

The Burley Line

Issue 120 – Apr 2017



Our newest member – Eli makes his entrance

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

Folks, as someone who has a pretty dodgy double haul I baulked when a mate told me I would have to adopt a recent innovation called the triple haul. A full description of the technique and required equipment is revealed [on this webpage](#). Nathan has suggested I need to buy a whole new raft of rods and lines let alone learn a whole new delivery!

If only 1st April was my birthday!

The arrival of Eli has been a moment of excitement, not just for JQ and Darlene, but perhaps for many in the club. The traditional gift of flowers was sent to mark the occasion. We all wish them well with this next exciting phase of their family life. By the way, the card on Eli's cot is showing an incorrect length, apparently his 'blue book' has 47.5cm recorded!

This issue of *The Burley Line* has reports from local fishing in a number of contexts plus some discussion on what might have a big impact on trout fishing in the mountains: "Snowy Hydro 2.0" as Malcolm is calling it.

I haven't put an article in here about the recent release of an [upgunned rabbit calici virus](#) (Korean apparently) but if you see dead rabbits in your travels, you might wish to record your observations on the [Feral Watch site](#).



A Note from the President

Dear members,

I wish to firstly thank everyone for their well wishes and support in welcoming our long awaited son, Eli Wera, into the world. I don't know when I'll be seeing a full night sleep again. Eli joins the club as the newest and youngest CAA member.

Our March meeting saw Mr Steve Samuels present on various topics closely related to our club and local waterways. Steve's insight into the regions fishing, freshwater polies and strategic position is second to none. I encourage you to continue raising issues with the CAA executive and we're more than happy to escalate these to Steve.

Bill continues to out do himself producing another jam packed newsletter, enjoy the content and look forward to catching you all very soon (bags under the eyes included)!

Tight lines,

Jason R



Coming Events

Next Meeting:

Wed 12th Apr – usual time/place, 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. The aim is to learn a bit more about the various European styles of nymphing – Jaime is bringing along an informative video.

Next Events:

Sun 26th Mar – come help our fellow CRFA club, Canberra Fisherman's Club raise money for local lake trout stocking and a local cancer charity with their [annual Carpout](#).

Fri 7th – Sun 9th Apr – Note this is before our next meeting. Stefan is leading a bunch of folk to Tumut for a mix of lake and river fishing. With luck his family secret [gluhwein](#) and special [barbequed apples](#) will be on offer too. There is possibly scope for last moment attendees.

Wed 26th Apr – To Be Confirmed – Fly Tying Workshop – usual time/place, 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. Details will be announced closer to the time.

Report on Yerrabi Ponds Event – Sun 19 Mar

A great crowd turned up to Nathan's event – I think an endorsement of the emerging balance of local and remote fishing. The weather seemed to me to be just perfect – a little overcast with some gentle winds, just enough to fly out our swish banner but not interfere too much with fly casting. I personally missed Nathan's tutorial but did manage to unsuccessfully wet a line and enjoy the barby. Was great to see so many of the club turn up and socialise along with learning more about the technical elements of our sport from a renowned expert.

The word was that Jason M managed to snag a number of redfin spinning from his kayak. Meanwhile those limited to fishing from the bank were not getting too far, especially with the elusive big cod that Nathan had us all prepared for.

A nice result was Angie getting her first reddie on fly – so at least one of us went away with their reputation still intact!





Attentive students getting the word.



It seems Nathan's secret is all in the correct use of your left thumb!



Angie's first redfin on fly – the bonus was that it was from the bank.

A Welcome Sign of Macquarie Perch

I got an email from Jaime asking for help to identify a native perch.



Caught this one with corn while targeting Carp... any idea what is it? Of course, I released it as any other fish I catch. I spent some time looking at all its details and it seems to me it is a Macquarie perch. I know the Macquarie is fully protected, difficult to see. Will try to find a



better description to be sure. It was about 22 cm. Funny thing is that I saw a carp taking the corn, retrieved my line, felt nothing for 2 secs and then felt the fish again. I think the carp dropped the corn and this guy grabbed it right after that.

