

# THE BURLEY LINE

Newsletter of the Canberra Anglers' Association Inc.

Issue 138—Nov 2018



CAA Junior member Luke with the catch of the day at the DPI Kid's Fish Clinic



## Some of the Stuff in This Issue

- A Word from our President
- From the Editor's Desk
- Coming Events
- CAA in the public eye
- Fishing Reports
- External Body Reports
- Notable Fish

# A Word from our President

Dear members,

thanks to our resident historian Bill, I can offer some further insights into the history of the venerable Canberra Anglers Association. It is likely we were born out of post WWII enthusiasm with our first inaugural gathering of some 40 fishing enthusiasts taking place just a month after the end of the war. The man who called the meeting, Mr G Westcott, was elected President while one L. Knowles was one of 3 vice presidents as well as assistant secretary - it appears there was no shortage of members seeking office in the early days. Lyle Knowles of course went on to be a much respected long term member of the club whom we celebrate with the coveted Lyle Knowles trophy.

The first CAA General Meeting was held on Nov 6, 1945 at the Hotel Kingston and doubtless there was lively discussion about the opening of the season and the first trout fishing competition scheduled for Sunday November 25 at Brindabella. Despite the release of some 50 000 trout into the Cotter in October, catches on the day were described as “rather disappointing” so it’s good to see that CAA has maintained standards and expectations since those early days. If members have other historical anecdotes please feel send them to Bill and me, and we will find a way to include them in the newsletter. As we approach some significant historical milestones for our association, members may also like to consider how we can commemorate our history and what the association might mean to us as we move into the next 75 years.

Moving to more recent events... Thanks to Lyall and the prestige of our association, fly casting legends Simon Gawesworth and Peter Morse will be giving casting demonstrations and more at Lake Burley Griffin on Wednesday 14 November. Please don’t forget we need members to help out with running and winning the casting competition – can’t let those pesky ACT Fly Fishers bods beat us chaps! Members also won’t want to miss Stefan’s Lake Brogo Bass Bash coming up on November 24-25 (coinciding with the dates of our very first CAA field trip!). And of course the CAA Christmas party will shortly be upon us on 12 December which is something to look forward to as we wind up our year.

The year is slipping by faster than that prize winning trout so make sure you get out into this glorious weather, and this glorious and peace-filled part of the world.

Rod

## From the Editor’s Desk

Firstly let me thank JQ for standing in for me last month. He’s a good egg especially given how busy he is at work and with family commitments. Let me also extend an open invitation for any budding newsletter editors out there – here is your chance to show your artistic flair. Material is typically generously supplied by members, so it is predominately a ‘packaging’ job. Contact me if you are interested.

We haven’t heard from Owen in a while – and it seems we won’t see much of him either till Christmas. Retirement has given him the opportunity to hit the road. It was much appreciated to get some images and words from his time north. Thanks also goes to Claude for a report from the end of the season – good advice on offer here, though I’m a little

concerned about how successful this squirmy has been (Lyle Knowles success also). My fly box has some very poor examples and I'd better get practicing. Jaime has come through with some snippets also – always got some hints on offer. JM has a report here on the Kid's Fishing Clinic plus he's in print with CFA. Many thanks also to Lyall (can always be counted on to provide a topical item).

Late last month I just added a link to the [FlyLife archive](#) to our [useful links page](#) and found some of the links had errors. Now repaired. Sorry for being tardy in monitoring this.

Many of us missed Mon 15 Oct as the date 73 years ago that a meeting decided to [create CAA](#). It is rather cute that the [first CAA outing](#) actually lines up with Stefan's trip to Brogo this month!

Meanwhile, JQ has commented on the draft of this edition "This is looking great! It's wonderful to see so many people out and about. Lots of contributions." He tells me that he competed in round 2 of FFA championship this weekend. Did really well in the lake fishing at Tantangara but injury forced him out of the river stage at Bolaro – I have independent advice that the river stage was very hard and few fish. This would have helped him retain a reasonable place and it turned out to be 8<sup>th</sup> – well done mate.

