

THE BURLEY LINE

Newsletter of the Canberra Anglers' Association.

Issue 143—May2019



“part of the joy of trout fishing is the environments we wander into”



Some of the Stuff in This Issue

- From the Editor's Desk
- Coming Events
- Fishing Reports
- External Body Reports
- Notable Fish

From the Editor's Desk

The weather didn't seem to have read the script over Easter. Yep, a little cooler in the evening and the leaves were falling, but the temperatures were unseasonable. Whereas Peter, Ian and I were in NZ with some drastic winds and floods but thankfully still got a few fish (especially that 'almost a Kiwi' Ian). Anyway, we seem to be now getting some rain, but I'm unsure if it is having impact on the Monaro streams.

One big item of news is that our own prodigal son, Nathan, is back in town and the powerhouse behind an expansion of WetSpot in Fyshwick taking over the Compleat Angler franchise following the Pratt's closure. I'll pop more info up on the news blog in due course but Nathan tells me it won't be truly operational for a few weeks yet.

This issue seemed to be shaping up as a bit thin but clearly my mind is slipping – had totally forgotten Luke's report on the April trip that he had sent to me while I was away. It was an excellent report so I've popped it into [our "Places" blog](#) for visibility. A copy is included here also. Claude has reported back on some time he had on Eucumbene plus a couple of mystery photos from Luke. JQ has been competition fishing and he explains a little about how it works. Maybe the rest of you have been too busy fishing to report in but, as always, I truly appreciate my reliable correspondents coming through.

Breaking news: This updated version has Luke's full report PLUS Claude submitted some up-to-date intel on his trip on 5 May to the Tumut – essential reading for those going up with Stefan later this month.

Claude remarked to me the other day that our 'photo of the month' and cover shots are perhaps dominated by "fish grab" – yep, guilty as charged. Accordingly this month has a more scenic cover image courtesy of Claude – thanks mate.

Coming Events

Next Meeting:

Wed 8th May – 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. Speaker will be Associate Professor Chris Fulton from the Research School of Biology at the ANU will be telling us about the endangered high country Murray crayfish.

Next Events:

Thu 16th May – ACT Fly Fishers have kindly invited all CAA members to their monster fly fishing gear auction night from 7:30 pm at the Deakin Soccer Club at 3 Grose Street in Deakin. The idea is to bring along your pre-loved but good fly fishing gear on the evening and have them auctioned off to provide you with dollars in your pocket and provide beginning fly fishers (or you) with nice rods, reels, lines and all manner of gear. ACTFF will keep ten percent of the sale price which is next to nothing. Just like previous auctions it promises to be a fun night.

