

THE BURLEY LINE

Newsletter of the Canberra Anglers' Association Inc.

Issue 140—Feb 2019



Ben on “the Upper Shoalhaven”



Some of the Stuff in This Issue

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President's Notes

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to 2019. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year with relaxed and joy-filled times with family and friends. While some of us probably holed up in Canberra and avoided the heat, others would have been out wetting a line and I look forward to sharing stories at our first meeting on February 13. Our first guest speaker for 2019, Max Mallett from the Institute of Applied Ecology, University of Canberra, will talk about his research on declining rainbow trout catch rates in Lake Jindabyne - a topic of interest to us all. Max will also do his best to answer our questions about recent fish deaths in our poor beleaguered river systems.

There is little doubt our climate is changing. Australia is setting new heat records every day this summer and Canberra is well on its way to the hottest summer...ever. Doubtless the heat and drought are putting greater pressure on our river systems, but there is also no doubt that our management actions of water extraction and diversion have made unavoidable the recent tragic deaths of ancient Murray Cod and countless other fish. Images of dry river beds, rotting fish and scummy green pools in what were once mighty river systems point to the greater value we place as a nation on the products and benefits we gain by using our water for commercial and agricultural activities ahead of using it to maintain the natural fish-filled, flowing river systems that First Australians enjoyed for millennia. As a fishing club with a long history we have the opportunity to serve amongst the guardians of the fishery resource. We can contribute by supporting good science-based management and encourage a growing voice for better fish-friendly management.

I look forward to another year of camaraderie and support which comes from being part of the friendly angling community. 2019 will be a year of great challenges and great catches and I look forward to being part of both as President.

All the best

Rod

From the Editor's Desk

This edition has commenced with a very thoughtful piece from our President (who later pointed me to a comprehensive article [available here](#)). In this vein, Leon spotted a significant fish kill in Pejar Dam. This has been reported to DPI through Steve Samuels. We await results from water testing that DPI are intending to carry out.

Only limited reporting on angling – has it been just too hot for people to get out and about? Meanwhile a couple of reports of fish stocking in the local area.

Coming Events

Next Meetings:

Wed 13th Feb – first of our regular meetings for 2019 – 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. Speaker is Max Mallett on declining rainbow trout catch rates in Lake Jindabyne.

Next Events:

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

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

December Meeting by the Lake – A Bucolic Scene

Luke's wife Sophie took this very atmospheric image of the sun setting during our end of year bbq.

Sophie has admitted to some in-camera wizardry with the result being very artistic and capturing the mood of the evening when the threatened storms passed us by.



Jindy Trip – 14-17 Dec

By Bill

Our annual trip to Jindabyne was mostly enjoyable – certainly great company but river conditions were a bit diabolical due to heavy rains earlier in the week.

First up was BJ and me fishing a selected Monaro stream near Nimmitabel – no great secret but it was the first time I had fished the Bobundara. Clearly someone else had been there earlier as we found one good sized brownie, dead and floating in the weed. One or two sightings of swirls were all that resulted with very low water and lots of weed – perhaps better earlier in the season before the weed had grown?

We had three novices attending, Jane, Barbara and Nakita (a friend of Shaun's) so Saturday was focussed on tutoring them on the finer points

of casting and line handling. The morning was on the lake near the CSIRO Ski Club Lodge (as always, a great location and accommodation for which we remain thankful). In the afternoon we repaired to Paddy's Corner for an introduction to streamcraft along with upstream and downstream techniques. Unfortunately the rain had the river looking more like chocolate milkshake than water. JM and I had done a recce during the morning and I got one brief touch only for my troubles – no fish rising had morale low for those keen on dry fly.

Meanwhile Jaime went out with BJ (only a couple of snakes sighted and teased) for the morning. The afternoon had Jaime join Ben with no joy even after being called back to the 'hot spot' by Evan and Luke. The latter pair had had some success with small fish on the Thredbo near the skitube. The water was clear above the Little Thredbo and there were rising fish. In due course Luke guided Evan onto 'a cracker of a brown' which was duly landed. Unfortunately no camera or tape measures were brought into play.

Sunday saw a number of sites tested – Spencer's Creek was blowing a gale and no fish sighted, Perisher Creek was fished by two parties for no joy. In the end, Luke reported that Evan dropped a really nice fish almost at the net, and then picked up two smaller fish when they fished at the little dam at Sponors.

Overall the trip didn't pan out anywhere near as well as we had hoped. The big rain was appreciated for bringing some water into the system, but we were perhaps a few days early for fishing these rivers.