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As an absolute clutz in respect to natives, I forwarded the photo onto Matthew Beitzl, the expert who works in ACT government, and we appreciate his support here. His response was:

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Macquarie perch big white eye and grey colouration with prominent lateral line.

Nice fish. Good to see there's a few still kicking around there. There are a heap of them in the river above the dam about 40mm long. And before the new dam they would come through or over the wall reasonably regularly. Someone there a few years ago got a 35cm one on a royal wulff.

They are endangered. The population in the Cotter is the largest in the Murrumbidgee and NSW but it is still at risk from a number of fronts. They hadn't bred for about 4 years but bred really well this year with some pretty intense management of flows by Icon water hence there are a lot around 40 mm. That one looks about 25 cm or so. So it's a nice fish. They can get to 35 or so. The area below Cotter Dam has an interesting mix of species. We have caught Murray Cod, Golden Perch, Maccas, Trout, Carp, Redfin, Galaxids and Murray Crays.

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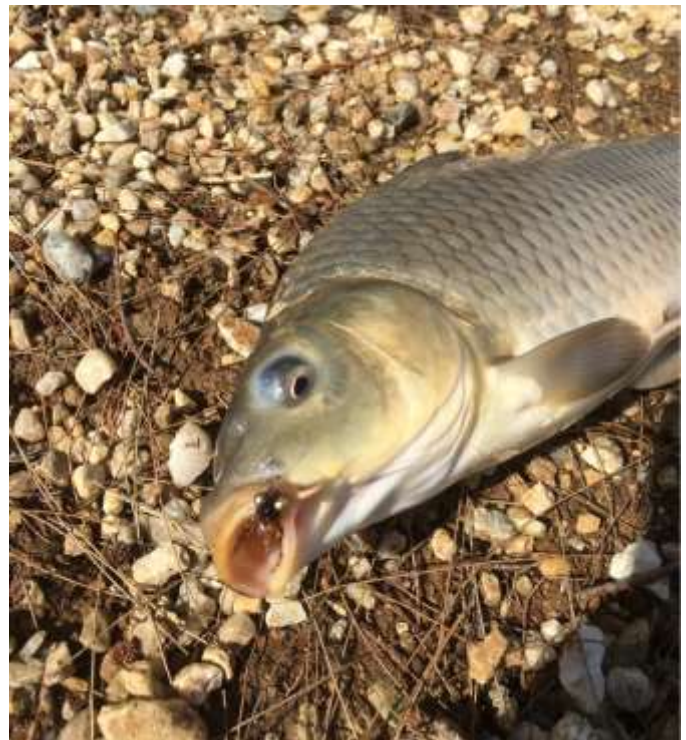
Coincidentally, Matt was quoted in the Canberra Times in the following days. It is interesting that the Central Acclimatisation Society suggested that Mac Perch might be a useful replacement to trout in light of climate change:

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/macquarie-perch-tipped-to-breed-after-seven-years-of-river-restocking-20170315-guz7ca.html>

Carp via Tenkara

Evan has reported on some adrenaline filled local angling opportunities. I can't believe he can do this without having fly line and backing to let the fish run!!! Apparently it is all "in the wrist action" to disorient the fish – yep!

If you haven't seen this rod be sure to ask Evan to show it to you. Quite a nifty compact package it is just the right form factor to slip into your briefcase with the telescopic structure of each section sliding into the one below just like those original car antennas (I wonder if the youngsters like JQ have ever seen one!) The other advantage is that you don't need to match your line to your rod – becoming oh so much more complicated with these two handed and switch rods with their confusing line weight conversions and grain





weights. This all sounds too much like triple hauling!

Hey Bill

Quick report for the newsletter. I've been doing some extreme Tenkara fishing around the edges of LBG the last few weeks.

