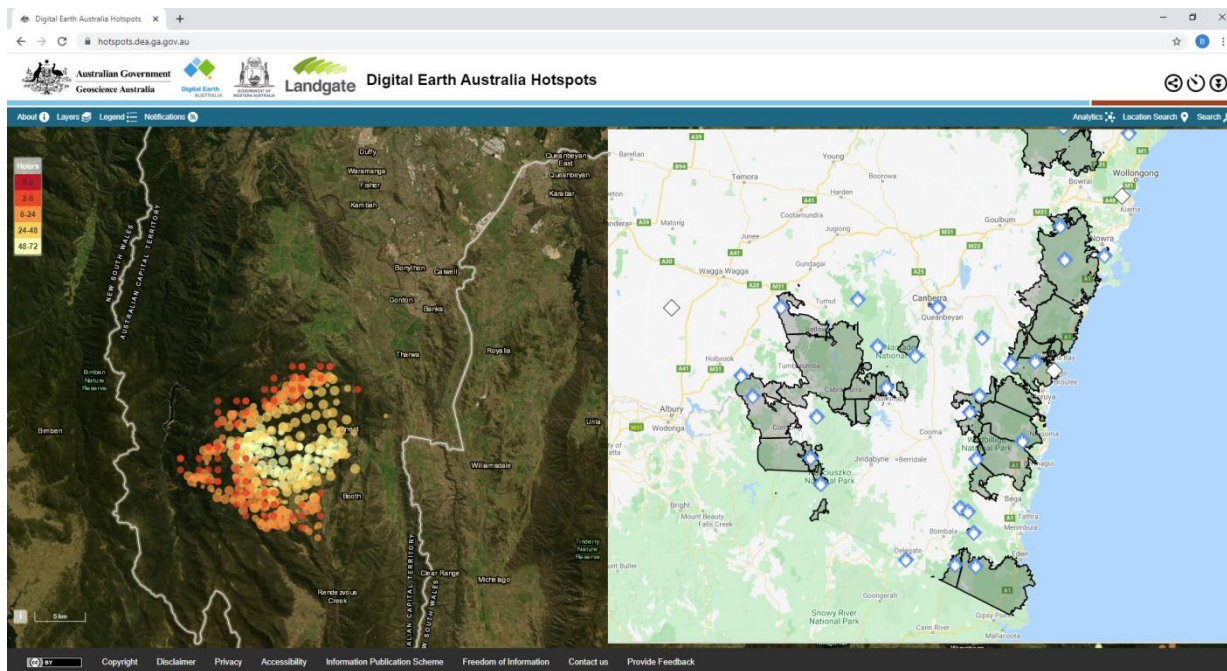


THE BURLEY LINE



A Horror Season



From the Editors Desk

Bill

Well it has been a challenging period. The smoke around Canberra reminded us of the disaster that has been around us in NSW (and now on our doorstep). My family has been personally impacted with members living at the coast being threatened with destruction of their houses or worse. We've hosted 7 evacuees in our house – having them here has been quite entertaining but with the concern about those staying back uppermost in our minds. The Fires Near Me app was in constant use – currently showing that our old haunt at Brogo perhaps having a near escape.

In amongst this, Charlie ran into an old friend of the club – Randy. He had moved down from Canberra to Malua Bay some years ago (2013?). Tragically, Randy lost his house and many of his possessions in the New Year's Eve firestorm. I have conveyed to Randy the sympathy of CAA. Our thoughts go out to him and Lindsay.



I couldn't find the photo I thought I had of Randy with a thumper Flathead on Tuross and will have to make do with this photo from Fly Casting Training in 2013. Many members will remember Randy for his knife sharpening stall operating at Moruya Markets. Randy was the contact who got CAA access to the CSIRO Ski Club lodge at East Jindabyne for which we continue to be grateful.

I hadn't thought we'd publish a February edition, but the ever reliable Jason M has filled my in-box with material about the previous trip to Brogo and 'postcards' from his fishing/kayaking/camping expedition in Tasmania – I've saved a couple for our next edition. Thanks also to Claude for some images of his latest flytying creations – his 'secret flies' for our forthcoming NZ trip remain under wraps.. I've also popped in some information about the sculpture that long time member Charlie assisted with.

