

# THE BURLEY LINE

Newsletter of the Canberra Anglers' Association Inc.

Issue 133—June 2018



Have two of our 'gun' fly anglers gone to the dark side??



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# Presidents Report

CAA President—Jason Q

Dear Members,

The colder weather is starting to be felt with a few days making it to zero and below. While the heavens haven't opened up, the trout fishing is proving to be a difficult quest for most. Persevere and you will be rewarded.

The Tumut outing saw a challenging effort but nonetheless always an enjoyable trip I'm yet to coordinate with work, family commitments even the dreaded cold that's been through the family! Stay healthy I say.

You may have read the secretary's recent email regarding trophies. Remember to get those in and also record your captures in the catch book. Which leads me to that time of the year where you might like to consider a position on the committee? Here's a chance to steer the club in a new direction and enjoy the rewards of doing so. Think about it because August will be on us before we know it.

For now stay warm and bend a rod,

*Jason Q*

## From The Editors Desk

Some very sad news as you'll read below.

I've written up a recent trip by Ian, Lyall and me to New Zealand and then we have my report from the Tumut trip. It becomes starkly clear why I have to go to NZ as it has become obvious that I have big problems catching Australian trout! I hope the Trout Strategy will go some way to improving the trout situation 'here' in NSW, otherwise it seems I might need to move to Victoria where things seem to be going gang busters. (My long weekend down the coast had only one 'success' when a pipi grabbed onto a treble hook – fingers crossed for better results when I go down with Lyall).

Meanwhile, Luke and Nathan have had some great success on the rivers (probably European nymphing!). It took some encouragement for them to write up their experiences as they didn't want to show up some of the old-stagers.

Ash has also provided a contribution covering his successes with Murray Cod. Beautiful fish.

Many thanks to Jason Q and Luke for standing in for me last month – it is great to have such dedicated backup.

Hope you enjoy the read, but still looking forward to your contributions folks.

# Vale John La Salle

We have just learnt that two of our members have been involved in a serious vehicle accident. They were heading down to Tumut on Sun 27 Jun when the car they were in collided head-on with an approaching vehicle.

John La Salle has tragically died at the scene while Jaime was transported to Canberra Hospital in a serious condition. We've learnt that Jaime has suffered a fractured spine ("not serious" according to Jaime) plus other internal injuries. His wife Juanita tells me that friends have been giving her much support given that their family is so far away.

Our hearts go out to John's family for their loss. Our sincere wishes for a speedy recovery go to Jaime, Juanita and their wider family.

Bill visited Jaime and to drop off a small gift to lift his spirits (don't worry, it was full of chocolates!)



## Coming Events

### Monthly Meeting

**Wednesday 13th June**—Raiders Club Weston. 7:30pm.

CAA Trophy holders are asking to bring in their trophies so that they can be prepared for engraving. Jason M will be speaking. Earlier this year he and Bill embarked by sailing dinghy for a fishing/camping trip on the Clyde River. Jason will speak on the experience 'Sailfishing on the Clyde'.

### Coastal Outing

**Saturday 23rd June—Sunday 24th June**—Tuross.

Lyall is taking us to the coast. Your choice of estuary, lake, rock or beach; or do all four! Keep an eye on your emails for more detail.

### Fly Tying

**Wednesday 27th June**—Raiders Club Weston. 7:30pm.

June fly tying will be Shaun's Crustacean Bugger. The Secretary will send out an email in due course with a pattern and materials list.