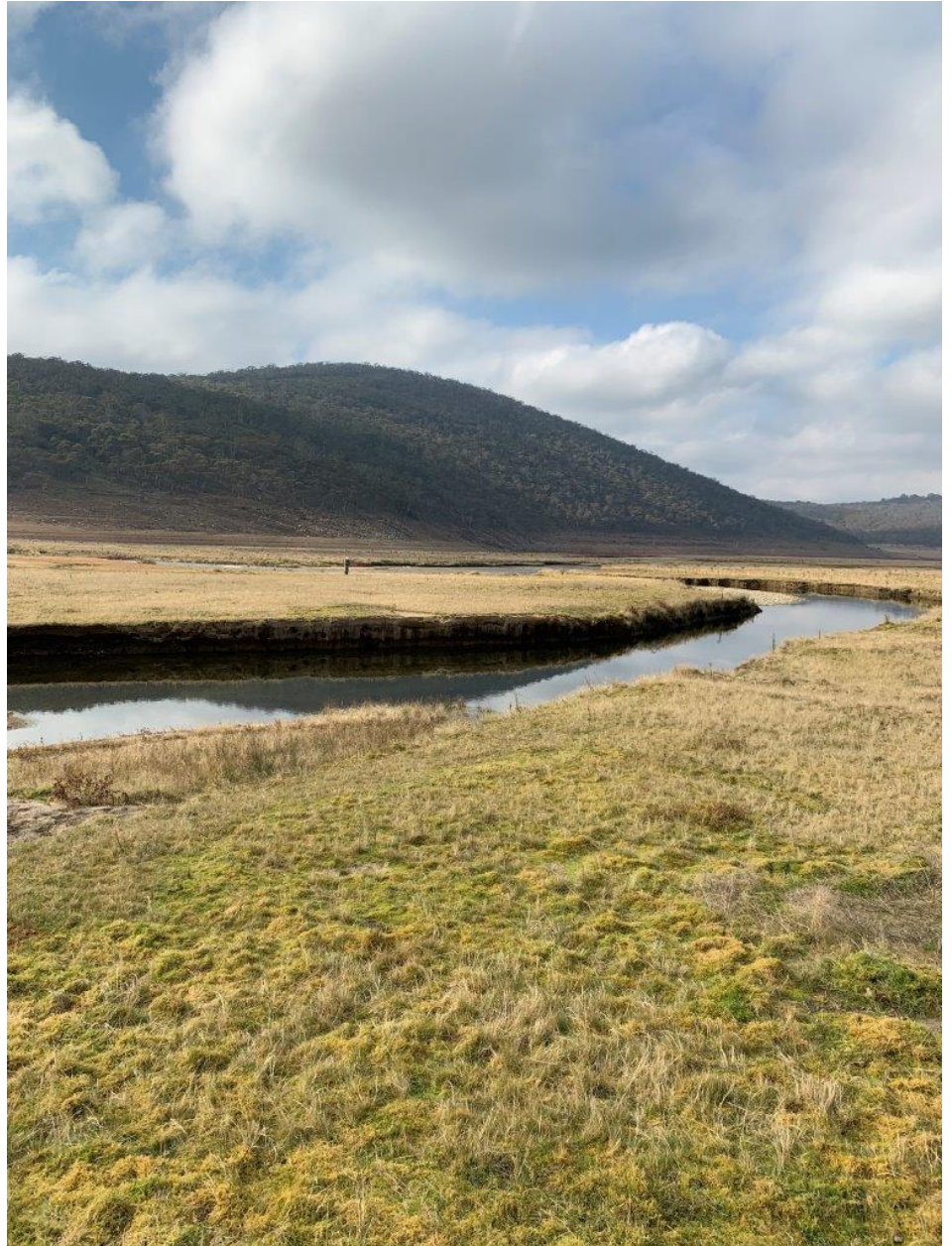
Fri 17th – Sun 19th May – Stefan is hosting our annual trip to Tumut. More information has been sent out via email – make sure you read Claude's report later in this issue.

Wed 22nd May – Fly tying – usual time of 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. Fly will be advised.

Claude Down to the Eucumbene River

Howdy folks,

Shot down to the Euc River on Sunday and thought you may be interested in some intel.

