

The Burley Line

Issue 115 – Oct 2016



Evan's 51cm fat Golden Perch

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

JQ has volunteered to be editor and compiler of Issue 116 in my absence, but “hope springs eternal” with me that one of our other members, who have provided such great feedback on *Burley Line* in the past, might take the load off our hardworking President. Any volunteers out there wanting to give it a go and display a different look and feel for our November newsletter?

This past month (ie September) always seems to me to be like it must be before a major race. After what is often a quiet period over winter, lots of change and busy-ness is in the air (for instance I saw my first magpie swooping some poor bike rider when I was leaving the first casting day). In the world of trout fishing, after some months of idleness (or committed fly tying), we see us in the starting blocks set for the opening of the streams season. The casting days have given us a chance to dust off the cobwebs in anticipation of getting onto the river bank. In that vein, our next event is the Lyle Knowles Trophy, back by demand towards the beginning of the season after last season's experiment timing it at the end of summer. One can only hope that the fish play the game correctly. On a personal note ... how did I get convinced to be away at this prime time again – won't happen in 2017 unless ... Peter, what dates are we planning on for our trip to New Zealand !!!?

A Note from the President

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the CAA Casting on the lawns of Old Parliament and, a huge thank you to Chris for the ability to close out the third week at Kungla Lakes. It was awesome to see quite a few new faces landing fish and not just the ‘regulars’! I also welcome the new members who recently signed up either through casting or from existing members. I am sure you'll love the experience and diversity that our members maintain and are all very keen to part.

Only a few days and counting until the NSW Trout season is again open! Luke C and I made for a quick trip to gauge the anticipated fishing conditions and the lake is looking great. The water is up and there are a lot of grassed areas likely to hold feeding trout. I believe we are in for a stela season.

As the weather warms and members look to get out and about chasing fish, make sure you look twice before you step.

Bend a rod,

Jason Q

Coming Events

Next Meeting:

Wed 12th Oct – Usual time 7:30PM at Raiders Weston. Speaker is to be determined.



Next Events:

Sun 16th Oct – CRFA are running an all day fishing clinic for juniors on the Queanbeyan River – free light lunch and showbag for participants. Contact Secretary CAA for more details.

Sat-Sun 22nd – 23rd – **Lyle Knowles Trophy Competition.** Conducted by Alan – more details via email.

Wed 26th Oct – **CAA Fly Tying.** Usual time 7:30PM at Raiders Weston. Topic to be advised.

In Memoriam

Canberra Times has advised us of some sad news. Readers will recall that CAA sent a birthday card to Foundation member George Barlin on the occasion of his 100th birthday [earlier this year](#) – he was quite happy to receive our greetings and sent back a handwritten note expressing appreciation for us recognising the milestone. George passed away on Sunday 25 Sep. For those who weren't aware of George's interesting history, check out the [Canberra Times article](#) – it is a shame they didn't refer to George being [our first publicity officer!](#) The current members of CAA recognise and appreciate his contribution to establishing our great club – some will also remember how well and entertainingly George spoke at our 60th anniversary dinner in Oct 2005. May he rest in peace after a colourful and successful life.

