps time to ask for a bigger room?

Jason did a great job imparting the secrets of this productive fly as evidenced by this well made example from Angie's fly vice shown here.

The recipe is [here](#).





My Next Car?

A neighbour of mine sent me this link to a review on the [latest Bentley SUV](#) – complete with such angling necessities as its own set of hand-crafted rods, each stored in tubes hidden beneath the parcel shelf, a pair of landing nets in matching leather bags, three individual, leather-trimmed modules: a master tackle station; a refreshment case; and a neoprene-lined timber trunk for storing the waders. The tackle station features a fly-tying vice and tools, and a selection of cotton, hooks and feathers. Beneath the drawer are four reel cases machined from solid aluminium and trimmed in saddle leather.

When I asked my wife if I might find some keys in my Christmas stocking, she hinted that Santa might instead bring the much more economical (\$350,000) [Range Rover](#) – I'm on tenterhooks waiting now!

Tips – Rise Forms

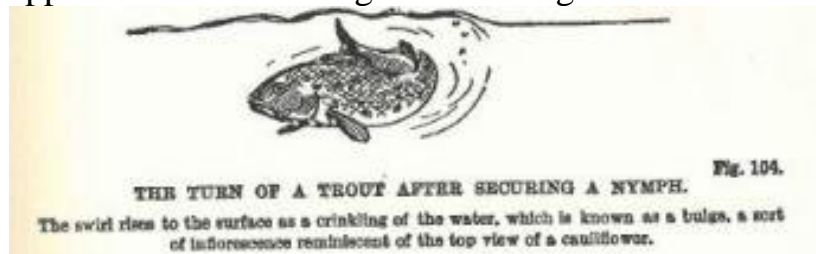
Our ever-observant Secretary spotted an excellent blog posting on the web by Kiwi fly/lure angler Alan Bulmer. Alan gives some great advice analysing trout rise forms based on the 1928 book *Trout Fishing From All Angles* by Eric Taverner.

We've received permission from Alan to reproduce his article and he asked if we could also "encourage people to visit the Active Angling NZ website (<https://activeanglingnz.com/>) or join the Active Angling NZ Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Active-Angling-New-Zealand-1461312694102946/>) as that way they get to see all of the new posts." I've added these addresses to our "Useful Links" page.

As Lyall said in submitting this tip, "the essence of analysing fish rises is reproduced below and, while not bullet proof, it is a good place to start for those CAA members interested in expanding their streamcraft." For the full production go to <https://activeanglingnz.com/2015/09/30/analysing-trout-rise-forms-a-lost-skill/>

SUB SURFACE RISES

BULGING – occurs when a trout following a nymph downstream turns quickly to secure its prey and then resumes its original position. The powerful tail stroke employed in making the turn causes displaced water to surge upwards which appears as a visible bulge or crinkling of the water surface. A swirl.





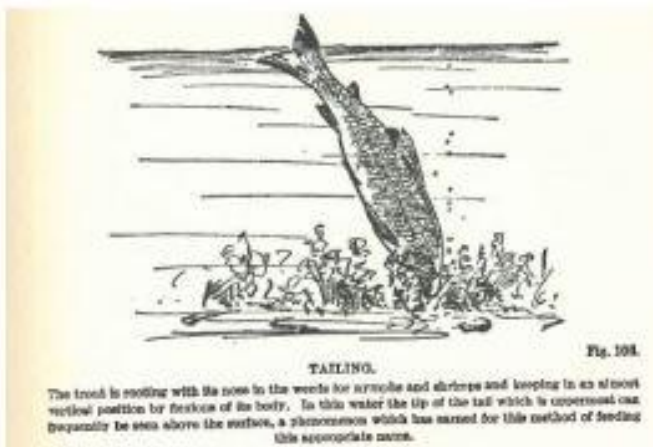
HUMPING – the surface of the water is stretched into a hump as a fish intercepts a nymph just in time to prevent it becoming a dun or has caught a helpless pupa swimming up to the surface in readiness for metamorphosis into a sedge fly.



Fig. 105.
THE TURN OF A TROUT DOWNWARDS IN THE ACT OF CATCHING A
NYMPH OR A SEDGE PUPA.
This causes a sort of humping of the water without actually breaking the elastic skin of the surface.
The water is seen to lift, stretch, and then to recede.