One final snippet that I just learnt of yesterday. President of MAS and local angling guru Steve Samuels has been reappointed to the [Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council](#) – giving a voice to recreational anglers directly to the Minister. Congratulations Steve.

Coming Events

First Meeting 2020: 12th February
Normal time 7:30PM at Raiders Weston

Lake Fishing and Barbecue: 15th February
Lyll will send details via email

Fly Tying: 26th February
Normal time 7:30PM at Raiders Weston – details via email

Special Invitation: Thu 6th February

ACTFF is running their annual auction, and we've been invited to participate – a chance to bid and win some bargains. This time all funds raised are being donated to support the 2020 Australian team competing at the Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championships being held in Taupo New Zealand. The event starts at 7:30PM at Deakin Football Club, Grose Street Deakin.

CAA Brogo Outing – November 2019 – Part 2

By Jason

With Stefan's great trip to Brogo on, and no child's birthday party on for a change, it was a great opportunity post presents to dash down for an overnight fish. After some birthday shopping, I was about to head off when young Luke decided he wanted to come, so another hour later the extra food and bedding was added, and by 6PM on Saturday we were going through Cooma.

Arriving after 8pm, the other members were casting away, but apart from a few rises out of casting range, there was mostly angling. Camping down on one of the good fishing areas was different, with the dam around 36%, but as in 2012 it was about 76% when my GPS was knocked out of my lifejacket pocket, and 100% since, I saw it as an opportunity to have a quick scan for it, and also to see the areas I usually fish. For those unable to make it to Brogo, the Social Fishing presentation at the Sydney International Boat Show gave some good Tumut-based examples of using Google Maps (and Earth) to wind back the years on water levels to find cod holes so this year will be a good example for Brogo.

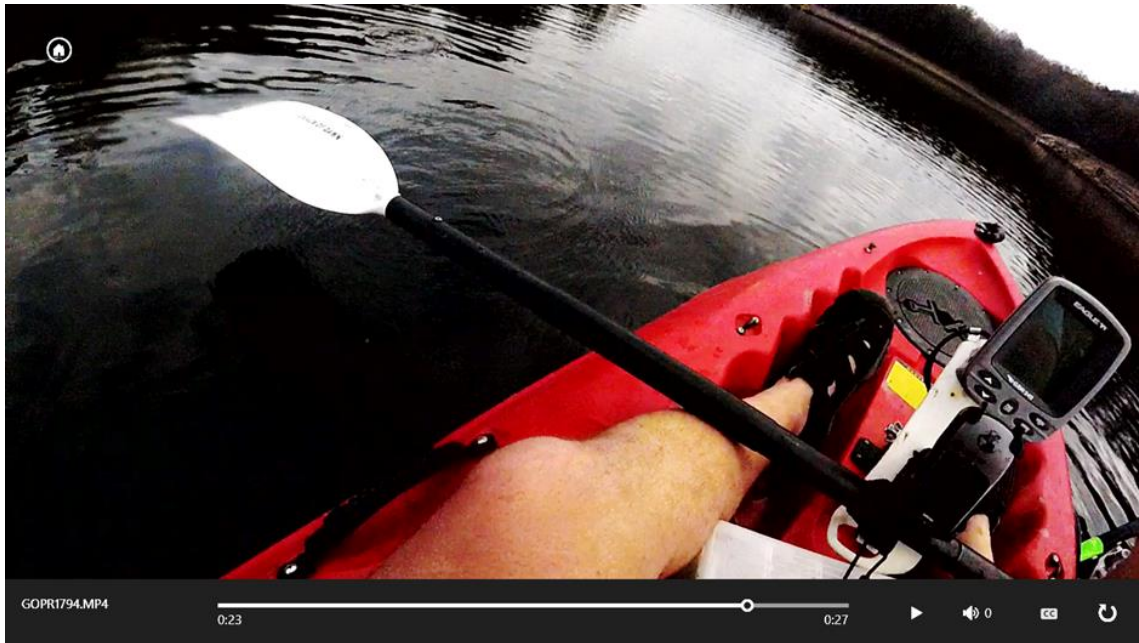
With dinner made, safety brief provided on the boggy mud, we were all heading to bed from the bugs on the overcast night when, as I was rigging a homemade popper for the morning, I noticed some stars appearing. With the natural light, I could hear some rises in the bay, and went down on the harder mud to have a cast. It ended up being a beautiful night, and with only the stars there were none of the white/green bugs that were so attracted to the camp light. The stars were bright enough to see with, and was nice to do some fan casting around the area. Venturing a bit under torchlight, I was able to work the bank a bit more towards the mouth of the bay. There was obviously some weed in close (the next day showed over 1.5m depth just off the water's edge, so quite a deep narrow bay) just from blooping my popper, so I worked that. Most rises were pretty sedate, with the occasional larger one. Casting and resting the lure near the weed, I heard one nice "boof", but the bass seemed to miss my lure. Another 40 or more "one last" casts later, and a shooting star, I decided to retire about 11:30 and wait for the morning.