Public Fly Casting Days

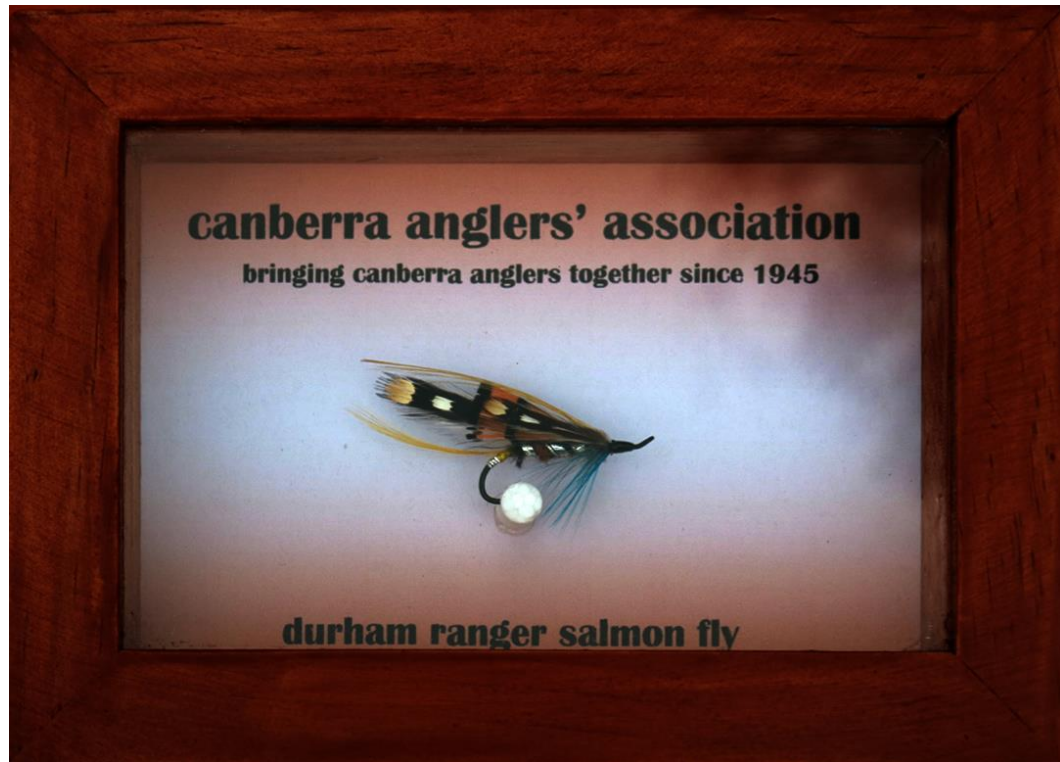
Our first day on 4 Sep had been preceded by some very nasty, cold/wet days and we had expected the ground to be a bit soggy – as it turned out it was not that damp underfoot at all. The sun shone and wind was generally gentle. The Canberra Times Fun Run created some road blockages, especially those coming from the south, but also there appeared to be some new

loud activities and road blocks close by our traditional site. Our new PA system soon made short work in overcoming the extra background noise even when Mark had to stuff the microphone into a breast pocket to free up two hands for the demonstration casts. Numbers appeared to be a little down on some of our recent years, perhaps people were deterred





by the earlier bad weather, or perhaps the Father's Day clash went against us this year. Regardless, Mark and Nathan did a great job and the students certainly appreciated the club's efforts. All assured us that they would return next week and many were intrigued about the idea of going to the stocked water.



One of the raffle prizes – many of them beautiful flies tied by Lyall



(Left) Vice Pres Greg W demonstrating the concept of tight loops and looking back to see what's happening

Our second day on the grass saw many of



the first class come back for more, plus a lot of first-timers with many of them youngsters. It is good to see the youth coming through into our sport. Lyall ensured the weather was perfect – some cloud cover at the start but very modest breezes. The sun burnt through mid way through the session. Stefan’s fabulous snags proved a hit filling the void created by all that exercise casting. Stuart, up from Tuross for the day, displayed his usual good luck and won the first draw of the raffle – he wasn’t prepared to open the bottle of wine and share it around!



Stuart (Tuross Head Chapter of CAA) discussing the intricacies of one of Evan’s flies

CAA Banner marks the spot! The low cloud and light winds seemed to be perfect for a midge hatch – shame they tended to be in the centre of the lakes!



The third weekend at Kungla Lakes was forecast for some nasty weather. As it happens there was some rain, but more importantly little wind but of course plenty of



Stefan's special sausage sandwiches to warm the soul. Chris from Pratt's Tackle Shop, Jorge who won the major raffle prize, as well as some of the 'usual suspects' (Mark, JQ, Evan and Stuart) each caught fish. Others had bumps, lost takes and even dropped fish. All in all, a much better outcome than last year though still hard fishing – especially when there were a number of rises just out of reach even of Nathan's long casting. It was great to see a couple of juniors trying their hand and evidencing lots of interest – one fellow was a very hard bargainer at the book sale table!



Jaime has recently arrived in Australia and quickly joined CAA

Jorge accepting the major raffle prize from Pres JQ – a full fly outfit kindly donated by Pratt's Tackle Box/Anglers Art. Many thanks to them for their long term support to CAA.





Outcomes from 14 Sep Meeting

Full minutes can be obtained from the Secretary including briefings on the recent CFA and CRFA meetings. Key points from our meeting were:

- some interest was evinced for participating in the 16 Oct CRFA Gone Fishing Day for juniors on the Queanbeyan River. What might be involved in registering engagement with the wider national "Go Fishing" is to be explored.
- Fly tying topic and instructors for the 28 Sep session were determined.
- CAA has endorsed the CRFA initiative to further develop a proposal to the ACT Government for the stocking trout in ACT waters.
- The proposed constitution change (to amend our objects to reinforce the sporting nature of CAA activities) will be disseminated soon for decision in November.

