

THE BURLEY LINE

Newsletter of the Canberra Anglers' Association.

Issue 144—June 2019



Alan on the Tumut



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

An eclectic mix this month.

Thanks Shaun for the gear review on modestly priced wading boot studs – I've still got to order mine. There is also some interesting news from MAS and CFA. Many thanks to Stefan for a thoughtful report on the Tumut trip. The photos from Lyall, and particularly by Thomas, are brilliant. Lyall is a trusted provider of material for *Burley Line* but I look forward to more from Thomas to grace our photo of the month to add to this month's.

There's an article here following on from Jaime's great idea suggesting the coffee and shop trip to the Grand Opening of the Compleat Angler Canberra – the photos show a bunch of happy shoppers in amongst extensive stock. Well done and good luck to Nathan in this new endeavour.

Lyall was kind enough to pen some notes on the recent FFA National Championship held at Tumut. I noted that JQ had been too busy with work (and I'm aware family) to get in his report on this event for this issue. I look forward to some words on his experience with the FFA event next month.

This brings to mind that JQ is my ever-present co-editor, standing in for me when I head away from home. He brings a different 'voice' to *Burley Line* though I'm conscious I can't expect more than one or two issues per year. So, here comes the pitch, is there anyone else out there who would like to chance their arm at coming in with the two of us and producing a few issues? The task is not that onerous and a lot of fun. JQ and I can show you the ropes and I do all the techo stuff of uploading to our blog. All you need is a little familiarity with a word processor on your computer. You can choose to use our template or give the newsletter your own tweak. International co-editors are also welcome as the Internet makes the world so much smaller (Greg).

Think also about joining a number of members (and others) in registering for automatic email alerts to be sent to you to highlight changes to our news listing. How to do this is [here](#). The subscription form is on the right hand side of our [blog](#). That way you get a preview of topical matters in advance of the monthly newsletter.

Coming Events

Next Meeting:

Wed 12th Jun – 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. Speaker not yet advised.

Next Events:

Fri 14th – Sun 16th Jun – "June Chill". More information has been sent out via email by Lyall, but we do know we are heading to Angler's Reach and you better come rugged up. More people welcome.

Wed 26th Jun – Fly tying – usual time of 7:30PM at Raiders Weston Club. Fly will be advised.

New Regular Feature

The Committee has asked that we include long term (up to 12 months or longer) dates of events in the newsletter. It is seen that would be very helpful for our calendar planning, members could see the diversity of angling events available to attend and some might even choose to get a CAA group together to attend an event outside our formal calendar which would broaden our horizons greatly. If anyone spots a non-CAA event that might be of interest to members, please email *Burley Line*. So here goes the first iteration:

Dates	Event Details
Anticipate early March	the Thredbo fly fishing expo https://www.thredbo.com.au/events/fly-fishing-expo-2019/
Friday 20th March – Sunday 22nd March	Buckenderra Caravan Park organize a trout catch and release event called the Buckenderra Trout Challenge. There is a limit of 150 participants. http://visitcooma.com.au/events/buckenderra-trout-challenge-2019/
Anticipate early April	OzFish Unlimited event (early advice is that this will not go to Penrith for a third year if it is conducted) http://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/ozfish-unlimited-australia-fly-fishing-festival-update/
tbc 8-10 May	NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers InterClub Meet http://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/cfa-annual-interclub-flyfishing-meet-3-5-may-2019-program-and-other-info/

Tumut Event – 18-19 May

Got this excellent and thought provoking report from Stefan

Anatomy of a River:

Standing in the middle of the Tumut River on a picture perfect day this mid-May, I got musing as to why this river is so perfect for trout fishing, particularly at this time of year. The water is running at a gentle pace with plenty of riffle areas joining slow moving mirror pools. Encouraging fish activity is evident, enthusiastic splashes here, graceful rises there. There is evidence of abundant insect activity about and conditions are ideal for a flick of the fly. Not a breath of air to spoil the loop. Could it be that things may not be as simple as just that?