Meantime, I picked up a yearling brown in fast water of the Snowy at Island Bend. Water was nice and clear but running very high due to releases from Guthega.



Looking pretty clean here

Luke provided some photos of the scenes – much appreciated.



As did JM.

*Threatening clouds over
Spencers' Creek*



Perisher Creek – looks pretty but Evan, Luke, Jason and I fished it at various times on Sunday with no sign of trout.



Ben did real well on his way home telling me that while he only got one around the 40cm mark, he had dropped another and had a few takes all in a couple of hours. Our cover photo of a very pretty fish validates Ben's call that a lot of streams around Braidwood are worthy of exploration – in this case 'Upper Shoalhaven'

Local Trout Stocking

While CAA is not a member of MAS – indeed I've been advised that our Incorporation in the ACT would likely debar us from joining an organisation authorised to operate in NSW under NSW government legislation – a number of



Some members of Queanbeyan Anglers Club about to undertake stocking. ACTFF and CAA members in evidence here.



our members are also members of some of the local sub-branches.

*Peter at work with his bucket.
Here's hoping for more rain
this summer*

December and subsequently February are the times that the sub-branches get out to conduct stocking using fish from Gaden Hatchery. December sees stocking with fry (both rainbow and brown) while Jan/Feb is generally brown fingerlings. Locations for stocking are not secret and selected with public access as a factor.



DPI has an interactive map showing historic stocking details – the link is available on our [useful links](#) page.

CRFA News



CAA members will be aware that CRFA is in the process of winding up. The process has been a slow one, but a significant step has been completed with the association funds being dispersed to 'like minded' organisations including CAA. The transfer was predicated on the funds being expended for purposes for which the money was obtained by CRFA and which accord with the tenets of CRFA ie to support stocking and fishing environment projects within the capital region.

ACT Natives Stocking

Jason M attended some recent stocking by ACT Government and provided the following report. A more [comprehensive report](#) is on our website.

On Friday 4 January, the ACT stocked a number of ponds around Canberra. A couple of CAA members attended, to lend a hand. Overall, it was a pretty self-supporting stocking, with the fishery owner (Noel) and NCA rep (Mark) doing it, but we lent a hand delivering the fish. They were in tanks on the vehicle, netted out and weighed before being transferred either by bucket (for longer walks) or straight to the water by net (at boat ramps). The buckets were mixed with the local water to align the temperature. The water was very oxygenated, and along with Noel's careful driving (usually not afraid to back up the traffic), the survival rate

Yellowbelly fingerlings went into Yerrabi, Lake Ginninderra and Lake Burley Griffin



of the fingerlings was fantastic. At about 0.5g per yellowbelly, it will be a few years before we see the results on the end of a line. NCA don't stock the rivers and creeks, only dams, and try

to alternate between cod and yellowbelly to ensure a mixed stock and resilience. All the releases were in single locations, not dispersed around the lakes. We tried to put them straight into cover or weed or reeds, and no cormorants or similar predators were nearby.

The Lake Ginninderra release (15,000 yellowbelly) was the press opportunity, and our junior angler was quickly spied by the Acting Chief Minister and they did some co-releases of fish. It was good to see the heels coming off and Yvette Berry getting in and enjoying the fish release (and swapping a few fishing stories). The fish were released into Yerrabi Pond, Lake Ginninderra, Lake Burley Griffin, Lake Tuggeranong, Isabella Plains, and Batten? Pond. Minister Gentleman also noted that the Upper Stranger fish accidentally released by the contractor to Lower Stranger were being replaced, with the fish still in Lower Stranger (maybe that was the pond I was stocking at Isabella Plains).

Murray Cod fingerlings went into Lake Tuggeranong and the two others in that vicinity



Overall, it was a good event, and a great opportunity to talk to the ACT people involved, the native fish hatchery (who still has murray cod unallocated this year), see the spots used by

NCA to release fish, and also to the experience of a fish release (which the junior angler quite enjoyed). It was also interesting to compare what was reported about the event, compared to the media statements and other background information.

(Ed: The Canberra Times reporting is [here.](#))

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News



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

Gaden Trout Hatchery - latest report

Key points Sep-Dec 2018

- The proposal to have a shared trail bridge (walking/biking trail down banks of Thredbo River to Jindabyne) within the hatchery grounds has progressed with design concepts and geotechnical assessments of proposed bridge piers being complete. In the near future, this may result in restriction of access to the picnic area and redirection of both vehicle and foot traffic through the Gaden site. It is anticipated there will be minimal disruption to normal hatchery operations however public visitation is likely to be impeded.

