

The Burley Line

Issue 118 – Feb 2017



Jeannine with her first trout on fly – more to the story later in the newsletter

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

Welcome back from your various summer breaks. I had anticipated that there would be insufficient material for a February issue, but Lyall's call out to members has borne fruit with a number of 'first timers' submitting articles – you have my eternal gratitude, but of course you have now revealed your writing skills and you can anticipate being pestered for more in the future. ☺

This issue should inspire all of us to try out new waters, in particular I've dropped in some observations of mine from a trip earlier this month to Khancoban sussing out some water for JQ's event next month. The articles also speak to fishing 'firsts' for some of our members – congratulations to them, the smiles say it all!

It seems it is a great time to be out chasing those pesky redfin. Peter and I had an excellent time recently with fish "beyond counting". While only one of Peter's was a worthwhile keeper, catching two around the 25cm mark (on a double rig) every cast for more than a half an hour is always fun. Peter even acknowledged that I had outfished him that afternoon – must have been those special soft plastics recommended by Nathan though credit is due to Peter for mentoring me with the rig and the proper retrieve! Get to it folks – very entertaining and close to hand for when you can't get up to the Snowies.

A Note from the President

Happy New Year Everyone!

It doesn't come as a surprise but we're almost at the end of January, but we were just catching up for the Christmas farewell!

The email traffic has been pretty heavy of late as Bill produces yet another stela edition of 'Burley Lines'.

I wish to congratulate Charlie on hosting a fantastic outing with a good number of Carp and Redfin landed.

I won't spoil what is about to come with a couple of people achieving their first 'trout on fly'.

Well done to you, you know who you are!

Enjoy the read and look forward to seeing you out there.

Tight lines,

Jason Q



Coming Events

Next Meeting:

8th Feb – First meeting – usual time/place, 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club.

Next Events:

4-5th Feb – Jason Q leading the pack down to Khancoban and region – note that this is before our first meeting in 2017 – email advice has been sent out – RSVP to Jason before Thu 26th Jan. A taster on what you can expect is inside this newsletter.

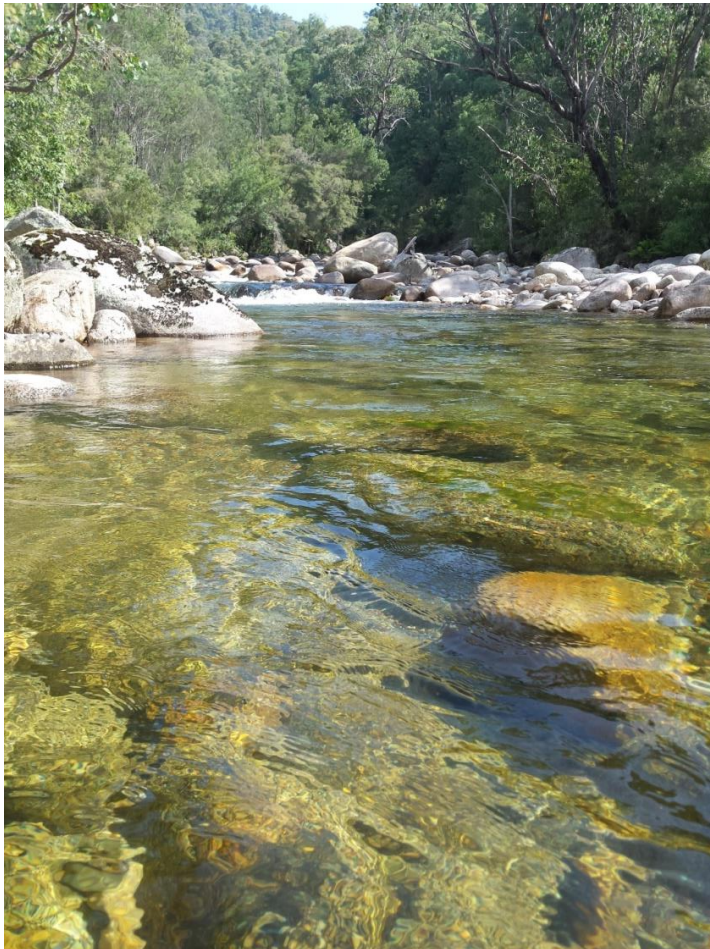
Khancoban Recce

My wife and I recently celebrated a special wedding anniversary overseas visiting our son. Meanwhile, friends who shared the same anniversary suggested that we ought to celebrate via a gourmet picnic up at Scammell's Lookout in the Snowy Mountains. When a supplementary activity of fishing in the region was proposed, all was set for a day's recce in the Khancoban region in advance of our February event.