CAA Certificate of Appreciation Presented to Otto's Tackle World

Last month Charlie and Lyall visited Otto's Tackle World in Fyshwick to say a big thank you to the guys for arranging the generous donation of fishing gear for the YMCA Outdoor



Adventurers fishing for the disabled program.

Special thanks go to Shimano, Juro rods and Sure Catch tackle. The aim of the YMCA program is to introduce people to healthy outdoor pursuits they might not otherwise get to experience such as angling. We aim to run the first of these events at

Yarralumla Bay in November.



Tip of the Month – Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder – the Impact of UV on Fish Vision

We've benefitted from the knowledge of NZ angler Alan Bulmer in previous issues of *Burley Line* on [rise forms](#). He has recently argued to me that "success of a fly may have more to do with its reflected UV fingerprint than how closely it visually matches the hatch." If you want to learn just how important reflected UV may be in fly tying then check out Alan's article:

<https://activeanglingnz.com/2016/06/07/consider-reflected-uv-when-tying-flies/>

Alan's discussion comes after he read a book by Reed Curry entitled *The New Scientific Angling – Trout and Ultraviolet Vision*. The ISBN number is 9780984086306. He thought it to be a "provoking read that will probably change forever the way you think about trout fly design".

Perhaps not particularly relevant to trout flies, but I was surprised to learn that UV can penetrate down to depths like 55m, further than visible light – take note deep sea lure builders. More importantly to fly tiers, is the impact of UV reflectance on the visibility of flies during the low light of dawn and dusk. Having materials that are UV reflective and others that are UV absorbing provides contrasting features that may not be so apparent in visible light. Alan advises "White hackles, Marabou, Mallard and Turkey feathers are highly UV reflective whereas iridescent feathers are not. White furs or tips on certain types of fur reflect UV strongly as do lighter rabbit and hare fur. Dyeing the fur can either enhance or diminish UV reflectance depending on the colour used. Synthetic dubbing, especially the lighter shades of products such as Ice dubbing and Antron, are often highly UV reflective and should be used sparingly or in combination with darker furs." Go to the article or Curry's book to see examples of flies under visible and UV light to see the effect. Note that this is different to the way UV light can assist luminescent materials to glow in the visible spectrum (think glow flies).

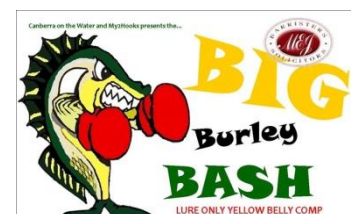
Useful Links Resource – Fly Tying on YouTube



There had been a suggestion that CAA establish its own YouTube video channel but the committee was uncertain that we would have sufficient material to make it worthwhile. Meanwhile Ben has pointed me to this great fly tying channel. Ben tells me that "[Davie McPhail's YouTube channel](#) is one of the most extensive fly tying resources on the web. If you need a given fly there is a possibility it will be in here." I've added it to our [Useful Links page](#).

Big Burley Bash – be Quick

It's probably not too late to enter the Big Burley Bash for the keen natives anglers. The comp runs through to December. The entry fee is \$40 or \$15 for under 16's. Each week that you play entails a play





fee of \$15pp and \$5 for the young ones. The flyer showing the prizes is [here](#). Email Adam on fishing@my2hooks.net for more info and to register. Registration closes 29 Sep.

First Native Fish Reported for this Season

Club member and [professional fly tier, Evan](#), has been proudly showing off the impressive Golden Perch (featured as cover photo). He tells me he caught it out of Yerrabi Ponds on one of his intriguing articulated woolly buggers. Evan was demonstrating how to tie these at our fly casting days. (The one that I bought there managed to bust off on a log at Kungla ☹️. Evan tells me they are straightforward to tie and has offered to lead on this at a future tying night – make sure I'm in town mate!).

51cm is no slouch and its reporting gives us an opportunity to try out our [new natives scoring system](#). The 51cm yellowbelly scores 58%. By way of comparison, Luke's 68cm Murray Cod which won the Keith Shields trophy for natives last year scores 37%. To score 58% a cod would need to be 75.5cm ... food for thought and perhaps encouragement to get into the Big Burley Bash. (Just to balance this consideration, Nathan's 85cm thumper cod that won the trophy in 2013/14 scores 86%.)

