

# The Burley Line

Issue 121 – May 2017



*Good things come to those who wait – near the Tumut River and our dedicated event organiser was having a hard time on Saturday but had some success on Sunday*

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**Newsletter of the CANBERRA ANGLER'S ASSOCIATION  
Inc.**

GPO Box 2237  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

<http://www.canberra-anglers.asn.au/>

Contributions should be emailed to

[burley-line@canberra-anglers.asn.au](mailto:burley-line@canberra-anglers.asn.au)



## From the Editor's Desk

*The Burley Line* is perhaps a bit smaller this month; I've been tied up with the National Folk Festival. We've got a few fishing reports (please send them in no matter how small) and many thanks for those who've contributed this month – it seems readers love to hear the different 'voices' coming through the text.

Immediately before the festival I was able to attend Stefan's event at Tumut – the river was running pretty hard and surprised me with a bit of sliding downstream in knee deep water. I really should be more careful as I was alone at the time. Many thanks to Stefan for his hosting of the trip and generous hospitality with his signature [roasted Batlow apples](#) and [Gluehwein](#) – really made it a social occasion to complement the angling. Such a good turnout too with a number of new members attending. I can't believe that Stefan was anxious to shadow me as some kind of guru – while I did catch two good fish over the two days, I'm sure precious little skill was involved! Stefan's eloquent report is enclosed.

I'm a bit worried no-one picked me up for the 'triple haul' 1 Apr gag in the [last newsletter](#) – was it that lame? Certainly I went to [the website](#) not yet getting the joke, just call me a klutz! Maybe others are embarrassed to admit they were taken in too.

## A Note from the President

Dear members,

Firstly I'd like to thank Jaime for stepping up and offering to take charge of the April meeting with a presentation on nymphing (and indeed also taking the reins of April's fly tying workshop). I'm sure many would agree the April video was great viewing and we can all learn something new, especially when it's fishing related!

Secondly I wish to applaud Steve Samuels of the MAS for his extraordinary efforts in collaborating with a multitude of stakeholders in achieving what we anticipate is a rejuvenated river frontage, reduced ill fishing attitude and behaviour during times of the spawning run, and longevity of the Eucumbene trout fishery. Let's hope it has a positive effect. Well done Steve and all involved.

Stefan has really benchmarked the trip report standard and I challenge everyone else to commit to the standard if you happen to be a trip lead.

Rather than further delay your reading pleasure, remain safe as the season changes and many of you venture to the river to contest club length records.

Tight lines,

*Jason Q*

## Coming Events

**Next Meeting:**

**Wed 10<sup>th</sup> May** – usual time/place, 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. Speaker to be advised.



**Next Events:**

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> – Sun 21<sup>st</sup> May** – “Monaro Streams” – Peter and Bill leading folk exploring a variety of options for trout in the northern Snowies. RSVPs have been sought and closed due to tight accommodation demands meant a need for early bookings. There is possibly scope for last moment attendees.

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup> May** – 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 Tumut Event – 7-9 Apr**

Possibly a record crowd joined Stefan at Tumut chasing trout. I got this from Stefan (his almost poetic efforts have been rewarded with photo of the month – oh... and also a trout!):



**Dreaming on a River Bend**

One is often drawn to dreaming of that perfect world where it is possible to.....

... spend time and sit in the shade of a tree, leaves spread to give just the right amount of dappled light, with likeminded friends around, contemplating that which has been and what could be, to be just enjoying the sheer serenity of delightful company while watching the passing of the day.



Shooting the breeze has an allure all its own. Then, as the sun sets and the evening draws near, make the decision to wander to the bend in the creek and catch a fish on the rise. A quick splash, a tight line, the delight of the brief struggle followed by a sense of achievement, all enveloped by the last warmth cast by a disappearing sun, lending magic to the afternoon. So simple. It is then that the belly can indicate time for nourishment and the mind knows that indulgence is well deserved. Time to gather for the evening and imbibe in a pleasant drink and meal together, enjoying just "chewing the fat".

Perfection achieved?