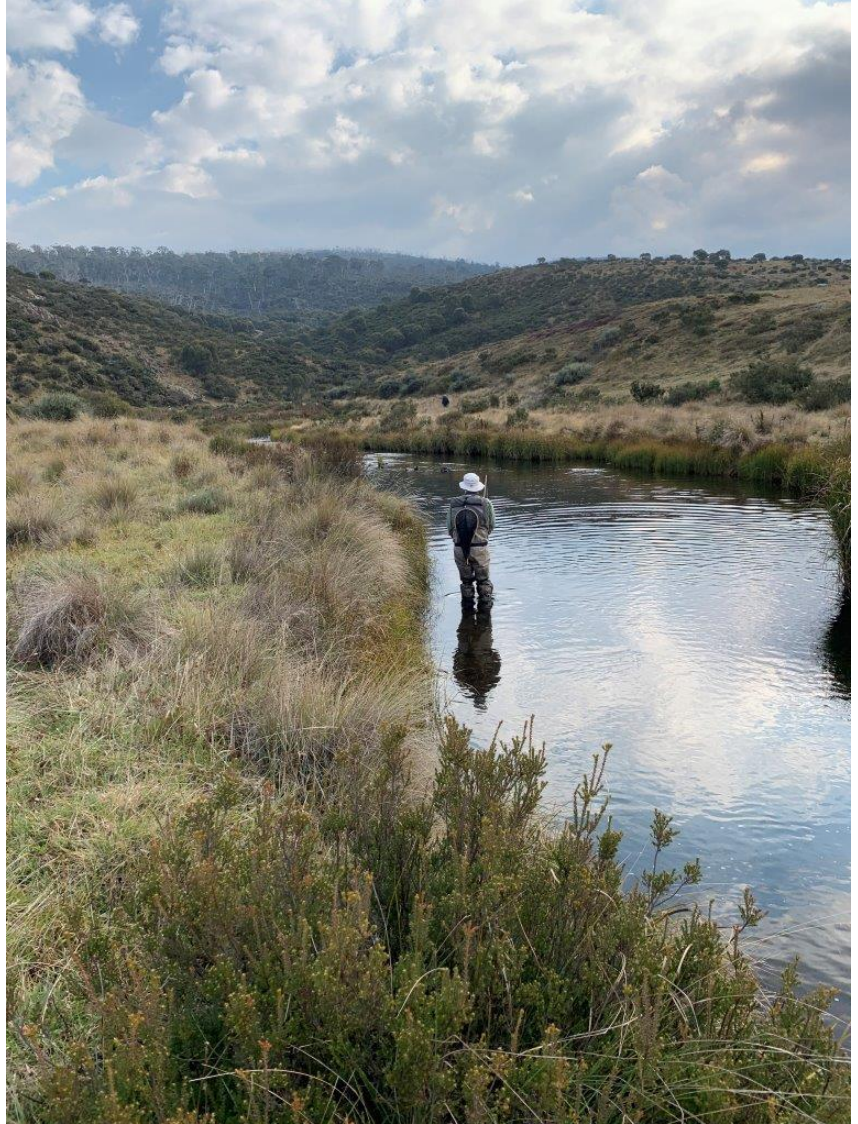


*Looking upstream from near
the Portal junction with
Eucumbene*

We parked at the Portal and walked downstream about 1 km. The Portal was 'open' which made the downstream flow pretty strong and the water was a bit muddy as a result. Myself and a mate tried European Czech Nymphing which resulted in only one small brownie caught on a Frenchie. We were told that someone had caught a 30cm or so near the portal on an olive bugger or mrs simpson the previous evening. Upstream of the portal the river was pretty low and slow flowing...we didn't fish it because there were too many folk ahead of us.

We also visited the area downhill from Sawyers Hut. Two cars preceded us and were fishing upstream so we walked about 1km downstream...nice river...but not many fish. I saw a couple of rises during the afternoon but couldn't entice any to snap at the nymphs or dries. Have you ever had any luck in the area...it looked good ...perhaps someone fished it earlier in the day and shutdown the fish?

Eucumbene at Sawyers



When we left there were four cars in the camping area. The start of the up-hill return was a bit hairy in the forester because it looked like plenty of folk had driven up the hill too fast and made it quite (deep) rolly-polly and it took two attempts to make it up...and only hugging the side of the road.

I'm not sure if it's worth fishing during school holidays...it seems like there are plenty of people around the river.

Meanwhile JQ was at the Tumut for a FFA Comp

A teaser for Stefan's Tumut event in May ... one can only hope the river is running at this level. Seems to me that the Snowy Scheme drops it for these comp days and we get the high level compensator. Congratulations to JQ in a good showing but more significantly being selected for Nationals coming soon. JQ's observations follow:



Tumut River looking good.

Dear Editor,

I'd like to briefly share my first Fly Fish Australia river competition for those that have been asking myself lots about it and for those who would have followed NathanW and his successes before he departed for Melbourne.

The competition was held at Tumut township on the Tumut River. It was a four session river comp which meant there was 4x 2hour periods in which you fished an allocated portion of the river.

The river had been marked from the Dam wall approx 12 km out of town, all the way into the main town area near Riverside Caravan park. The portion of water you are allocated is known as a 'beat'. It is my understanding the beats average in length however each beat has at least 2 riffles and a run of water as a minimum. If a length of river doesn't have good fish holding water, the beat may be really long so that it is fair against someone fishing a very short but good fish holding water.

The competition was well supported with 32 anglers, and over 260 fish caught over the 2 days.

The predominant method was European nymphing, other successful methods were dry-dropper (nymph under a dry fly), dry fly only, swinging soft hackles or pulling or swinging large streamers across and down.

I hadn't fished a river other than the weekend before with Luke at the High Country outing, and I hadn't certainly practiced any short line nymphing since well before Eli was born. So quickly YouTube, google, NathanW and LukeC all became my reference material to get my flies, leader setup and fish holding spots in check!

Mostly it paid off with my results being:

- Session 1 - 8 fish
- Session 2 - 3 fish
- Session 3 - nil fish
- Session 4 - 2 fish

This put me in 11th position overall for the weekend.

Largely people caught lots of fish in the first session of the first day. But as the river gets pressured with anglers or caught, the fish begin to shutdown. The second day is where those who are 'next-level' fisher people (1%rs) really put their flies in the right spot, and know where the right spot is! So thank you Nathan, Luke for your advice, and also thank you Lyall for a previous casting tune up earlier in the year.