## Coming Events

A poster for a fly casting event. At the top is the RIO PRODUCTS logo in yellow and black. Below it, the title "RIO's Modern Spey Casting" is written in a stylized, bold, yellow font with a black outline. The main text "Free Fly Casting Extravaganza with world famous Rio Brand Manager Simon Gawseworth" is in a large, bold, yellow font. Below this, the date and time "14 November 2:00 pm til dusk" and location "Yarralumla Bay near Weston Park" are listed. To the right, it says "Lots of casting games and prizes from Rio" and "Bring your own rods or try Sage rods with Peter Morse". At the bottom, it says "BYO BBQ dinner at 6:00 pm" and "No matter your casting experience, come and cast with the best - Simon Gawseworth and Peter Morse FOR FREE !!!". At the very bottom, it says "No RSVP required. Contact Lyall for further information at info@capitalflycasting.com". The background of the poster is a photograph of a person fly fishing in a lake, with a forest in the background.

**RIO**  
PRODUCTS

**RIO's Modern Spey Casting**

**Free Fly Casting Extravaganza with  
world famous Rio Brand Manager  
Simon Gawseworth**

14 November  
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[info@capitalflycasting.com](mailto:info@capitalflycasting.com)

### Next Meetings:

**Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Special fly casting event with Simon Gawseworth and Peter Morse in lieu of our normal meeting.

**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Dec** – our traditional fish and bbq by the lake in lieu of our normal meeting – more info via email closer to the time.

### Next Events:

**24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Nov** – chasing bass at Brogo – more information via email from Stefan.

**Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Nov** – To Be Confirmed – Fly Tying Workshop – usual time/place, 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. Details will be announced closer to the time.

**14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Jindabyne trip at the CSIRO ski lodge – more information via email from Bill.



*Some bargains in an unlikely spot.*

## Spotted by Jaime



Jaime spotted this on the net:

Euro Nymphing with Devin Olsen | USA Fly Fishing Team, Provo River, Reading Water – Wet Fly Swing,

The guy who produces the podcast has other nice episodes, including one where he interviewed April Vokey. So if interested, just check his website.

<https://wetflyswing.com/euro-nymphing-with-devin-olsen-usa-fly-fishing-team-provo-river-reading-water/>

## Owen's Exploits

Owen's been up to the mountains recently, but also to the Kimberley.

*4lb rainbow – smaller brown not shown here.*

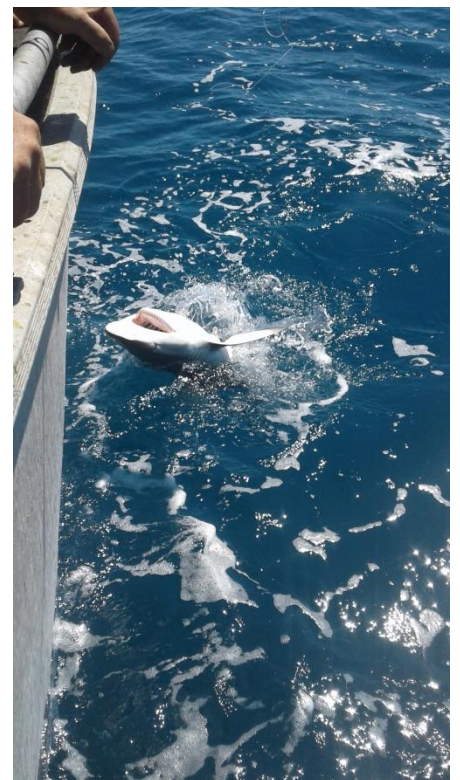




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*Managed 3 of these tail  
standers.*

*Caught 6 of these around  
800mm long.*



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*Aside from all these, Owen tells me he landed tuna and barracuda – “great fun”*



## Goulburn River

A number of CAA members have been clients of Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing and speak highly of their professionalism. BJ has advised they have an excellent briefing on the annual cycle of conditions on the river – anyone volunteering to do one for our streams?

