

# THE BURLEY LINE



Rod with 'a handful of snapper'



# From the Editors Desk

Bill

The issue is a little light on for local news. I had to publish early as I'll be away in the last week of Nov (no, not fishing unfortunately) so our special Christmas edition could be a bumper issue with reports on the BugBlitz from Jaime (conducted last weekend), the Brogo trip led by Stefan this weekend, Jindabyne led by me and maybe some stuff from Claude on a recent trip to the upper Snowy. Fingers crossed.

Meantime, our President has offered up some notes and pictures from his trip across the ditch, and ever-reliable Lyall has submitted an intriguing take on his most recent backcountry trip in NZ. Peter sent in some notes encouraging us to pay more attention to our flylines (guilty as charged mate – that photo could be one of mine 😊 )

## Coming Events

### **December Meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Annual barbeque by the lake – more details via email.

### **Jindabyne: 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December**

Bill will be leading the team, again to the CSIRO Lodge in Jindabyne. For some guidance, check out <http://canberra-anglers.asn.au/program/jindy.pdf>

### **Fly Tying:**

No tying until February.

### **Fundraising for the Australian team for Commonwealth Fly Competition 2020 – Thu 6<sup>th</sup> Feb**

We've been invited to a fundraising event being run by ACTFF – more details via email

# CAA President's Report

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## A New Zealand Trip with a Difference

Why did we not know that our President had relatives in NZ? Here he reports on a very successful but diverse angling trip. We saw some of these images last Burley Line. The report has been stored in our ['Places' blog](#) for future reference.

### Fishing Aotearoa – November 2019

Ahhh New Zealand! - a preposterously verdant land of pastures, pines and pests. Encumbered with no less than 2500 introduced plants and 65 pest animals, and with native forest cover reduced to <23% of original, Aotearoa remains blessed (unlike Australia) with outstandingly productive rivers and seas. Unsurprisingly it is a mecca for Australian fishers. Fortunately, for the most part, Australians fishers are more welcome than our possums. Our engaging ways, economic boosting power, a national promise to never bowl underarm again, a shared umbrage at the temerity of the French to sink the Rainbow Warrior, and our perennial habit of losing to the All-Blacks appears to have cemented our most-tolerated nation status. Given all this, some guided fishing trips with my older brother Kelvin (a long term NZ resident) were a natural addition to a family-oriented sojourn in NZ.

The Coromandel coast is renowned for saltwater fishing and October is a good time to catch snapper. After a short tour of the recently (re-arrived) Endeavour (accompanied this century by the grand three-masted Spirit of New Zealand), our charter boat Ika Nui dropped anchor near the Mercury Bay Islands some 10nm offshore from Whitianga. Drifting squid baits for a few hours in a berley trail yielded 4-5 large snapper (around 40cm, 5kg) each, plus a bunch of smaller non-keepers. Around us large schools of Kahawai (Australian Salmon) were slashing into baitfish. Occasionally they came in range but couldn't be enticed to take a bait or lure – although a dip net would probably have worked!

A few days later with bellies still full of snapper fillets, we headed to Lake Taupo to fish the post-spawning rainbow trout run. Recent high winds and heavy rain had felled trees across the public access road so on the other side of a locked gate upstream we had the Tongariro river to ourselves. Recent rain had caused the river to pulse, enlivening the rainbows plus the river had been undisturbed by other fishers for over a week. Post-spawning fish were everywhere, many dark and battered but with many cleaner looking silvers amongst them. Several were still finishing their redd construction and spawning. In one short stretch we saw over 15 fish in shallow water - and easily in casting distance even for amateurs. Fishing wet flies designed to mimic trout eggs and with a highly competent guide Chris Brennan we had a ball – a completely different experience to fly-fishing in Australia. We landed about 5 large fish apiece (50+cm, 1.5-2kg range) and several jack from last year's spawning that were making their way down to Lake Taupo. For second ever go at fly casting, Kel did fantastically well with 5 big fish plus casting, hooking and solo landing one of the largest fish of the day (61cm, 2.3kg). Many of the fish were tired after spawning but several of the clean looking silvers put on a great aerobic show. All in all an awesome day with a great guide and a river of big responsive rainbows all to ourselves - it will be hard to be satisfied with trout fishing back home.