### Key Dates

#### Monthly Meeting

13th June

#### Coastal Outing

23-24th June

#### Fly Tying

27th June



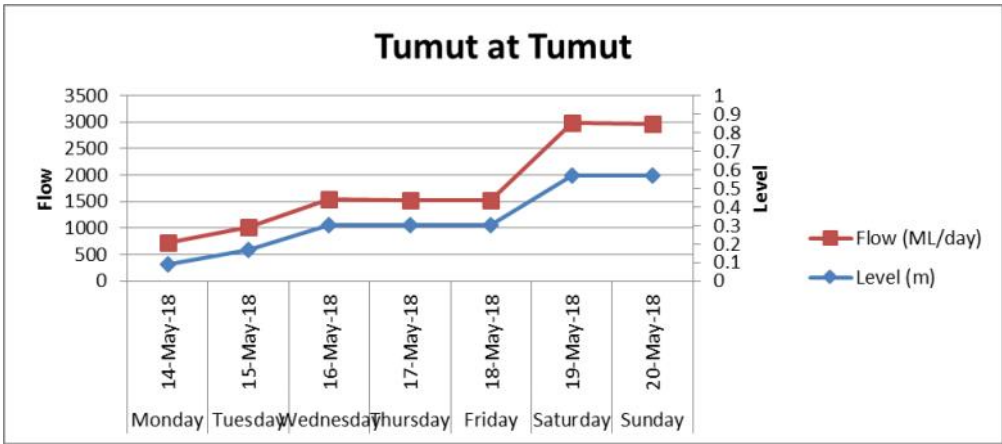
# Tumut Outing—18-20 May

Trip Report—Provided by Bill.

Stefan led a band of merry men to our ‘annual’ Tumut event. Attending were Stefan, Shaun, Peter, Roger and Bill. Again, the Blowering Caravan Park took care of us. The unforecast Tumut River Brewery grand opening night made for a social, if not fishy, weekend.

Stefan and Bill had travelled to Tumut following the Jindabyne Trout Strategy Workshop so took the opportunity to stop into the Eucumbene at Kiandra. Water levels were quite low and no fish were discovered though Stefan did persist with his Tenkara.

Well, the anticipated low flows on the Tumut did not eventuate making it impossible to cross the river at our usual places. Some preliminary recce was conducted to the ‘hot spots’ recommended by Nathan from his FFA competition earlier this month (hmm, when the water was much lower) and this was followed by a recce of the Tumut River Brewery.

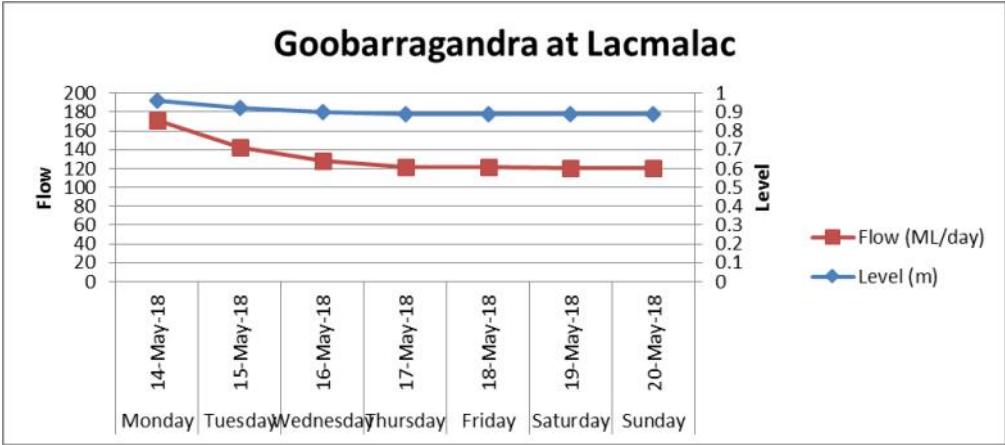


After the usually reliable evening rise didn’t eventuate on Friday, we had to settle for some gourmet sustenance. Stefan’s bean soup, gluhwein and roast apples with Lindt chocolate were followed by the craft product from Tumut River Brewery – while we hadn’t been graced with fish, the food went down well.



Stefan's gluhwein and roast apples with Lindt chocolate.

Next morning most of us decided to take the Goobarragandra option and headed off to this lovely (low) stream. Bill managed to walk past the only trout in the river (spotted by the attentive Stefan) and again we were fishless ... is it only me that believes the beautiful countryside is the real reason we go out, fish are just a bonus – or is this just the refrain of the fishless!



