

# The Burley Line

Issue 119 – Mar 2017



*Andrew with his first trout on fly – more on our Khancoban trip later in the newsletter*

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

Well, summer certainly hit with a vengeance (did I tell any of you that my airconditioning decided to stop working!). I wondered how the heat would affect the local fishing, but as you'll see it certainly hasn't affected Leon's reddies nor some of the natives. The Khancoban trip was a little mixed in results, but a most enjoyable weekend for all those attending. Was good to explore new waters, some even heading 'south of the border'. I'm still wondering why Peter and I came home on the Sunday – even more when I read the notes from Jaime.

I really appreciate that two of our newer members have taken the time to provide some great yarns and nice photos – keep it up folks. Plus, we'd been reading about the Victorian Fisheries experiment with using the warm water from the Hazelwood Power Station to raise barra – Luke C and Evan managed to snare one of the ballots for an early go at fishing this unique situation and provide their report.

Have you noticed that there are quite a number of new members who have recently joined Canberra Anglers? We wish them all a warm welcome. Talking to many of them, it seems that Nathan and our old mate Bryan at Pratt's Tackle Box have been strongly promoting the club – a big thank you to the both of them. There is of course our September fly casting lessons which also continues to bring our club to the attention of the public and the same two guys have been major players in getting the word out on this event.

## A Note from the President

Welcome to March and welcome to our new members. March leads us with a welcomed season change and a suburban native outing with a great chance at catching a metre cod or 50+cm yellowbelly.

I am delighted to read and hear of all the captures many members are having this season. Our recent outings are well supported and it's great to see and read of their successes, in fact be a part of it. Most recently I was fortunate to see the largest fish caught for the Khancoban outing and then be text a great photo of Andrew's fish on fly. Well done to Roger and Andrew!

The ACT government has engaged with local clubs and residents in support of fish stocking and future management plans. If there's something you wish to bring up, make sure you send it through to the Committee so we can have it heard.

Bill has done yet again an exceptional edition and is simply out doing himself. The content is not without the fantastic articles you are submitting.

I encourage you to put fingers to keyboard and attach your iphone pics to the email.. Share in your exploits and don't forget to add the results to the catch register!

Happy Fushing

*Jason R*



## Coming Events

### Next Meeting:

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Mar** – usual time/place, 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. Guest speaker will be Steve Samuels – President of Monaro Acclimatisation Society, our regional representative on Council of Freshwater Anglers, on the NSW Minister's "Recreation Fishing NSW Advisory Council" and much more.

### Next Events:

**Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Nathan will be leading us chasing those impressive natives on Yerrabi Pond – more information via email.

**Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Mar** – To Be Confirmed – Fly Tying Workshop – usual time/place, 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. Details will be announced closer to the time.

## Khancoban Trip 3-5 Feb

I got a report from the trip organiser (Jason Q) plus a short supplementary from Peter and a bonus longer report from Jaime who stayed on after the formal event.

First is from JQ:

Many reading this may be sceptical that this trip actually took place!

The Khancoban fishing outing has been on the CAA trip calendar for the past three years, and for one reason or another it the trip never eventuated. Third time lucky, a large group consisting of Alan, Jaime (*Editor's note: for those who aren't Spanish speakers, this is pronounced Hy-Mee, not Julio!*), Andrew, Lyall, Roger, Jason, Peter, and Bill took off to the other side of the Snowy's.

For some this was their first chance at testing their skills in new territory, and for others it was a chance to try land their first fish on fly.

For those lucky enough to have hit the road for Khancoban mid-morning, it was a chance to fish virgin water and identify key locations to coordinate and allow each CAA member to fish a waterway not impeded by another CAA member.