<http://gvflyfishing.com/technical-articles/a-season-on-the-goulburn/>

## BJ and Claude on Their First Foray on the Tumut River

BJ and Claude took their inaugural trip to the Tumut River in late May. The trip was preceded with the obligatory...’hey Nathan where do we go and how should we fish the area’. With tips memorised we arrived at the river, behind the racecourse, at around 1030. The river was up at around 1500 cubic meters (?) so we knew we would have a few challenges during the day. Claude fished Euro Style Nymphing and BJ fished a dry dropper. The first rainbow (25 cm) was caught in sight of the car and the racecourse café on a black ‘poodle hair’ nymph

*Looking upstream (near the racecourse) – approximate site for the first rainbow.*

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*Looking downstream just near  
the 'Island'*

The crossing of the river was a little challenging with us having to carefully pick our route to avoid the water spilling over the tops of the waders - wading sticks were an essential piece of equipment for the day. A hundred or so meters up the river we came across a fork in the river and two fishermen who had caught six rainbows earlier in the morning near the caravan park.... they had also fished the tournament earlier in the month, were friendly and happy to give us a couple of tips on the river ahead.



The next crossing of the river proved a little challenging with the high flow making Claude turn back halfway across the river when the flow was making it difficult to get a solid foot placement.



*River crossing*

BJ selected a better route which enabled us to move up the river.

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Claude fished a deep, slow moving pool.



*Deep pool to the right of the island*



*Deep slow moving pool*

Claude initially caught a nice eucalyptus which resulted in a change to the 'squirmy wormy' which resulted in two hook-ups with one rainbow landed. BJ tackled the faster water which presented a lot of challenges with floating line and managing the drag.

*First trout on squirmy*





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We worked our way through the 'island' and came out near some houses on a river offshoot. They fenced right up to the river front which required continuous tramping through the river. Another small rainbow was caught on the squirmy just before we reached the main river. When we reached the river we were surprised to discovering that the section was wide and deep. We discovered our first rising fish, observing at least one rise a minute, which resulted in BJ changing his rig to a classic dry fly. Unfortunately, the fish were not interested. Another fish was landed and another lost for the rest of day...all on squirmies.

Concluding thoughts...Tumut is pretty good and we look forward fishing it in summer and at a less challenging level (~1000)....wading sticks are good....squirmy worms were the fly of the day!

## CAA Takes to the Radio Waves

CAA was recently invited to be interviewed on ABC Local Radio. Lyall filed the following report:

*Attached is a photo of Jeannine and Angie at ABC Radio Canberra before our interview with Lish Fejer on 27 September where we spoke about Canberra Anglers' Association and recognised Dr Bryan Pratt's contribution to recreational angling in the region and his sad passing last week. We also mentioned Bryan's wife Doris and encouraged anglers in Canberra to get into real life angling shops and support Doris and the industry as a whole.*

*Seems Lyall was the thorn  
between two roses at the ABC*

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*Seems Lyall was the thorn  
between two roses at the ABC*

*We gave a big plug for Canberra Anglers' Association and spoke the diversity of our membership. Interviewer Lish Fejer's opening comment was that it was so nice to see two women representing what some see as the male dominated sport of angling.*

*Jeannine, Angie and I stayed on for the live outside ABC broadcast of the judging of best strawberry jam competition which was intended to support the strawberry growing industry in light of the recent scare. The scones were fantastic as were the various jams and cream!!! This fishing life is tough eh?*

## **Luke has a new toy**

Luke has recently been experimenting with a new drone. One thing he has noted is that the aerial shots are showing how much his casting needs to improve (I've told him not to video me!) Some beautiful imagery from our budding movie maker.

<http://blackmountainfly.co/snowy-mountain-streams-october-2018/>

(and one of Vanity's <https://youtu.be/TSrQXWDLgFc>)

## **When Waders Don't Protect you from Snakes**

One of our members was recently fishing in our local region and was surprised by a snake. He was knee deep on the edge of the river with steep banks attempting to retrieve a fly from tussock grass on the opposite bank. He was surprised....and squealed a bit.....when a brown/tiger snake skedaddled from its sunning position less than half a meter from the fly and his hands. The day was overcast and about 12 degrees, so he was surprised to see a snake out and about, and particularly at chest/head height! This is a friendly reminder to our members that snakes are not always where you expect and you might find yourselves in situations where the thickest waders or snake proof gaiters won't help you.

PS: The fly was safely retrieved...only to be lost 10 minutes later



## **Fly Tying – Plastic Damsel Nymph**

On our October tying night JM led a small team learning how to tie this damsel nymph. If you weren't there you will have missed all the secret tips that JM provided but he has since revealed that there is some material on the [Fly Life archive](#). One thing I learnt reading the article was that while damsels and dragonflies look

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similar as adults, their nymph stages are quite different – a topic of some discussion between myself and Alan on the night.

