

# The Burley Line

Issue 130 – Mar 2018



*Claude on our Feb Natives event*

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## From the Editor's Desk

A little bit slimmer edition this month – more contributions please! A few names only appearing in the articles – aren't the rest of you fishing 😊?

I hope your summer has gone along well. One wonders whether that huge deluge on 25 Feb has been good or bad for the rivers – certainly the temporary drop in temperature will please our spotted friends if not the natives. Speaking about natives, was great to hear that some were landed on our Feb Natives event – first time in an age. Well done Claude.

Observant readers will note that we've reverted back to the old style. Our talented co-editor and reformatter Luke is currently laid up ill. Hopefully he'll be back on deck soon and I'm sure everyone will join me in wishing him 'get well soon mate'.

## A Note from the President

Dear Members,

This edition sees us welcome autumn to our doors.

All fishing reports are positive as the recent rains take the slight edge off the water temp and wash some food in off the banks.

Loads of things to discuss and get involved in, in particular Snowy 2.0 and proposed changes to ban treble hooks to name some. Love or hate the trout they've got a place in many persons heart, our colonial history and economy.

I'm stoked to report on Evans son out fishing everyone I met at the recent outing at Lake Burley Griffin. We experienced minor traffic hiccups due to a Cycle event, but those of us that could attend found each other and it was a nice morning out under the shade. A special thanks to Lyall for coordinating the last minute emails and notices around the road diversions.



I missed tying having been in Darwin for work but am assured it was attended by a good number of keen tiers. I hear that Claude put on a very professional show including great training aids!

Thank you Claude for leading this and I challenge anyone else to stick your hand up and share some of your secrets with the rest of us.

Nathan will be competing at the NSW Fly Fish Australia to be held at Eucumbene and Tantangara this coming week. All the best and we hope you again qualify for the Nationals later in the year.

For now enjoy another brilliantly edited newsletter by Bill.

Tight Lines

*Jason Q*



## Coming Events

### Next Meeting:

**Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Mar** – usual time/place, 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. JQ is arranging a mystery speaker.

### Next Events:

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> to Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Mar** – JQ is taking us to Tom Groggin. More via email.

**Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Mar** – Fly Tying at Weston Club. 7:30PM start. Details will be advised by email.

## Vale Murray Cooper



A number of CAA members have had the privilege of staying on Murray's farm near Gore in Southland New Zealand. Murray always reminded me of Wal Footroot from the Footrot Flats comics in a good way. A more genial and generous host could not be found. His good humour and down-to-earth character was a real bonus during our stays.

Murray died unexpectedly on Fri 16 Feb. It would appear to have been a heart attack while he was peacefully reading. It seemed to us that the whole of Gore, in particular the High School where Murray worked for many years, shut down for his funeral.

He will be sorely missed. Our thoughts go out to his family and in particular Murray's wife Nicki.



## CAA Native's Fishing Day – 18 Feb

A formal report was not received, however Claude came up with some notes from his perspective (see our cover photo for some imagery):

BJ, one of the club's 'Ghost' members, and I hit LBG in kayaks on the CAA's Native Day. After working out that we didn't have the time to get to the club's relocated fishing position, we decided to fish the waters west of Weston Park down to Scrivener Dam. BJ fished hardbodies and I fished black soft plastics. I got lucky and snagged my PB golden with a visual take less than a rod length from the kayak. The fish was estimated to be around 40 cm. Our tally by lunch was Claude 2 goldies and 2 small redfin, BJ 2 smaller redfin.

## Summer Sailfish on the South Coast

Jason M has provided a 'prelude' item to precede my report on a trip I took with him this summer.

Hoping to make a big bush trek for the summer with the kids for trout, with no secondary vehicles available for a 10-day excursion, I decided to go for a short coastal adventure instead. I had bought a little sailboat about 18 months ago, slow enough to take the kids and some gear on, and finally got it on the water late 2017 for its first try on Lake Ginninderra once it was near ready.



I could see the possibilities with the boat on Googong and LBG, and managed to drag one of my boys out to LBG for a sail/fish and trip to Springbank Island around Christmas. Soon after leaving the bank, I saved the rod from falling over the back and figured out some alternative trolling locations once I got the boat organised. I used a couple more weeks to improve the boat during the break, and I also made use of the Boxing Day sales to stock up on a couple of special camping items to supplement my existing equipment. Although I researched the destination, the water in between the launch and destination were unknown (no GPS



maps on it), so after enlisting Bill B for the trip after one of my boys withdrew from "volunteering", we raised the wooden mast and headed out on an adventure like Huck Finn for my third ever time in the boat, and some defrosting old seafood to get rid of. I didn't tell Bill I only finished the mast off at 8pm the night prior, and 5 minutes to midnight I only just finished putting the boat on the trailer.