I need to do some more research consulting with a friend of Ian's who frequents Khancoban more than most, but already I can report that the region offers a host of fishing options. The scenarios range from the local Khancoban Pondage for lake fishing; the tailrace river below (was running too hard for my liking – think Tumut River scale); and a number of streams small and larger including the Geehi and the Swampy Plains rivers out of town. The pictures below will give you some idea but more details will be passed out to those who sign up for the trip.



This small stream offered some classic rapids, shallow runs and the occasional deeper pool. A number of keen smaller fish that didn't seem to hang onto the dry fly well enough – smaller hook next time?



The Swampy Plains River offered the clearest water I've ever seen in Australia.



Fishing this section was hard with deep pools, fast water and big rocks to clamber over – I reckon our Czech nymphers will go gang-busters here.

January Lake Fishing Day – 14 Jan 2017

Charlie hosted our first event for the year down at Black Mountain Peninsula. A good number turned up to join the fun and Lyall has provided an excellent report.

It was shaping up to be a warm day but that didn't deter eight hardy souls from venturing to Black Mountain Peninsula at various times during the day to chase a fish or two. Flies, lures and bait were all on the menu but shade was paramount with the mercury right up there.

Charlie started hauling in redfin with ease one after the other. Last count was at six when he had to leave to save a friend's fancy pigeons from heat stress. If he had stayed all day he would have caught more than twenty fish I reckon. Charlie's mate Tubby who made our burley baskets for the YMCA – CAA disabled fishing day also joined us and gave the carp something to worry about. Apologies for not getting a photo of you and one of your many redfin Charlie.



(Ed: this photo is one of Leon's)



Leon, who hooked up early on the fly, was talking about the latest in fly line technology with recommendations for using old clothes line to make constant taper fly lines and old fly line tips to make “cheaters” to reduce the kick as the last of your heavy line rolls out and transfers energy to your leader. It sounds like we have a speaker on fly line innovation for one of our upcoming meetings.

Matt and Darren, two brand new members who signed up on the day, also landed a couple between them and are enthusiastic anglers who will add to the relatively youthful (compared to me) but very skilled quorum in Canberra Anglers’ Association. Ask them about Tantangara!!! Welcome guys.

Bill joined us for the BBQ lunch fresh off the plane from his US holiday. We had trouble understanding him at first “Howdy ya’all. Good to be back in the land of O’Livia Nooton Jarn and Crocodile Dundee. Put another shrimp on the barbie !!!” Great to have him back safely but he needs to work on his Ossie accent.



With his usual generosity Charlie had left us with some of his *angling weapons of mass destruction*. Rod was continuing on his quest to catch his first [insert new fish species here]. Last month was trout and January was, you guessed it, European carp. Refusing to give up, Rod persisted with Charlie’s (A)WOMD and right on finish time he caught his first carp. Carp in hand, he secretly told me he has a Great White Shark on the fly in his February sights!!!

The day was full of chatting in the shade about life and angling – mostly angling – amongst friends old and new. I counted twenty redfin and carp caught on the day. The only fly in the ointment were the rowers who insisted on rowing in close to the shore where we were fishing. At one point we were fighting good sized carp on the line in front of the approaching rowers. One of our CAA life members was in favour of casting a burley ball right into the boat Sea Shepherd style. I can’t tell you who it was but he sure caught a lot of redfin!!!





Magic Trout at Moonbah

Recall the report last issued on our December event to Jindabyne when a number of us dropped into Moonbah Hut seeking directions. Manager/owner Brett Smith was most welcoming and we were all envious of the paying guests who had some impressive fishing opportunities. Jeannine provided the following report about her own stay at Moonbah Hut. I'll also be putting this report up in our ["Places to Fish" segment](#) on the blog.

At the beginning of December John and I joined Lyall and his wife Carolyn at the Moonbah Lake Hut outside Jindabyne to practice our fly-fishing skills. Having participated in "Fly Casting for the Public" on the lawns of Old Parliament House in 2015 and 2016 it was high time I caught my first fish on fly!