What is obvious immediately on coming to this river, is the meandering nature of the riverbed, with its rounded rocks underfoot and the steep banks. This is definitely a river that has slowed and formed a conventional flood plain, generally not the situation associated with prime trout fishing given normal understanding. Numerous billabong swamps show the propensity of this watercourse to change over the eons by digging new channels into the deep alluvium. I imagine that the gibbers that form the exposed riverbed extend across the entire valley floor at some tens of feet depth below the fertile arable land that surrounds me. Sediment has been layered over time immeasurable to now give us valuable farming land.

Why is this river not similar to others that we, of late, regularly see on television news, just U-shaped mud channels and with drying/dying chains of waterholes? The answer it would seem lies in the formation of the banks to the left and right of me. They are created of angular blocks of granite, not worn smooth by millennia of slow water borne movement down from the mountains upstream, but placed by dump trucks, after having been liberated deep within mountain tunnels by dynamite. This river is the result of man-made interference some 60 years ago during the construction of the Snowy Scheme. This brought water that was, maybe wrongly, considered to be just wasted by flowing uselessly into Bass Strait, to Australia's dry inland, channelling it down an armoured raceway to be distributed further downstream by irrigation ditches.

Blowering Reservoir sits some kilometres upstream across the Tumut River. It is the final storage dam for waters of the grand Snowy Scheme and together with Burrinjuck Dam waters the fertile crescent between the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers providing a bread basket for our hungry state and nation. During the hot, dry summers water is released at high volume to meet demand downstream. The water is cold and lacking in the vital nutrients required of our native species of fish, they have disappeared from this river together with platypus. What has thrived are trout, well adapted naturally to high summer snow melt flows and slower winter waters ideally suited to the breeding season. Luckily endangered crayfish continue to also exist here.

The fast moving summer water keeps the siltation level low, the water runs clear. Australia's ancient rivers all once ran clear, as witnessed by Hume and Hovel when they first saw the mighty Murray, clear and warm. Today's rural waterways are polluted by chemicals, excess fertilizers and silt run off and offer little of habitat for trout. The Tumut by a quirk of fate in my view has given us a trout stream through sheer coincidence. Tailrace fisheries, as these conditions are now best known, seem to provide ideal situations where trout habitat and trout-fishing can, and should, be encouraged.

So here it is, sometimes we perceive of nature as totally original, pristine and perfect, when in actual fact we are partaking of a totally artificial construct. In today's world that is it seems more the case than not. Environment may always be part of a system even an altered one, a complexity that may take some study to untangle but everyone should make an effort to engage with the facts. Fishing as a pastime behoves us to think this way – we know that, because a river always runs through it.

The weekend on the Tumut certainly was thought provoking and I was happy to share the time with some excellent companions. Taking up our usual abode with Ron and Mary of the Blowering Holiday Park, we lost no time Friday in gathering around the fire to hear of Alan's evening excursion just on dark, riffing on rises, missed takes and big fish. It was enough to make us all keen on an early start the following day.

