

# THE BURLEY LINE

Newsletter of the Canberra Anglers' Association Inc.

Issue 139—Dec 2018



Ash with a thumper of a Googong Golden



## Some of the Stuff in This Issue

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# From the Editor's Desk

Some really good reports here with a diversity of angling – not much on trout folks, what gives or are you having the same problem as Peter and I have had with finding our spotted friends. Many thanks to Ash, Evan, new member Jane, Luke and Lyall for material. This issue has seen an addition to our occasional column on 'Tips from Members to Members' – thanks Leon for initiating a discussion on "how to fight big fish on fly" – also known as "how to put the maximum strain on fish".

I've had only a limited response to my reminder about 2018-19 subscriptions that were due at the AGM in August – it was sent out from my 'CAA Membership Officer' account on Monday, 29 October. I'm wondering whether my use of the bcc (addressing people via blind carbon copy – ie all the addresses invisible) might have resulted in the email ending up in the spam box. You might want to check and if so, watch out, Lyall has taken to using bcc for the 'all members' emails.

## Coming Events

### Next Meetings:

**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Dec** – our traditional fish and bbq by the lake on Black Mountain Peninsula in lieu of our normal meeting – 6:00PM start unless you want to get into some pre-bbq fishing.

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Feb** – first of our regular meetings for 2019 – 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club.

### Next Events:

**14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Jindabyne trip at the CSIRO ski lodge.

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Lake fishing and BBQ organised by Charlie on Lake Burley Griffin. Details will be announced closer to the time.

**Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Feb** – To Be Confirmed – Fly Tying Workshop – usual time/place, 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. Details will be announced closer to the time.

## Amend your Calendar

There's been some changes to the CAA Event Calendar.

- JQ is leading "High Country Trout" in April. The original dates clash with a Fly Fish Australia competition so our event has been brought forward one week – Fri 5 to Sun 7 Apr. Note that this unfortunately clashes with the revised date of 6 Apr for the Penrith Fly Fishing Festival.
- We omitted to include in our 2018-19 program the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers annual Interclub Flyfishing Meet at Black Gold Motel, Wallerawang on 3-5 May 2019 (weekend before Mothers' Day). CAA is an affiliate of NSWCFCA and so is eligible to enter a team into this meet. It is a relaxed social get together but incorporates an inter club team competition with a mix of judged fishing, fly casting, fly tying and fish photography rounds. CAA have not attended in the past as it has clashed with other events but Stefan hopes to encourage members for this season. More info in due course from Stefan.



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*People might recognise the background here. You can almost see the thought "I've got this bass stuff cracked, just wait till I show them how to do it at the Brogo weekend" ... as you'll read this wasn't to be.*

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## "Bass Stop"

For those who missed the blog post, Luke provided the following report and images:



*On my way back from the coast, I decided up pull up for a break and have a quick flick on the river at a particularly 'fishy' looking pool. I was lucky enough to land 3 bass, all around the 30cm mark and dropped a couple more. I could only stay for half an hour so I'm definitely keen to get back there and spend some more time exploring the area.*



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## Evan on Springtime Carp

*Spring can be a tricky season for targeting Carp on fly in Lake Burley Griffin. Cold water, windy days and annual spawning make them very fussy and quite often not interested in eating a fly. This year the cold hung around a bit longer and pushed the spawning well into late October for the lake, which lead to many frustrating sessions watching them chase each other around and refuse every presentation.*

*So this year I've changed tactics! I've worked on new fly patterns, modified old patterns and switched from a Tenkara rod back to a conventional fly setup. There's been way too many broken rods over the last two years.*



*68cm LBG carp - on a new 10ft  
3 weight nymphing rod I was  
testing*

*The fly I've been having the most success on is a pink tagged wet fly that I originally made up from scraps on my tying bench and is yet to be named. It's lightly weighted and well hackled so it sinks naturally and pulses in the water even with an inert presentation. Perfect for shallow water and fish that are holding higher up in the water column. The bright pink helps you (and the carp) see the fly as it sinks and you can watch as it gets sucked in.*

*The biggest was on 12 November and they started fishing well (for me) from the last week of October.*

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*Sure is pink*



*It's finesse fishing until the weather warms up and all the carp coming off the spawn start eating everything in their path. Including big flies intended for Cod... but that's another story.*



# Ash and His Golden

Got some great images from Ash, including photo of the month.