Moonbah Hut and its surrounds are well looked after, the newly mown grass helped with wheelchair access. The property comprises two huts, a River Hut and the smaller Lake Hut. The Lake Hut, a small stone and slab hut with a wide wooden verandah overlooking a small jetty which sits above a dam stocked with trout. The layout of the hut includes two rooms, a large living room and a bathroom, the living room is equipped with a double bed, settee, bar fridge, electric kettle, hot plates, old fuel stove and an open fire. Underfloor heating supplements the open fire during the cooler months. A wood fired bbq is located next to the jetty. The hut was decorated with a pair of split cane rods with silk lines, period brand name tins and jars from the 1940s and 50s which brought back childhood memories and gave a relaxing ambience (OK so I am not 75 years old but you get the picture).



Because Lyall had rented the Lake Hut, we had exclusive access to the stocked dam and, as no one was staying at the River Hut, John took a 5-minute walk to the river to fish for unsuspecting trout while Lyall and I fished the dam. Under instruction, I was given the fly tying scissors and modified one of Lyall's stock of flies. Then it was time to throw a line in. Picture this: you only have use of one hand and that hand has to retrieve the line using a one-handed lever action reel, so how do you maintain a bend in the rod to keep tension on the fish with an opening and



closing hand? Think about it – not easy. With innovative angling, I landed two handsome browns – my first pair of trout on fly.



For anyone with mobility problems I think you would find the accommodation and surroundings favorable if you can handle three steps up to the hut verandah and for those who have partners who don't fish it's a relaxing environment to read and take in the Snowy Mountains surroundings. A big thank you to the owner and proprietor of Moonbah Huts Brett who made sure we had a relaxing and rewarding stay and put us onto the fish. Thanks also to his friendly help-yourself-to-the-sausages-on-the-BBQ troupe of chickens and the ever present collie dog Buster who was lucky not to be made into a traditional Scottish Collie Dog black and white salmon fly. It was certainly the first trip of many to Moonbah Hut.

To Melbourne or to Fish

It is becoming quite clear that Jeannine and John are getting to some quite interesting places in search for the 'wily trout'. Here Jeannine tells us about fishing with the Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre folks. This will also be put up in our ["Places to Fish" segment](#) on the blog.

Just before Christmas John and I overnighted at Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing Centre in Thornton, Victoria, a 130km from Melbourne. (A good excuse to leave the Hume!) We stayed at the Cottage, a mud brick building sited on the edge of the Centre's trout stocked casting dam across from the Centre's teaching facility and shop. The Cottage is surrounded by a wooden deck that extends over the dam's bank, perfect for casting while relaxing after a long day at the



wheel. Venturing a few extra steps delivers a grassy bank with no back-casting obstacles, and a few steps further a large lagoon, overhanging gum trees and reedy banks, the occasional rise an indication of the fishing potential.



The Cottage comprising a good size kitchen with appliances, cutlery, crockery, sandwich maker and tea/coffee. The combined dining and lounge room that came off the kitchen took up the length of the cottage giving the occupants a good view of jumping trout in the dam through the floor to ceiling windows and glass sliding door. There are two bedrooms divided by a bathroom, one with a queen size bed and the other with two singles. The Thornton pub (which serves yummy meals) and local store is within walking distance or a two-minute car drive.

David Pickering, one of the proprietors, met us upon our arrival, after introductions, general conversation and a purchase or two, David enquired about our plans for the following morning, inviting me to participate in the fly-fishing opportunity of a “life-time”, a drift down the Goulburn River in a purpose built “Clackacraft” drift boat. Following an inspection of the boat and being assured by David (and John) that I would be safe in the boat I agreed to this new adventure (John has been trying to get me on a boat for years).

Following a very enjoyable meal at the local pub and as the sun slowly set against the song of thousands of cicadas I dipped my fly line in the water and practiced casting in and beside the dam in anticipation of tomorrow's drift. John walked through the property past the lagoon and disused trout hatchery ponds to the Goulburn River, scouting for rises and checking out the river so we would be ready for the early morning drift down the river.



David and his partner Dell settling me into the drift boat.

For those who know me, yes, I was assisted into the boat, leaving my wheelchair on the bank and I could move across to the comfortable swivel chair at the front of the boat. John sat in the swivel chair at the other end with David in the middle rowing and directing. As we and the boat drifted down stream, Dell returned my wheelchair to the Fly-Fishing Centre where we would disembark in three hours' time.





The river and river bank were spectacular even though I didn't get to soak in the scenery as much as I would have liked as I was watching my dry fly bobbing up and down, waiting for a take. I eventually hooked a 3lb trout following an extended fight, I just missed out on getting it into the boat, a LDR (I bet you've heard that story a few times before). John also had a couple of takes, enough to tease him and encourage him to keep casting towards the bank. All in all, we had a great time and admired the enthusiasm and tenacity of David who piloted the boat continually for 3hrs.