Fish Stocking

- Egg picking has been completed for all species, with fertility excellent (93% brown trout and 88% rainbow trout).
- MAS branches collected 87,300 brown fry and 177,000 rainbow fry from the Gaden Hatchery and with exception of the Cabramurra branch, were stocked by 9 December.
- Other stockings were undertaken by Gaden Hatchery staff and that information can be found [at this link](#).

Atlantic Salmon

- Surplus to stocking and brood stock requirement Atlantic fingerlings were disposed of in early December.
- 50,000 fry were stocked into Khancoban Pondage and 10,000 fingerlings will shortly be stocked into Lake Jindabyne.

Brook Trout

- 10,000 brook trout fingerlings were released into Lake Jindabyne, 2,000 fry into Dry Dam and 5,000 fry into Three Mile dam.

Rainbow Trout

- 20,000 fry were held in heat-controlled tanks for the lake Jindabyne tagging program. These fish will be kept separate until stocking occurs in April.
- Lake Eucumbene sourced fry have also be retained and kept separate for stocking into Lake Jindabyne and genetic diversity of future captive brood stock/fishing clinic fish. Fertility of Eucumbene sourced fish – 85%.

Brown Trout

- Due to success of ova development and likelihood of sufficient numbers for proposed stockings with normal mortality events, a further 32,000 eyed ova (last in production system) were transferred to Dutton Trout Hatchery for liberation by NETAS branches.

I'm so sorry! I had no idea I was buying water weeds.

People buying and selling water weeds online is a biosecurity problem in NSW and can lead to weeds spreading and harming our natural environments.

Some of the more dangerous and invasive weeds like frogbit, salvinia, water hyacinth and water lettuce can be found for sale as ornamental water features or fish tank plants on sites such as Gumtree, eBay and Facebook. Buying, selling and handling these plants in NSW is illegal. So you do your bit to protect our environment and stay out of trouble, you need to take time to know what you are buying so you don't get more than you bargained for.

About If you know of, or suspect you have seen illegal sales of water weeds, or for more information, contact your local council weeds officer or contact the NSW Biosecurity Helpline 1800 680 244.

Visit the [Water Weeds website](#) or download the [NSW WeedWise app](#) for more information about water weeds.



Temperature and the Carp Herpes Virus

Research has identified that the timing of any release of the Carp Herpes Virus is critically important. The virus has a specific temperature range of between about 16-28 degrees Celsius when it can replicate in Carp and cause disease. If it is cooler or warmer than that, a carp can become infected but not die and instead become immune and a carrier of the virus. [Read more at this link.](#)

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW News



[December issue](#) arrived too late for December *Burley Line* deadlines. Most interesting item seemed to be a report about further Estuary Perch stocking into Brogo. Also further on the brumby issue "The NSW Scientific Committee has listed 'Degradation and loss by Feral Horses (brumbies, wild horses)' as a key threatening process under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act, effective from 30 November 2018."

The [January issue](#) has arrived. It is interesting that the recent fish kills on the Darling are cited here but with numbers like 10,000 fish on the Darling contrasting with claims of a million fish in the press – regardless of the specific numbers this is a very dramatic event, with the RFA article also referring to kills in the Namoi which hasn't seemed to appear in the general press. The situation is very complex and it will be good if some serious science is put into play and not just politics.

The January issue also raises the ongoing argument between MAS and the Snowy Monaro Regional Council. There is a [Facebook page](#) (no need to sign up for Facebook to view it) that is asking interested anglers to lobby council – with all their names and email addresses

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 441](#) arrived with lots of news about bass and EP stocking including near us.

Also [442](#) came in. Most interesting item was probable that the recent Codference presentations are up on [YouTube](#).

These guys are prolific – issue [443](#) and [444](#) have also arrived. Lots of news about their extensive stocking program – Cod, Bass, Golden Perch, Mac Perch, Trout Cod etc. I had been told also that the scale of the Victorian stocking process has had benefit to the NSW native fish hatcheries as compared with the small scale of NSW stockings, even if the dollar for dollar subsidies had been in place.

Just remember folks, those with ACT or NSW Seniors' cards don't need a Victorian Fishing licence.

UMDR News

Antia, from the Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach, sent us a Christmas message which provided an update on 2018:



Thankyou for 2018!