*Photographic evidence of the impressive length of this golden*



*It had been a long while since my last visit to Googong and I'm thinking it's time to frequent the place more. A few hours late afternoon on the 11th November with mate Chris Pye was a ripper. Casting jackalls in close resulted in a 60.5cm, 55, 54, 49 and 47cm.*

(Ed. The 60.5cm Golden is very impressive and rates 84.6 points on our [Native Fish Rating scale](#). To put it into perspective, to beat this a murray cod would have to be bigger than 106.5cm. Last year's cod trophy was won with an 80cm specimen)

*Who wouldn't be happy with this performance*









# A Very Fine Fish for New Member Jane

Jane undertook the fly fishing course out at Rainbow Springs and the photo below is a great advertisement for them. We can all hope to see a repeat on the Jindabyne trip.



# Simon Gawesworth and Crafty Casting

by Lyall

Simon Gawesworth (RIO fly lines brand manager) and Peter Morse (Sage Ambassador), both fly casting luminaries, visited Canberra as part of a Rio and Sage tour de force of Australia on 14 November. As forecast the day began with rain, rain and more rain. That didn't stop CAA members turning up in droves to hear Simon talk about single and double handed Spey casting techniques and grab one of the dozen Sage rods set up on Yarralumla Bay with different RIO lines to have a wee cast and feel which line does what.





At the height of the day we had around thirty casters and the water was whipped into a froth. The fun casting competitions comprised three events: the Permit Challenge where you had to cast a heavily weighted crab fly into a thirty inch hoop at fifty feet then distance cast the same fly and line to over eighty feet; the Flip Flop where you cast a three weight line on a nine weight rod and a nine weight line on a three weight fiberglass rod and measure the longest casts; and Tricky Trout where you cast around a series of obstacles and obstructions at targets. Our CAA casters acquitted themselves very ably and did a great job.



We scored all of the casters and handed the sheets to Simon to add up in what was now a sunny afternoon. While he was busy, some of the blokes couldn't help but indulge in the usual "I can cast further than you can" competition. There were some very impressive casts which were instructional for those of us who want to improve.

At the end of the day Simon gave out thousands of dollars' worth of RIO fly lines and other prizes. Not only was attendance at the event free of charge, so were the raffle tickets!!! Many CAA members walked away with new Rio goodies.



It has just been announced that Simon, who lives

in Washington State in the USA, will again visit the southern hemisphere in 2019 and give free two handed casting instruction at the NZ South Island Spey Clave at Kurow from 1 to 3 March in 2019. I will be there with ten tons of enthusiasm and fourteen feet of fly rod. If anyone wants more information about The Festival of the Bid Sticks at Kurow, please e-mail me at [info@capitalflycasting.com](mailto:info@capitalflycasting.com)



## Brogo 23-25 Nov

*The water was down to 60% offering much better shore access than we've seen in years.*



Four members, Stefan (organiser), Alan, Jaime and Bill had setup camp by the lake (Shaun was a late absentee due to a sudden illness hitting him on Friday, whereas Luke's bosses need to cut him some slack rather than insisting on him working on CAA event weekends!).

Mr Telstra seems to have gotten his signal down into the campsite providing a nice emergency lifeline, but unfortunately the wind wasn't so helpful. Dangerous boating conditions were being warned for the region and they certainly made themselves felt.

*Alan and later Jaime braved the conditions and took their kayaks out (Jaime with his brand new pride and joy).*



*Bill was patrolling the shore line running into some less than pleasing results – he now knows how long a redbellied black snake can hold its breath under the water weeds.*





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*The absence of Luke and Shaun meant even more roast lamb for each of us attending on Sat night. Here seen getting the Stefan red wine infusion treatment – yummo!*

*“After trying a large humongous and no bites, I changed to a small black leech pattern. Not sure that was important but that’s what worked. To tell you the truth, I was just giving it a try but not really expecting much. It’s a lot of water there and wasn’t in the mood to walk rather because I needed to get back to Canberra for an appointment. I think I just got some luck 😊.”*

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Unfortunately only one small specimen from down deep was landed – no photographic evidence. Evening rises and leaping fish right in close teased the boys both nights. Even Bill’s secret fly which had slayed them a few years ago didn’t evince any reaction. Dark mutterings were heard about the Bermagui Bass Bash (a week or so before?) having put the fish down. We’ll never know.



All in all, a very sociable weekend with good company, fine food and the odd drop of wine. We’ll all be back again next year, and we’d encourage you to do the same.



On his way home, Jaime dropped into one of our iconic Monaro streams (he is being cagey) and landed this 58cm brownie. A small recompense for the poor bass fishing.