The drift down the Goulburn River was truly an experience of a life time, particularly for those of us like me, challenged by limited access to our great waterways. I will be back!



David and his partner Dell were the perfect hosts, both enthusiastic, encouraging and helpful, with the booking and during our stay. For those weary travelers driving south towards



Melbourne, the Goulburn Fly Fishing Centre is a worthy bypass and a drift down the Goulburn an experience not to be missed!

Footnote: For those of us who have mobility challenges we found the Cottage was easy to navigate with a manual wheelchair. While the bathroom isn't designed with all the fittings necessary for access, it is spacious and accommodating. The Fly Fishing Centre is also spacious and comprises a shop, office and large meeting area with a lounge and log fire. The Centre's amenities include a unisex accessible toilet.

Luke's Summer Report.

Hi Bill,

Hope you had a good trip away!

Here's one if you need some photos for the newsletter...

I spent a couple of days at Windamere Dam with the family over New Year's Eve. This was the best of 5 yellowbelly that I landed, measuring in at 56cm. My uncle showed us all up by landing a 107cm cod on a spinnerbait which was impressive (and



then backing it up with another 79cm cod the next day!). If anyone is interested, I'd highly recommend a trip there. The caravan park has recently exchanged hands and the new management have put in a lot of effort to improve the park including new shower/toilet blocks and new bbq areas which makes the stay more comfortable.

Cheers,
Luke.

A River Somewhere.

One of our newer members, Rod, slipped me an article on his adventures on our Lyle Knowles event last year 22-23 Oct 2016. Clearly he's spent too much time in the tropical north and wasn't sure what that white stuff was falling out of the sky!

Armed with my new fly rod and Lyall's succinct and artistic instructions on fly selection, I set off last Spring to find his 'river somewhere'. Fortunately I thought to check the weather forecast before I left and, after reversing back up the driveway, grabbed an Alaska grade parka



and sleeping bag. After some 30 years in the tropic the high country of southern Australia was new country for me, as was the idea that it could snow in late October.

As a younger man I left Sydney for the Top End to escape suburbia and a claustrophobia induced by landscapes of human wrought change. I sought and found peace in big skies and places that were little changed since the original owners were displaced. I also had a boys own adventure of crocodiles, beer, amazing remote places, helicopters, beer, boats and some seriously large fish. Adjusting to the excitement of a 25cm whiting, surviving highway traffic, and coming to appreciate southern Australian landscapes have been major challenges of my first few years in Canberra. My travels with CAA colleagues to a ‘river somewhere’ to pursue trout and master the mathematics of fly casting have restored value to me of southern landscapes. I’m grateful to my CAA friends for offering these new experiences and their wisdom.



I passed through Namadji NP at dawn, alternately dodging wallabies and marvelling at the emerging mist-shrouded view. Using a gestalt approach to navigation I yawed via Yaouk, wondering how the tiny streams I passed could possibly support catchable fish. Many in fact were running high, as was the

Eucumbene when, following Lyall’s map, I descended the ridge to an idyllic spot on a river bend. In high excitement I set out to ‘read’ the river and land my first trout. Hours later, the trout untroubled by my enthusiasm, I fell asleep on some rocks under a warm sun and glorious blue alpine sky. I awoke to find myself dusted with snow and icy gusts pushing into the gaps of my too thin jacket. As darkness fell, so did the snow and I crawled into all the clothes I had, two sleeping bags and a beanie, and shivered through the night. By dawn, my Toyota troopy, a long term resident of the tropics, was under its first blanket of snow.

The rest of the trip unveiled more of the delights of the high country and the rolling plains of the Monaro. I hobnobbed with wild horses, wondered at wombats, marvelled at the famous Blue Waterholes, and discovered the largest trout in Australia. All that remains is to catch a real one.



PS In the week before Christmas, in the warm clear Cotter River, I caught my first rainbow trout on fly. It was delicious.

Peter's Report.

Seems Rod isn't the only one obtaining piscine protein! Got this report from Peter

Hi Bill,

Here is a photo of a redfin I caught in a secret Location on LBG last week. Caught several nice fish but this was the best, about to be filleted and skun.