Have a wonderful Christmas and all the best for 2019



Thankyou for 2018, it has been a great year! Thankyou to our partners, funders and supporters. Thankyou to our growing group of adventurous volunteers. Thankyou to all of you that help to look after the upper Murrumbidgee River for the benefit of the whole community (whether they be human, fowl, fish or platypus :) !

Some highlights to celebrate the year:

- Our partners have been continuing to work together with Bush Heritage Australia's conservation planners to develop a 10 year management plan for the UMDR. This plan will look at how we can best look after, protect and enhance the habitats of the upper Murrumbidgee River from Tantangara to Burrinjuck Dam. We anticipate the plan will be ready in early 2019.

volunteers is receiving training (thanks to PaddleNSW) and completing river trips to carry out environmental weeding and planting instream species. This program is part of a NSW Department of Primary Industries Fish Habitat Action Grant. The program kindly acknowledges a contribution from the Capital Region Fishing Alliance for Tools & equipment for this project to carry out habitat restoration works. Watch this space in 2019!

- The UMDR will build on the riparian restoration work in the Bumbalong Valley and beyond through the 'Rivers of Carbon Upper Bidgee Phase II' project. This project is part of a NSW Environmental Trust funded Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation grant. We look forward to working with our existing and new landholders partners in 2019.
- Macquarie perch habitat will be rehabilitated along the upper Murrumbidgee River upstream of the Numeralla River confluence. This project is part of a National Landcare Program Environment Small Grant. Willow removal, instream and riparian plantings are planned and will contribute to broader efforts to assist the recovery of Macquarie perch in the upper Murrumbidgee. We are excited to be working with a range of partners including Local Land Services and NSW Department of Primary Industries-Fisheries on this issue in 2019.
- The UMDR and the Australian River Restoration Centre have been working in the background to look at updating our website and we hope to bring you an exciting and new-look website in 2019! This will be in addition to our UMDR facebook page and the social media support we enjoy from our partners such as Bush Heritage Australia.
- The UMDR gratefully acknowledges funding and support that we have received from the Murray Darling Basin Authority, Bush Heritage Australia, the Australian River Restoration Centre, ACT Government, Local Land Services, the NSW Environmental Trust, the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust and the National Landcare Program in 2019.

The UMDR wishes you a wonderful, safe Christmas holiday and all the very best for 2019! We look forward to connecting and working with you all in 2019!

Fishing Items for Sale

There are two that have been advertised within the ACTFF community but I've received agreement to advertise here. Contact Burley Line Editor to get the vendor's contact details:

Item 1:

Hi all

I am downsizing my fly gear. So I will be selling off my gear slowly

First up

Temple fork creek series switch rod, New. 5wt. 11 foot 4piece with sock and tube. \$400.00 or near offer. Never been used

Anyone interested in 2 weight or 3 weights give me a call

Item 2:

Fibreglass boat with 40 HP outboard and trailer. Stable fishing platform when stationary plenty of power to plane with top speed around 22 knots at full throttle. Heap of extras.

Price \$4,500

Boat:

4m Open Runabout, Registered until 12/09/2019. Extras including:

Forward Controls, VHF Radio, Bimini, Steps, Compass, Fishfinder, Folding and Swivelling Padded Seats, Luggage Net, 23 Litre fuel tank, 11 Litre fuel tank, 4 x Rod Holders, Fish & Bait Eskiis, Filleting Board, Rock Anchor, Sand Anchor, 2x Paddles, 4x Lifejackets, Bow & Stern Lines, Tool Kit & Spares, First Aid Kit, Fire Extinguisher, V-Sheet, Flares, Torch, Mirror, Whistle, Horn,

Covers and Tie Downs

Outboard:

40 HP 2-Stroke Parson. Long Shaft, Electric Start, Forward Control. Less than 60 hours run time. High grade marine aluminium. Cost new \$3995

New NRMA Marine battery fitted with two year warranty (until November 2020)

Cover, Hose & Bunny Ears

Parts List and Service Manual

Trailer:

Registered until 31/03/2019

Galavanised Steel Wheels (3), Good Tyres (Spare unused), Bearing Buddies, LED Lights, Swing Jockey Wheel, Hand Winch, Stone Protection (Rubber Strips and Bitumen Paint)

pictures at <https://1drv.ms/f/s!AnrKl13rTnDzgdoS8YXJMLSOSO4zXw>

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 rating scale)	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
Ben	Brown	'maybe 40cm at a guess'	Fly	Upper Shoalhaven 17 Dec

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at
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 supporters below for their ongoing assistance to our club.



Affiliates

Canberra Anglers' Association is proudly affiliated with the following