Flies of choice have been [Sporks](#), glo bugs, red tag wets and mini fuzzle buggers.

I'm using 6lb fluorocarbon and it is a pretty full on battle that involves a lot of rod work and running back and forth.

The rod gets bent like a horseshoe and you need to turn the fish side to side constantly (two hand job). A couple of fish in the 10-15lb range nearly pulled the rod out of my hand before busting me off!



(Ed, well done Jaime for arriving at just the right time to capture this photographic evidence for us!)

Cheers

Evan



Lyall Inspires a Mate with ‘Twigwater’ Fishing in the Snowies

Some time ago, Lyall tried to introduce a mate from SE Queensland/saltwater fishing trips to the joys of chasing trout in the Snowies. In particular the aim was to pursue our spotted friends in the skinny water so different to the broad acres of water that they had shared chasing sailfish off Malaysia. As it happened they got blown off the water. Here is a snippet from the report from his mate describing the more successful second trip. It has been published in our [“Places” blog](#) under the heading “Twigwater”. Jason has also published a number of [fly videos on Vimeo](#) – check out a familiar looking dude in maritime camouflage. He’s in the 2015 trip to Rompin chasing sailfish on fly.

Never too old to learn OR too late to change an opinion! by Jason Stratford of South East Queensland Fly Fishers Part of a series titled “50 Friends on Fly”.

... ‘twigwater’ trout hunting may just be some of the most technical, yet addictive, fly fishing there is!

Everything about the ‘small end’ of the sport of flyfishing, particularly when hunting in the narrow, high alpine streams, seems to be stacked against the angler.

‘Twiggin’ calls for light rods (1-3wt), microscopic flies in the order of size 18, 20 or 22, tied on ‘blind’ hooks. Blind because they don’t seem to allow anything thicker than spiderweb thin tippets (2-3.5lb), to pass through the hook eye.

Further, twiggin’ often requires short ‘leader only’ casts that are affected greatly by the lightest winds (...think anything more than a grasshopper fart). Yet the angler must still deliver a fly ever so softly into a portion of a stream that is often not much bigger than a teacup. Then manage line to achieve that ‘drag free drift’ and all the while applying sniper like stealth and ripple free movement in overgrown, but beautiful surrounds.



These difficulties were not something I was adequately prepared for when I met up with Lyall (Friend 16), in the Snowy mountain highlands recently.

Lyall and I have fished together a couple of times, chasing sailfish in Rompin and once before in the twigwater around his neck of the woods. Problem was, that during our last attempt at twiggin’ back in early 2016, we (read: ‘I’) was hampered by 90km hour winds, which aren’t friendly when trying to put flies into tight places. (Well that was my excuse for not catching fish on that trip anyways!).

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So Lyall agreed to drop in at a semi regular gathering of a band of ‘mates’ comprising the previously introduced, Stu Jamieson (Friend 13), his father, Jim Jamieson (Friend 17) and John Klose (Friend 18).

These three guys fish for trout more often than I and it’s fair to say that they were much more experienced leading into the trip. For that reason, my regular questions to them were the standard, ‘what fly’, ‘how long of a leader’, ‘what size tippet’, ‘where do I cast’ and more often than not...’why the heck do we have to have all this sh#t clipped to a vest and carry half a tackle shop full of gear on our backs all the time’???

The guys ‘tolerated’ my cynicism toward trout on fly and had in the past given enough info for me to catch a few fish each trip. So part of the disdain for trout really extended from knowing ‘sweet F A’ about how to target them correctly.

So, to improve my previously poor trout catch rate, the goal for this trip was to milk Lyall for all his local info, streamcraft and trout fishing knowledge that, as it turned out, he was more than willing to share.

So, for the first one and a half days, the other guys frequented their tried and tested spots using their personal tactics. While Lyall and I fished together in what was more like an intensive ‘trout master class!’