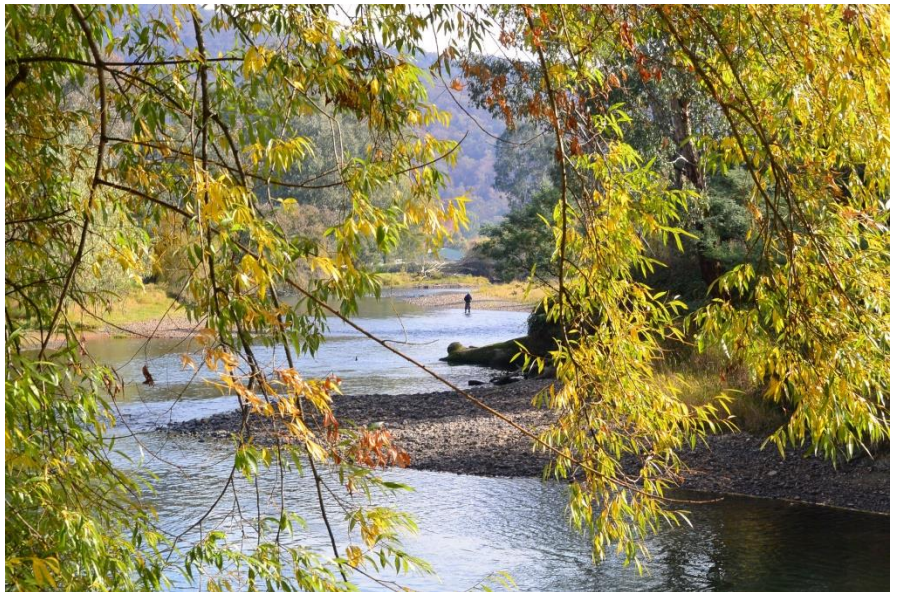
All care about the state of the nation was placed aside as we grabbed our rods and favourite flies.

Heading for a river still cloaked in heavy mist

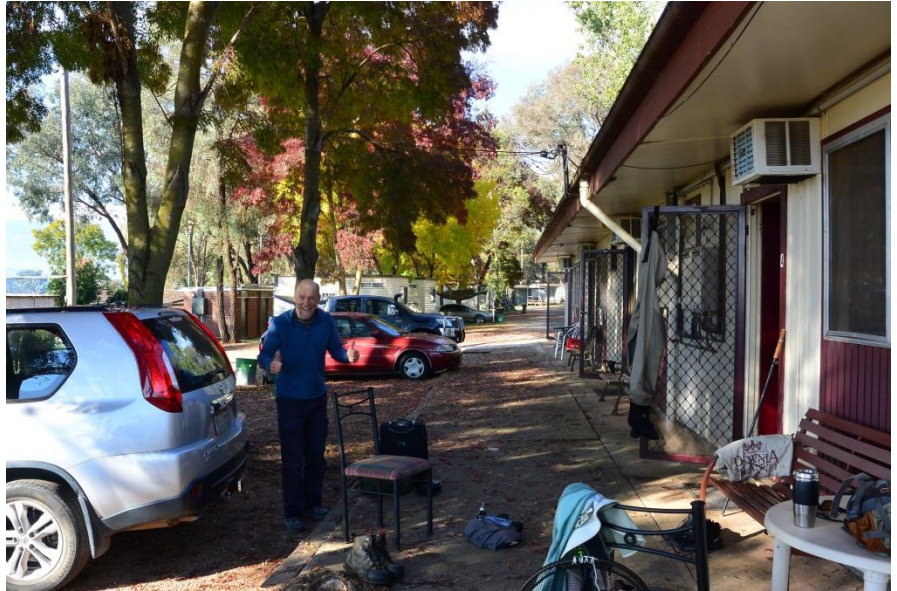


The sun made an appearance without delay, reflecting off the picture perfect water in bright orange. The water temperature was a surprising 19deg C. Surprising for this time of year but possibly explained by an exceptionally low dam level.

Alan framed by the golden falling leaves



Thomas outside the cabins



With the water flow as gentle as I have ever seen it, the conditions were ideal to introduce our new chum, Thomas, to the art of the weighted line. He took to it with gusto under the expert tutelage of Alan.

Stefan "in the zone"



This gave me a chance to entice some skipping juvenile trout. The strategy was to fish some deeper water with a sinking tip line and stimulator flies. Result - they eluded me.

That afternoon Claude and his fishing companion, Bill, he of good casting skill but not so lucky with barbed wire fences, joined us for the afternoon. We fished the riffles not too distant from our lodging. See Claude's words appended below. (*Ed: note, this Bill is a new dude, not be confused with your erstwhile Editor*).

As the sun neared the horizon, I took myself to the river bend where experience had shown good rises on previous visits. Patience prevailed, and as preordained as the sun shine got sucked below the horizon the fish came out to play, but alas three takes and drops later the whole show switched off as a big moon greeted us from the east. Time to head home and to the pub. The Oriental again did

Was that on the deadly shaving brush Alan?

not disappoint with great beer, steak and chips.



