

THE BURLEY LINE

Newsletter of the Canberra Anglers' Association Inc.

Issue 141—Mar 2019



Eli's first real fish landed



Some of the Stuff in This Issue

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President's Notes

Dear Colleagues

The CAA year started well with a relaxed, fish-filled adventure on LBG led by the indefatigable Charlie. Over 40 redfin were landed in an hour or so, with Greg, a man better known for hauling raffle tickets than hauling in record numbers of fish, achieving a personal best of over 15 fish – the count was lost in the frenzy. Charlie and Lyall provide a trip report in this newsletter on what was a convivial and rewarding morning. For those that couldn't make it, we have other trips ahead on the calendar and I encourage everyone to come along – they are friendly, enjoyable weekends in good company and you may even catch a fish.

After one of the hottest and dustiest summers on record we seem to now be enjoying some of the gorgeous autumn weather that the Capital Region is famous for. It will, I hope, entice us all outdoors before winter arrives again. Of concern though are predictions that this autumn will be warmer and drier and this is likely to be the pattern of the future. Bill reported at the last meeting on the catastrophic losses of trout fingerlings at the Gaden hatchery due to unusually high temperatures. We also know that warmer water contains less oxygen so even adult trout in our slowly warming rivers face tough times ahead (<https://www.hatchmag.com/articles/trout-and-water-temperature-how-hot-too-hot/771553>). A recent report by the Academy of Science (<https://www.science.org.au/files/userfiles/support/reports-and-plans/2019/academy-science-report-mass-fish-kills-digital.pdf>) further highlights the impact of drought and river management practices on the future of Australia's inland fisheries. Investigating the mass fish kills in the Menindee Lakes, the scientific panel report that:

"The root cause of the fish kills is that there is not enough water in the Darling system to avoid catastrophic decline of condition through dry periods. This is despite a substantial body of scientific research that points to the need for appropriate flow regimes. Similarly, engagement with local residents, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, has been cursory at best, resulting in insufficient use of their knowledge and engagement around how the system is best managed."

The acknowledgment by an august panel of scientists of the importance of local knowledge to complement science is a significant event and an invitation to groups like CAA to engage more in influencing the way our rivers are managed. CAA has a solid record of participation in advisory boards and engaging with scientists, and I encourage all members to consider how local and scientific knowledge can be brought together for better river and fish management. Perhaps ask your local member what they are doing for river management and restoration...

On the subject of scientists, our first speaker for the year was Max Mallett from the Institute of Applied Ecology, University of Canberra, talking about his trout research in Jindabyne. Max will be one of those scientific leaders of the future who will combine good research with local knowledge, and I look forward to having him back to hear the results of his research. Please let the committee know of other events on river and fish management that CAA members could attend, and other leaders or researchers we can invite to speak to us.

All the best

Rod

From the Editor's Desk

A recent report by a CAA member of a trout kill at Pejar Dam were investigated by DPI. Oxygen levels and temps were seen to be OK at the time of inspection and no dead fish found. Regardless, it was good to see our members keeping an eye on our waters and reporting in when things go wrong.

This day Eli managed to reel in his very first fish. The barbed trebles and a compliant redfin help him achieve this and he was VERY happy with his efforts. Needless to say Darlene and I were triple his excitement!

This issue has a number of reports from related associations including severe problems during that recent heatwave at Gaden and actions being taken by the Council of Freshwater Anglers. Good to see JQ and Jaime again providing some interesting reading plus the report by Charlie and Lyall on our recent event at Lake Burley Griffin. Some news snippets discovered by Luke plus I report on experiments with waders in the pool.

Coming Events

Next Meetings:

Wed 13th Mar – 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. Speaker to be advised.

Next Events:

Sat 23rd Mar – Natives at Yerrabi organised by Jason Q. Details will be announced closer to the time.

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

Some News from JQ

Our immediate past president has been a bit quiet, but then up pops two email reports. One about our youngest member:

Dear Bill and members,

I wanted to share with you Eli's recent achievement.