Happy to spin more tails on the sail-fish one night at the club, and the destination noting a few other members are also sail-fishers, but here's Bill's report...

JM was hunting for a second adult to head up to the mountains exploring some of the back country trails that typically end at a trout stream. As it happened, I was unavailable on those dates, but then came another of his adventures. The idea was to sail his newly acquired Heron dinghy down the Clyde river, camp out at a 'boats only' campsite and catch heaps of fish. What's not to like!

The day came and we morphed into a well oiled machine tacking the little boat downstream in strong headwinds against the incoming tide. There was some excitement when the halyard holding the mainsail parted in a strong gust (I'm sounding like an 'old salt' already!) – this boat was a JM fixer upper after all so we come to expect such incidents – but we were soon back on the water. It was probably only 9 km 'as the flathead swims' to the camp site, but since it took more than 5 hours, I reckon we might have travelled 'just a little bit more'. Setting up camp we found that there is indeed a road into this place and we had neighbours – but they seemed very nice folk and Jason's son (Luke, current CAA Saltwater Trophy holder) found some new friends. Happy to describe to members how to get there – would be a great spot to camp out and launch canoes. We were told Nelligen pub even offers a pick up and delivery bus – perhaps a site for future CAA event with the less adventurous folk staying at the caravan park?

Cicadas in the trees were deafening but few seemed to be falling in the river, regardless, the strong winds deterred me from pulling out the fly rod and trying some NZ cicada patterns that I had brought based on the forecast of a cicada plague. Instead a variety of lures and soft plastics failed to entice the fish, though the frequent mullet imitating dolphins with high speed leaps kept the interest level up. JM tried using one cicada as bait initially on the surface but in due course on the bottom – the body was consumed so clearly something like the taste of fresh cicada. However, it was only after I headed off to bed that Jason picked up a 20cm bream and 54cm flathead (one week old salted oyster combined with roast duck as bait! – has he no shame!).





The travel back was another tacking duel with the fickle wind and outgoing tide but the sun was shining and the trolling lines attracted the odd hit if not any successfully landed. JM sought to claim a 'big flathead headshake', but since no fish was boated, the claim is probably a bit suss. Meanwhile, despite advice from the current CAA Saltwater Trophy holder, I didn't have any success – clearly I'd not been listening closely enough. Anyway a fun trip with JM providing gourmet meals including an impressive whole flathead cooked over an open fire and fresh, wild, Clyde oysters to boot.

## **Idaho with Lyall**

You can't help but love this guy... a message to our Secretary bemoaning a lack of material for this month and in comes a trip report from Lyall. It is in our "[Places to go Fishing](#)" section of our blog. A copy follows:

### **A Day With Idaho Joe** by Lyall

The drive from Seattle in Washington State to Livingston in Montana, the destination being the site of the 2017 Fly Fishers International (FFI) Fly Fishing Fair, is ten hours. When planning this solo drive, my wife suggested I stay en route in a city named Coeur d'Alene (pron. Core da Leen) in Idaho as the famous Spokane River runs through its centre and is synonymous with fly fishing and trout. I always obey my wife so I said "yes dear".



In researching this part of my six weeks in the Pacific North West of America on the Internet I discovered Castaway Fly Fishing Shop on the outskirts of Coeur d'Alene which became my home base. What caught my eye was that the owner Joe Roope was a Master Fly Tyer with FFI. Joe's nickname is *Idaho Joe* which kind of makes sense doesn't it. He became a Master Fly Tyer as a boy and is a big personality in the industry.



I allocated two days to fishing with a rest day in between before driving the second leg of my journey to Montana. So where to fish? Well, one day had to be on the Spokane River which turned out to be on a rigid float boat. The other day? I don't enjoy lake fishing so clearly, I am no good at it. The theme of the whole trip was to do something each fishing day I had never done before and learn, learn, learn so fishing Hayden Lake in central Coeur d'Alene was the answer.