While the opportunity for learning was great, it was also rather nice having someone who was happy to give instruction, provide flies and tie them on, net your fish and hold them for photos plus carry a spare rigged rod for you. But most importantly...Lyall would quietly retrieve all flies that I cast into the bushes...so I could continue to fish. This was full service ‘guiding’ at its best.



...

What also became apparent during the trip was that fishing the main open river for trout was nowhere near as challenging, nor as enjoyable, as fishing the beautiful twigwater streams.

..., my opinion of trout fishing, well at least in twigwater trout fishing, has definitely changed. So much so that I may just have fallen further into this fly fishing addiction!

Beware...if you ever run across Lyall he is a pusher of dirty twigwater drugs!



Geoff's Travels to Slovenia

I guess living in UK gives you a head start in the race to get to the marble trout of Slovenia. Geoff's trip report will be published in our ["Places" blog](#) real soon now and shows how much good fishing there was – along with some great underwater shots. (His photo album has got some optional treatment of photos for those shutter-heads amongst you). Here is a snippet:

SLOVENIA RIDE

"Would you like a drink?"

"No thanks."

"What? Are you ill? Here have two..."

An example of the wonderful Slovenian hospitality: which by its nature made many mornings more 'adventurous' than they otherwise would have been!

Slovenia "The Crossroads of Europe"

Slovenia had always been a place of fly fishing dreams! From a British reference, when considering an antipodean, with access to the large trout of New Zealand, the local Snowy Mountains, and numerous Saltwater fly fishing options, this sounds like a strange dream to have, but it was there. Whether the lure of new species, large fish, different cultures, simply different horizons; or all of them. It was there.

Slovenia has a consistent following in the fly fishing forums and magazines of the Southern Land; always referred to with reverence. Thus when arriving in the UK and being offered the opportunity to visit, there was no hesitation. Thus the journey began of three of us from the local fishing club.

Ostensibly, the planning and conduct for this visit rests wholly on the efforts and knowledge of a mate Rob, for his experience and contacts ensured success. Thus Rob's provided reminders, planning, coordination and watched the weather from February to September. So from Si and I, many thanks for the breadth of Slovenian experience delivered.

We departed on the Sunday and stayed at a working Farm Stay, Pri Marku; with its wonderful hosts and fiery Grappa. The thirteenth century church next door that tolled its bells every quarter of an hour, left little need for alarm clocks, thus leaving us primed and ready to begin each day, with varying waters and guides. We started Monday guided by Luka, and fished the rest of the week with Rok, both finding us fish and each of us gaining experience and knowledge throughout the days. A week under their watchful eyes, equated to months of do-it-yourself improvement. *"Up, up, up, up..."*

By no means was this easy, the terrain was varied and interesting, from steep fast streams, to slower braids. The water was cold to cool, and the vista remote to industrial. The trout and grayling didn't seem to mind, so neither did we. But we walked, and for those not practiced, it led to cramps and soreness, particularly in the 30+ degree temperatures.

The result, satisfaction and accomplishment; each day saw a different river, or section of river; the upper Soca, fast and cold; the lower Soca, wide with deep pools and cold; the Radnova, cool and shallow; the Sava Dolinka, pocket water and kayakers; the Sava, industrial and slow; the Idrijca... but all were memorable and painted a picture of the Western end of this small nation.



But it wasn't all fishing, touring the region where the Italians, Russians and Austro-Hungarians fought during World War 1, brought increased empathy with the trials faced by my Italian Grandfather. There are few monuments but each was touched with a sense of nostalgia and understanding for their efforts.



After five days, what was the verdict? We agreed it was probably about right, we could have kept going, but were tired and sated. Goals had been met, new species and varying sizes of fish were landed; marble trout, Adriatic grayling, rainbow trout, whitefish; but we left with a desire to return for the elusive 10+lb marble trout, and the Arctic Char. Not even the 3 hour delay of the return flight could dampen our spirits. So there are many thanks to Rob for his efforts, and the call to “*bring on 2017*”... but not before some Giant Trevally and Tuna in the Ascensions...