TAILING – the trout stands on its head, thrusts its neb down into the weeds or silt and maintains this position by undulations of its body which appear to the observer as the tip of the tail waving above the surface. Generally feeding on nymphs, shrimps or water snails.

Tailing



TAILING.
The trout is rooting with its nose in the weeds for nymphs and shrimps and keeping in an almost vertical position by flexion of its body. In this water the tip of the tail which is exposed can frequently be seen above the surface, a phenomenon which has earned for this method of feeding this appropriate name.

ABOVE THE SURFACE RISES (BREAK THROUGH THE SURFACE FILM)

SUCKING – the classical circular ring rise. The presence of an air bubble in the ring is evidence that the trout is taking an up winged dun or spinner because the



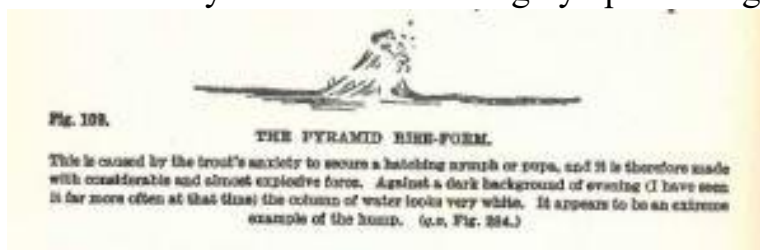
fish is reaching up to suck in the fly and inhales a minute quantity of air. This air is released through the gills as the fish turns back down.



SIP – smaller form of the sucking rise. Gentle rise which shows that the trout gives the insect little chance of escape. Uses the minimum amount of energy to secure its prey.

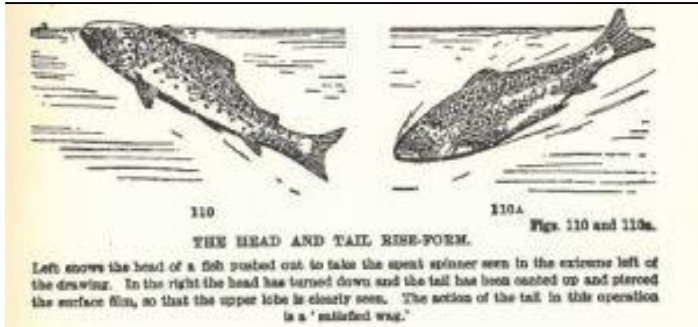
SLASH – a sedge running across the water, a mayfly in the act of leaving the surface or another large insect blown onto the water that starts moving quickly will be taken with a violent slash. The faster the water, the more aggressive the slash.

PYRAMID – the projection of a column of water upwards and at an angle to the surface of the water. Shows up as a very white splash after dark. It is caused by the trout's anxiety to secure a hatching nymph or sedge pupa.



FLUSH RISES

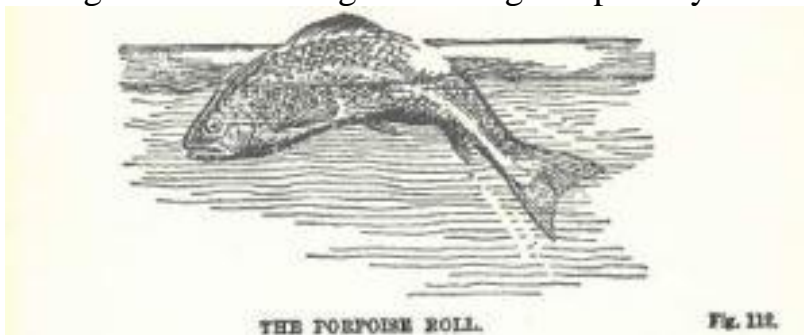
HEAD & TAIL – first the nose of the trout breaks through the surface of the water, is exposed for an instant and then disappears only for the tip of the tail to appear in its place. Trout rising like this are often taking spent spinners but it could be anything caught in the surface film and lying flush.



SPOTTED RING – thin circular walled ring with four or five air bubbles grouped around the centre. This indicates the fish is feeding on spent spinners or insects caught in the surface film.



PORPOISE ROLL – the back of the trout is arched so that the dorsal fin protrudes through the surface. Again feeding on spent fly.