I was one of the unlucky ones who had to work most of the Friday and therefore didn't get on the road until mid-afternoon. Roger and I rode our motorbikes casually across the hills having the odd fish on the way. While Alan, Jaime, Lyall and Andrew made their way down separately and all making use of the camping facilities. Two members stayed at the Lakeside Caravan Park and the other at Geehi Camp Ground. For the rest of us we were booked into the Alpine Inn. The accommodation was great. Clean, affordable, air-conditioned, cosy had loads of hot water!



Our first full day at Khancoban started reasonably early. Bill made some planning conversation whilst Roger and I were packing our bikes for the ride ahead. Our plan was to get up to Geehi Dam and fish the river above, whilst Bill and Peter tried their luck on the Murray and Khancoban Creek. Alan as per usual had list of locations in his black book and took off to Victoria not too far from Khancoban. Whereas Jaime maintained the Swampy as did Lyall and Andrew.

A few plans went amiss due to road closures restricted some locations, few fish landed and other members of the public were fishing where we wanted to fish. This aside we all managed at least one fish on the end of our line.

Nearly all of us managed to catch up for dinner on Saturday to share a story, beer and a good laugh.

Sunday was a different day. The fish seemed to be really 'on'. Roger managed to land a beautiful Swampy river Brownie at 37cm. The best fish of the outing, well done.







Whilst I could write a book on this outing I do not wish to disclose all the details as I want you to come with us next year. If you're thinking of fishing it before close, the members that did visit would only be too happy to share their experience and advice.

Our plan next year is to all camp alongside Swampy Plains river be it at Geehi camp grounds or somewhere a little more remote off one of the 4wd trails. For now start hoarding the Rays, BCF and Camping world catalogues to ensure you're in a position to attend!

At nearly a 4 hour drive there is such a diversity of fishing.

You will love it... Trust me!

And here from Peter:

Attached is a small photo of the first ever "wild" brook trout I have caught. The fish was quite small but it gave me great pleasure as it was my first fish landed for the weekend and was taken in a small but nice creek in hard walking country due to the clumpy slippery tussocks and the low scrub. The fish was taken on a #16 elk hair caddis and was returned in very good health immediately after the photo was taken.



### **... and What Happened When Most of us Left Khancoban**

I got the following report from Jaime who arrived late on Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> and stayed on till Fri 10<sup>th</sup> - looking at the photo I still wonder where he was sleeping:

Overall I feel pretty happy about the trip. It was my first-longer-than-one-day fishing trip here so I don't complain at all about what I got. Especially because I got to know the area and it was incredible pretty... reminds me Colombia and other tropical countries I have been (of course it would feel totally non-tropical in the winter). Besides, living in my car and in the bushes almost



a whole week nurtured my body and my soul a lot... really felt nice. When I got back home and saw myself in the mirror I noticed I looked very thin... and the balance confirmed it, at least 3-4 kg lower. It sounds like a lot but that's what the balance said. Great way to get into a diet plan!!! I think it was because I ate only



what my body needed and I can say it was good food but with no excesses, desserts, none of those extras you tend to get when you are at home. I feel I was becoming a fishing junkie...

Monday night and whole day Tuesday was rainy, I moved 10 min back in the road to the Geehi Horse Campground cause is higher, farther from the river... with all the bad weather I didn't want to be surprised by a sudden raise of the river so I slept there Monday and Tuesday night. Despite the rainy Tuesday I went to the river. Took advantage I was in a different part of the river, closer to the Geehi Horse Campground (I had been camping 10 min lower and close to Khancoban in the Geehi Flats Campgrounds). No fish at all, not even a bite but enjoyed the



special view of the wet day... the whole river bed in the canyon was covered by a fog layer about waist height, you could see it below just standing and wading the river... was pretty magical. Despite the weather there were some black

mayflies flying over the white water; I caught some. It was a good opportunity to start a fly reference collection I have been thinking about.