Fish was caught on soft plastic (flickbait) about 1930 hours and was amongst many smaller redfin and 5 other take home fish. Yummyyyyy





CAA Bumper Sticker Travels – Colorado Winter Fishing.

Those of you who monitor the CAA website, would have seen the following image as “photo of the month”. I was lucky enough to return to Colorado and get a day’s fishing on the South Platte River along with my son (report follows), but I also took the opportunity to submit an entry into our little informal competition of getting a photo of our sticker in the most interesting places. If you need some more stickers so you can join in, then they are \$2 from Treasurer or Secretary.



Avid readers may recall that last year I managed to get two days on two different [Colorado streams](#). With a Christmas visit to the Denver based son and family, an opportunity arose to again get onto the private water with guide Chris Wells of [Mile High Angler](#). This section of the South Platte River on a property known as The Meadows is private access only. Fishing was pretty tough with the water at 40F and the air colder with a good deal of snow on the ground. My son joined me this time. He did very well considering that his previous fly fishing experience is limited to some time with CAA lessons and the practical day at Eucumbene Trout Farm a number of years ago. He showed his old man up with the first fish landed and almost certainly the best for the day.





The river was running very well, but definitely no rises so indicator nymphing was the go. I had a lot of fun when we spotted a “palomino” – I originally thought these were albino rainbows, but it appears that the fish belonged to a species called Golden Rainbow Trout (not to be confused with the Golden Trout found in California). Anyway, its pale colour made it quite obvious in a small run below a rapid. Multiple casts saw it move to the fly (possibly taking it one time) but unfortunately not landed – clearly a good reason to go back even after my son returns to Australia!





Fly Fishing Expo – Thredbo 18-19 Feb

Thredbo local guide Craig (Daff) Daly along with Master Casting Instructor/Two Handed Casting Instructor Brian Henderson are the main players behind a two day **free** Fly Fishing Expo. More information including accommodation packages are available [here](#). The program comprises:

Saturday February 18th

9.30 AM – Village Green **Introduction to fly fishing demonstrations**

Basic casting

1.30 PM – Village Green **Advanced fly fishing demonstrations**

Distance & accuracy casting

3.45 PM – Kosci Room **Equipment & fly tying workshops**

Sunday February 19th

9.30 AM – Kosci Room **Casting demonstration**

Switch & Spey casting

12.30 PM – The Local Pub & Bistro **Prize giveaway & farewell BBQ**

Gaden Hatchery Monthly Report

This has arrived with the biggest news being the number of fish being released this summer. There is also some discussion on reducing the reporting schedule to 3 times per year. There is a continuing discussion on whether this would be a smart thing to do given the closer management of the hatchery operation for the next few years given the temporary changes due to the rainbow trout spawning run problems.

The full documents are available from Editor *Burley Line*.

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News

The Jan 2017 issue is available [here](#). Hot topics include changes to natives fishing regulations, digital fishing licences (on your smartphone) available now and notes from the recent NSWCFR meeting in Cooma.



NSW RecFish News

The RFA newsletter is a packed issue and you can read it [here](#). A particularly topical item was on the carp herpes virus:



The Phase 3 report of the Carp herpes virus project has been released/ This project determined that Cyprinid herpesvirus-3 could be effective as a management option for European carp, which was fundamental in the formation of the Australian Government funded National Carp Control Plan. The report highlights the extensive amount of research that has gone into this program, and makes for good reading if you're interested in the science behind the carp virus. You can read the report at this [link](#).



CRFA News

CRFA is promoting a mid-week natives competition.



CANBERRA CUP 2017 CATCH AND RELEASE COMPETITION

Proudly presented by



PRIZES

1st prize pool
\$1200 *

Shimano Combos
CASH prizes &
MORE!

When?

Spread over 8 weeks, every Thurs-
day 6:30-9:30pm, Starting 2nd Feb.

Where?

Lake Burley Griffin, Lake Ginninderra

What do I need?

Mobile phone with camera & credit
Fishing and safety gear

16+ Entry fee
\$40 plus weekly
play fee.
Junior entry fee
\$15 plus weekly
play fee.



Land based or on the water kayak or boat

To Register:

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



Fisheries Victoria News

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



UMDR News

I suspect Antia is taking a well earned break. I'm sure we'll see more from her during 2017.



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](#))

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 38-40cm	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



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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
Nathan	Golden Perch	59cm (scores 80%)	Plastic	Lake Burley Griffin, 20 Oct
Luke	Carp	64cm	Fly	Yerrabi Pond, 10 Nov