## Australian FFI Casting Instructor Exams and Haley's Comet

Lyall reports on the Canberra connection and the FFI exams. Congratulations Chris:

*Fly Fishers International is a fly fishing organisation which was started in America in 1964 by fly fishing luminaries including the immortal Lee Wulff (inventor of utility Royal Wulff fly and husband of world renowned fly casting instructor Joan Wulff) to link fly fishing associations across America. In 1992 FFI launched its flycasting instructor certification program headed by a Casting Board of Governors which currently includes Peter Hayes from Tasmania.*

*In Australia, the opportunity to be tested as a casting instructor only comes around every two years. It is a little like Haley's comet – it only comes around from time-to-time and if you don't make the effort to get out there and see it, you kick yourself and have to wait ages for the next opportunity.*

*This year's week-long testing event was held in Forster on the north coast of NSW in sometimes windy, sometimes wet conditions and sometimes just magnificent. Everyone, bar none, wanted all the candidates to pass – examiners, candidates and people like myself who were asked to be there to encourage others and contribute to the casting community event.*

*This was the scene every evening at Sandpiper on Elizabeth Beach where we all stayed. "Talking casting, teaching casting, analysing casting and ... well ... just casting!!!"*



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*This was the view of one of the Master Casting Instructor exams on the water. There are actually four examiners out there (one blocked by the tree) and one candidate. 'An absolutely brilliant caster and teacher but wasn't successful this time around.*



*Canberra big fella Chris is pictured here with his examiners Bob Young on his right and Shaun Ash and Roger Elton on his left after passing his Certified Casting Instructor exam – well done Chris!!!*



*But it wasn't all hard work – well none of it was actually. Sometimes we had to move from veranda to veranda to have "technical discussions" about the finer points of flycasting as you would understand. It was all very serious. Canberra was well represented by myself, Chris Rose, Phil and Kerryn Milligan.*



*Which brings me to the pass rate at the event. We had candidates from Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Victoria, Lake Taupo in NZ and our very own Canberra candidate Chris Rose. Twelve candidates sat for various exams and only five succeeded – it was tough.*

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*Like Haley's Comet, the event will be held again sometime in the future - well 2020 in our case. It is a great event to meet others in the Australian flycasting community and learn from the masters. They are a great bunch of people!!!*

## **NSW DPI Kid's Fishing Clinic**

JM reports on an excellent outing for the youngsters – see our cover shot (and website photo of the month).

*After a week touring the Jindabyne area, and some fun checking out the bug jars at the tackle shop & picking out some buggy flies, one of our junior anglers decided he was keen to return two days later for a Kid's Fishing Clinic. So, we hit the road early, and got down to the Thredbo River for the annual Gaden kid's clinic (other locations also have them throughout the year). I didn't know what to expect, so here's a run down of how the day panned out.*

*Once you email the DPI Education Officer (Stephen), you will get the forms to fill in. Minimum age is 8, and there is a little check box to say if your child can swim 25m (but they didn't get their feet wet at Gaden). Payment (about \$40) is via credit card, cash on the day is least preferred. Take a water bottle, sun screen, any medication etc but that's about it.*

*On arrival, the sign-in process happens, with a name tag handed out to go on the t-shirt supplied (go a little bigger) and a broadbrim hat (go bigger as it shrinks when wet) and then it's a wait whilst everyone assembles, whilst checking out the hatchery fish.*

*Once everyone has arrived, the group gathers in the theatre room at about 9:30am. The instructors are introduced – there was the education officer, FishCare volunteers from Woollongong, and two hatchery staff. A brief rundown of the day was provided, before a generic hatchery introductory video was played, which included the history of trout and involvement of the Monaro Acclimatisation Society.*

*Parents were then booted out, while the kids learnt about the trout life cycle, how to handle fish, how the fish are milked and a tour of the hatchery occurred. The Atlantic salmon had recently hatched, giving the kids an opportunity to see the freshly hatched fish.*