A couple of weekends ago we had a few spare hours to get onto Lake Burley Griffin. The day out was perfect, just when there was a lull in the heat waves Canberra had been receiving.

*Jason and a Bass which he
landed a few weeks before
Christmas on the Nepean River
at Penrith*

We had BBQ breakfast alongside the water edge before we headed out around Black Mountain Peninsula and right up to the Governor General's House.

Apart from the myriad of rowers, the Redfin were also on the chew!

Eli went on to land another 13 redfin and even landed a double-header (Two fish - One lure)!!!

I wish to thank Tackle World Fyshwick for the donated CAA raffle prize that I won some years ago, and Eli got a bend in it. Well lots of bends!

Happy Fishing!

Jason Q

and the other about some recent bass success:



A friend who lives in the Penrith area said to me the top water action was going off and I had to get in on it.

Armed with my 5wt Epic glass rod and mini dhalberg diver we went on to catch a s&^t load! Heaps of fun..

No secret to it.. Be on the water before sunrise and fish the twilight and about 1 hours into daylight, then the action is all over.

Hope you too have all been getting out.

Lake Fishing and BBQ Report

by Charlie and Lyall with
photos by Angie and JM



16 February saw many CAA members at Black Mountain Peninsula enjoying excellent weather and good company. It wasn't long before people were hauling out redfin using bait, lures and flies. None were huge but the numbers were impressive.

What follows is a photo montage of the day.

We lost count but the team scored in excess of forty redfin before lunch!!!!



The hero of the day was Greg S who was on fire and caught at least fifteen of the forty. He reeled in one after another then another then another



Lunch was very relaxed and we were lucky to have use of the public shelter out of the sun and the no-fuss electric BBQs.



In our experience, there has not been a Canberra Anglers' field trip where so many fish have been caught in such a short time. Next year's event promises to be even better so don't miss it!!!



Waders and Deep Water

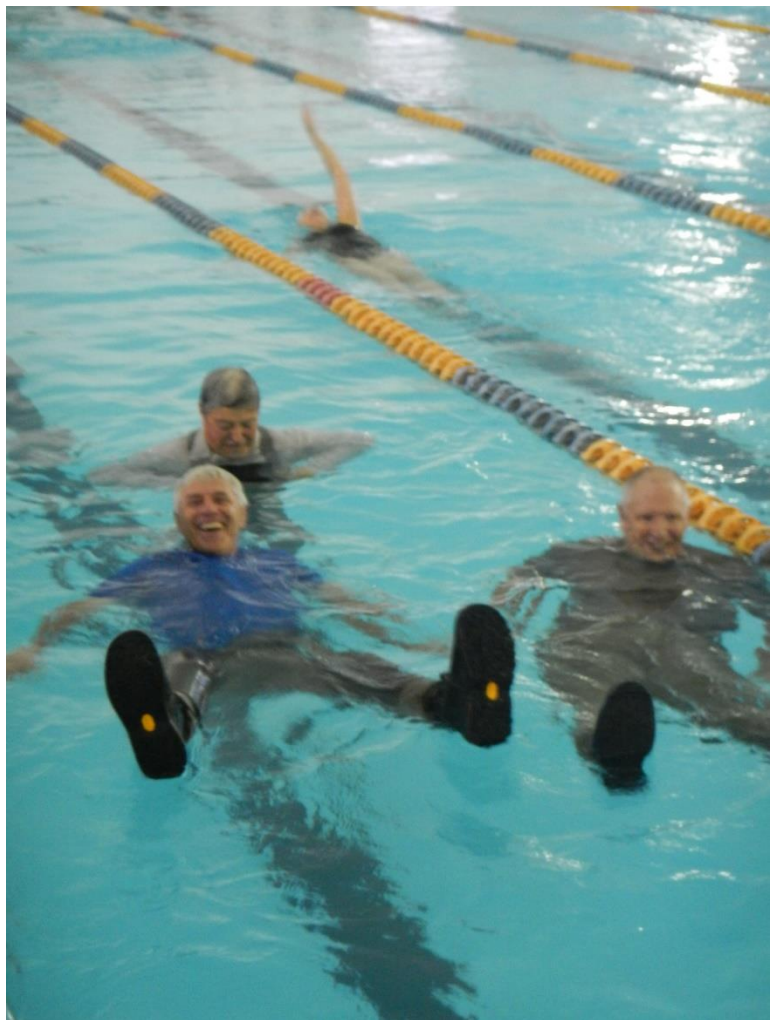
As a member of ACTFF, I was lucky enough to attend one of their more unusual meetings, trying out my waders at the deep end of Civic Pool.