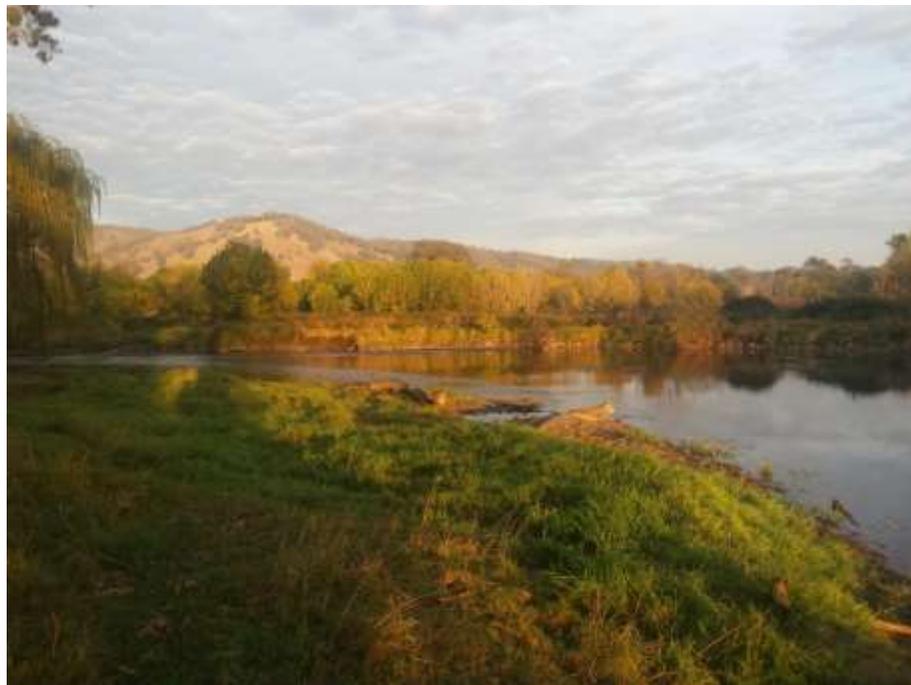
The Canberra Anglers April event possibly was just one of those dreams come true.

The Blowering Holiday Park again proved an ideal location for some late season fishing on fly, lure or bait. The place offers up simple but entirely suitable facilities for us fishers. Thirteen CAA members and friends made the trip this year. The weather conditions proved ideal, although the expected low water flow of the Tumut River did not eventuate and fast water fishing was to be the order of the day.



*Bill's rainbow from the evening rise on Friday*

A mild Friday evening made for some convivial time around the fire pit. Glueh wine and fine whiskey may have helped.



*Saturday sunrise – too late for a morning rise?*

Saturday morning was ideal for some before sunrise fly action, but the strong current in the river proved difficult to handle. NSW Water was endeavouring to empty all of Blowering Dam that day it seemed. Water was at 22 centigrade, not good for trout activity. Deciding on a suitable rig

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and fly proved to be the undoing of one inexperienced chap. Yours truly decided to spend the



rest of the day casting a lure instead. New chum, Thomas even had the feel of a trout on the Celta rig he was plying across the current - bad luck on losing that one, and the reel that followed a cast into the depths. Stiff water hindered easy access to most runs, and no fish were landed. Spotted, however, were a couple of lazy carp. Some

had headed further afield in search of better prospects.

The evening however proved an entirely different matter. Bill had returned from a successful mission deep into Goobarragandra lands (again with the Iron Blue Dun - Peter's favourite dry for good reason) but more of that later.



*A pretty brown on Saturday*



Based on Bill's experience last year and Friday night, he came to the streamside making the promise that the rise would happen at dusk on the river bend. We sat there observing the usual fluttering insects over the water. The night before had netted him a lovely rainbow on an Iron Blue Dun pattern. Everyone was expectantly waiting for the action, meanwhile he was riffing on the virtues of patience and observation. Right on cue, as the sun touched the horizon, a series of fish announced their presence by splashing through the turbid surface film and creating excitement among us all. Casting surface flies was in order as fish surfaced all over the river course, to us they obviously were chasing insects. Roger, standing in his motorcycle boots, cast out and was immediately hooked up to an energetic rainbow. It was landed and photographed, a fitting end to a copybook lesson on fishing spinner imitation flies.



The Oriental Hotel then dished up some enticing steaks, in themselves well worth the trip to the valley. This was washed down with lashings of beer - nice! Thanks to a most obliging "booze



bus" driver from the bowlo we all were tucked up in bed early-ish, with a shot of Canadian Fireball whiskey as a night cap. The day was done.

The next morning saw a brilliant sunrise, just before clouds started rolling in. A wet day was looming. Still, this allowed a quick flick at the water though before the sky darkened and a deluge followed.

Sitting outside our last night's abode, Bill and Jaime recounted their exploits of the previous day. A posse including Roger had headed to the Goobarrandra River, a tributary of the Tumut River and a most productive session ensued, with all landing fish. Well, fly patterns were examined, map locations discussed and tactics explained - all in order to put more of us onto fish. And so with the prospect of a clearing day, cars were packed and pointed along the Lacmalac Road.