Meanwhile Stefan had similar ideas – he tells me “on the way home I dropped a nice trout at Nimmitabel Lake Williams off the pier down deep on woolly bugger in cold and very windy conditions. That’s now three I’ve left there for others. Always another time”

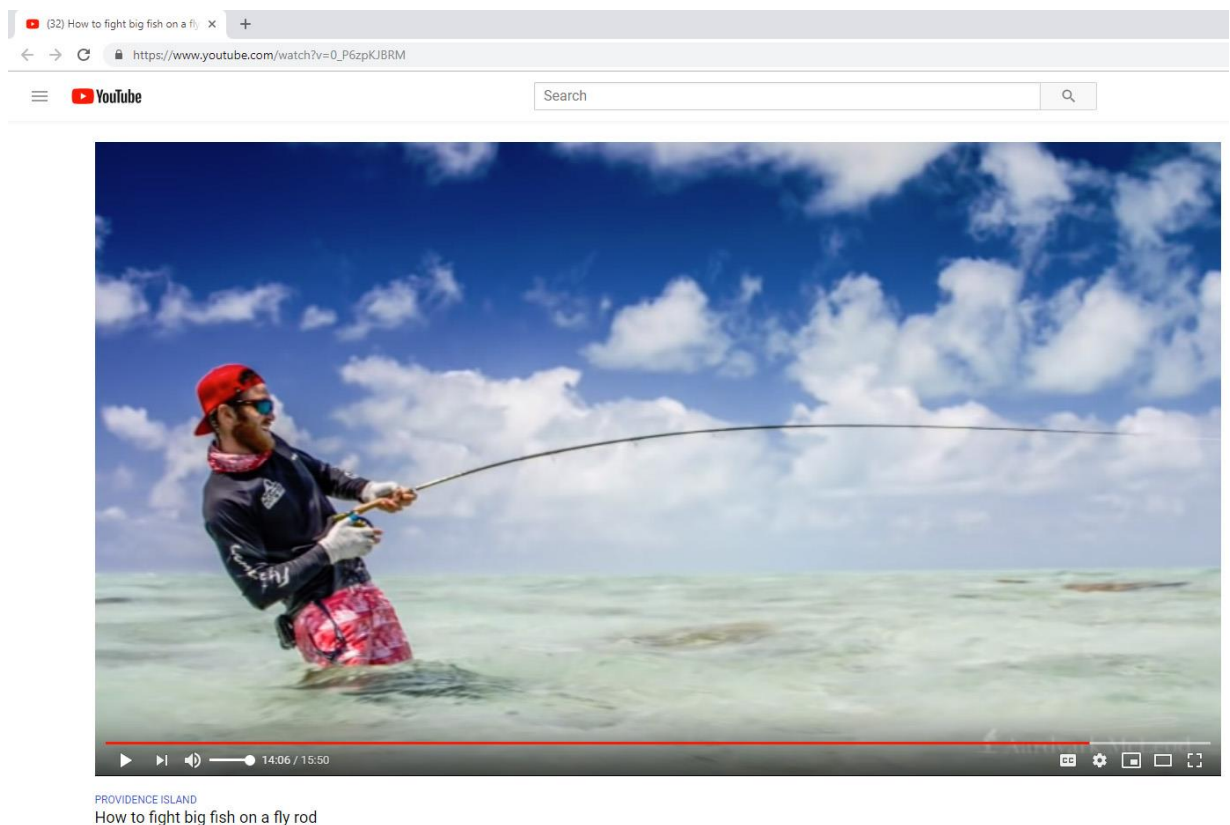
# Fly Fishers International Fly Tying Resource

I was intrigued by the PFD Humpy that Lyall set for the recent fly tying. As is our current practice only enough information was passed out in advance to 'entice a rise' as my mate Peter would express it. However Lyall let slip that the fly was 'fly of the month' for FFI. A quick google revealed this [treasure trove of fly patterns](#). It has now been added to our [Useful Links](#) page.

## Another in our Occasional Series of "hints from our members"

Leon found this very informative YouTube video on [fighting big fish on a fly rod](#). As Leon says *"Many have mocked me for using a 3 weight fly rod to fish for carp which will break your rod and will strip your entire backing if you play the fish the traditional trout way. Using the methods suggested in this video, you can subdue a big fish very quickly and efficiently (even a 3 weight rod). Backing line will become just a precaution to protect your rod. May even work with lower weight rods (haven't experienced myself). Unbalancing the fish by angling the appropriate ways to use the butt section of your rod, is the key to protecting your rod, your line and your fish."*

Leon and I have discussed this before. I noted that in the lead in of the video they don't high lift, just had some bend in the rod to counter quick shocks, but providing most of the strain via reel drag (some graphic demonstrations are at the eleven minute mark). The video talks about it also in the context of not putting a fixed bend point in the rod in the mid-section.