Alan made good with a well-conditioned fish on dark.

The Sunday, after a somewhat lazy breakfast, gave some of us a chance at garnering some well needed masterclass tuition from Lyall. Upstream aerial mends are now in my armoury for next time.

Lyall passing on some of his expertise to Stefan.



Claude and Bill had a measure of success upstream, then headed for home via the Brindabella route.

It was soon time to leave the waters to the “competition guys” and hit the highway via a milkshake stop in Gundagai.

Thanks to all those that came along. Stefan

From Claude, with thanks:

On the Saturday, Claude and Bill started on the Goobarragandra. The water level was low, but quite nice. Three trout were spotted

but none enticed to the fly. Claude was disappointed and surprised to spot a carp in the cold and very clear river...he initially thought it was a nice size trout heading towards him. Bill had the unfortunate experience of being 'bitten' by a barb wire fence resulting in a tear in his new goretex waders. Luckily he was able to repair them at base camp with the assistance of duct tape, UV wader repair and lots of guys standing around him giving him all the advice he needed...

Claude practiced his tailing loops and achieved them to perfection (tangles every second cast) when trying to double haul to get that extra distance during the dusk rise 😊. Lyall was able to point out the error of his ways and now Claude has more homework and practice to do.

Claude caught a 15 cm suicidal rainbow on a #6 Para Adams on the morning rise, and a 30 cm rainbow on a black beaded hares ear nymph when Euro nymphing on the upper Tumut. Bill hooked another trout on a nymph shortly after but lost it when the tippet broke.

Great time and beautiful scenery in the Autumn.

Claude

Fly Fish Australia – Competition Fishing in Tumut

Lyall has been good enough to provide a report on the recent competition. JQ has offered to provide one from the perspective of a competitor but work (hmm, I have a vague recollection of what that is 😊) is getting in the road for a moment. Meantime, many thanks Lyall

Three members of Canberra Anglers' Association spent four days in Tumut in May at the FFA at another round of the competition fly fishing. Only one of the three fellows pictured below were serious and that was the young fella on the left Jason Q who was competing, while John and I were official fish measurers! John and I witnessed many anglers catching zero fish over the four, three hour sessions over two days of competition. Jason Q was one of the very few who didn't blank on ANY of the sessions on the water – well done JQ !!!



Tools of the trade of an 'official fish measurer' with the river looking great



John and my jobs were onerous in the extreme : stand by the river, wait for the angler to net their fish, shout hooray and run to the river to measure the fish. Well, perhaps that over simplifies things but basically we had a great time.

All up, there would have been 150 competitors and officials and there wasn't a single soul with a bad attitude.

Every fish counts ...even the wee ones!



Jason Mahoney with FFA Patron Janet Holmes a' Court. Picture courtesy of ACTFF FlyLines and Jason.



Of the 58 competitors, the top score went to Canberra's very own Jason Mahoney (ACTFF member).

Jason has been fine-tuning his fly casting with a most excellent Fly Fishers International Certified Casting Instructor – tee hee – guess who.

The place was great, the people were great and the weather was great. Who could ask for more?

Compleat Angler Canberra Grand Opening

With the imminent closing of Anglers Art, the next generation of angling store has commenced. Our prodigal son Nathan is back and managing the new store. Jaime had the brilliant idea of us gathering at a nearby coffee shop before repairing to the Compleat Angler. Double bonuses, lucky door prizes and sausage sizzle had us all tempted.



The new sign is still coming but the Hobie outside is a give-away



Lyall, Jeanine, John, Jaime, Rod and BJ about to go into retail frenzy



Shanta and Alan comparing notes with Jaime

Leon, Jaime and Lyall with some of the extensive Hobie range behind – is that Nathan's brother Daniel photobombing our intrepid trio?