Snowy Hydro 2.0

The Federal Government's recent announcements in respect to using pumped hydro to support the national grid will deserve our attention. Two Canberra Times items to date provide only a hint of what this proposal might comprise. The Monaro Acclimatisation Society has concerns, described later in this newsletter, that hadn't occurred to me, meanwhile I have two personal comments to make:

Firstly, the continued reference to “renewable energy” displays an ignorance of what renewable energy comprises – for sure the basic hydro system (rain falls, tap into the energy of



it flowing downstream) is renewable, but once you pump the water uphill, then you are in the mode of creating an energy storage system. The energy to pump uphill may not be coming from renewable sources and unless it is you can't claim the pumped hydro to be 'renewable'.

Secondly, the suggestion that Tantangara Dam will be the uphill storage may have large consequences on its performance as a fishery with its level being subject to perhaps daily changes at times as water is pumped in and drained out for hydro generation to meet a daily energy cycle – think Guthega and Island Bend pondages but every day. It remains to be seen how significant the impact might be, but I can't see the economics of recreational fishing getting much of a voice in project feasibility studies.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/snowy-hydro-20-malcolm-turnbull-announces-plans-for-2-billion-expansion-20170315-guyozj.html>

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/business/energy/cost-of-snowy-upgrade-likely-to-double-experts-warn-20170316-guz9jz.html>

CRFA News



CRFA has passed some info to the CAA executive on opportunities for grants for the annual [NSW Go Fishing Day](#) as well as [ACT Sports and Recreational Club](#). Ideas/offers of support should be made to CAA Secretary via email.

UMDR News

Antia has contacted us to see if we might be able to help with a project to plant trees on the banks of the Murrumbidgee in the Bush Heritage Australia site. More information is available in a [post](#) on our news blog.



MAS News

Some news from Steve Samuels (Pres) on the control of vehicle access to the Eucumbene River near Denison and also one expressing specific concerns over Snowy Hydro 2.0.



Eucumbene Access

To all our supporters

As you will be aware, anglers have been concerned about the environmental damage being caused to the Eucumbene River and its surrounds during the annual spawning run. Nearly all of this damage has been caused by the large number of vehicles that descend onto the river banks during wet times. As a result of concerns for the environment by anglers the Monaro Acclimatisation Society (MAS) seized the initiative and convened a meeting of stakeholders to discuss the matter on 30 March 2016. That meeting was attended by NSW Fisheries, Snowy Hydro, National Parks, NSW Maritime, Chamber of Commerce representatives and anglers. The meeting was chaired by the President of the MAS.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed that some action had to be taken to stop the damage. A working group consisting of NSW Fisheries, Snowy Hydro and National Parks



representatives was established to examine the options available, identify a solution and implement that solution.

I am happy to report that after a year of hard work the preferred solution of limiting vehicle access at the Denison Campground by creating a car park there is now about to be implemented. Snowy Hydro has agreed to pay for half of the project and on Monday 20 March 2017, the NSW Fisheries Minister announced that the other half of the funding will be made available through the Recreational Freshwater Fishing Trust Fund.

Anglers can expect to see work begin quite quickly and it is anticipated that it will be complete before the spawning run begins, subject to some favourable weather.

The Working Group is now finalising the administrative arrangements for the new access regime and I expect that anglers will be advised soon on how this will operate and what special arrangements have been made for disabled anglers.

I will take this opportunity to remind you that this was a project driven by anglers and coordinated by the MAS which will protect the spawning run for years to come.

While many of us will often criticise Snowy Hydro it has been a pleasure to deal with them over this issue and I especially acknowledge their willingness to work with anglers and provide material support for the project.

Steve Samuels

President

Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc

21 march 2017

Pumped Hydro = Pumped Redfin

Dear Supporters

As you are aware the Federal Government is examining the prospect of implementing a “pumped hydro” project for the Snowy Scheme. As you will be aware the pumped concept is to pump water back to a holding reservoir once used so it can be used again. We should all welcome “green” solutions to our power issues, but there may well be some unintended consequences we need to be aware of.