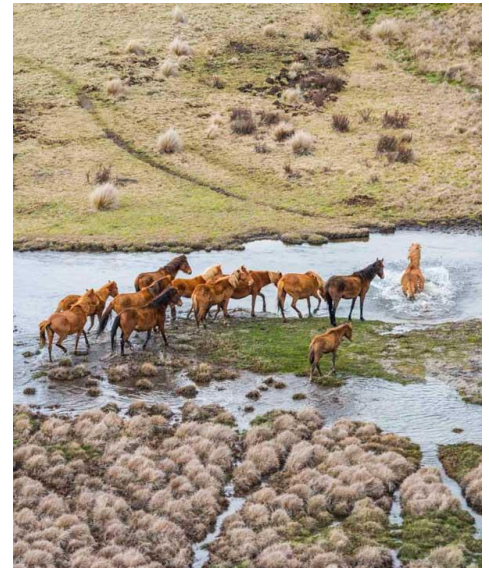
The guide I've used in Colorado made a similar case to me that the way to put maximum strain on a fish, when fighting, is via the drag and not the rod. Lifting the rod can be part of the strike for trout, but he counselled me to lower the rod for a much more modest bend during the fight – fewer rod and tippet breakages if you set the drag right. The video focusses on saltwater (effectively still water) but my guide in Colorado spoke also about putting much of the fly line in the water to provide additional drag on the fish – though this works best when the fish is upstream, otherwise the drag from the current will work with the fish and against you (hmm, should have remembered this during my last trip to NZ!).



# More Agitation on the Brumby Act

An organisation called '[Reclaim Kosi](#)' are starting a movement to agitate for change. They are led by the Invasive Species Council and supported by the National Parks Association of the ACT, National Parks Association of NSW, Colong Foundation for Wilderness and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. The website provides much information about the issue, opportunities to express your own support either via petition or financially.

Monaro Acclimatisation Society is very concerned that the NSW Govt have implemented a law that will result in substantial degradation of the alpine environment, including the waterways central to trout survival.



Of course others I speak to are concerned that once the brumbies are successfully removed, salmonids might be the next target of the environmentalists. Gives you cold shivers to think of it.

## Another Disappointment from the NSW Government

This is an item for those who like to follow the politics of recreational fishing.

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW and others have been lobbying for many years for the establishment of a funded body representing recreational anglers. A proposal to that effect by the RFA in August 2015 was approved and funding allocated by the Recreational Fishing Trusts and Recreational Fishing NSW later in 2015. The establishment of a representative body was also an election promise by the Nationals leading up to the last NSW election.

The Request for Tender (i.e. the invitation from the Department of Primary Industry for interested parties to tender an offering to act as that body) was finally issued publicly on 1 December 2017, and closed on 9 February 2018. The Request for Tender was called "Delivery of sector representation, consultation and communication services to the recreational fishing sector". The main purposes of the project were to provide communication services between DPI and anglers on a broad range of agreed issues, and to investigate how to operate such a service in a self-sustaining way into the future. It was to operate over 1 to 2 years, depending on the success or otherwise of the key tasks. To put a scale on this, RFANSW put in a bid to offer this service for around \$300,000.

DPI's choice of an approved tenderer was supposed to be made by 9 March 2018, and "supply of services" was meant to commence on 30 March 2018. None of the decision-making or implementation dates were met by DPI. The tender theoretically lapsed after 6 months on 10 August 2018. But in August DPI extended the deadline and postponed the decision by 2 months, and then on 5 October postponed it for another 4 weeks. As of late November, RFA has received no formal advice but rather a phone call to say that the tender process had been cancelled. A very disappointing outcome from the perspective of government process, but also that full-time professional representation of recreational anglers to government (which occurs in WA for instance) has been canned for NSW. Our representation now remains the preserve of dedicated, but overworked, volunteers.

# NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News



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

## National Carp Control Plan chief Matt Barwick quits

Matt Barwick, national coordinator for the \$15 million National Carp Control Plan, has resigned.

The news comes almost a week after *The Weekend Australian* revealed new research from one of the program's scientific advisers showed the radical idea would not work — because the fish can out-breed the virus within two years — and that “big questions” remained over its application in the wild.

Sydney University Associate Professor Joy Becker, a scientific adviser to the program, argued that while mass carp deaths would likely occur after the virus is released, the feral fish would soon breed up again. In an [article on the University of Sydney website](#) Professor Becker, a member of the National Carp Control Program Scientific Advisory Group, says that her research suggests the CyHV3 virus will not overcome the carp's 'remarkable fecundity'.