Rising myself the next day, with young Luke still asleep, I found the others out working the area again. Throwing the kayak gear on, I went out for a pre-breakfast explore. The water certainly was low, looking at mud walls where I usually fish, with the rivulets not very deep and very dry, where I would normally see kangaroos drinking in the morning. The snags near reeds I usually troll past showed large rocks that were 5m out of the water. There were a couple of boats (not CAA members) working the water, at either end of the dam arm that we were in. There wasn't much surface action, and I quickly made it out near the junction of the arm, and noticed a few more rises after cleaning the lures. Turning around to go back through them, I noticed the kayak veering off course, and looking behind me found my Abu Garcia baitcaster letting line out, the rod bent over and pulsing. This looked significantly better than any fish I'd seen rising, and much better than my last catch (Feb16?) of some tiddlers. Camera on (for the club, of course), I played the fish back and got the net ready.



First bass is on

In unfolding the net, I had let the line loose, and quickly got the pressure back on. I saw the bass swirl next to the boat, then turn and lost it. I thought I'd lost it from the loose line, but looking back at the video, perhaps it was just that the hook pulled, or a combination of both was just enough after working a larger hole in its mouth as I dropped and wound it during a pump.



And the swirl left by it twenty seconds later

Pleased at least to have had a fish on (& seen it – maybe I should have touched the leader), I trolled through there again. Soon I was onto another fish, on the same lure (a colour variation to my usual favourite Brogo lure), this time not using the camera until it was safely in the boat. I didn't have a chill bag but was pretty sure it was legal at over 30cm, but from the fight it was nowhere near the fish I lost, which felt at least 40cm. One good thing with bass is the fight for their size, but that first fish was something better again.



Second bass landed

Trolling my way back to cool the fish, I saw one of the boats in the weeds opposite the camp, casting away but with no connections. Trolling past the point, in sight of the camp and boat, I found myself on again. This one fought okay, but quickly came to the surface so was skimmed back once it broached. I dropped it between my legs and paddled back and it still had some life in it as I quickly found the tips of the trebles after I thrashed around. Extracting the hook, I moved it in front of my feet and came back to see how the rest of the club was doing & see if Luke was awake yet (he was still enjoying camping out in the back of the ute in the sleeping bag).

After some quick measurements (34cm first landed fish, 37cm second one), I gave Rod some tips, including a heavier reel for his new redfin rod and a lure, and sent him out in my kayak whilst I made breakfast. Finishing off breaky, and rigging Luke's rod, I saw him coming back. We worked out a bass must have taken the lure, and the shock pulled the rod out of the rod holder. Not a great loss (except for Rod's rod), and we all had a good yarn as we packed up the camping gear. Rod looked a bit down, but intended to do some bird watching on the way back and make the most of the day ahead on the way home. What could our President do without a rod?

Not a minute later, I saw what looked like a dried gum leaf on the water, probably too big for a gum beetle or moth. Then, I realised it was my pearl/yellow minor lure. We then pulled up next to it, and I got a little worried when the line began coming off the reel instead of raising the rod. Eventually, the rod and reel did lift, and we had recovered Rod's rod. Stowing inside the kayak, we then resumed trolling. The fishing was quiet, but near my first hook-up point earlier, I spied a young echidna coming down from the scrub for a drink. We were able to approach quite close, taking the time to watch it enjoy a long drink before it trudged back up the bank.

We then trolled back, with no action, and had a treasure hunt for my GPS. No luck there, but we did see the baby plover, and were surprised not to be swooped by its parents. Looking at the sounds they were making, they were busy keeping a sea eagle away, and we left the chick to find its sibling and some cover. I was also able to scope out some of the snags we fish, areas where I have previously been taken into the reeds by bass. No GPS to be seen, but still fun anyway. Luke didn't seem to mind not catching a fish, and had more fun looking at a suspected baby snake at the stump we launched from, and having a solo paddle on the kayak in the bay (anchor rope to keep him nearby).

Another successful trip to Brogo over, my favourite lure proving itself again during the hot bite, and the first time the redfin pattern worked. The bass – well, being the only second time I've kept any, there was some grilled, and some fish tacos in a nice lemon and parsley crumb. Thanks to Stefan for organising another great trip with the limited water level.

Carpe Diem

(Italian – Seize the Day – a motto for all anglers)

Members might recall that our resident European Carp expert was called upon to capture a few as models for a sculpture. This was, we believed, intended for display at Mr Terry Snow’s airport (Canberra International). It would appear the sculpture has a permanent home at Terry Snow’s latest project (Denman Prospect).



Carp Diem
Ros Lemoh

Carp Diem is a macabre and playful observation of the fishing activities at Lake Burley Griffin. A series of carp are set in a line on the grass, cast in concrete with one polished bronze carp that sits amongst them. This work highlights the ways in which locals interact with the landscape and alludes to the way in which we value and assess the lives of different species within our code of ethics.

📍
Entry Pond
Wyndham Avenue, Denman Prospect

About the artist:
Ros currently resides in Canberra and creates sculptural objects, drawn from a preoccupation with the still-life genre. She is a recipient of numerous grants, and her work has been exhibited and held in private collections in Australia and the UK.





All Set to Fool Some Reddies?

Claude

I reckon these have the potential to con a couple of not so smart Reddies



Postcards From Tasmania

By Jason

Our Asst Treas has clearly been absconding with our funds to get himself to Tassie over Christmas/New Year. He has provided two 'postcards' – seeking to emulate that famous Tasmanian with his postcards to *FlyLife* ??

JM's Tassie Postcards – #1 – NE Tas (Derby).

Alright, for the most part, I didn't even wet a line. This is more for those thinking of heading that way. I had an opportunity to dash to Derby for a day's riding on an electric mountain bike (Specialised duallie, for those MTBers out there) similar to what a mate owns (& like what Micah Adams was describing in his talk), but the latest model with a more gradual torque. All I knew was I only had a bike shirt and backpack (& camping gear), Derby was about 3hrs drive away, and the idea was to ride about 42km. I figured there might be a stream or two, in case we had a stop, and checked my stores left behind for a 4pc fly rod (and my new waders). Couldn't find either, so fishing off the bike was out, and I stopped at the new Anaconda store in Devonport to use my Christmas voucher for some bike shorts and cheap waders for later in the trip.

The drive west of Launceston was nice, and once descending the range I marked a number of rivers and creeks for the trip back, in anticipation of maybe a sleepover enroute. Interestingly, I have only just been reading a copy of *Tassie Trout Tips and Tactics*, and Brian Cadle speaks of enjoying small stream fishing from Scottsdale near Derby.

I arrived at the free camping area, on the high bank across the river. The ground at the moment is very dry, and whilst suited to caravans and campervans, it took a few tries to get the tent pegs in. Surveying the water, there was a hatch or two happening, but only a small rise or two, and three platypus in the river. Rainbow Trout are in the river, and the nearby "pond", which I would call bigger than Yerrabi and someone is building a floating house near the swimming "beach". I didn't see any rises there near dawn, except for another platypus, and much of the bank didn't seem friendly to fly casting, but bike paths seem to run the entire circumference. This pond area has only been opened up in the last few years.

If you're after a bike and fish area, this would be great, and staying around the area would be worth it. The Trouty Trail is reportedly double black diamond, but we did come across the Trouty Creek on Kushie's trail. The ride to Binalong Bay (St Helens) though was essentially bone dry the entire 42km until we got to the coast, so glad I didn't take the rod unless we were spending time at the coast. The bikes were fun, well tuned to the hills in powering up and going neutral, and came with spares, unpadded gloves, and helmet, and on Friday a shuttle bus for \$5 more runs back from St Helens. For \$160, it was a fun day and relatively cheap way to try out these bikes.



Water! Arrival at Binalong Bay, after 3.5hrs of riding, and the first water spotted

Packing the tent up after returning our bikes after 8hrs of rental, it was a bit tiring for fishing, and even finishing packing the tent up to start a 3hr return drive, so with some drizzle, it was back to the tent and boat cushion for a mattress. I did allow an early morning inspection of the rivers. First crossing back towards Scottsdale had some nice runs, but no rises.



Rittanooma? River, near Derby, looking back towards the road crossing on the Tamar Highway. The same river runs through Derby itself.

Not quite ready to don waders having a cold bedding in my chest) I opted for the spin gear below two platypus. I managed a few casts before losing my lure (on a snag to the left of the photo), and opting to move on, but this river turned out to be one of the easier runs to fish with spin gear, with the others more narrow and overgrown and suiting wading better. (Trout River was bone dry) With Christmas less than a day away, and shopping to be done, I made my way back stopping for the promise of rising fish, but out of luck, even outside the closed Mountain Creek Trout Fishery (two more platypus in the top pool).

Was hoping for a fish at Lake Kara on Boxing Day instead, but my freshwater plans were delayed with a family BBQ, Derby would be good to combine some camping, riding, and fishing.

JM's Tassie Postcards – #2 – NW Tas (Sisters Beach)

Settled into a rental beachhouse at Sister's Beach, I found an opportunity to wet a line. I had bought a couple of Wilson Grab-n-Go combos on sale in Launceston at the middle of the year, and collecting my spin gear from the home base (Derby was mostly fly gear) decided to give the 6-10lb combo a go. The rod but is quite short, so not recommended to put in a kayak or bot rod holder, but good for kids.



The boatramp was quite rocky, and the squid jig a bit heavy for the rod, so after losing the jig I headed to the sandy end of the beach to wet my old cast net and try some soft plastics. With a reasonable head wind, I opted for a #2 1/8oz Berkely bream pro jig head and a Squidgy Bio Tough pink paddle tail, and tossed a couple more in to work along the beach.

There was a walkway bridge and tannin stained backwater right there, and thinking of the flathead at Bodalla and seeing the baitfish in the shallows (about the same size as my soft plastic), I decided to work the water, first cast in close, second out middle, third opposite bank. The third cast was retrieved by the point near some snags, and bam! I was on, and fighting to keep it out of the snags.

Start of the walkway, and pretty much my casting point at the three marks

I'd noted an area by the walkway to land the fish, but with no net (and maybe a 6lb leader), feeling the fish fight, and seeing a few glances at a dark but breamy shape, I was worried. I was pretty sure there were no pylons under the walkway, but not 100% certain.

Once I got the fish past the point, moving left I knew I was in a bit safer territory, away from its hole. Some people came by, surprised both with how quick I got a fish, and that there were fish there (& guessing it was a trout), having watched me start. It moved down to the opposite end of the walkway, and I managed to keep the fish on and clear of snags under the bridge. It broached about 1/3 the way back to the bank, and I was able to keep it on the surface but wary of it still having some fight left for when I landed it. I gave it a few more seconds, trying to get the best possible chance of a mid-weight (hard with the fish near-vertical), gill, or grip somewhere in-between. Getting it right on the fins behind the gills, with tension still on the line, I managed both and landed the fish.

From memory of seeing a Steve Starling show down here, it might be small for a Tassie black bream, but it was a nice old fish and about 10cm over minimum length. The molars were ground down almost level with the jaw, looking more like my pair of fishing pliers, and its front teeth were only a couple of millimetres long too. It measured in at 38cm, and

quite stocky. It's back in the hole for another day. As for the squidgy, well, to cast later it was in a tree, and the other one didn't drum up any flathead on the incoming tide.



Apologies for the flora in the photos, I didn't risk washing the fish before releasing it, and it wasn't the most cooperative subject for the photo.

The Wilson combo? Well, it worked well, with a smooth drag. The only thing I did was add the squidgy. The combo bags they come in are on the light side, both of mine had broken zip pullers, but for the price quite good (and handy to move them around on holidays), and come with a few lures and rigs. It was rigged with braid and a 7-9' leader that only showed a slight abrasion from the bream's mouth after the fight, but appeared to be tied on with a uni knot. It held up pretty well, with the jig breaking off at the end of the leader, the bream holding on, but the tree claimed the entire leader. The other combo is the 20lb, which as can be seen has a longer butt, and different terminal tackle to match.



A Good Home Found

Peter K was the first to lay claim to JQ's flytting desk. Will certainly be in a good home replacing Peter's dining table. I look forward to receiving some of the product in due course 😊



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.

Victorian Trout Survey – chance to win a prize

The Australian Trout Foundation is currently seeking the views of trout anglers across the state about your wild trout fishing experience in Victoria. Prize is one of 5 Trevor Hawkins signed prints. Details [here](#) but competition closes 15 Feb.

Emergency Flare HandBack and Inflatable LifeJacket Testing

The planned program from NSW Maritime for the South Coast has been postponed due to the fires.

A Christmas Message and End of Year Review from Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach

[Here](#), from Antia.

Platypus Report

Again from Antia, a report on the [current state of platypus](#) in the region. May be especially interesting to those who had volunteered to undertake observations.

Other News

Additional news and links from supporting groups



NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

No yet received the January/February edition. Remember you can subscribe yourself, there is a link in every monthly newsletter. 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). The January issue is [here](#). Hot news includes the Pirtek One Day Fishing challenge – a fund raiser for medical research (now in our 'not formally part of CAA events' program below – and a number of items on freshwater fish kills in a multitude of sites due to fires and the drought.

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

Fisheries Victoria News

Fisheries have rebranded their fortnightly newsletter as 'Nibbles'. (Remember you can subscribe yourself, there is a link in their fortnightly newsletter). The first issue is [here](#) and the second issue [here](#).

The first issue has lots of information about their stocking of Australian Bass, and a link to videos of some recent conferences – most interesting one for me was the one on [wild trout](#) with a great talk by Greg French.

The second issue has information on Murray Cod stocking and, quite importantly, news of changes to the fishing regulations – see [here](#). I don't seem to be able to see a single file though there is a link to their smartphone app.

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
2020	
Thu 6 Feb	ACTFF Auction, fund raising for the 2020 Australian Fly Fishing Team at the Commonwealth Championships.
Confirmed to be Fri 14-Sun 16 Feb	the Thredbo fly fishing expo (free event) https://www.thredbo.com.au/events/fly-fishing-weekend-2020/
Sun 15 Mar	Pirtek One Day fishing challenge – “Fight a Fish for Medical Research’ – information at https://pirtekfishingchallenge.com.au/ .
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. http://visitcooma.com.au/events/buckenderra-trout-challenge-2019/
Anticipate early Apr	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/
14 Apr	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Saltwater Workshop at Batemans Bay https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids
15 Apr	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Saltwater Workshop at Tuross Head https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids
21 Apr	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Saltwater Workshop at Greenwell Point https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids

Fri-Sun 1-3 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/
15 Oct	CAA 75 th 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 native scoring system)	Fly	Lake Tuggeranong 1 Nov
Peter	Multiple redfin	To 30cm	Fly	Lake Tuggeranong 1 Nov
Jason M	Bass	34 and 37 cm	Lure	Brogo Trip 23-24 Nov

Contact Us

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Association Inc.

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

Burley Line contributions to:

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

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