I am fortunate to have qualified for the Nationals which is being held at Tumut and Tantangara later in May, 2 x river sessions and 2x boat sessions. You may have seen the email and [blog](#) seeking volunteers for controllers? This is a great way to enter the competition scene and learn a few extra tactics that will put you ahead of the rest of your fisher friends!

Hope this somewhat tempts you to get out before the season closes or get to the Tumut outing in the coming weeks.

Luke News

Some images from Luke. Did I say something about glorious days but cool nights.



A very pretty brown



April 2019 High Country trip

The April trip was originally planned by JQ for 'the other side of the mountain' but circumstances got in the way. Fly Fish Australia competitions, Man From Snowy River celebrations, Easter ... so much conspired against the original plan. The locale was changed to camping out at 3 Mile Dam, but attendee numbers dwindled (Peter, Ian and I were in NZ so we had a legitimate excuse). In the end a dynamic duo of JQ and (big) Luke stayed in a cottage at Adaminaby and ventured into the back country. A precis is below with a link to the full story in our "Places" blog – I remain envious of how well it all went. JQ still refuses to give me the precise location, but this inspires me to look more closely.

Jason and I set off early Friday morning for the high-country outing. Unfortunately, some members were unable to make the outing at the last minute which left us with an almost endless list of water to explore and fish. Because of this, we decided to base ourselves

in Adaminaby for the weekend instead of camping at Three Mile Dam - more on that below.

Arriving at Adaminaby and discussing our plans over a coffee at the bakery, Jason and I decided to head up the hill to explore some streams that we wouldn't normally fish in a weekend away. After a long but scenic drive, we pulled up to the stream with the relief that no one else was around and we'd have the water to ourselves (a great feeling!). With the sun shining and next to no wind, we rigged up our 3wt rods and headed upstream.

Such a pretty stream



It didn't take long for Jason to be on the board, hooking onto and landing a nice rainbow on the second pool. After seeing it basically jump out of the water to take his black stimulator, I quickly changed up flies and put on an elk hair caddis and was quickly rewarded with a rainbow of my own on the next run. From

Where accuracy is so much more important than distance.



there we both knew that we were in for a fun afternoon.



As we worked our way upstream, we were met with even better-looking water and found that most pools held fish. Lots of undercut banks, deep pools, long drifts etc. While we found the fishing to be technical (tight water, accurate casting etc) we were lucky to

pull 2-3 fish out of some pools which made for an enjoyable day.

All fish landed were rainbows with the sizes varying between tiddlers to 25-35cm.



We counted around 30 fish landed between us for the afternoon with just as many missed or dropped. As the sun started to set, we hesitantly decided to pack up and walk back to the ute for the drive home, knowing we still have another 2 big days of fishing to come.

As previously mentioned, we decided to stay in Adaminaby instead of camping at Three Mile Dam as initially planned. When we arrived at the house, we were pleasantly surprised to find the wood fire well alight, and with a cold beer in hand, we certainly weren't roughing it. After dinner at the Snow Goose, Jason insisted we had to watch Dancing with The

Stars as he couldn't miss the elimination final, so we headed back to the warm house for a quiet beer and rum in front of the fire.

After such a great day on the water, and a hot tip of some bigger pools downstream, we decided to head back to the same stream on Saturday. After marking out the area on Google Maps, we headed back up the hill and we set off on a significant hike through some amazing scenery and again was met with some excellent 'fishy' looking water. Jason and I couldn't contain our excitement after seeing some rising fish and quickly rigged up and began to hike down the valley to the first pool.

In the first pool, I missed a take from a very eager fish which launched itself at a stimulator. We thought we would be in for another amazing day of dry fly fishing but sadly it was not the case. As we worked upstream and fished every inch of water, we were unable to find any moving fish. We both worked through several fly patterns, tippet sizes and rigs to no luck. We worked through kms of winding water to finally sight 2 good size rainbows (Jason guessed around 30cm) sitting deep in a slow, almost still pool. After drifting several dry flies through with no interest, I tried a dry with a nymph dropper which eventually spooked the fish.







As the day was getting on and we had next to no interest from the fish, we decided to head back to the ute. Jason took the lead as we hiked out of the valley and walked through some of the thickest scrub I have seen but somehow found the track back out to the ute.