The fires of 2003 and a subsequent flood down the valley, together it would seem have engineered a perfect trout stream. The banks are clear of overhanging scrub, the riverbed is perfect rock and pebble and arranged irregular nice deep runs with a water temperature at 17 degrees. That was more like it for the nymphing Jaime had recommended. Well it proved most fruitful for the writer, with the first run producing a nice trout.



Further fishing was pretty much over as a brewing storm with thunder, lightning and hail made us scamper for shelter. After resolving to definitely come back to this part of the world sooner rather than later, better part of sense made for calling it a weekend and heading home.

Let's do it again next year. Thanks to all who came along - Matt, Micheal and Angie, John and Jeannine, Ray, Alan, Roger, Thomas, Shaun, Jaime (read that in Spanish) and Bill. Thanks to Bill for his wisdom. Thanks to Mary, Ron and Mark of Blowering Holiday Park in making us feel welcome.

Catch ya

Stefan

## April Meeting Video

Jaime provided an instructional video at the April meeting. For those who missed it, he provided the following preview

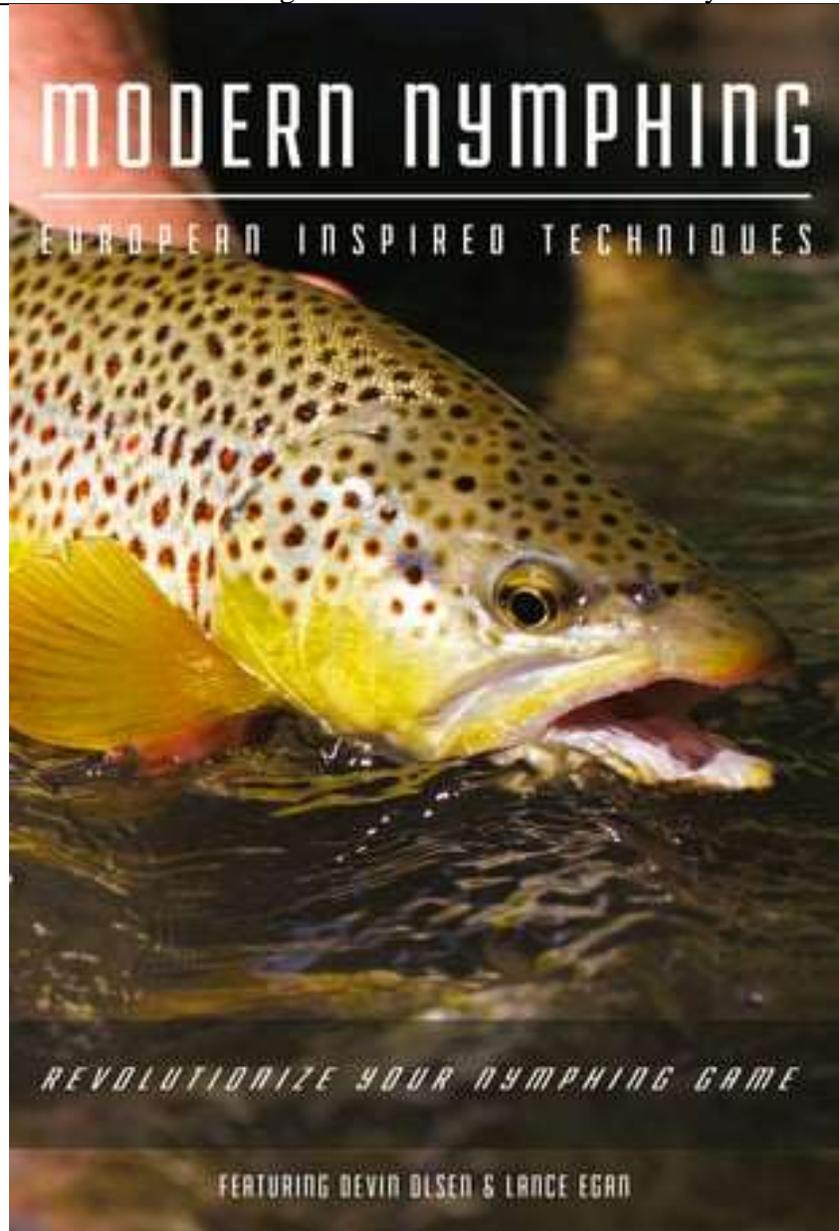
I want to offer a little more information about this Wednesday's video. It is an instructional video about European Nymphing. When I talk about the video with others they immediately say "ohh, that's czech nymphing" or "tight-line nymphing". I think it's much more than that. The guys who made the video - Devin Olsen & Lance Egan - are part of the USA fly fishing team. After more than 10 years participating in these international competitions - and not really being



very successful at the beginning - they have come up with what they consider the most successful techniques among all the european styles (czech, spanish, french, polish, etc) and that's what they are showing in detail in this instructional video of Modern European Nymphing.