*Lunch was about 12:30, sausage sizzle and a soft drink reportedly went down well. Knot tying was included, and perhaps included blindfolded tying, along with a simple rig. Casting practice occurred, as well as a try at a fly rod with one of the Fishcare volunteers leading that. They also got to lift a wooden block with rod and reel to practice fighting fish and see what it feel like (no doubt, to help pump and wind). They were also taught about measuring fish, and fishing regulations.*

*The kids were then issued their safety glasses, a Shimano FX2500 reel and rod rigged with a pink Tassie devil, and lined up on the bank to cast straight ahead (to avoid tangles) at about 1:15pm.*

*The trout weren't that easy to catch, and certainly not everyone was that patient to cast straight ahead. Once landed, kids got a photo with their fish, and if they wanted to return them they were placed in an esky, otherwise the kids went up to the shed where the hatchery staff despatched and gutted the fish, placing it in a labelled bag for collection later. This allowed room and time for the other kids to get prime location and eventually every kid caught a fish.*

*The adults were then allowed back in for the presentations and prizes, with prizes for best knot tying, best effort, best caster, most accurate fly caster to the target, with all kids getting a prize (even if it was a soft plastic lure) which they were proud to get. The show bag was issued, with some fishing regulations, fish ruler, Tassie devil lure, and a few other little information sheets. With new friends made, and packs and rods handed out, they then collected their fish and were released to their parents about 2:30. With the fish in the fridge, and a busy day's fishing we wrapped up with a quick trip to Perisher for annual toboggan ride and snowball fight before the junior angler slept the entire way back to Canberra, home in time for dinner.*

*Did he enjoy it? Absolutely, and even had a small nibble of the fish the next night. We may not have gone fishing again yet, but I still have those buggy flies, new Tassie devil, and another rod and reel for when it's time again. A good sign was when he said he wanted to go back to the "fishing club" at the hatchery because it was fun, and I unfortunately had to explain it only happens once or twice a year.*

## Gaden Hatchery – September Report

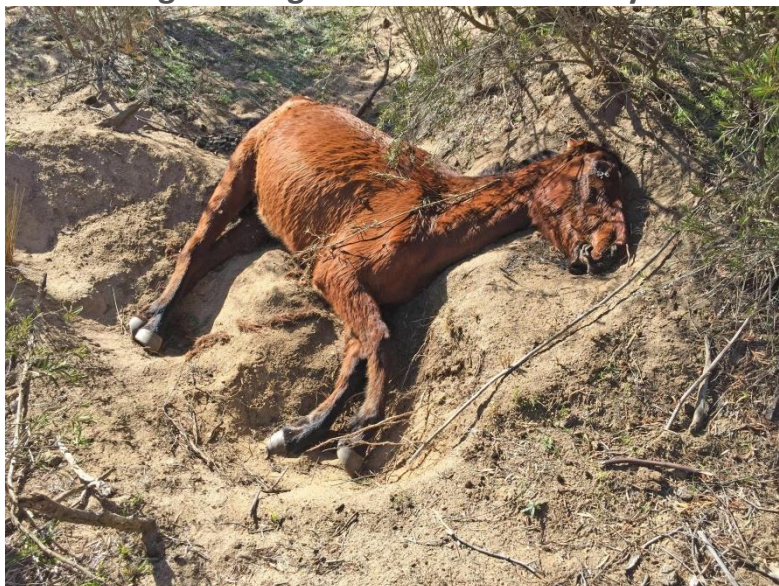
This was put up on our [news blog](#). Some very interesting observations in respect to the brown trout and rainbow spawning run. It will be useful for us to keep an eye out on any progress with their raising with NSW Office of Environment and Heritage the problem of cormorants and pelicans in trout spawning areas. Mention was also made of the release of the yellow plastic tagged fish into Jindabyne as part of the trout research efforts.

## NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News



The [November newsletter](#) has arrived. CFA are offering up an [archive](#) (this is also on our Useful Links page on our website). Key topics were:

### NSW drought killing feral horses on Snowy River



The Invasive Species Council is reporting the discovery of dead horses littering the Snowy River in Kosciuszko National Park. The horses were clearly malnourished and starving as a result of the drought before they died.

"We're now seeing the implications of protecting feral horses in the park. The animals are dying agonising deaths in the southern end of Kosciuszko and their dead bodies are polluting the Snowy River.