I went into the activity with some pre-conceived ideas, having had a number of falls into rivers. I also was of the mind to debunk some myths – as it happens some were debunked and some were confirmed (at least for me).

I jumped in feet first hitting the bottom and bobbing up to the surface. Sure enough, my waist belt had stopped the water from flowing down into my legs. There was some air in the legs of my waders and up popped my legs. I found I had to paddle with my arms to prevent my head from disappearing under the surface. Now, if you have ever spoken to Glenys you'd know that I float like a rock, with my legs in particular refusing the stay on the surface. I found with my waders on the reverse was the case.

Guy and 'Hippo' with yours truly in the background. No comments please about how shallow the water was! ☺

Your feet tend to be quite buoyant.



“Surely” I thought, “once my waders will with water that buoyancy would become neutral – I was keen to debunk a myth that the weight of the water in the waders would sink to a watery grave. My elastic waist belt could not prevent the air in the legs escaping and water entering – I was watching the others and even those with tight belts were finding the waders eventually full of water. In due course my legs and boots were full of water, but they were still significantly buoyant – debunks the myth of sinking to the bottom but perhaps confirms the one that your waders will invert you. I’m thinking that if you were knocked unconscious in falling in, this could indeed happen – more justification for wearing your life jacket (inflated?) if you are getting around in a boat. I pondered whether my backpack would provide sufficient upper body buoyancy.

Swimming – dog paddling proved possible but far better to lie on your back. In a river, there is a lot of sense in being carried downstream with your feet in front for protection.

Now to get out – general belief is that the weight of the water will be a severe hindrance. Hoiking myself up on the side of the pool (emulating getting into a boat) got me as far as my chest onto the edge, but getting further would require assistance. Going up the steps was possible but the legs

certainly add a load. My biggest worry was that I remember the Orvis website warning against filling Goretex waders with water beyond the knees, mine were full to the chest, lest you blow out a seam. Second time out I thought to drop my chest waders down the knees to allow the water a chance to escape before completing my climb out.

Your experience might be different. I wonder if CAA might do a session at the pool for everyone to see for themselves.

Many thanks to ACTFF, and Guy in particular, for putting this on.

Report by Jaime

I have been a little more interested in saltwater fishing lately, mostly shallow waters, flats, where fly fishing could be more enjoyable. I decided to give it a better try so I spent 2 weekends in a row fishing in estuaries and beaches.

First, in a family trip to Sydney I unexpectedly managed to take almost 2 whole days exploring some nice spots south of Sydney. I tried the fly rod for a while and after not getting any bite I switched to my spinning rod. I don't really know if it was the switch to spinning, to a different area or the time but finally I started getting fish. I caught some small Whiting, other fish that haven't been able to identify and several Flatheads. One of the flatties was large - around 70-80cm - but in his last head shake got loose. After I retrieved back my lure I saw the reason he escaped.

Second weekend I went to explore Moruya and Tuross. After spending a couple of hours in Tuross I decided to leave. It was very crowded, there was a fishing competition with more than 170 fishermen registered plus the regulars in the area. Very nice water around for fishing flats, though! I love it! I will definitely go back.

Since my plan was to keep fishing flats, especially for Whiting, I moved to Moruya. The bite was very quiet so again I decided to switch to spinning gear. I managed to hook a couple of Whiting, For now I will take a good brake; after two weekends in a row paddling and wading sand and mud I am exhausted!

Not only did he leave his teeth marks all around the lure but also broke the rear hook. I didn't know they could be so nasty, I will be more prepared next time.

One of the whiting was of decent size... and gave a good fight which left me excited to keep trying my fly rod next time.



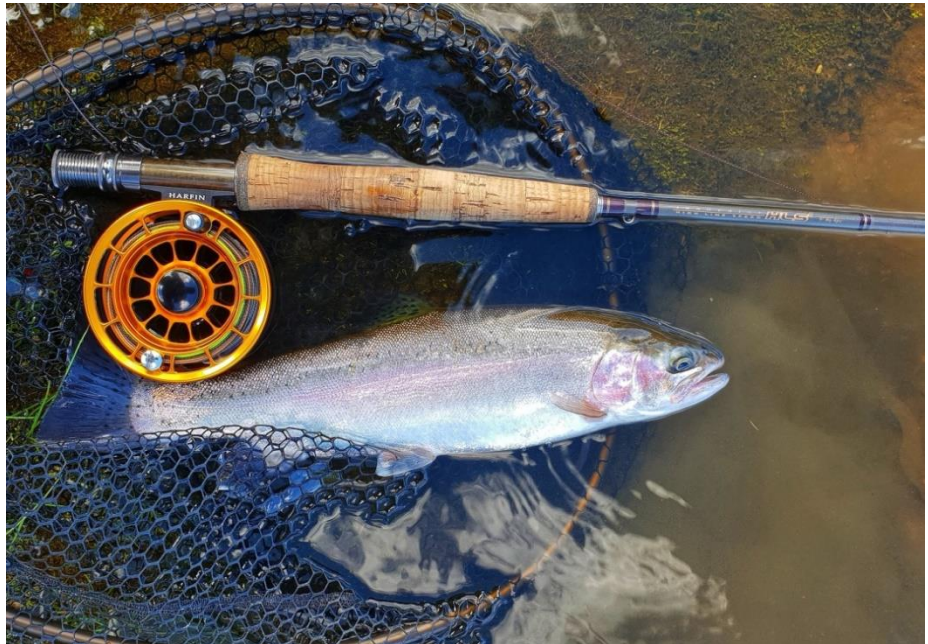
Bobeyan Road Upgrade

Ever vigilant, Luke spotted this article describing how NSW Deputy Premier and local member advising funding for the [sealing of the NSW section of Bobeyan Road to Adaminaby](#). I was originally concerned that this might be an election promise only and that the government was in caretaker mode, but it appears [that starts on 1 Mar](#).

It remains to be seen if the ACT Government will be able to follow suit and seal the road through Namadgi. It'd be great for those of us who travel down that road to not be challenged by drivers speeding on the gravel.

Another Luke Photo

Lyall asked me to include this recent photo by Luke. They've been quite cagey about where this was taken – my intel says 'somewhere on the Monaro' ☺



Snowy Hydro 2.0

Luke also found this [description of the scope of Snowy Hydro 2.0](#) from the ABC and thought it to be a good read and clear explanation.

From my perspective, it provides a good outline but I was disappointed that the environmental issues are not discussed – the impact on the trout fishery of Tantangara is central to our concerns. To date, we've been concentrating on the redfin risk, but there is also the issue of changes in water level impacting the fishery.

The article remarks that the economics are all commercial-in-confidence but one aspect of the economics that Steve Samuels told me about was that 2.0 can only generate or pump at any one time. Also that the changeover will have a delay (moving water has inertia). The whole economics rests on Snowy 2.0 buying solar/wind (or non-renewable) power when it is plentiful and cheap (assuming there is space in Tantangara) then generating and selling only when electricity is more expensive. The classic arbitrage situation.

No-one has been able to describe to me how much it is anticipated that Tantangara will rise and fall, and how fast – it will be driven by the pumping and draining regime. This clearly will impact on the fishery and it seems the extent will depend on the electricity market.

Meanwhile, most people would have caught the [announcement of Federal funding to Snowy Hydro and approval for "early works"](#).

MAS News

Mark and I, as members of QAC and thus MAS, attended the AGM and quarterly meeting early in Feb. A new committee was elected with few changes – most significantly, Steve was re-elected as President. Amongst items specific to MAS, the following items came up with wider relevance.



Steve visited the Gaden Hatchery during the recent heatwave.

- There are effectively no brook trout surviving – the entire brook trout program will be thrown into doubt.
- There has been significant loss of rainbows especially from the brood stock, but surprisingly the brown trout stock has been particularly hit. In all about 30,000 fish have been lost. Checks of water quality showed sufficient dissolved oxygen and no toxicity – the deaths were specifically due to heat.
- Hatchery staff decided to bring forward the stocking into lakes but few were tagged as the tagging process was too stressful for the fish and there was a poor recovery rate from the anaesthesia.
- Staff are monitoring to see if the surviving fingerlings are going ok. If temperatures climb then the remaining will get stocked into a few, best chance, bigger rivers eg Tumut, Snowy below Jindy. Immediate stocking by clubs to smaller rivers is being discouraged though there is a counter argument that slower rivers have less mixing with cooler water deep.

Steve's tenure at the Recreational Fishing NSW (Minister's) Advisory Council ends this June. Steve may be permitted/inclined to contest but advises this definitely will be the last. Anyone interested in an exciting and informative position, please put your hand up when it is advertised (probably after the NSW elections).

The other interesting topic was in relation to MAS' objections to the wild horse legislation. Kerry Pfeiffer represented MAS at a recent meeting of the Invasive Species Council which is agitating for change to the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage legislation. The MAS has been watching the way the Invasive Species Council has been going about the task of lobbying and agitating against the NSW Governments stance on wild horses in Kosciuszko National park and decided to support their campaign. Kerry spoke passionately about the 5 generations of Pfeiffer family who had been on the land in the Monaro and fished up in the high country. He expressed his personal dismay that no adequate controls had been put in place to control the numbers of brumbies and the extent of damage that the overpopulation had caused. He did make clear that MAS focus was on stopping the damage to protect river trout fishing into the future. This engagement and support for the council was limited to the brumby question. (He has made private observations to me that trout ought not be considered an invasive species, indeed its range is under much pressure due to environmental damage – including by brumbies – and climate change.)

Since that time there have been two other items of MAS news:

- Steve and some of the MAS Exec took the Shooters and Fishers party candidate for the Monaro up onto the high plains to view the damage to the waterways caused by brumbies. He came away with a very clear picture of how much the streams have been effected. MAS is not anti-brumby, rather taking a position that numbers need to be strictly controlled a sustainable level, clearly much fewer than are currently roaming the alps.
- The MAS efforts to convince the Snowy Council to review their objection to the stocking of Lake Wallace (just above the Maclauchlin near Nimmitabel) has struck a possible problem. The local Nimmitabel community group who had been supportive of fishing in Lake

Wallace have now made their support conditional upon the provision of a water treatment plant for Nimmitabel (estimated cost of \$2 million). Given the imminent NSW state government election, the matter has been taken off the council agenda for the moment. I'll keep you apprised.

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News



Unfortunately the February general meeting of CFA clashed with Charlie's LBG event and I had to be in Sydney representing MAS instead. CAA representative Stefan couldn't attend as he was recovering from recent surgery. My rough notes are as follows (draft minutes of this meeting and the 27 Feb Executive meeting are available from CAA Secretary):

Nov meeting minutes matters:

- 4x4 driving into trout spawning grounds - still an issue. Looking to install signage that has been obtained. CFA moving to get legislative changes rather than relying on signs etc
- Pres still has task to pursue matters to NSW Govt
- start with trout spawning before considering wider application

CFA survey. Peter will disseminate results to responders. Will prepare suggested actions at next CFA meeting

Pres concerned that personal contact with clubs need to be improved via phone calls. Role of regional VPs?

Fees. Peter suggests two increases would create ruckus. Beyond cpi will require constitutional change. CFA to develop case for presentation to Aug AGM.

WiFi not good enough in the meeting room to conduct Zoom video conference. Exec will research costs for CFA to acquire dongle and run on our own mobile data

RFFTEC report by Peter. 70-30% salt vs fresh but \$1M was transferred to fresh. Continued concern of cost shifting from govt revenue to trust. DPI fishing access website is supposedly to go live "in Feb" but no sign

Laurie from NETAS and Cfr

RFA - Mark Latham has policy and video on One Nation website. Aggregated score cards can be expected in RFA newsletter

treas report - no discussion about the operating deficit

John reported on interclub. Fishing comp extended to Sun morning otherwise largely unchanged. Entry form with info, costs etc on final draft. Survey taken on board with some minor tweaks but won't be explicitly published. (Stefan, I showed John your email to Radge re apologies for not attending and winding back. John was disappointed as he was looking forward to handing over the interclub to you)

Pres Report will be disseminated. Covers fish kill, MDBA Royal Commission, need for science contribution, failure of policy esp related to water mngt/banking, invasive species council, progress on KHV (esp consequence of cod kill), need to pursue the auxiliary control measures such as daughterless carp.

MAS points:

- Fish kill in Gaden potentially impacting on NETAS.
- Effectively no brook trout surviving
- Significant rainbow loss esp brood but surprisingly more brown
- 30,000 fish lost
- Early stocking into lakes but few were tagged as poor survival
- Monitoring to see if existing fingerlings are going ok. If temps climb then the remaining will get stocked into a few, best chance, bigger rivers eg Tumut, Snowy below Jindy.
- Chiller units - CFA had spt the bid
- MAS considering idea of deep water extraction from Jindy rather than raising the level of the weir. There was much nodding when I suggested we might call on CFA spt.

NETAS - reticulation system at Ebor has proven its worth with few fish lost. Craig Watson emailed to say trout strategy held up by fish kill. Concern that stocking permit may emphasise the need for water quality

possibility of fingerlings into Fish River ... tagged. Looking to have some science. Ambit agenda item for CTAS to consider stocking tiger trout into redfin infested waters

Orange quiet. Restricted the stocking due to poor river conditions.

Since the meeting, the issue of the Academy of Science report to Federal Labor on the Murray/Darling fish kill has provided an impetus for a strong letter from the President bemoaning the NSW Govt handling of the river. I'm seeking agreement of the President to distribute it to CAA members.

The [February issue of the CFA Newsletter](#) arrived just after the Feb *Burley Line* was uploaded. There were a number of interesting items, especially related to the issue of fish kills. Even more interesting was the [March issue](#) which has excerpts of the President's letter to the various ministers/shadow ministers (available [here](#)). I'm particularly taken by *"In particular, there appears to have been a persistent retreat from objective scientific findings in the face of pressure from short-sighted vested interests, leading to contempt being shown for any rational planning for the public good, especially in respect of climate change as a serious and developing practical issue that has to be dealt with as a matter of reality."* The need to be informed by facts is a constant refrain from CAA in such forums. There is also some information on the CFA Interclub Meet 3-5 May. This is a major fundraiser for CFA (certainly the income is needed) and Stefan has moved a number of times to encourage CAA to submit a team – think about it folks.

CFA are offering up an [archive](#) (this is also on our Useful Links page on our website).

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW News



The February edition came in too late for Feb *Burley Line* but is [here](#). Key points include:

- Much discussion on the forthcoming NSW elections, including an examination of what the current government is providing to recreational fishing and assessment of the attitudes of various parties.
- A lengthy discussion on the recent fish kills in NSW, including a statement by Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA) and DIP Fisheries.

[March edition](#) is dominated by saltwater, especially Sydneysider issues, but if you have some thoughts of chasing kingfish in Darling Harbour or some rockfishing in the metro area then make sure you read it. One freshwater/somewhat local item was advice that the 2019 Lake Burrendong Easter Fishing Classic has been cancelled due to poor water quality and "signs of stress" in fish. RFA NSW is also promoting the [NSW DPI research program](#) calling for fish frames from Mulloway, Yellowtail Kingfish, Snapper, Dusky Flathead, Tailor and Black Bream.

RFA NSW are offering up an [archive](#) (this is also on our Useful Links page on our website).

Fisheries Victoria News

[Fish eFacts 446](#) has arrived. 800,000 Murray Cod, Golden and Silver Perch fingerlings released!

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



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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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