**The mimetolithic Mercury Islands**



**Kel's first rainbow trout**



**Rod's first NZ trout**



**A lovely silver rainbow trout (fly visible near mouth)**



# Tips from Members

Peter provided this gem:

## Fly Line Maintenance

For those of you here in Australia, you'll all be well aware of the weather, accompanied by the closure of trout season in most states. Of course, there are plenty of other species to target locally like carp, murray cod and bream to name just a few. And, there are more than enough stillwater options for winter trout fishing in the lakes. But, many of you may prefer to spend the winter staying out of the weather, bunkered down at home. Having returned from a very wet and windy morning in a western Victorian lake today, I can certainly understand the appeal of the latter option.

For those of you who are taking some time away from the water over winter, this presents a great opportunity to sort through your gear, clean it all up and get ready for the coming spring and trout season opening. So often we spend the winter tying flies to refill our fly boxes, cleaning and storing our rods and reels and yet we can overlook one critical element our rig. The fly line. It's all too easy to just go from season to season with the same line on your reels, simply changing out the leaders as needed and making do with the lines as they are. The crazy thing is, more often than not, a lot of us are fishing with lines that are in very poor condition and we don't even realize how this is affecting our chances of catching that prize fish.

It's easy not to notice wear and tear on your lines as you become accustomed to their change in performance as they gradually degrade. What feels normal when casting can often be far from it and could be making you work a lot harder to get a poorer result. A simple cleaning of your lines can bring them back closer to their former glory. Applied with an old cloth, a cleaning product to bring your line back to life, increasing floatation, and improving casting with a smoother running of the line through your rods guides. Then, a good stretching of the entire length of the line to remove its memory after extended storage on a reel will help you cast further, faster and with less effort.

Of course, it comes to that time when a fly line has seen too much time on the water and is beyond the help of a cleaning. This is when they start to look a little like... THIS:

When your fly line is worn and cracked like this, it presents all manner of issues in both casting and retrieving your line. The cracks capture and hold not only dirt, but water as well, adding weight to the line making it poorly matched to your rod. It can be not unlike trying to cast with a line one, two or three sizes too big for the rod it is supposed to be



matched with. That just makes casting hard work. On top of that, the dirt in the line creates friction when running through our rod's guides and slows the delivery of line on your cast.

If you're fishing a floating line, as most of us do, you will also notice the line becoming waterlogged and beginning to sink after a short time on the water. The cracking allows water to get into the line's core and reduce its ability to float. That's from all the smaller cracks along the length of the line. Of course, a larger crack will open up to reveal a section of the inner core. Whilst you still have plenty of strength in the line, there is the chance of this gap catching in the rod's guides. This can cause the line to come to a short, sharp stop when a good size fish goes for a run and takes line. What happens next? Lost fish.

So, the best solution when our fly lines get to this stage is to treat yourself to a new line or two. Trust me, you will love it. There is nothing like that new line feeling, especially when you have been struggling with an old, dirty and damaged fly line. Casting suddenly becomes easy, and your length and accuracy will sharpen right up without any effort. I just recently swapped out half a dozen of my lines and couldn't be happier. I've fished with these lines on a few of my rods for years, but the difference a brand new one makes is just a joy.

So, look after your lines, replace them if you have to. The next time you're out on the water, you will notice the difference.

## Another Take on NZ North Island - Backcountry

Peter and I have been talking about shifting our NZ focus to the North Island. This report from Lyall reaffirms this as a great idea. As with Rod's this report has been stored in our ['Places' blog](#) for future reference.

### Relaxed on The Ruakituri by Lyall

Dateline: November 2019

Location: Gisborne, North Island, New Zealand

Personnel: Six guys who know mates who know mates from Tamworth, around Coffs Harbour and Canberra

Rule number 1: Don't take yourself too seriously

Rule number 2: Don't take yourself too seriously

Rule number 3: I think you get it



Look at the photo carefully and you get the idea. Jason Stratford, Logicus Images photographer and Certified Casting Instructor candidate, tells a story in every photo – it was so funny.

The North Island trip covered three locations - Waioeka, Ruakituri and Koranga Rivers but for me the Ruakituri River was the highlight.





Every kilometre of the river was different. From giant pools to pocket water, each section demanded different skills.



Jason caught fish after fish, sometimes rainbows, sometimes browns but all large fish. Often fish were sighted and usually in predictable places.

This is a happy chappy with a pretty Ruakituri golden brown.



It is all about attitude. Jason and Pete exhibiting the “Waioeka Station attitude”. It is also about karma – nice people catch nice fish!!!



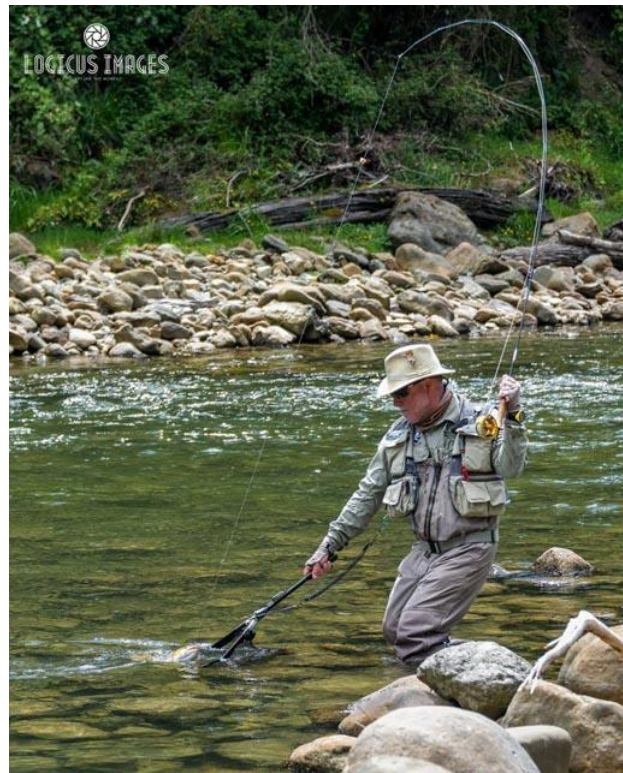
Don't mess with Didymo Stu – a weapon in each hand!!!





Hours of walking took John and Jason way up the Ruakituri to the limit of navigation. The nature of the river changed again.

A different face of the Ruakituri.



If you can get a vacancy, stay at the very relaxing Ruakituri Retreat at Wairata. It overlooks a wide and slow section of the river.



So remember, don't take yourself too seriously and fish cooperatively, not competitively!!!

# Stuff You May Have Already Read on our [News Blog](#)

Don't forget that you can register to get automatic emails when new posts are uploaded.

If you are on Facebook, you should consider "liking and following" the [CAA Facebook page](#) though I have to admit, since I'm currently the administrator, there isn't much there that you won't find in our news blog. We are still looking for someone to volunteer and take this less than onerous task off me and the Pres.

## A Season in Profile

A report on the MAS website recounting the 2018/19 year in the [Kybeyan region](#).

## Snowy Hydro 2.0 Environmental Impact Statement

Snowy Hydro 2.0 continues its progress. The EIS has been issued and MAS has provided a [response](#). Some mention of the 'recreational fishing offset' – ie the idea that Snowy Hydro would work to prevent the spread of redbfin and pay for contingency response. A lot more will be said in an open forum soon.

## Event Calendar Change

Everyone should be aware of the [change in dates](#) for the May Tumut event to avoid a clash with the NSW CFA Interclub Meet. Stefan is leading both and hoping for good support to the Interclub Meet. Don't forget to update your calendar and your membership card.

## Other News

### Additional news and links from supporting groups



### NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

(Remember you can subscribe yourself, there is a link in their monthly newsletter). My early publication means I've been too quick to get their latest edition. Previous CFA newsletters can be accessed [via their archive](#). They also have a presence on [Facebook](#). Don't forget you can donate to the CFA and [become a 'Foundation Member'](#). The website explains what that means – only the equivalent of \$0.50 per week.

## Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

(Remember you can subscribe yourself, there is a link in their monthly newsletter). Again, I've missed their latest issue but [here is their November issue](#). [RFA NSW](#) are offering up an [archive](#) (this is also on our Useful Links page on our website).

## Fisheries Victoria News

(Remember you can subscribe yourself, there is a link in their fortnightly newsletter). News and updates from Fisheries Victoria can be found on their [Facebook page](#) (you don't need to be a Facebook user, though I'm sure they'll 'encourage you' to join ☺).

# Long Term Program of Events Not Formally Part of CAA Events

Provided for our calendar planning, members to 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*.

Dates	Event Details
<b>2020</b>	
10 and 11 Jan	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Workshop at Gaden Hatchery <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</a>
14 Jan	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Saltwater Workshop at Batemans Bay <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</a>
22 Jan	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Saltwater Workshop at Greenwell Point <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</a>
Anticipate Sat-Sun 22-23 Feb	the Thredbo fly fishing expo <a href="https://www.thredbo.com.au/events/fly-fishing-expo-2019/">https://www.thredbo.com.au/events/fly-fishing-expo-2019/</a>
Fri-Sun 20-22 Mar	Buckenderra Caravan Park organize a trout catch and release event called the Buckenderra Trout Challenge. There is a limit of 150 participants. <a href="http://visitcooma.com.au/events/buckenderra-trout-challenge-2019/">http://visitcooma.com.au/events/buckenderra-trout-challenge-2019/</a>
Anticipate early Apr	OzFish Unlimited event (early advice is that this will not go to Penrith for a third year if it is conducted) <a href="http://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/ozfish-unlimited-australia-fly-fishing-festival-update/">http://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/ozfish-unlimited-australia-fly-fishing-festival-update/</a>
14 Apr	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Saltwater Workshop at Batemans Bay <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</a>

15 Apr	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Saltwater Workshop at Tuross Head <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</a>
21 Apr	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Saltwater Workshop at Greenwell Point <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</a>
Fri-Sun 1-3 May	NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers InterClub Meet <a href="http://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/cfa-annual-interclub-flyfishing-meet-3-5-may-2019-program-and-other-info/">http://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/cfa-annual-interclub-flyfishing-meet-3-5-may-2019-program-and-other-info/</a>
15 Oct	CAA 75 <sup>th</sup> birthday

# 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
Kerryn	Rainbow	40.5cm	Fly	(ACTFF trip) 21 Jul 2019
JasonQ	Rainbow & Brown	47.0cm	Fly – Loch Style	Private Outing – Lake Eucumbene. Various fish landed, best 47cm (Brown), smallest 22cm (Rainbow)
Jaime	Cod	“almost 60cm”	Fly	Private water
Peter	YellowBelly	39.5cm (rates at 27% on our <a href="#">native scoring system</a> )	Fly	Lake Tuggeranong 1 Nov
Peter	Multiple redfin	To 30cm	Fly	Lake Tuggeranong 1 Nov

## Contact Us

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Association Inc.

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.canberra-anglers.asn.au](http://www.canberra-anglers.asn.au)

Burley Line contributions to:

[burley-line@canberra-anglers.asn.au](mailto:burley-line@canberra-anglers.asn.au)

Find us on

**facebook**

## Join Us

Thinking of becoming a member? The membership application form can be found on our website. Current fees are payable each year at our AGM (adjustments will be made for joining later in the year):

- General Membership \$40.00
- Family Membership \$50.00
- Concession Membership (age pension or concession card) \$15.00
- Junior Membership (U18 years) \$15.00

Payment can be made via check, bank transfer (details on the form), or in-person at one of our meetings. More information is available via our website or contact us via email.

## Contributions to *The Burley Line*

Contributions are always encouraged to *The Burley Line* and can be sent in via the email listed on the left (under contact us). Whether it be photos, trip reports, gear reviews, advertising, places to visit, we encourage it all.

Additionally, posts for our blog are also welcome, especially for our cooking page, gear reviews and places to visit. Comments on individual blog posts are also encouraged.

## Supporters

Canberra Anglers Association would like to thank the supporters below for their ongoing assistance to our club. We encourage all members to support these groups where possible.



*Capital Fly Casting*

[www.capitalflycasting.com](http://www.capitalflycasting.com)

NOTE: Apart from Official Club Policy or Official Reports, the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Canberra Anglers