Picture a five star golf club surrounded by million dollar holiday homes, speed boats on the lake towing skiers and rubber doughnuts with screaming kids and you have Hayden Lake in summer!!! Idaho Joe had been given access to moore what I can only call The Party Boat at the golf club. It was an *aluminum* catamaran with a dance floor deck surrounded by long lounges replete with disco speakers and drink holders, not to mention the dinner table and barbeque!!! This was fishing in style!!!



Out on the lake the 95 hp outboard pushed the Party Boat at a leisurely pace and, apart from the water skiers, wake boarders, kayakers, holiday houses and bait fishers, we were alone!



The deal was to cruise into a bay, drop in the remote control Min Kota and start searching amongst the weeds for cruising fish and drop a bead head nymph in their path then strip it away from the fish like fleeing bait. It was one hundred percent sight fishing for fish I had never caught before – small mouth bass, blue gills and crabbies ... but nothing huge.



These are two breeds of palm fish. Yeah – they live in palm trees!!!





It was a day of talking fly fishing and fly tying, landing flies in flower pots in the middle of the lake and catching new fish. This falls into the category of “great fishing snags of the world” - “I said just short of the flower pot, not in it” – “oops sorry Joe.”



It was a great day with a great fellow on a great lake with skiers who grate but clearly I am still no good on lakes!!! Idaho Joe’s quote of the day was “Time to leave Idaho. We just got a second post code.” You have to love it ...



The day on the rigid float boat with Castaways on the Spokane River catching west slope trout (aka black spot trout) on dry flies one after another was fantastic ... but that’s another story.

A link to Idaho Joe’s Castaway Fly Fishing Shop can be found under *International Fishing Guides* at <http://capitalflycasting.com/links>

## New Zealand Gypsies

Not to be totally out-done ... Peter and Bill spent 3 weeks in Nov/Dec last year wandering around the South Island. Their notes have been summarised as a trip report also in our “[Places to go Fishing](#)” section of our blog. A short snippet follows:



Peter and Bill’s  
fantastic trout  
bumming adventure  
South Island  
New Zealand



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[www.canberra-anglers.asn.au](http://www.canberra-anglers.asn.au)



The upper Haka is a beautiful freestone stream. We were concerned that water depth looked a bit shallow but Peter proved our fears unfounded landing a very solid 49cm rainbow then a poorer conditioned 51cm. He couldn't locate his camera until after releasing his first. Meanwhile Bill spotted a number of good fish but frustratingly couldn't tempt them.

We moved down to setup camp and Bill

failed again. Even with Peter's successful dry fly, unnatural drag spooked the rising fish after a short follow. A pattern was setting in and morale was low.

After dinner the wind had dropped and another foray was made to the previous pool – success, and a highly acrobatic and brightly coloured 56cm rainbow jack was landed. On the board and all's back right with the world.



After breakfast we went downstream to Cattle Creek. This has changed a lot since Peter was last here so it was a long walk before we got to fishy water. As to be expected Peter was first on with a 56cm rainbow jack.







Flowing into the head of Lake Tekapo is the Coal River. We'd been told that if the river was in good flow that this time of the year should see big rainbows running up to spawn. Almost back to the van Bill spotted one actively feeding on nymphs in a gentle run.

The trout followed but refused a number of drifts with Bill's nymph but behaved well by staying in place long enough for him to tie on a Dad's Favourite. First cast got a reaction but Bill fluffed it by striking too early. Surprisingly the fish continued to feed unspooked. A subsequent cast was taken in deliberate fashion and the delayed rod lift ("God Save The Queen" was uttered) was rewarded with a well hooked active fish – much bigger than expected. It ended up 47cm and around 3lb.



Too many sandflies on the Von and those at Mavora Lakes are reputed to be horrendous. Skipped the lakes and fished the Upuk today. We managed to get the camper down the access track without incident. Not a lot of action till Bill got to one deep pool dropping off from a long rapid. Spooked a good rainbow on the eye of the pool. Peter broke a drought with a 48cm rainbow in a run on nymph.







At dusk we went back but nothing happening. Close to the pumphouse we saw two eels but the hint of a rise. Bill spotted a couple of fish disturbed by the eels. One tried to chase an eel away!. Anyway rises by the fish were followed by Bill landing a 46cm jack.

Twizel River sounded a good idea though we were momentarily distracted by a HUGE fish cruising the edge of the canal.







Unlike many of the streams we've fished this trip, the Twizel River was up. Favourite holes were much deeper and few fish were spotted. Only one rising fish was seen and cast to with no response.