A Report from JQ: Canberra Family and Community Long Weekend



Luke and I made the dash to Eucumbene for the Canberra Family and Community long weekend. The weather looked pretty average during the week, but Friday weather reports were true to word and brought some pretty good fishing weather. The lake was also looking superb with many bays reforming and huge spaces of flooded grass and vegetation.



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Saturday we hit the water a little after 0600 making our way from Anglers Reach to the Portal via boat. We fished many of my local haunts raising only a few non-committal fish whilst on the hang. Luke had a number of finicky takes but no hook-ups. We finished up Saturday with 2.1 fish to the boat all under 30cm and the .1 fish was all of 7cm!

Sunday we made for a later start as the weather had turned over night and the wind was pretty hectic. We battled for around 2.5 hours with not a fish to the boat.

Luke needed to be back in Canberra soon after lunch, so I returned to the Lake as I was not going to be beaten.

Late Sunday afternoon I fished almost the same bays as Luke and I had drifted through and fortunately managed to pull a nice brown from where Luke had been snagged up earlier in the day.

The wind really picked up so I motored down the lake towards Wattledale where I managed another 4 fish and called it quits as light was getting limited.

Monday morning I slept in and so I didn't make the water until around 1000, the wind was pretty manic with white caps forming. I did consider not heading out but figured the drogue and wind would help me navigate a number of bays and they were generally out of the wind.

4th cast seen a 73cm Brown to the boat.. It had very little condition and was quickly released.

Another bay drifted and another Brown landed 62cm.

I was struggling for time to be back in Canberra by 1630 so I quickly motored to an old spot on the way back to the boat ramp. One dropped and another landed.

Whilst I am disappointed I couldn't get Luke in front of the camera with a fush, I am really excited about how much he learnt with another aspect of fly fishing in particular, long leaders and fishing with intermediate fly lines.

Here's some highlights of our weekend!



Missy and Frankie living the dream out of the wind and receiving scratches!



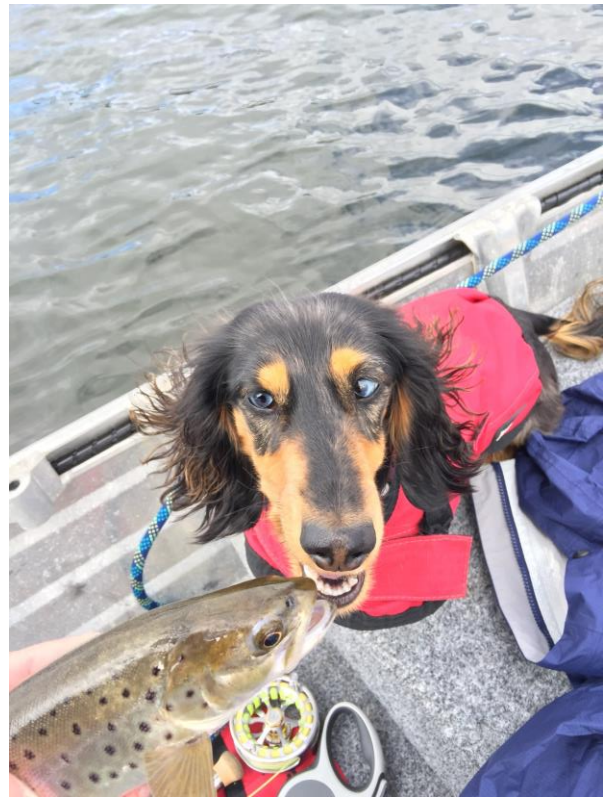
Luke unhooking the flies from his rod and Missy and Frankie sniffing out the best place for him to fish from.



A very pretty Brown from Wattledale



Another fish released for another day.



Frankie very keen to try fresh sashimi! Fish was released without harm...



Frankie thinking here's dinner!



Another Nice Fish from JQ's Secret Spot



Seems Luke must know where it is, as he took the photo.

Have you Ever Considered Joining ANSA

CAA has examined the option of our club joining the [Australian National Sportsfishing Association](#) but at this stage the executive has decided not to move on this. CAA members may not be aware that, even if CAA does not become a member club, you can still join as an individual member. There are a number of benefits that come from individual membership:



- Participation in state and national fishing competitions.
- National and international recognition of record fish catches and other achievements.
- Access to ANSA negotiated personal injury insurance during all fishing activity at no additional cost.



Casting for Recovery News

No hot news – we await reports on how the next retreat went off (19-20 Nov). There may be space for more volunteers – check with Secretary.