About fish: Got 3-4 small rainbows, mostly in the Murray on Sunday. Then on Monday I got a better one - 23 cm rainbow - in the Swampy Plains River. After trying a couple of flies in the middle of the day I decided to switch my nymph (in a dry + nymph rig) to a red tag... and bam! I saw the rainbow coming up from the bottom in rapid water, took the red tag and tried to go back down. 23cm is not a monster but those river fish - used to fight the current - pull hard... it was





cool. And that was with my 3/4 wt fiber glass rod which made it nicer. Same day during the night I was ready to sleep about 9:30 pm and after seeing the bright moon it came to my mind that throwing a big monster flashy fly in the pool in front of the campground could be a good



idea... and it was - at least partially (I had to use my bigger rod to cast that fly). I tied that fly based on the instructions Nathan gave us one tying night for the "humongous", I just blended more color in the hackle and put more flash. The moon shine was over the pool and after a couple of casts I hooked what it felt like my biggest fish in the whole week... but after 5 seconds of shakes and splashes of the fish in the water the fish gained freedom again. It was still cool. It kept me trying again and again until almost midnight but nothing else happened, the moon went behind the

trees so I went to sleep.

Wednesday afternoon I decided to follow Jason and Roger's advice to explore the Eucumbene River after Cabramurra (they passed by the campground before they headed back on Sunday). On my way, when passing the Tooma Reservoir, I saw fish rising in the shore after the bridge at about sunset time. I decided to give it a try. After some casts and nothing getting my flies - fish still rising all over around me - I decided to do the homework in the right way: I put my rod aside and went to see the bugs that were swirling close to the water. I managed to catch 3-4. They were midges, dark brown and black. I had a single fly mimicking almost the same pattern - "twilight beauty". In my second cast, bam! A pretty brown took it. It was my best fish of the

trip, 36.5 cm. Again, not a monster but my best so far, and for a 45 min stop I felt pretty grateful. And again, my 3/4 wt fiber glass rod did the magic... I'm falling in a deeper love with it. I got a very blurry bad pic and my phone went to the mud twice in my excitement to take the pic but it survived. I slept in the



Three Mile Dam, nice chilly night up there. Tried the big flashy fly again before going to sleep but nothing happened. Fished again Thursday morning there but no fish at all. Thursday midday I finally got to the Eucumbene River. Fish were rising in the late afternoon but didn't get even a bite (... only lots of mosquito bites, they made a feast on me)

Thursday night was pretty late and tired of trying to find a campground so I ended up pulling over in front of the Giant Trout in Adaminaby and passed the night there. Next day I realized I missed two close options but it was a good because when I woke up I saw the guy of the fly



shop there was opening, at 7am. I was a little tired and almost ready to head back home. After getting some flies and a nice chat and advice with him and another guy there they got my excitement. They suggested to try a particular section of the river with hoppers given I had only till 10am to fish. It was a good advice. I didn't got a fish but I got a nice bite, got the fish hooked for some seconds... and lost my 2nd fish of the trip. No good... but that's better than not getting bites; was pretty exciting. After all that splash the fish didn't get back. Using hopper early morning was a pretty good advice. The day before I had already collected 2-3 different sizes of the very common yellow-wing hopper in the mountains to keep growing fly fishing insect collection, especially the ones that have worked for me. Time to get back was beeping so my trip ended. Pretty happy about the whole experience!!!

Cheers!

Jaime

## Wyangala Producing Some Beauties

Ash, another one of our newer members dropped this into Lyall:

Hi Lyall.

Thought I would share these shots of my night at Wyangala.

This was the Saturday night at the peak of the hot spell. It was forecast 44 degrees and that it was.

Fishing was ok without being amazing. Best cod was 70cm and also scored a 52cm yellowbelly which is a ripper from Wyangala dam.



We spent majority of the time casting with little results. 1 fish from 1 hit. The heat obviously had them hanging deeper and trolling at 20ft was most productive.





## Leon with Redfin on Fly

Leon popped me a note headlined “Grandpa Redfin?”. Leon explained “Felt like a kingfish on an ultralight short fly rod. It looks a head longer than the handle of my fly rod so I believe this Redfin would be about 35 cm. I’ll see if I could meet him again. I thought I was on to a carp or a yellow belly.