Stefan with his Tenkara in the non-torrent.



On our way back to the park we braved the Tumut at one of Nathan's hot spots. At least here there were two fish lost – is that an improvement?



We needn't have rushed back to the park to catch the evening rise – another fizzer. Oh well, the pizza and beer at the brewery proved to be an enjoyable change from the regular Saturday dinner at the pub.

Most headed home Sunday morning whereas Stefan and Bill did some exploring up other local Tumut River tribs. Some beautiful water, one good sized trout spotted and a location that we'll explore another time. Roger subsequently reported "I changed my mind and gave the Goobarragandra another try this morning. Upstream from where you, Jaime and I fished last trip. I was the first on the river and which was in A1 condition but alas no fish again".

## Monaro Browns

We received a couple of photos from Mark. Thanks for the contribution.

'A couple of photos of weekend fish on a Monaro River. The best fish of 4 went 65cm 5.5lb'.



While not a lot of action in the water, it sounds like another successful outing. Thanks Bill for the report and thank you Stefan for organising the trip.



# Mulwala Classic Invitational

## Trip Report—Provided by Ash

Not a lot of fly fishing of late. Late April I fished the Mulwala Classic invitational after a 9 year absence. It's a total catch and release event over the Friday and Saturday with 120 anglers. Fully catered – it's a great event.

My mate Glen joined me and we ended up with 10 fish all up between us with my best going 83cm. We ended up 3rd in the teams and 15th and 17th individually.

Congratulations to Ash for a great performance chasing that iconic native.

From Peter—  
It looks like a great spot to fish...



# Tumut River Long Weekend

## Trip Report—Provided by Luke

After not being able to make the CAA Tumut Outing, it was decided that Nathan, Evan, Mark and myself would take advantage of the ACT long weekend and head down to fish the Tumut river ourselves for the day and try our luck.

After a quick stop for breakfast and coffee, we geared up and hit the water to find the flow running much higher than anticipated. A check found it to be around 1500ML/day, while not un-fishable, it certainly made access and crossing more difficult.

With the 4 of us on the river, it didn't take long for us to cover a substantial amount of water. I was lucky enough to land 1 small rainbow right where we parked, and another 4 further upstream. While Nathan managed to get 2 fish to the net.



It was decided to move to another stretch of the river, to only find a couple of other anglers on the water, so we had to drive to another area with public access.

Mark managed to pick up a rainbow upstream, while Evan came in to his own by landing 2 well conditioned fish on his 12ft Tenkara rod. I was lucky enough to land another rainbow at the car but ended up slipping over and soaking myself head to toe in the process.

After a break for lunch (and time to dry myself off) we headed back to the stretch of river we first fished in the morning.

Splitting off into pairs, Nathan and I headed upstream and managed to find a suitable place to cross the river where we were able to fish some slower flowing water.



We were both rewarded with Nathan landing 2 more fish and dropping a few more. While I was lucky enough to land 3 more fish including my best for the day which measured 43cm.



It wasn't too long until we were radioed by Mark and Evan to let us know they had landed a couple of more rainbows and that they were heading back to the car.

Nathan and I decided to call it a day and head back as well. Shortly after this, Nathan took a page out of my book and managed to gracefully take a spill in the river on the way out. Not to miss out on the action, I somehow managed to get my net caught on the electric fence on the walk out and was 'shocked' to find it was active.



With over a dozen fish landed between the 4 of us, we decided to end the day with a couple of beers at the Tumut River Brewing Co. A highly recommended stop if you're in the area.

Lyall, Stefan and Bill attended the workshop to represent CAA.

## Trout Strategy Workshop

Readers may recall an earlier attempt by Fisheries to consult with anglers on trout management when a public meeting was held in May 2014 in Cooma. This was reported upon by our own [Dr Bryan Pratt in the Sydney Morning Herald](#), as well as words from Peter Gibson (NSW CFA) in our [Jul 2014 Burley Line](#) (rather appropriate that the 2014 Tumut trip was reported on in that issue).