Most of the key information on what the fish are feeding on when they rise in a certain manner is listed in the following table:-

RISE FORM	FEEDING ON
SUB-SURFACE	
Bulging	Nymphs
Humping	Escaping nymphs or caddis pupa
Tailing	Nymphs, shrimps and water snails



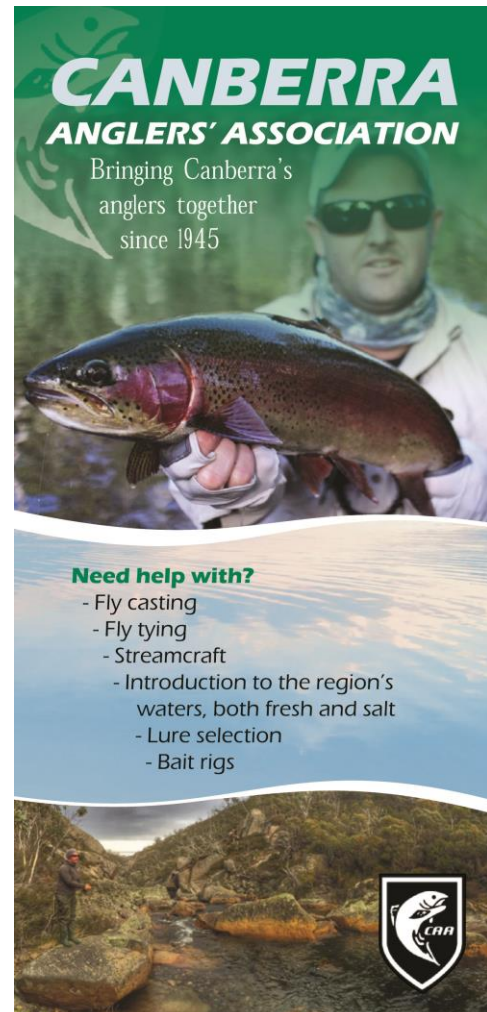
ABOVE SURFACE	
Sucking	Medium sized duns and upright spinners
Sipping	Medium sized flies in an eddy
Pyramid	Hatching sedges and some duns
Slash	Running sedges or larger insects
FLUSH WITH THE SURFACE	
Porpoise	Spent spinners
Head and tail	Spent spinners, shrimps or immobile nymphs
Spotted ring	Spent spinners

Flying Fish Do Actually Fly

Have a look at this David Attenborough clip. Demonstrates that escaping dorado by flying in the air has its downside too! <https://www.youtube.com/embed/szuchBiLrEM?rel=0>

New CAA Promotional Flyer

Our ever innovative secretary has worked with Copy Qik to develop a promotional flyer for the club. The result is a compact introduction to CAA explaining who we are and what we do. I'm sure it will attract a lot of interest. An extract here.





New CAA Bumper Stickers

The rather useful QR Code is now missing (JQ reckons it saved ink so the stickers were cheaper!). New members get one free one, ongoing members can obtain one through a 'donation' of \$2. There continues to be the idea being floated of an informal competition for photos of the sticker being placed on interesting places – please don't bring the club into disrepute in your attempts to be the winner. ☺



Alan's Mistaken Identity

Alan thought he'd spotted the Editor out fishing and sent me this image. Clearly not me because the zimmer frame doesn't have a CAA sticker:



Casting for Recovery News

Casting for Recovery held their fundraising trivia night on Thu 21 Jul. A good crowd turned up including a number of CAA members (along with some with joint CAA and ACTFF membership). The questions proved challenging with two teams tying for first place on only 49/100 – as one attendee remarked “if this was school like when I was a kid, we'd have all been marked FAIL!”. The CAA contingent finished in a creditable middle field position. It was a fun night with I'm sure much money raised, especially from the blind auction where some very interesting goods went under the virtual hammer. Indeed Angie has





just told me that the silent auction alone raised over \$4000! That, along with table bookings, raffle and the heads/ tails game the total money raised for the CFR retreats was \$8112! She expressed her sincere appreciation for the continued CAA support and encouragement. My congratulations to Angie and of course the others on the committee and volunteers for running such a worthwhile event.

CRFA News

Next CRFA executive meeting is to be held 1 Aug. Any points should be sent through to them via our representative Peter. Shane has been putting lots of great information on the [CRFA Facebook page](#) (membership of Facebook not required to view).



Gaden Hatchery Monthly Report

Not received at this time.