Checking my watch, we had covered approx. 14kms for the day and I certainly felt defeated. The thought of a shower, warm fire plus a beer and a meal at the bowling club couldn't have been more inviting and all went down a treat. Jason and I went over the day to work out why it wasn't as productive as the previous day but ultimately, we will never know. While it dampened our spirits, we were still excited to be able to get out and fish some amazing water and felt like the day was certainly not wasted.



With two big days of fishing under our belts, we decided to spend Sunday morning fishing some more familiar water on our way back to Canberra and after a coffee and bacon and egg roll at the Adaminaby Bakery (another plug!) we pulled up at the Murrumbidgee at Bolaro. For a change of pace, we decided to rig up the nymphing rods and attempt to Czech-nymph the faster pools downstream. While looking promising, the river was running low and clear which would have made any fishing difficult. While some runs looked promising, we were unable to find any fish, like the previous day we put it down to bad luck! With the wind picking up, and with Jason bothering a local brown snake, we decided to call it early and head back to Canberra.



Looking back on the weekend and reading reports that Three Mile Dam was fishing well after dark, it may have been worth spending some time there like we had originally planned. The Eucumbene River also looked to be in great shape, so it may have been worth a look as well, but hindsight is a wonderful thing. While it was only the 2 of us in attendance, I still see the weekend as a successful outing and would encourage members to look at attending the next one (I may even offer to organise/host next year) or at least getting up there yourselves to wet a line. We are certainly spoiled with having these options on our doorstep. - Luke.

(Editor: this report also appears on our [Places blog](#))

Some Intel for Our May Tumut Trip

Got this report from Claude (written especially for *Burley Line* in the third person ☺) Claude felt it would be quite informative for those heading up for Stefan's event later this month.

BJ and Claude ventured off to Tumut for a day trip on 5 May. They launched from behind the racecourse and were welcomed by a clear blue sky, nil wind, but more importantly a comfortable river flow of around 900 ML/d. The water wastea (no milk) coloured which still allowed you to see where you were standing but not clear enough to spot fish. Claude 'tight lined nymphed' and BJ used his 5wt floating line with dries and droppers, or just wool, suspended nymphs. The morning was slow to start with but BJ struck first with a couple of small rainbows on the unweighted Hare & Copper...it was hard to pick, but he thought they were caught on the swing. Claude's first hook-up was with a massive 100mm (mm make the fish seem soo much bigger) Rainbow on a size 18 unweighted Hare & Copper when the point fly was snagged. Claude caught another couple of similar sized rainbows on the same fly on the swing whilst preparing for the next cast. After a pleasant lunch break both Claude and BJ upsized with approx. 250mm rainbows...BJ on a Size 14 Shaving Brush dry...Claude on a Size 14 bronze tungsten bead Frenchie. A few other fingerlings were caught as well.

The most amusing element of the trip, was seeing BJ fly though the air after being zapped by an electric fence near the car-park...more muscle reaction than high voltage 😊





More on New Zealand

Peter, Ian and Bill had two weeks in their regular haunt at Gore. The Mataura had suffered some very nasty floods back in November and the river has changed somewhat. Some of our usual hotspots had been filled with gravel and channels moved elsewhere – took a bit of getting used to.

As we come to expect, Peter got into fish on the first day just five minutes' walk from our cottage. Bill started into a pattern that got repeated on a number of days – fish hooked and lost in the fast water.

We traditionally go out with Barry Perkins, a local guide, early in the trip to 'get our eye in' and Monday was the first day. Peter and Bill suffered under horrendous wind and large branches. No fish spotted or caught – this was not looking good.

Anyway, things did turn around – old hands for NZ have always counselled people to ensure they go for 2 weeks and this paid off again this trip. Late in the second week, Ian and Bill did better up high on the river with the second day with the guide.