I think the video is really good so it would be cool if all friends in CAA take advantage of it, there are heaps of good information. I can certainly say it pushed me to focus more exclusively on nymphs this past weekend in Tumut. My 3 fish were caught in a double rig were both were nymphs, all in little pockets of tight fast water which I wouldn't have tried before watching this video... maybe because I am still learning and exploring a lot, I don't know, but it worked nicely! Hope all come and enjoy all this information. Besides, the quality of the video production is really good.

Here is a link to a trailer...(click on the image)



## Eucumbene River Access

Limitations in the use of vehicles to the Eucumbene River at Denison is now in place. Access for mobility limited folk has been arranged. For all the detail check out our [blog posting](#). Will be relevant to our May fishing event up in the Snowies.

## Report from Roger

I got this from Roger:

By the way, I caught a 40 cm brown in the Eucumbene river last Friday which bodes well for the upcoming trip. I went down a pretty serious 4 wheel drive track which I wasn't sure I could get back up (luckily I did). It was worth it as I didn't see another person and caught the fish in the first pool.



It is a proper 4w drive track and there were some nasty clunks under my Frelander on the way down. It was also still damp when I went back up in the afternoon even though it had been sunny all day. The Frelander was working hard to find traction.

I don't think I will take the Frelander down it again. I'm not sure if I have the nerve to attempt it on the BMW.

(sorry the photo is so bad).



## Geoff's Travels to Slovenia

As promised last month, Geoff's trip report has been published in our ["Places" blog](#). Geoff gives a comprehensive report on his fishing in this marvellous country – marble trout, grayling and 'whitefish' are all on the board along with Geoff's signature excellent photography. He describes how some of the water is reminiscent of some of our favourite spots in the Snowies – but the chance of landing these species makes the Slovenia experience so different!



## Just to put our Fishing into Perspective!

A mate of mine has recently returned from fishing in Chile. The guides at his lodge sought to possibly rub it in and sent some photos of them fishing on some private water not available to



‘the punters’. Look at these photos and weep folks – or maybe aspire to similar results at our May event. Faces have been blurred for privacy – suffice to say they’re all smiling!





## History of Trout Cod in the Local Region

Roger has pointed me to a very interesting book on Trout Cod in the Murrumbidgee. Starting with the indigenous access to the river resources, through early European exploration, looking back at various attempts to establish native fish hatcheries and discussion on the decline of native fishing dating back to the beginning of the twentieth century. An assessment of the current situation is provided along with images of newspaper articles over the period.



Looks to be an interesting read and perhaps some hope that we might see a resurgence of this species. You can buy your own (donation for an on-line download of a .pdf copy) [here](#).

## Jaime's Squirmy Wormy

Jaime ran the April fly tying teaching us the [Squirmy Wormy](#). A good crowd turned up to absorb the instruction. Much to be learnt on how to deal with this wriggly fly tying material.





## Fisheries Victoria News

Fish eFacts #407 has arrived. Lots of news about stingrays in Port Phillip Bay, new stiles over fences at Newlyn Reservoir and Hepburn Lagoon (trout water – prompts me to wonder how our proposal for more stiles near Hatchery Bay is progressing) and various stockings around the state of bass and Murray cod. The best Internet resource is the [Victoria Fisheries Facebook page](#) where individual topics are posted up separately.



## 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 so can include catches of interest that aren't eligible for trophies. The authoritative list for [club trophies](#) is the little book brought to meetings. 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
Jason Q	Brown	56cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 24-26 Sep



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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
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)



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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
Bill	Rainbow	40cm	Fly	Tumut event 7-9 Apr
Bill	Brown	37cm	Fly	Tumut event 7-9 Apr
Stefan	Rainbow		Fly	Tumut event 7-9 Apr
Roger	Rainbow	31cm	Fly	Tumut event 7-9 Apr
Roger	Rainbow	27cm	Fly	Tumut event 7-9 Apr
Jaime	Brown	18cm	Fly	Tumut event 7-9 Apr
Jaime	Rainbow	28cm	Fly	Tumut event 7-9 Apr
Jaime	Rainbow	30cm	Fly	Tumut event 7-9 Apr
Roger	Brown	40cm	Fly	Eucumbene River 14 Apr