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News

CFA has a forthcoming meeting (20 Aug) which includes election of office bearers. Any points should be sent to Stefan. Peter and I have sent one asking for additional stiles on the shores of Lake Jindabyne to help anglers get past some new fences.



The August edition of the CFA Newsletter has arrived (click [here](#) but please don't click on the 'unsubscribe link' that appears at the bottom ☺). A very full edition this month with lots of news. Topics include:

- A substantial item on the Koi Herpes Virus. Some interesting scientific observations including one related to the concern that elimination of carp would impact on predatory native fish: "In one Queensland study, for example, researchers reduced the abundance of carp in two billabongs, removing 43% and 33% of carp biomass (34 and 26 kg per hectare respectively) and monitored two unaltered billabongs, for comparison. In the two billabongs where carp were controlled, native fish biomass increased by 90 kg per hectare, roughly three times the biomass of carp removed. Added to this, large zooplankton populations increased 10 fold and populations of aquatic insects and crustaceans also boomed. In the two lagoons where nothing was done, populations of native fish, zooplankton, aquatic insects or crustaceans did not change. This work suggests that native fish may be much more efficient in their use of food resources than carp (producing three times the biomass). Consequently, it is reasonable to anticipate that removal of carp may actually increase the food available for predatory fish, not decrease it. This should ultimately lead to bigger, healthier populations of popular native angling species"
- An Upper House committee has commenced an inquiry into Crown land in NSW.
- An update on the lack of progress of the promised research program into trout in Snowy Lakes which was recommended by the trout forum in 2014.
- Reminder of the 2016 Snowy Mountains Trout Festival Sat 29 Oct – Fri 4 Nov.

CFA are offering up an [archive](#) of their past monthly newsletters (this also appears on our Useful Links page on our website).



NSW RecFisher News

The August edition of the RecFisher Newsletter has also arrived (click [here](#) but again please don't click on the 'unsubscribe link' that appears at the bottom ☺). A very full edition this month with lots of news. Topics include concerns about the lack of a paid, full time executive officer to represent recreational anglers of NSW (NSW is the only state not to have one). Other points relate to RFA NSW interaction with NSW and Federal government relating to angler access and marine parks.



Fisheries Victoria News

Issue 392 of Fish-e-Fax has come in recently – a couple of interesting topics below. Peter and I may need to explore Hazelwood and report back. (The best Internet resource for Fisheries Victoria news is probably the [Victoria Fisheries Facebook page](#) where individual topics are

posted up separately.)



Hazelwood Barra hits 6 kg

Move over Darwin. We have barra down south! A survey of Hazelwood Pondage last week captured 20 stocked barramundi, the biggest of which weighed over 6kg. That's exceptional growth and exciting news for freshwater anglers hoping to chase a barra right here in Victoria. These growth rates are comparable, if not better, than some of Australia's best tropical barra fisheries. Fisheries Victoria scientists will continue to

monitor the fishery and acoustically track several tagged fish. The Pondage remains closed to all fishing for now, though we are hopeful of an official opening before Christmas.

Stocking Hazelwood with barra is all part of the State Government's Target One Million plan for recreational fishing which aims to get more Victorians fishing, more often – www.vic.gov.au/targetonemillion.

Trout Stocking Program

Families had the opportunity to catch a new hobby these school holidays thanks to a state-wide trout stocking program funded by fishing licence fees and the State Government's \$46 million Target One Million plan, which aims to get more people fishing, more often.

65 Family Fishing Lakes have shared in more than 26,000 catchable-size rainbow trout, all grown at our Snobs Creek hatchery near Eildon.

The Burley Line and other Contributions from Members

Contributions are always encouraged to *The Burley Line* as well as words for posting on our new blog especially for [the Cooking Page](#), [Gear Review](#) and [Places to Visit](#). Comments on individual blog posts are also encouraged and can be made directly from the blog. 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 and sharing the joy. It is not the 'official record of catches' and will include catches of interest that aren't eligible for trophies. The authoritative list for [club trophies](#) is the little book brought to meetings. So I welcome emails advising how you are going, but don't forget to get them inscribed in the book.

Angler	Species	Length	Method	Location/Event/Date
Darlene	Flathead	42cm	Eco Gear Blade	St George Basin, 17 Jul 16
Angie	Brown Trout	Est 38- 40cmcm	Fly	ACTFF outing to Dixieland 23-24 Jul – not eligible for trophy