Lunch and the winds picked up ahead of a forecast storm. We did a bit touring along the Pukaki Canal.

*We dropped in to look at the Lake Ohau control gates and chanced on this happy angler landing a 20+lb rainbow.*



## BJ Gets PB Wild Trout

Also got this from Claude (as edited by BJ):

BJ, a mate and I went fishing in a local river on 4 March. There were a few grasshoppers and other insects around but we did not see any fish rising. It was reasonably windy which made casting challenging in water sometimes less than a meter wide. We did a lot of blind casting to expected holding areas primarily using traditional Royal Humpies - red and yellow. BJ got his PB 52 cm brown on the yellow humpy...by the photo you can see he's pretty happy (BJ clarified: "He didn't mention that it was Claude's pool [taking turns] but when he strategized to go to the head of the pool, I scored this 3m off his left butt cheek, mid-pool on second cast. Surprised me as much as the fish. PB wild trout on fly in Aus. Biggest was a stockie at Rainbow Springs, Tongariro rainbows were bigger, and spinning Lake Eucumbene has scored slightly bigger". The end tally was BJ - 1, Claude - 2 tussocks and one tree, our mate - 6 strikes, 3 landed. All fish were released.

**Lyall** - I need to speak to you about more casting lessons...I don't think there are any awards for trees and tussocks 😊







## One of our Members Gets Very Professional



I have just learnt that Lyall has opened up his own website promoting his casting tuition service. He's totally irrepressible! He told me "This weekend I am teaching fly casting to twelve beginning casters at Bidgee Lodge in Cooma which I will enjoy. Later this month I will be teaching forty beginning casters from the Brindabella Ski Club at Guthega which was lots of fun last year. In April I am guiding a group of South Eastern Queensland Fly Fishers out of Providence Portal for a week then back to Canberra for a day before joining the Gore Trio for two weeks which will be absolute heaven. Life is good !!!"

## Fly Fish Australia – Fund Raising Raffle for the 2019 World Fly Fishing Championship

There may be still time to buy your raffle tickets for the chance to win three fantastic fly fishing prizes while helping to support the championship event:

- **1st Prize** Three night's accommodation at Driftwater Lodge in Tasmania's Meander Valley, two day's guided fly fishing, all meals, pre-dinner drinks and a bottle of Tasmanian wine each day. Value \$3,000





- **2nd Prize** Two night's accommodation at Thousand Lakes Lodge including all meals. Value \$850
- **3rd Prize** \$600 gift voucher to spend on fly fishing gear at The Essential Fly Fisher in Launceston

Raffle tickets are \$10 each and will be on sale until 31 March 2018. Only 2,000 tickets will be on sale and can be purchased at <https://www.wffc2019.com/raffle>

## NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News

The [February issue](#) has arrived. CFA are offering up an [archive](#). Key topics are:



[In-stream trout egg incubators trialled in Victoria](#)

A request by CAA for a stile near Hatchery Bay has been met. No, Peter and Bill did not build the temporary one



[The Hazelwood barra have survived the winter](#)





## NSW RecFish News

The [February newsletter](#) has been received. RFA NSW are offering up an [archive](#). Was mainly saltwater stuff, but some might be interested in:



### CALD Community Rock Fishing Workshops



More CALD Community Rock Fishing Workshops are happening across Sydney's western suburbs. These are free rock fishing workshop hosted by professional rock fishing guide Alex Bellissimo.

### Catch some funding for fish stocking

Applications for the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) 2018-19 Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program are now open, with angling and community groups, individuals, councils and other relevant organisations encouraged to apply.



## Fisheries Victoria News

The best Internet resource is the [Victoria Fisheries Facebook page](#) where individual topics are posted up separately. Fish eFacts 422 to424 have arrived. The ones that most intrigued me were:

### Freshwater Plan out now

Our draft Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan is now out for public comment!

The plan promotes a statewide approach to building better freshwater fisheries and celebrates record fish stockings, partnerships for improving fish habitat and an actively engaged recreational fishing community.

It brings all fish, water and land management elements together for 14 of our most popular recreational fish species such as trout, redfin, Murray cod, golden perch and bass.



The plan is a collaboration between fishers, Traditional Owners and stakeholders to:

- Improve fish habitat to help boost fish populations naturally
- Use recreational angler catch and effort data to help track the performance of fisheries
- Accelerate the recovery of threatened species, including Macquarie perch
- Expand the breeding and stocking program of native fish
- Create the next generation of responsible anglers
- Promote our best recreational fisheries as tourism destinations.