Compared to the haphazard Cooma meeting, the 2018 Trout Strategy Meeting was professionally adjudicated by Rural Woman of the Year and Australia Day Council member Ms Robbie Sefton. The purpose of the meetings held in Armidale, Bathurst and Jindabyne was to seek community input on the range of issues affecting the recreational trout fishery and to identify options designed to support high quality trout fisheries and positive angling experiences.

The workshop was much better conducted than the Cooma meeting. The perhaps 70 attendees generally provided constructive contribution though there was a palpable feeling of disappointment that many of the promises made in Cooma had not eventuated. That said, while this was touted as a workshop, I was concerned that much of our time was spent being spoken to rather listened to. Much of the final "question time", where unstructured contributions could be made, came after the advertised finish time and a significant number of people had left.

The audience was dominated by older men. Is that a true reflection of trout anglers or a result of the meeting being scheduled during working week? A number of CAA members had commented to me that taking time off from work was not feasible. The audience was asked how long they had been trout fishing – more than 80% over 20 years – and how often they fish – more than 40% greater than once per week – indications of a particular demographic. Not captured was whether the audience was dominated by fly anglers.

General acceptance was there that science and credible observations must inform management decisions. The newly appointed Fisheries Research leadership and staff gave me some confidence that this will be so – though with the caution that funds are limited. Even key Fisheries manager Cameron Westaway looked to be on board but you can hear his underlying reticence to add to regulatory complexity if our different ecological zones called for different fishing rules. More worrying is that it seems some 'marginal' trout waters are already being accepted as being lost, being targeted for native fish stocking and to be classified General Inland Waters in respect to fishing seasons – in advance of scientific analysis and the Trout Strategy.



Overall one concern I came away with is that the idea of improving the effectiveness of stocking was pursued much more than enhancing natural recruitment.

I submitted on behalf of Queanbeyan Angling Club a written submission to Fisheries and the facilitator. I'm unsure if anyone else did similar. The submission aligned with much of the audience contribution and the statements from Fisheries:

- improving survivability of released especially spawning fish
- improving our social licence including by enhanced participation by the public
- increased effectiveness of trout stocking as well as natural reproduction
- management being informed by science

## Locally Made Spinnerbaits

JQ asked me to include some information on a local spinnerbait manufacturer Jolly Roger Spinnerbaits. They come in a multitude of colours and sizes, below is a small sample. Contact them on [jrspinnerbaits@gmail.com](mailto:jrspinnerbaits@gmail.com)



# NZ South Island 14th-28th April

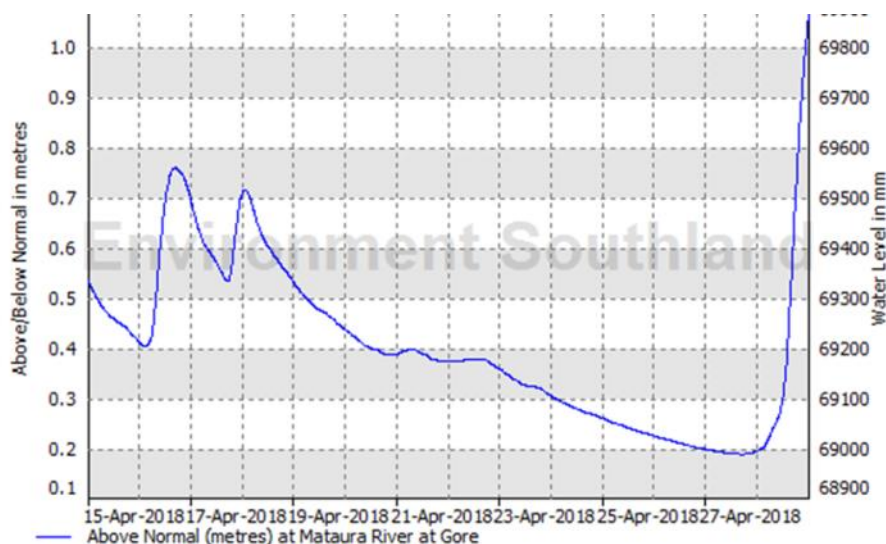
Trip Report—Provided by Bill



*'What, you want to go again??  
You were just there in November!' - it is amazing how my wife puts up with my behaviour*