## Murray Cod season opens December 1



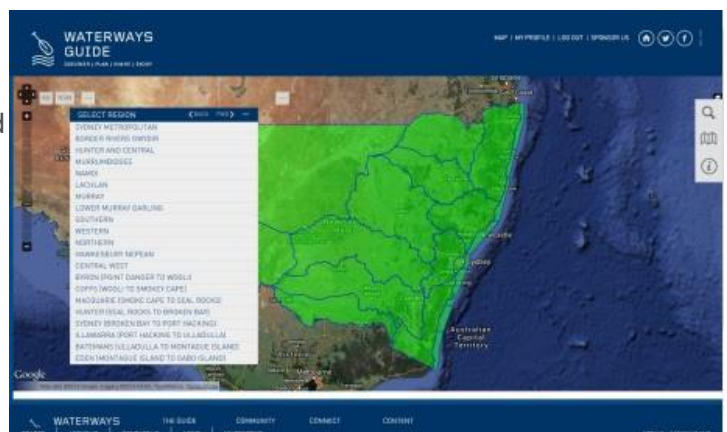
An angler on the Murray River with a 75cm Murray Cod - Photo Ben Coombes.

Murray Cod season reopens for recreational fishers on Saturday 1 December 2018, following the annual three-month breeding closure.

## New Waterways Guide from PaddleNSW

PaddleNSW has launched its new Waterways Guide at <http://www.waterwaysguide.org.au/>

The online Waterways Guide is a paddling guide to Australian waterways. It provides descriptions of rivers, lakes, estuaries and the seas off the coast of Australia. It is based on the touring information published in the *Canoeing Guide to New South Wales* book and enables it to be updated, and enhanced with maps, photos, real time weather and river data, access points, trails and camping spots. The original information is being extended with the assistance of keen paddlers to include all waterways including estuaries and seas.





# Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW News



[November issue](#) arrived too late for November *Burley Line* deadlines, but has the usual saltwater/boating focus (including a reminder about annual servicing of inflating life jackets). From my perspective the hot item was the latest news from the [National Carp Control Plan](#), in particular their studies into the options to make use of carp biomass if carp virus is released. It makes interesting reading, especially the bit where the carp carcasses withstood various efforts to crush the bodies. Also a short discussion is included in relation to the optimum conditions for release of the virus – hopefully we won't see sub-optimal releases like we saw with the rabbit calicivirus. There is more good stuff on the [NCCP webpage](#). All that said, the whole carp virus initiative seems to be in trouble as discussed in the CFA report above.

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 440](#) has arrived with one interesting item:



### Trout fishing 101

With the warm weather around the corner, we just wanted to refresh fellow fishers on the best way to catch (and release if you'd like) wild trout.

- Take a net and handle the fish wet. Unhooking your fish in the water gives them the best chance of catching their breath and swimming off safely.
- Cut the line if the hook's gone down the hatch. If the hook has been swallowed, leave it where it is and cut the line as close as possible to the hook.
- Support the fish and make it snappy. If you want to take a brag shot then gently pick up the fish, supporting its weight near the head and under its belly, smile and return your famous fish to the water quickly.
- When you release the fish, hold it gently in swift flowing water to help push water through its gills until it has revived and can swim off normally.

Finally, if you do want to keep the fish, make sure it's legal size and dispatch it quickly and then put it on ice straight away.

If you're after some hot tips on how to catch trout, then check out our blog [here](#).

Tight lines and have fun!



# “Trouty Stuff” for Sale

Stuart got an email from ex CAA member Mike Kingston – our favourite American fly tying instructor from a few years back. Mike is offloading some extra trout gear that he no longer needs. If you don't have Mike's email address, contact Burley Line Editor and I'll link you up.

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

*Hey, Stuart. I'm going to put these on eBay in a week or so. I wanted to run them by you first. You might know some one that might be interested. (All in Australian Dollars)*

1. William Joseph Stripping Basket - \$30
2. William Joseph Chest Pack - \$40
3. William Joseph Bandoleer Pack with 3 liter water bladder - \$60

*All are unused. Price is negotiable. Postage + Insurance: Basket = \$24.90 + \$2.00. Chest Pack = \$11.55 + 2.00. Bandoleer = \$14.55 + \$2.00*

*Thanks!*







# 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?
Luke	Bass	Three around 30cm	fly	"coming back from the coast" 4 Nov
Ash	Golden Perch	60.5cm, 55, 54, 49 and 47cm. The 60.5cm rates 84.6% on our Native Fish Rating scale.	lure	Googong 11 Nov



Evan	Carp	68cm	Fly	LBG 12 Nov
Jaime	Brown	58cm	Fly	Monaro stream 25 Nov

## Contact Us

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[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