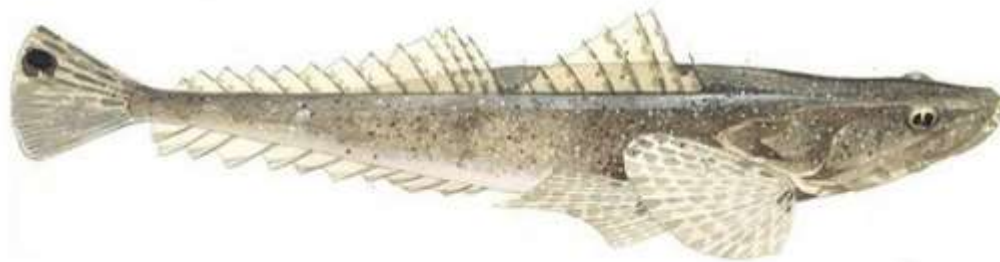
The plan complements our record \$46 million investment into Target One Million, which includes \$9 million from fishing licence fees, to get one million Victorians fishing by 2020.

To view the plan and make a submission by 22 March 2018, visit: [www.vfa.vic.gov.au/freshwaterplan](http://www.vfa.vic.gov.au/freshwaterplan)

## Dusky Flathead Symposium

### Dusky flathead Symposium

MARCH 10TH • LAKES ENTRANCE • FREE EVENT



Want to know more about Dusky Flathead? Well, you've come to the right place!

We've just announced our brand-new Dusky Flathead Symposium so you can fill your head with knowledge on their abundance in Victoria, their ecology and biology, gain unique tips on how to fish for them and help improve their habitat for the future.

Located in Lakes Entrance at Bellevue on the Lakes, it's FREE, lunch and refreshments will be provided throughout the day and you'll receive a showbag with goodies upon arrival.

It's funded by our Target One Million plan to get more of you fishing, more often.

Reserve your seat for free now and save the date! March 10, 2018.

<https://vfa.vic.gov.au/.../target-on.../dusky-flathead-symposium>



## Gear Review – “Catch ‘Em Lure” and Shoe Repair Glue



JM got one of these high tech lures for Christmas and he’s provided a review on its less than stellar performance. He’s much happier with the shoe repair glue. Read more on our [Gear Review blog](#).

### ***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 share 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 consideration for [club trophies](#) is the little book brought to meetings by the Secretary. 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
Shaun	Rainbows	3 with max 45cm	Fly	Bondi Forest/Committee Retreat/19 Aug
Bill	Brown	30cm	Fly	Bondi Forest/Committee Retreat/19 Aug
Nathan	Brown	42cm	Fly	Bondi Forest/Committee Retreat 120 Minute Challenge/20 Aug
Bill	Brown	58cm	Fly	Bondi Forest/Committee Retreat 120 Minute Challenge/20 Aug
Jaime	Brown	47.5cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene/9 Sep
Luke	Brown	65cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene/9 Sep
Luke	Brown	61cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene/16 Sep
Roger	Rainbow	35cm	Fly	Thompsons Creek Dam/17 Sep
Ash	Rainbow	42cm	Fly	Eucumbene River/1 Oct
Roger	Rainbow	31cm	Fly	Murrumbidgee River/21 Oct
BJ	Rainbow	43cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles/2 Oct
Claude	Rainbow	15cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles/2 Oct
Jason Q	Golden Perch	43cm (36.7 % on the <a href="#">CAA rating scale</a> )		Yerrabi Ponds
Ash	Murray Cod	79cm (68.9%)		Undisclosed/9 Dec
Ash	Murray Cod	80cm (71.7% on the CAA rating scale)	Lure	Burrinjuck/no date Christmas-New Year





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Ash	Golden Perch	53cm (64.1% on the CAA rating scale)	Lure	Burrinjuck/no date Christmas-New Year
Leon	Carp	52cm	Fly	Lake Burley Griffin/25 Dec
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Leon	Carp	73cm	Fly	Lake Tuggeranong/27 Dec
Jason M	Flathead	54cm	Bait	Clyde River/17 Jan
Claude	Golden Perch	Est 40cm (28% on the CAA rating scale)	plastic	LBG Natives Day/18 Feb
BJ	Brown Trout	52cm	Fly	“local river”/4 Mar