While there is no definitive plan yet it seems that the most likely will be to pump water from Talbingo Dam to another dam such as Tantangara or Eucumbene. Most of you will be aware that Talbingo Dam has redfin perch in it. Redfin perch have been responsible for the decline of many trout lakes across NSW and are carriers of Epizootic Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus (EHNV) which has a significant impact on rainbow trout and Macquarie perch.

The Monaro Acclimatisation Society is concerned that if water is pumped from Khancoban or Talbingo to any other dam there is the possibility that redfin will get a free ride into that lake. The problem is compounded if the destination dam is either Tantangara or Eucumbene because Tantangara feeds directly into Eucumbene via the Providence Portal and from there



Eucumbene can service every other dam in the system. A redfin explosion across the whole of the Snowy Scheme is a distinct possibility if not managed appropriately.

The MAS is currently making contact with politicians and Snowy Hydro representatives to make our concern known. I doubt that anglers alone can stop this project from going ahead as there is a lot at stake politically. However, with a budget of between \$2 and \$4 billion the MAS believes that it is not unreasonable to ask that the world's best filter technology be installed to prevent redfin or their eggs being circulated around the system.

As this issue progresses the MAS will keep you informed, but you may like to take this opportunity to discuss the matter with fellow anglers and businesses that rely on trout fishing. The only outcome of redfin infection in our trout dams will be the demise of the trout and this will have a serious impact on our recreation and the businesses that rely on it.

Steve Samuels

President

Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc

21 March 2017

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News

The Mar 2017 issue is available [here](#). Lots of news about stocking and other habitat matters around NSW. Link is also provided to the [Trout Cod Recovery Plan Review](#).



NSW RecFisher News

The Mar 2017 RFA of NSW newsletter has arrived and you can read it [here](#). As sometimes occurs, it has a "Sydney-centric" and nearby saltwater flavour (rock fishing buoyancy vest arguments, Sydney harbour ferry wharf fishing rules etc). For those into crab trapping at the coast, there is explanation on some rule changes to traps/nets.



There is also an item about carp control – most telling was the quote from Matt Barwick, National Carp Control Plan Coordinator:

"Over the next two years we will be conducting a comprehensive and robust research program, coupled with numerous assessments under environmental and biosecurity legislation to ensure that decision making is evidence based. We will also continue to communicate regularly with communities and interested people across the country to ensure that planning for a potential release is grounded in reality and takes into account diverse perspectives.

There will be no release of the virus by government agencies until this work has been completed"

(Ed – my emphasis – seems there'll be no rushing into a release. Much was explained by Steve Samuels at our March meeting)



Fisheries Victoria News

Fish eFacts 404 arrived just after release time for March *Burley Line*. Most items were related to stocking and reports on waters a fair way from the NSW border. After last month's report from Luke C and Evan on going to Hazelwood, they might be interested in [this report](#).



Fish eFacts 405 also arrived. One rather exciting note was "A recent survey of the Wonnangatta River near Dargo has captured 56 Australian bass in a 100m study site." Lots of reports on the extensive fish stocking program being conducted.

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

The Burley Line and other Contributions from Members

I much appreciate the way that members have been helping me out here with content – makes my job much easier but, more importantly makes the newsletter more entertaining and useful to you, the readers.

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



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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
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 (unfortunately not eligible for a CAA trophy as it is outside our designated regions)
Ash	Golden Perch	52cm (scores 61%)	Lure	Wyangala Dam 18 Feb (similarly not eligible for trophy)
John M	Golden Perch	35cm (scores 14%)	Bait	Lake Burley Griffin, date not reported
Jaime	Macquarie Perch	22cm ... hmm, our native fish calculator will need revision!	Bait	Cotter River 14 Mar