Nathan demonstrating the fishing video game - not sure what has happened to the picture on the screen.



Yours truly was a latecomer but managed to jag a lucky door prize – thanks Nathan, made it a lot easier to reveal to my wife that I'd bought yet another fly line!



So, the deal is that there are no 'club discounts' now. Instead, purchasers who are registered, will get a voucher to put towards the next purchase. My 'double bonus' day voucher worked out to

be around 20% of my \$150 purchase. Nathan will have to explain to you how it works but I'm sold. He tells me he'll work with CAA executive to sort out how best he can support CAA for raffles etc. Nathan tells me that a lot of fly gear (including Hardy to fill up their display case) is still on its way – including my new reels, though I fear they won't be Hardy given this is for my 'emergency' rod 😊.

Gear Review – Koldkutter Studs

Mark has been raving to me for ages about how these screws for ice-racing motorcycles can be used for studs in wading boots. Shaun has taken the plunge and bought some, [his review](#) is up on our gear review page – many thanks mate.

MAS News



First item is actually a piece of CRFA news. CRFA are in the processing of shutting down and their reserve funds were dispersed to CAA, Canberra Fisherman's Club, UMDR and MAS for projects aligned with the tenets of CRFA. MAS have recently advised that the funds they received will be expended on acquiring a number of in-stream temperature monitors to place in Snowy Mountain / Monaro streams to monitor water temperatures following the summer high water temperatures that resulted in some fish kills – perhaps a dozen of them. These will complement a number that have been fielded through NSW Fisheries effort. The MAS will use this data to monitor water conditions over time to ensure that these streams are fit for stocking trout. They will also be using the data to compare reaches of streams to determine the water temperature difference between reaches that have adequate shade and those that are fully exposed. This data may help them with riparian works in the future. All in all, an excellent use of these funds.

We received from MAS [two reports from Gaden](#) and these have been put up on the blog. The routine Tri-annual and a special report on the fish kill at the hatchery. Steve Samuels remarked "Happy to say the hatchery met all our stocking targets, so a big thank you to them for their hard work during this awful event." The fish kill report shows the effort taken by hatchery staff. I understand they denuded all stocks of bagged ice in Jindabyne at the time. The infrastructure projects referred to look very encouraging and are already proving their worth helping fingerlings to grow out that much faster. Steve also tells me that the chiller/heater units will result in up to 60,000 extra fry for and earlier spring stocking. They will have to be moved out to the streams promptly in order to make space for the fingerlings to grow to their best potential. MAS is consulting with CAA and ACTFF for ideas on additional stocking sites – pass any suggestions you have to CAA Executive.

Highlights of the 4 May MAS meeting:

- Trout Strategy open day was attended by Steve who was reassured by the report from the DPI scientists including the idea of citizen science, spawning run monitoring via camera and sophisticated fish sounder lake survey program for the entirety of Lake Jindy. Recall that MAS were a major force behind starting this trout strategy initiative. Steve emphasised the need for DPI to improve their communication with anglers and the need for focus on Jindy.
- The continued rejection by council of angler access to Lake Wallace Nimmitabel means that MAS won't pursue the matter further with council before the next council elections
- Snowy Hydro 2.0. A written proposal was tabled to have an alternative to the current idea of annual payment from Snowy Hydro to MAS, and instead to receive a single lump sum payment into a trust. MAS would manage projects using the trust interest. This idea has exposed to but not yet agreed by Snowy Hydro.

NSW DPI – Fisheries

We can't expect an extensive trout strategy document with endless goals and timelines. I'd reckon that'd not be of any value anyway.

Instead DPI has issued a '[snapshot](#)' which has worthwhile statements of intent. Listening to Steve Samuels (Pres MAS) who attended the April workshop, the highlight was the enthusiasm and clear progress in respect to applying science to the problem.