Read the full article [at this link](#).

## Invasive Species Council backs moves to overturn NSW feral horse protection law

The Invasive Species Council is backing this week's push in the NSW Parliament to overturn the Berejiklian Government's decision entrenching destructive feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park.

The council is calling on people who live in NSW to contact their local MP and ask them to 'Reclaim Kosci' by overturning the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018 and to put in place effective and humane feral horse control methods.

## Gone Fishing Day 2018 – Queanbeyan

Report by Jason Middleton

President Capital Region Fishing Alliance

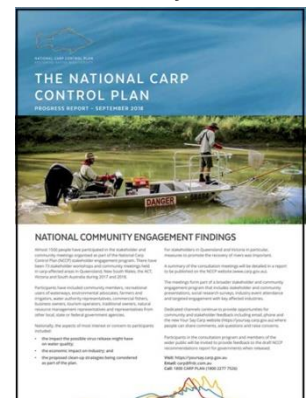


This year, Gone Fishing Day was a great success in Queanbeyan and the ACT to get local interest and social licence for recreational fishing. We were a bit confused as to the different processes, and [the full article attached](#) outlines a bit of difference between a local event and one heavily supported and run by NSW DPI.

## Latest progress report from NCCP

The latest progress report from the National Carp Control Plan is available [at this link](#).

The key discussion in this report is around the options to make use of carp biomass if carp virus is released. Large-scale commercial opportunities and smaller local clean-up options are both being examined through research designed to find ways to use carp biomass that might succumb to cyprinid herpesvirus 3 (carp virus), if approved for release.



## Anger in NZ about threat to trout and angling

NZ anglers say trout and salmon are facing a serious threat posed by new legislation recently introduced to NZ's Parliament. The Indigenous Freshwater Fish Amendment Bill aims to provide better protection for indigenous fish such as galaxids, whitebait and eels. But the Bill also poses a serious threat to trout and angling. It allows trout and salmon to be removed from particular rivers and lakes, even if they are significant fisheries. Fish & Game Communications Manager Don Rood says that all anglers are urged to [read the facts presented](#) on [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz) and follow the advice on how to make their views clearly and strongly known.

# Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council



[Meeting 10 minutes](#) are up on our web. Two items piqued my interest:

- Seems NSW anglers have similar access rights to water as those found in NZ ... I will await with interest to see what that really means. Much has been said to me about the "Queen's Chain" alongside rivers in NZ.
- Chair of RFNSW is to "write to Snowy Monaro Regional Council about facilitating opportunities for recreational fishing access and stocking Trout at Lake Wallace near Nimmitabel." – the disappointing response from council via the Minister is also up on that post. MAS has committed to continuing the pressure on council.

## Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW News



Nothing in time for *Burley Line* deadlines, but RFA NSW are offering up an [archive](#) (this is also on our Useful Links page on our website).

## Fisheries Victoria News

The best Internet resource is the [Victoria Fisheries Facebook page](#) where individual topics are posted up separately. [Fish eFacts 438](#) and [439](#) have arrived but nothing much there of relevance to us.





# 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 the [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
Phil	Brown	55cm (5lb)	Fly	(ACTFF trip) 28 Jul 2018
Ash	Cod	100cm (rates in 74% in this season's <a href="#">rating scale</a> )	Lure	Jul 2018
Luke	Brown	55cm	Fly	Bondi Forest trip 25 Aug
Luke	Brown	54cm	Fly	Bondi Forest trip 25 Aug
Rod	Brown	53cm	Fly	Bondi Forest trip 26 Aug – 120 Minute Challenge
Luke	Brown	54cm	Fly	Bondi Forest trip 26 Aug – 120 Minute Challenge
Jaime	Rainbow	25cm	Fly (squirmy)	Lyle Knowles – 7 Oct
Owen	Rainbow	4lb	Not advised	Jindabyne 13-14 Oct?

## Contact Us

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

Email *Burley Line* contributions  
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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.

## 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 us.

## Join Us!

The Membership Application Form can be found at the Canberra Anglers Website - Current fees are payable each year as at our AGM (adjustments will be made 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 via the contact link on our web-site.

## Supporters

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



## Affiliates

Canberra Anglers' Association is proudly affiliated with the following