Ian had been holed up in Gore pretty much house bound for the two weeks prior to Lyall and I arriving in Queenstown. We were heading again to our old stomping grounds on the Mataura but the river wasn't playing its part. The water stayed up and dirty pretty much for the first week – as I later explain to my wife “that's why I have to go for two weeks” – more dark looks follow.

All three of us managed to get out on the first Monday for a fish somewhat upstream in the Mataura with our favourite guide Barry Perkins of [Fly Fish Mataura](#) (hmm, I used to appear on Barry's promotional flyers but now Lyall pops up on the website ... whatever happened to loyalty to long term customers like Peter and me. Has it got anything to do with a certain CAA member having a 22 fish day in January!). Barry is pretty good at working out what the local trout are looking for and fish were caught even with the drastic conditions.





As you can see, the situation in respect to water levels was quite nasty for the first half of our trip. Not apparent from just the water levels was how dirty the water was until the end of the first week. Suffice to say that Lyall and I even broke out our switch rods and gave the swing a go – unfortunately no success except in locating a very homey pub in Riversdale to while-a-way a few hours.

Snow on the hills and we think we're in Scotland—this was before my waders started leaking!



The 'gotta go for two weeks' strategy paid off. On the second Monday, Barry took us to one of his favourite rivers, which will remain nameless. All three of us got into the fish – though stepping onto them in 10cm of water is not recommended as an approach.





In amongst all this, we were starting to see clearer water and fish rising. Much email debate was had on the relative value of a nymph caught fish versus a sighted fish caught on dry. (A topic for further discussion in the bar).

Suffice to say that our last day was a pearler with fish rising from around lunch time till dusk with a number brought to the net – as you can see next...





Ian's in control?



Success!



Don't you love the cool 'rod behind the back to bring the fish closer to the net' approach – now in my inventory of moves.

Not my best of photos, but you get the basic idea.



I caught a rising fish on dry fly on my first cast to it, the last cast of my trip – time to stop! As it happens the river level jumped almost a metre in the next 24 hours.

All in all, a great part of the world and we'll be back next year – (well, if I get a 'leave pass' for 2019!).

(In writing this, I realised that we've never written up the Mataura in our "Places to Fish" blog. [There is one there now](#))

As always, thanks for sharing Bill.



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

# Fisheries Victoria News

Fish eFacts 428 and 429 have arrived. Notable articles are:

## **Record 6 Million Fish Stocking**

It's a new record! More than 6 million fish have been stocked into over 200 Victorian waters during the last 12 months.

Increasing fish stocking is a key commitment for our Target One Million plan. The commitment was 5 million fish, but we've surpassed that number by more than a million thanks to funding from your fishing licence fees and Target One Million.

To learn more about where these fish have been stocked, visit [www.vfa.vic.gov.au/6million](http://www.vfa.vic.gov.au/6million)

## **Opera House Nets Banned**

Attention yabby fishers! We're phasing out opera house nets and will be replacing them with 'wildlife-friendly' open-top lift nets by 1 July next year.

Up until now, many fishers purchased opera house nets to target yabbies unaware they couldn't be used in public waters in Victoria. Open top lift nets can be used in both public and private waters and are proven to be effective yabby catchers.

As part of the changes, a one-for-one trade-in is planned, whereby fishers can trade in their old opera house nets for free open top lift nets.