For a moment I forgot I was using an ultralight.”



## Canberra Anglers Assisting a Local Artist

Some time ago, CAA was asked to help out Rosalind, a local artist. She wanted some carp to help her create a sculpture – ever reliable Charlie braved some very cold conditions and helped out (well done mate!). Our Secretary recently received the following email:

**From:** Rosalind

**Sent:** Thursday, 2 February 2017 11:30 PM

**To:** Lyall

**Subject:** Carp Diem Sculpture

Dear Lyall and Charlie,

It's been a few months since we were last in contact but I just wanted to thank you so much for your help in catching some sleepy carp for me in August 2016. I met up with Charlie who had two wonderful carp packed in ice and ready to go. These two carp ended up being cast in concrete and finding themselves exhibited in a public art festival called Contour 556 held by the Walter Burley Griffin lake. The work was inspired by watching people fish along the lakes edge and proved to be a real success with photos on twitter and facebook.

I am excited to let you know that the work was also purchased by the Canberra Airport Group and I am currently getting the fish cast in aluminium and looking to install them in early March 2017.

I've attached some photos of the previous work and will be sure to let you know where these carp end up living in their new public home.

Thanks again to you and Charlie for answering my call for carp and I hope that you are all enjoying your fishing!



Kind regards,

Rosalind



## **"somebody" else is living my dream..."**

I got this plaintive email from Jaime:

Do you see how life treats you?!!!

Me, dying here for this...

and she who doesn't care much is living MY DREAM.... Gosh!!!

Juanita, my wife, is on a trip to Chile and Argentina. A friend, a nice guy (I have been fishing with him), loves fishing like me so he asked Juanita to go with him cause the fishing guide only spoke Notable Fish Recorded Spanish ... and she "sadly" had to go as a translator, and of course got a rod "just to try it". She says the largest she got was 3 pounds

... that's life



*Juanita on Lake Yelcho, located in the Chilean Patagonia... "very down south"*

Jaime





## Barra in Victoria

I received this from Luke C – almost like a Japanese haiku? A more conventional report from his fishing partner for the trip, Evan, follows along with some photos:

**Evan and Luke hit the road  
to chase barra with such excitement  
but when they arrived  
they couldn't believe their eyes  
and we now know why it's called lake disappointment.**

If you haven't heard about Hazelwood, it's located in the Latrobe Valley just east of Melbourne and is the centre for electricity generation and huge coal power stations. I wouldn't call it the most idyllic fishing location!

Luke and I ventured down there full of hope and.... well the sounder certainly showed us good signs of fish. Conditions weren't bad, The water temperature ranged from 27-32 degrees across the pondage and the air temperature probably got to a maximum of 15 degrees. Unfortunately apart from one early hit all the Barra were shut down.





While we had a break for lunch there was some movement in a small backwater so I threw in a few small pieces of bread. Instantly it was hammered by a pack of small fish. Out came my Tenkara rod and a small Sakasa Kebari and we quickly caught three. At least it was something!

From the first of March Hazelwood will be open for everyone and I'd say it will be very busy. The power station also begins to shut down in March which will cause the water temperature to drop and the Barra will likely die over winter.

Overall it was a unique experience and well worth the adventure.

## Change to ACT Cod Rules

Members may have missed our News blog post related to recent changes to ACT regulations in respect to Murray Cod. Key effect is that to basically bring the ACT (particularly the Murrumbidgee River) into line with NSW in respect to the "slot" legal length for keeping fish and bag limits. For those keeping cod, we recommend that you review the [current rules](#).

## Fly Tying 22 Feb



Evan led the team working on a special carp fly called a "spork". The recipe is up on our [Fly Tying blog](#). There was a great turnup with two newcomers and some just watching the action when the table became full. The real trick is getting the legs "just so" in order to achieve this upright posture. Evan's patient instructional technique was much appreciated with this slightly tricky fly.



## CRFA News



Not a lot to report on this front – not sure when the AGM will be undertaken but it is overdue. A number of clubs, including CAA, have commented on the public consultation in respect to the [draft Lower Cotter Catchment Management Plan](#). More information can be obtained from Secretary or Editor Burley Line.

## UMDR News

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



## NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News

The Feb 2017 issue is available [here](#). There is a report from our own ex-President on the Codference. Promotion is also there for the CFA Interclub Flyfishing Meet on 5-7 May. Talk to our CFA rep (Stefan) about the activities of CFA – there is some consideration being made for sending a team to the Interclub Meet. He can also advise on the outcomes from the most recent meeting in Orange.



## NSW RecFish News

The Feb RFA newsletter is a packed issue and you can read it [here](#). For instance:



RFA NSW want you to email them on [info@rfansw.com.au](mailto:info@rfansw.com.au) if you've lost access to any fishing spots recently.

There's a promo for a smart device app called [iDfish Australia](#). Works offline to give all sorts of information/images of line caught fish, tide times etc etc. I'll need to think about whether the \$13.99 is good value but perhaps someone might want to do a [Gear Review](#).

## Gaden Hatchery Monthly Report

You may recall last month that Gaden was proposing a 3 month routine for their reporting. There hasn't been confirmation of the implementation of this proposal, but suffice to say no report has arrived so far.

## Fisheries NSW

Many of us (all those who registered an email address when we bought NSW licence?) received a Feb "Newscast" from DPI. The full copy is available [here](#). Top items were:



- Gone Fishing Day 2017 is 15 Oct. Grants to clubs to run their own event will be available.
- Dollar for Dollar program for fish stocking is on again this year.





- Reminder of the Fisheries [kids fishing workshop program](#). There on again in April school holidays
- A pointer to the [trout cod recovery review](#) as well as a [guide for fishers and land managers](#).

## Fisheries Victoria News

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



Fish eFacts 403 has arrived. Top items were:

- [Trout cod fingerling releases](#) near Beechworth.
- More than 8,000 Macquarie perch fingerlings have been released into the Ovens River between Wangaratta and Whorouly.

## 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](mailto: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	Fly	Yerrabi Pond, 10 Sep



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		58%)		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
Leon	Brown	Two at 60cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene 12 Oct
Nathan	Golden Perch	59cm (scores 80%)	Plastic	Lake Burley Griffin, 20 Oct
Nathan	Carp	69cm	Fly	Lake Ginninderra 16 Jan
Evan	Carp	48cm	Fly	Molonglo 21 Jan
Luke M	Scorpionfish	30cm	Bait	Bateman's Bay 212 Feb
Adam M	Eel	42cm	Bait	Bateman's Bay 212 Feb
Andrew	Brown	??cm	Fly	Khancoban Trip 3-5 Feb
Lyall	Brown	??cm	Fly	Khancoban Trip 3-5 Feb
Peter	Brookie	??cm	Fly	Khancoban Trip 3-5 Feb
Roger	Brown	37cm	Fly	Khancoban Trip 3-5 Feb
Jaime	Rainbow	27cm	Fly	Swampy Plains River 8 Feb
Jaime	Brown	36.5cm	Fly	Tooma Dam 8 Feb
Nathan	Redfin	35cm	Lure	Lake Ginninderra 6 Feb
Leon	Redfin	35cm	Fly	Local waters 11 Feb



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Ash	Murray Cod	70cm (scores 43%)	Lure	Wyangala Dam 18 Feb (not eligible for trophy as it is outside our designated regions)
Ash	Golden Perch	52cm (scores 61%)	Lure	Wyangala Dam 18 Feb (not eligible for trophy as it is outside our designated regions)
John M	Golden Perch	35cm (scores 14%)	Bait	Lake Burley Griffin, date not reported