After a slow start Ian had a good day



A nice enough fish but "you should have seen the one who busted me off a few minutes before"

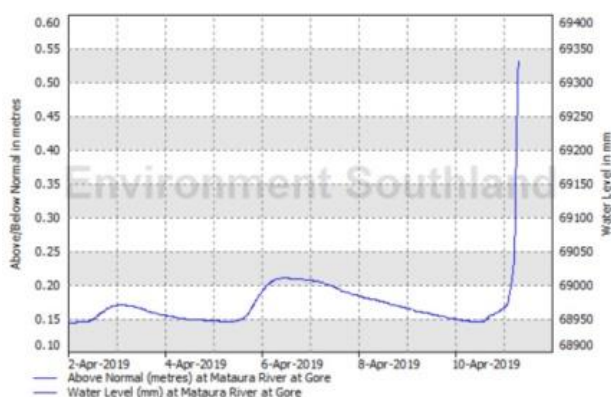


The reputation of April bringing on good mayfly hatches didn't come off as well as we'd hoped. Thankfully one site reliable for rising fish was still working. While Bill patiently waited for the expected rise Peter came up from downstream and attacked the water with his nymph for no joy. Sighting the rises he hooked and lost one on nymph then switched to the March fly of the month "grab all" and succeeded in a double hook up with Bill simultaneously hooking one with the ever reliable parachute adams. Smiles all round.

Yes, this is Peter smiling ☺ You can still see the grab all



The spike in water flow put paid to any more fishing.



That proved to be the end of our trip. Nowhere near as good as we've had before but enjoyable nonetheless.

UMDR News



Antia of [UMDR](#) sent us quite a large email comprising the 'Autumn Newsletter'. Unfortunately it is not available online so I'll just put in some extracts here, email Burley Line if you want a full copy. Highlights:

- Rivers of Carbon Upper Bidgee Phase II looking to work with local landowners to stabilise catchments to reduce run off into the river.
- "Cod Hotels" – UMDR has received funding to establish structures to improve cod habitat near Bredbo Gorge.
- Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch Platypus survey is scheduled for August "Volunteers who are able to monitor on their private land are especially welcome. Monitoring once or twice a week has been shown



to be very effective at tracking platypus numbers, but 'one off' sightings are also helpful. Sightings in the upper Murrumbidgee catchment can be reported to Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch by emailing waterwatch@act.gov.au."

- One item was a report on their team of volunteers paddling the river to undertake weed mapping, riparian zone restoration and other related activities. They are looking for additional adventurous volunteers.

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News



CFA has been in 'tree shaking mode' recently. Complaints to DPI on our behalf include:

- Poor NSW Government response to the Murray-Darling fish kill.
- Tardiness in progress of the Trout Strategy.
- The endless delay of launching the DPI webpage giving anglers access information.

Not sure how I've missed bringing up in *Burley Line* the [March](#) and [April](#) issues of their newsletter, but they have arrived. The March issue includes CFA's letter to NSW and Federal governments on the Murray-Darling management. The April issue discusses some of the fallout from the NSW elections, [latest report](#) from the National Carp Control Plan program.

CFA are also seeking individuals to [support CFA as 'Foundation Members'](#). An individual contribution of \$25 per year (that's only 6 cups of coffee folks). The May CFA meeting will be discussing the difficult financial position of CFA and a greater number of Foundation Members will help to maintain this organisation. Think about becoming one.

Their [May newsletter](#) has arrived. A number of good items including a reminder of spawning streams rules from 1 May.

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

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW News



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

- Some outcomes from the NSW Election.
- John Barilaro backflip on feral horses described.
- Improvements to the fishing platform at the Quarry on the Moruya River, also to Tuross Head boat ramp.

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

- Zero bag limit for bass/estuary perch in rivers below impoundments.
- A fascinating item about dolphin fish movement and growth.

[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.