For more information and frequently asked questions, visit [www.vfa.vic.gov.au/yabbyfishing](http://www.vfa.vic.gov.au/yabbyfishing)

## **Fishing Returns to Dartmouth Pondage**

A section of the Dartmouth Pondage in northeast Victoria has re-opened to fishing for the first time since 2013.

The new arrangements will be officially launched at Dartmouth today and, in a boost for local and visiting anglers, the Pondage has been stocked with 20,000 trout to accelerate the fishery's development. When open to fishing previously, the pondage was known to grow trophy trout to three kilograms and often boasted the winning fish in local angling competitions.

The re-opening project was funded by the Andrews Labor Government's Target One Million plan, which is investing a record \$46 million to get more people fishing, more often.

Read more at <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/about/media-releases/fishing-returns-to-dartmouth-pondage>

## Some Interesting Videos

Stefan spotted an interesting segment from Landline on the Carp Virus. The [transcript](#) is on the web, [video](#) is also available.

CRFA has also been noting some freshwater news. *“Great to see the Macquarie Perch plan on WIN News tonight, returning some of the gene pool from those sent to Cataract Gorge long ago. Hopefully the diversification works, and a reminder to be aware if you spot one if walking the Cotter, I'm sure reports of their presence will be appreciated given the previous requests for fish spotting from UMDR”.*

I went hunting for a video on the net but only found this one from WIN Central West on [Macquarie Perch](#) activities out their way. This didn't talk about local Mac action, but then the [Canberra Times](#) popped up an item which gelled with the CRFA note.

## Gear Review—'Lock' Laces

It seems Shaun has had some troubles with the laces on his wader boots and so trialled those curly 'lock' laces. Many thanks to him for this submission.

<http://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/?p=1951&preview=true>



## The Burley Line and Member Contributions

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)



# 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	<a href="#">43cm (36.7 % on the CAA rating scale)</a>		Yerrabi Ponds
Ash	Murray Cod	79cm (68.9% on the CAA rating scale)		Undisclosed/9 Dec
Ash	Murray Cod	80cm (71.7% on the CAA rating scale)	Lure	Burrinjuck/no date Christmas-New Year
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
Leon	Carp	53cm	Fly	Lake Burley Griffin/25 Dec
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 scale)	plastic	LBG Natives Day/18 Feb
BJ	Brown Trout	52cm	Fly	"local river"/4 Mar
Peter K	Brown	61cm	Fly	Unspecified Monaro Stream/10 Mar
Bill	Brown	31cm	Fly	Unspecified Monaro Stream/10 Mar
John	Brown	50cm	Fly	Unspecified Monaro Stream/17 Mar
Mark S	Brown	3 fish to 51cm	Fly	Unspecified Monaro Stream/17 Mar
Bill	Brown	25cm	Fly	Tom Groggin CAA trip/17 Mar
Stefan	Brown	20cm	Fly	Tom Groggin CAA trip/17 Mar
Ash	Murray Cod	83cm (80% on the CAA scale, though out of area)	Lure	Mulwala Classic Invitational/20-21 Apr
Mark S	Brown	Best of 4 65cm (5.5lb)	Fly	"a Monaro River"/6 May

## Contact Us

Canberra Anglers'  
Association Inc.  
GPO Box 2237  
Canberra City ACT 2601

Visit us on the web at  
[www.canberra-anglers.asn.au](http://www.canberra-anglers.asn.au)

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



NOTE: With the exception of Official Club Policy or Official Reports, the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Canberra Anglers Association.

## Join Us!

The Membership Application Form can be found at the Canberra Anglers Website - Current fees are payable each year as at our AGM (pro-rata rates for joining late in the year):

- \$10 for concession (age pension or concession card)/juniors (under 18)
- \$30 for general membership
- \$40 for families

Payment can be via check, electronic transfer (bank details on the form), or in person at one of our regular meetings. More information is available from the Secretary via our website.

## Supporters

CAA would like to thank the below sponsors for their ongoing support and patronage to our club.



## Affiliates

Canberra Anglers' Association is proudly affiliated with the following:

