

THE BURLEY LINE

Newsletter of the Canberra Anglers' Association Inc.

Issue 142—Apr 2019



Claude and an 8lb Kiwi



Some of the Stuff in This Issue

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From the Editor's Desk

This issue has seen the return of some 'tips from members for members' – many thanks JQ for your contribution – even if the photo is a bit scary. A little humour has come in from Luke (who has recently resurrected our Facebook page – much appreciated mate). Ian is away and took time out to send a short report – Peter and I are looking forward to joining in the fun. With winter coming, and many of us driving diesels, I've copied in here some notes I've extracted (with permission) from ACTFF. A disappointing report is also here from MAS – this will impact on local stocking. A highlight of this issue is the report from Claude and BJ on their recent trip to NZ – just check out the cover photo to tempt you into reading the full report.

Coming Events

Next Meeting:

Wed 10th Apr – 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. Speaker will be Amanda Slade presenting on changes to the ACT Fisheries Act 2000.

Next Events:

Fri 5th – Sun 8th Apr – JQ is taking us up to the mountains camping. More details were sent out via email. (note this is before the next meeting – coming soon)

Sat 6th Apr – it is unfortunate that the [Ozfish Unlimited Australia Fly Fishing Festival](#) in Penrith clashes with the high country event. There is an all-star lineup.

Wed 10th Apr – Another clash unfortunately. NSW Department of Primary Industry has invited interested anglers to an open afternoon at Gaden Trout Hatchery in Jindabyne from 4:00 to 6:30 pm on Wednesday 10 April to hear about developments in the NSW Trout Strategy Plan. You'd be rushing to get back in time for our meeting.

Wed 24th Apr – Fly tying – usual time of 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. Fly will be advised.

Call for Volunteers

The Fly Fish NSW/ACT organising Committee is currently calling for volunteer controllers for the upcoming Fly Fish Australia National Fly Fishing Championships – Tumut, NSW. The championships are being held 22nd-25th May 2019. I understand a few of our members will be competing and this would be a good chance to watch their style and learn more about this sport of ours.

[More information](#) is on our news blog.

Another Tip from Members for Members

These two from Jason Q.

I wanted to share with you a pretty simple and innovative idea I was provided by an Australian Representative during a recent fly fishing comp.

In the gusty wind on Tantangara I really struggled with line management and keeping in touch with my flies. The wind would continually blow the line in and around the boat, and also off the boat. This almost every cast end in a tangled mess or line drooping in the water and waving all over the place. Both not helpful when you're focusing staying in touch, making



your next cast and untangling the mess or trying to cast and your line is deep in the water and holding it back from shooting through the guides.

The gizmo is a stripping mat. It's placed at my feet in the boat and the tees easily catch the line as you strip the line back

in. There are ones you can buy, but for all of the gear in the garage it didn't cost me a cent and it's likely you will too.

Also.

Over the years of fly fishing I've owned vests, slings, hip packs, minimalist necklaces and pocket fly boxes, back packs etc. Each few years it seems I am bouncing from one to the next and I'm not really sure why!?! More pockets, les pockets, drowned hip packs, sore shoulder slings... I don't know, but I am back

It's made of fly screen, golf tees, stainless screws and some electrical tape. I think the photos tell a process to make. But if you'd like more details, please give me a yell.

to the traditional vest again.

I rang Nathan to see how he was getting on in the fast lane of Melbourne. Apart from being well, he told me of the new Simms vest range. I said to Nathan to send me a photo of it for real. The website doesn't do it justice.



Nope, Jason hasn't changed that much over Christmas ... this is Russ complete with black bucktail chest wig.

I'll leave the rest to you and needless to say Nath and Russ at the Fly Fisher Melbourne are living the dream.. Yes in my new fly vest!!

Thanks to BJ and Claude for the courier service.

Give Nathan a call.. Order up and tell him you miss him and want him home!

Tight loops and looking pretty in my new vest.

Winter is Coming

I've received permission from ACTFF to reproduce this article on winter diesel from their newsletter *Flylines*. It gives a salutary lesson after a number of competitors at the FFA Nationals at Falls Creek suffered

from issues with their diesel fuel. I've since had commentary that the conditions weren't so bad as to cause this diesel issue, however I can recall the Special Air Service having troubles with diesel in their first winter in the mountains of Afghanistan, so it can't be too far wrong (if you are planning a trip in similar conditions).

The FFA Nationals (hosted by FFA Victoria) were to commence on Thursday 22nd November and finish Saturday 24th. The competition was to be held at 4 different venues with Falls Creek the central base to travel to and from each of the locations. Boat sessions were at Rocky Valley Storage, a bank session at Pretty Valley Pondage and river sessions on the Mitta Mitta and Kiewa Rivers. There were 48 participants with the best competition fly fishers in the country attending.

ACTFF was well represented with 10 anglers being; Paul, Jason, Craig, Mark, Brendan, Tim, Dave, John, Shane and Kerryn.

Competitors and Controllers travelled from ACT, NSW, SA, TAS, and QLD for the event.

Some of you would have heard or seen on our Facebook page that the FFA Nationals at Falls Creek were cancelled.

The areas where we are likely to catch trout often encompass the Alpine areas of Australia. The weather conditions can and do change rapidly and we need to be prepared for whatever Mother Nature chooses to throw at us. To be safe, we need to have some type of clothing and equipment with us, that will allow you to safely exit the worst of the weather, even though it may be late spring or even mid summer. Snow on the Alps has been recorded on Christmas Day - so be prepared!

Alpine diesel is manufactured to an Australian Standard-AS 3570 (1998) and is normally stocked in Alpine areas during the winter months. The following document from BP Australia https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp-country/en_au/media/fuel-news/diesel-cars-alpine-regions-winter.pdf contains some interesting facts on diesel fuel usage in winter and where you can purchase Alpine diesel (although many of the locations indicate that it stocked and used for longer periods than winter). The general recommendation from nearly all the Australian fuel suppliers, is that if you drive a diesel fuelled vehicle and are planning to stay overnight in an Alpine area and the temperatures are likely to be below zero, then only carry enough fuel from the city to your Alpine destination and fill up with local diesel once you get there. That way you have a tank full of the appropriate fuel and it should minimise the problems associated with diesel turning to wax in cold weather. It may not be the cheapest option given the cost of country fuel, but it may avoid a problem caused by the weather. [Editor, ACTFF Flylines.]

Some Humour From Luke

I got a rather cheeky email from Luke – it is lucky that our President and Secretary have a sense of humour, though I had envisaged that Luke was actually too young to know who these characters are.

According to Luke: "Spitting image and they carry on just as much 😊"

The Sec reckons there's plenty of muppets in the CAA, whereas the Pres has asked "We've been promoted to federal cabinet?"

(Ed: apologies to Kermit and all his friends)



Claude and BJ in NZ

Claude and BJ revealed to a number of us "NZ old hands" that they had engineered a week in Twizel. Their report is up on our [Places to Go blog](#). BJ offered some hints to entice you to read the full report (or perhaps more likely to have a chat over a beer at a future meeting).

"Claude's tricky F-Fly switcharoo calling a rainbow from the deep, the in-plain-sight 2 rod-lengths away staring competition with a 65cm brown (that he lost when he blinked) on the tarn, and the 'no-strike' strike technique on one stream that worked once and failed once. The Maestro was as much a magician as Declan and never (ever) failed to pull a rainbow (or 3) out of a lie."

Meanwhile, here is my precis of BJ's words:

Maestro v Magician on the Mackenzie

BJ, Claude and 'The Maestro' (Claude branded work chum and trained on the Scottish Burns – talented angler Gary) took their first fly fishing holiday trip to the Mackenzie Region of Sth NZ. Initially a location chosen via the randomness of Claude's extended family having vacancies at their sometime AirBnB cabin in Twizel, to then find out it's a bit of a Mecca for CAA members past and present – which brought us an abundance of enthusiastic info, advice chats and books. Many thanks to Bill, Ben and particularly Mark for thoroughly prepping

us and providing a laundry list of 'must-do' fishing locations. It's one of the many bonuses of being a club member.

Monday was our planned guide day with [Declan Wong](#) at the head of Lake Pukaki and working the tail of the Tasman River. Moving slowly, scanning and spotting cruising fish in the lake shallows and casting nymphs to twitch without spooking was the task. It seemed like Bonefish fishing when wading in shallows (between calf and mid-thigh depths), crystal clear water and spotting cruising fish which were never below 50cm in length. We eventually moved to the river mouth and the even more subtle arts of stalking large browns in prime lies. It was a bright day – yet the fast water, depth and light angles still meant a sixth sense (or prior knowledge!) was also essential. A number fish were unattainable, and lessons were learnt (mine was about rod v drag tension management without busting – twice!). Gary nearly did a 'Brad Pitt – River Runs Through It' downstream run to hang on to a 7lb-er, but Claude was the happiest player with an 8lb Brown (see photo of the month) captured on a mean drift with a Black Gnat from across the stream, after the downstream drifts with nymphs failed to excite. Claude tamed and backed the fish across to the shallows for beaching and hand capture.

We were now on our own recognisance for 5 ½ more days fishing and we hit it hard, with a couple of 12 Hr days. Loch Cameron, Upper Ahuriri River and Tarns,



Upper Ahuriri River and Tarns,

Lower Ahuriri River and spring stream tribs, Tekapo and Gray's River (including nightmare 25km/h chunky gravel access road trip), Hopkins River, one hour on the Kelland

Pond, and the lovely Fraser Stream in our accommodation backyard.

A lot of water & kms marched in waders, high stepping tussocks breaking a sweat. We landed some very pleasing fish from hand sized to armfuls.....at least one good fish was caught by at least one of us on all bar one outing. But the ones that got away (on spooking cast, obstruction or tight drag) were going to be the best. Imagination has assured that the fishing, perfect weather



good mates

and the unbeatable scenery



made us want to desperately earn enough brownie points at home to come back soon-ish. Maybe it could rain a bit in Australia too?

Short Report from Ian

Ian is currently in NZ conducting reconnaissance for Peter and me. He provided a recent update. My response was simply to point out that he is becoming a dry fly snob like that angler who lives at my house. (I'm still trying to identify the shingle beach in the photo).

Hello Bill

Yesterday I told you about a day when all three of us had problems hooking or staying hooked onto fish. Today was

different for me. I spent quite a bit of time looking rather than casting but it paid off. I decided to concentrate on a feeding fish that I missed twice at the tail of a pool yesterday. Here's the timeline.

1305 - arrive at river (the Mataura) on a still, clear day, sit down at vantage point above big pool, no surface action, wait.

1332 - first rise seen, but on far side of pool, don't want to cast over target spot, so wait.

1344 - target fish feeds on surface at tail of pool, carefully move to position below, watch for further action.

1353 - no further rises, but know the holding spot from yesterday's misses. Two sighter casts with no.16 Parachute Adams, third cast gets taken.



*lovely 47cm brown
subsequently landed and
released.*

1400 - Sit down at vantage point and wait. Nothing happening.

1424 - fish seen earlier at far side of pool feeds on surface again. Wade into pool far enough to reach feeding bubble line. Same fly, after about 5 casts, got it right and on again! Acrobatic 50cm brown landed and released.

What do you do after that? Clearly should have gone straight back to house. Instead pursued a

range of rising fish for the next two hours without success but no regrets. A lovely afternoon on the Mataura!

MAS News



Mark and Bill, 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, an attempt was made to stock some brown fingerlings into the McLaughlin but all died almost immediately as the water was too low in oxygen. Fingerling stocking has been put on hold – it is unlikely that any will be stocked in our region. The hatchery staff have to be commended for their actions to save the fingerlings in their holding tanks. Apparently they bought up all the ice in Jindabyne to cool the water – unfortunately the ponds with brood stock (especially the brook trout) were too large for this emergency measure.

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News



The [February issue](#) arrived just after the Feb *Burley Line* was uploaded. There were a number of interesting items, especially related to the issue of fish kills.

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 is [here](#). Key points include:

- Much discussion on the (then) 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.

The March edition is [here](#). Key points include further discussion on the (then) forthcoming NSW election with details of each party's position on angling and interestingly one from Labor in respect to TSRs. As it happens, the result of the NSW elections will probably mean this idea won't ever get traction.

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.



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
Bill	Brown	28cm	Dry Fly	Thredbo above Ngarigo 15 Mar 2019

Contact Us

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

Visit us on the web at
www.canberra-anglers.asn.au

Email *Burley Line* contributions
to: burley-line@canberra-anglers.asn.au



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

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.



Capital Fly Casting
www.capitalflycasting.com

Affiliates

Canberra Anglers' Association is proudly affiliated with the following