CRFA News

As discussed in our September meeting, CRFA are running a NSW Fisheries funded Youth Fishing Clinic on the Queanbeyan River (in Queanbeyan) on Sun 16 Oct. CAA Juniors can register though the event is seeking to introduce newcomers to the sport of fishing. There may still be vacancies for volunteer helpers also. Contact CAA Secretary or Burley Line Editor (perhaps via [our home page](#)) for more information.



Gaden Hatchery Monthly Report

The August report was received 7 Sep and is available from the Secretary or Burley Line Editor. Interesting snippets are:

- the trapping of browns continues with 1,111 trapped this year, this contrasts with only 29 rainbows. Pres MAS (Steve Samuels) noted that the recent experience has been that rainbows have been spawning later than historically observed and we should see better numbers in the September report – reasons are yet to be proven.
- Brown trout ova from Gaden have been identified for distribution to Ebor Hatchery (New England) but interestingly also to Eildon in Victoria.
- “Surplus (220) to future production will be marked by research staff and have been released into the Thredbo River and Lake Jindabyne”. Keep your eye out folks for these ex-brood rainbows. JQ caught two ex-brood stock last year. One during our December Jindabyne outing and one prior – as reported in our [Christmas 2016 Edition](#). If you land one, please note the details on the tag to report via the [DPI webform](#) – I encourage everyone to have a look at the basic information being sought. Not sure if the ‘small reward’ for submissions is still being sent to anglers.

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News

CFA News has not arrived but they are offering up an [archive](#) (I’ve added this to our Useful Links page on our website).

NSW RecFish News

RecFish News has not arrived.



Fisheries Victoria News

(The best Internet resource is probably the [Victoria Fisheries Facebook page](#) where individual topics are posted up separately.)

Fish EFact 394 and 395 have arrived. Some interesting points from them down South – am always impressed by the professionalism of their Fisheries





Department:

Banning commercial net fishing

Migratory fish such as black bream and estuary perch in the Gippsland Lakes will have more protection at river mouths when exclusion areas for commercial netting are expanded by 50 per cent under new arrangements to be introduced next year.



Eildon Pondage

The Eildon Pondage was stocked with 200 ex-brood fish from our Snobs Creek hatchery, near Eildon. The fish consisted of 100 brown trout, averaging 2.5kg each, and 100 rainbow trout averaging 2kg. Fishers are reminded that the daily bag limit at the Pondage is 5 trout, of which no more than 2 can exceed 35cm.

Stocking Hatchery-Reared Flathead Fingerlings

Amongst 17 new projects being funded by recreational fishing licence fees is a feasibility study into stocking hatchery-reared flathead fingerlings. The \$25,000 project will review current information on sand, rock and dusky flathead to determine whether stocking could support the recovery and enhancement of populations in Victorian bays and inlets.

And news of two interesting conferences; Wild Trout is being held Saturday, November 5 at Mansfield Performing Arts Centre and the Codference at East Side Conference Centre Shepparton:

Talk Wild Trout 2016 Conference



The 2016 Wild Trout Conference builds on the success of last year's event. It will assemble fisheries scientists and anglers to share the findings of research conducted on riverine trout populations during year 2 of this 3 year project, which has been funded by Victorian recreational fishing licence fees. More info at www.vic.gov.au/troutconference



2016 Murray Codference



Anglers are invited to Shepparton on Sunday 11 December for our first ever Murray ‘codference’ where they can learn about the health of our cod fisheries, how to improve their fishing and how they can contribute to sustainability. Register for free by emailing improving.fishing@ecodev.vic.gov.au. Learn more at www.vic.gov.au/conference

As a postscript ... recall that we’ve been watching the growth of Barramundi stocked into the cooling ponds of Hazelwood power station? I now see that the power station may be the first of the old coal powered stations [to be closed](#). I wonder what that means for the barra?

The Burley Line and other Contributions from Members

Contributions are always encouraged to *The Burley Line* as well as words for posting on our 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 on the blog site. 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

(you can now click to initiate an email directly from [our home page](#) – looking forward to an uplift in mail!)

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



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Angie	Brown Trout	Est 38-40cm	Fly	ACTFF outing to Dixieland 23-24 Jul – not eligible for trophy
Micheal	Rainbow Trout	Est 34cm	Fly	Bondi Forest Committee weekend 20 Aug
Evan	Golden Perch	51cm (scores 58%)	Fly	Yerrabi Pond, 10 Sep 16
Jason Q	Brown	56cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 24-26 Sep
Jason Q	Brown	62cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 24-26 Sep
Jason Q	Brown	73cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 24-26 Sep