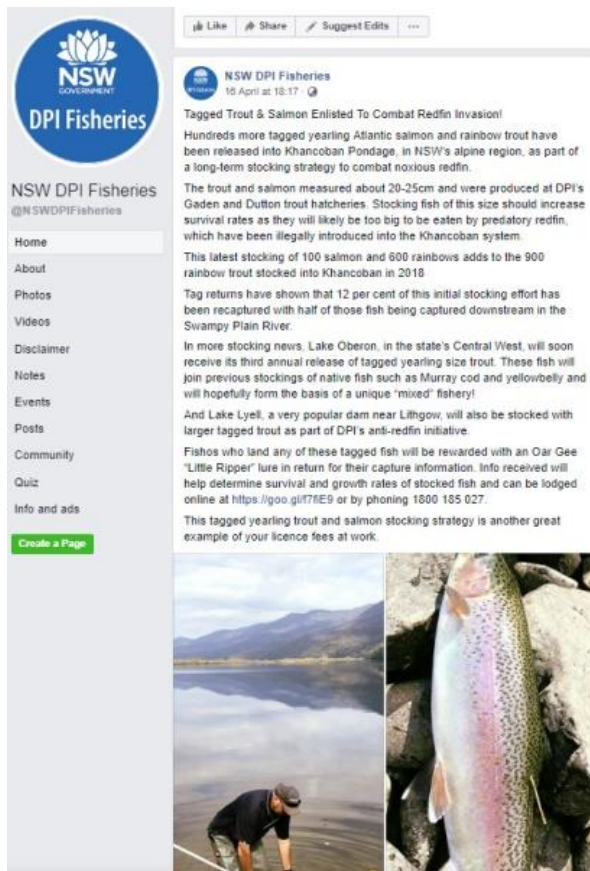


[Fish eFacts 447](#) and [448](#) arrived with lots of good news for those south of the border (or visiting). Puts NSW to shame. Also, don't forget, no licence needed for card carrying Seniors including ACT/NSW.

For our cod fanciers check out 447 – one angler caught and fined for trying to keep a 93cm specimen. Some news also on stocking of cod at Mildura – fisheries are stocking with fingerlings but have put in some catchable cod also. One hopes they were stocked a good distance apart ☺

NSW DPI – Fisheries

Who would have thought it, Fisheries have a Facebook page – and very active. Luke, CAA's eagle-eyed Facebook manager, spotted [this one](#). Might prove very interesting.



Like Share Suggest Edits ...

NSW DPI Fisheries
16 April at 18:17

Tagged Trout & Salmon Enlisted To Combat Redfin Invasion!

Hundreds more tagged yearling Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout have been released into Khancoban Pondage, in NSW's alpine region, as part of a long-term stocking strategy to combat noxious redfin.

The trout and salmon measured about 20-25cm and were produced at DPI's Gaden and Dutton trout hatcheries. Stocking fish of this size should increase survival rates as they will likely be too big to be eaten by predatory redfin, which have been illegally introduced into the Khancoban system.

This latest stocking of 100 salmon and 600 rainbows adds to the 900 rainbow trout stocked into Khancoban in 2018.

Tag returns have shown that 12 per cent of this initial stocking effort has been recaptured with half of those fish being captured downstream in the Swampy Plain River.

In more stocking news, Lake Oberon, in the state's Central West, will soon receive its third annual release of tagged yearling size trout. These fish will join previous stockings of native fish such as Murray cod and yellowbelly and will hopefully form the basis of a unique "mixed" fishery!

And Lake Lyell, a very popular dam near Lithgow, will also be stocked with larger tagged trout as part of DPI's anti-redfin initiative.

Fishos who land any of these tagged fish will be rewarded with an Oar Gee "Little Ripper" lure in return for their capture information. Info received will help determine survival and growth rates of stocked fish and can be lodged online at <https://goo.gl/f7fiE9> or by phoning 1800 185 027.

This tagged yearling trout and salmon stocking strategy is another great example of your licence fees at work.

Text reads:

Tagged Trout & Salmon Enlisted To Combat Redfin Invasion!

Hundreds more tagged yearling Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout have been released into Khancoban Pondage, in NSW's alpine region, as part of a long-term stocking strategy to combat noxious redfin.

The trout and salmon measured about 20-25cm and were produced at DPI's Gaden and Dutton trout hatcheries. Stocking fish of this size should increase survival rates as they will likely be too big to be eaten by predatory redfin, which have been illegally introduced into the Khancoban system.

This latest stocking of 100 salmon and 600 rainbows adds to the 900 rainbow trout stocked into Khancoban in 2018

Tag returns have shown that 12 per cent of this initial stocking effort has been recaptured with half of those fish being captured downstream in the Swampy Plain River.

In more stocking news, Lake Oberon, in the state's Central West, will soon receive its third annual release of tagged yearling size trout. These fish will join previous stockings of native fish such as Murray cod and yellowbelly and will hopefully form the basis of a unique "mixed" fishery!

And Lake Lyell, a very popular dam near Lithgow, will also be stocked with larger tagged trout as part of DPI's anti-redfin initiative.

Fishos who land any of these tagged fish will be rewarded with an Oar Gee "Little Ripper" lure in return for their capture information. Info received will help determine survival and growth rates of stocked fish and can be lodged online at <https://goo.gl/f7fiE9> or by phoning 1800 185 027.

This tagged yearling trout and salmon stocking strategy is another great example of your licence fees at work.

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
Claude and BJ	Rainbow	Up to 25cm	Various flies	Tumut river 5 May 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