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News



[CFA June newsletter](#) has arrived. Highlights include:

- Results from the recent Interclub Competition (Stefan is encouraging CAA to look at fielding a team next year) – check out the winning fish below



- Survey for fishers in the Snowy Monaro region. See our [news blog](#). This survey is being conducted to inform Snowy-Monaro Regional Council about recreational anglers and their engagement with their sport in the region. You are encouraged to take part. This is a real chance for you to have your say and influence Council. It took me 10 minutes.
- Concern is being expressed about the National Carp Control Plan. The CFA newsletter points to a recent [ABC news item](#). In short, many scientists are concerned that the science has not been sufficiently explored.

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

I attended the quarterly CFA meeting on 18 May representing MAS. Highlights were:

- CFA continues to agitate on a number of ongoing issues: the state of the Angler Access website (see [our news blog post](#) – comments are being sought), 4WD wading **along** spawning streams and the current situation with the National Carp Control Plan.
- Discussion about the DPI NSW 'social licence' promotion called "Fish for Life NSW". CFA affiliates are encouraged to engage including using the logo on their material. CAA might consider this.

- The CFA financial situation is dire and a detailed discussion paper was tabled and discussed. A fee increase from \$1.75 per head to \$2.90 was passed. Members may be interested in MAS' position:

The MAS would support the stated fee increase and would remain a member of the NSWCFCA for two years. At the expiration of two years the MAS would review its position. Fundamental to the MAS remaining a member at the higher contribution rate would be two criteria.

1. that the NSWCFCA is able to increase its membership to demonstrate its capacity to effectively maintain a solid financial base, and
2. that the NSWCFCA is able to demonstrate that it is capable of effectively representing anglers across the State of NSW and provides "value for money".

CAA members may consider whether, as an individual, you might become a ['Foundation Member'](#) to personally assist the financial state of the association.

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW News



The June edition didn't arrive in time for our cut-off. [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.

[FisheFacts 449](#) has arrived. Some interesting topics include a link to all trout stockings in Victoria. Seems Victoria are setting out to build their own native fish hatchery – this'll take some of the load off the ones in NSW who were smashed by large orders from Vic. The article on Seniors' card holders being exempt from Victorian Fishing Licence was interesting, though the fisheries officer looks more like a SWAT team member than a friendly fishing inspector. Reports on habitat restoration will hopefully be read by our NSW colleagues.

Also in is [FisheFacts 450](#). The contrast with NSW DPI comes up again. Victoria stocked 5.9 million native fish including Murray cod, golden perch and Australian bass. This beats their previous record by more than one million fish! They've announced a partnership with VicRoads whereby trees removed for roadworks are being used for fish habitat improvements. The issue also provides a link to a neat YouTube video on [cleaning squid](#) for those who could improve their technique

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.

We 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
Roger	Snapper	69cm	Lure	Depot Beach 8 Aug
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
JM	Brown	47cm	Lure	Jindabyne 3 Oct
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 13 Nov
Evan	Carp	68cm	Fly	LBG 12 Nov
Jaime	Brown	58cm	Fly	'Monaro stream' 25 Nov
Claude	Trevally	45cm	Lure	Merimbula 12 Dec 2018
Claude	Flathead	50cm	Lure	Merimbula 13 Dec 2018
JM	Rainbow	24cm	Dry Fly	Eucumbene River 10 Dec 2018
Ben	Brown	'maybe 40cm at a guess'	Fly	Upper Shoalhaven 17 Dec
Ash	Redfin	32cm	lure	LBG 15 Jan 2019
Ash	Carp	69cm	Fly	Burrunjuck 11 Feb 2019
Bill	Brown	28cm	Dry Fly	Thredbo above Ngarigo 15 Mar 2019
Claude	Rainbow	26cm	bronze tungsten bead Frenchie	Tumut river 5 May 2019
BJ	Rainbow	27cm	Shaving Brush dry	Tumut river 5 May 2019
Claude	Rainbow	30cm	black beaded hares ear nymph	Tumut river club event 19 May 2019

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.



Capital Fly Casting
www.capitalflycasting.com

Affiliates

Canberra Anglers' Association is proudly affiliated with the following

