

# THE BURLEY LINE



**Peter's Catch on the Haka – Photography by Claude**



# From the Editors Desk

## Bill

It seems a number of us headed across the ditch this past month. Two reports here. Many thanks Jaime for his submission and to Peter and Claude for accompanying me and helping with the report. The final major item is one from Jason M completing his postcards from his earlier trip to Tasmania – much appreciated mate. Still looking for others to come forward with their stories – too many modest folk in our club?

Many of us have been closely watching the situation in Kosciuszko National Park. Our News blog has provided some updates (thanks Lyall) and the latest one is quite positive – the authoritative link has been provided. The fires have also raised the profile of our problem with brumbies and there has been some movement by the NSW Govt.

## Coming Events

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

Normal time 7:30PM at Raiders Weston

### **Natives at Murrumbidgee: 21<sup>st</sup> March**

Change of date, change of organiser (now led by Claude)

### **Fly Tying: 25<sup>th</sup> March**

Normal time 7:30PM at Raiders Weston – details via email

### **High Country Trout: 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> March**

Khancoban. **Cancelled**

## CAA President's Report

Dear Members

Our country has once again proved to be a land of droughts and flooding rains. Many of you will have seen the ironic pictures of bush fire danger signs in a metre of flood water. As anglers we will all have been dismayed as our poor rivers and fish suffered from damaging runoff and blackwater flows from recently burnt and denuded country. While the recent rain is welcome the drought is not over for much of Australia and uncertain rains, low water levels, invasive fish and high temperatures, mean the future for many rivers is still bleak. The committee's decision to postpone our cod stocking reflects this uncertainty and our commitment to consult again with members before committing a significant investment of CAA money.

In many places our dogged Australian bush is showing the first signs of recovery with bright green growth appearing amongst blackened stems and trunks. For those that were affected by the drought, fire and floods,

I hope that your spirits are similarly recovering. I look forward to seeing you at club meetings and events this year, and of sharing stories with you of fishing in our beautiful country.

*Rod*

*CAA President*

## **Some News from Jaime – a Short Stint in NZ**

**By Jaime**

Didn't have the time I wanted to fish - it was a hiking family and friends trip. The short time I had to explore rivers was frustrating: clouds of sandflies, haven't seen so many and so nasty in my life. That plus hard crazy winds made rivers a not very pleasant experience. But in total it was maybe 3h of river fishing in whole trip. I wish I have taken photos of my hands completely black of sandflies during river session... that would have been a nice photo... but in those moments I was just cursing to the 4 winds... nasty situation

At least 2 days ago Lake Pukaki saved me to come back home blank. Caught 4 above 50's in about 1:30h, plus two scapes. If I have stayed more would have come, they were hungry! All rainbows in that lake, biggest was 54cm. But people say there is a lot of salmon too.





All with a crazy streamer I tied some months ago.



That's the fly when I tied it.



How it looks when wet... I think it's a killer



and fishing in that setting feels much nicer, the colour of the water is amazing. All is glacier water from the Mt. Cook area.

# From the Fires to a Flood – Southland Feb 2020

By Bill, Peter and Claude

The following report will only give you a short taster. If you want to get the full story, you'll need to come to the talk – tentatively scheduled for the April meeting.

The original plan was for Bill, Peter, Claude and Jason Q to travel to Gore, Southland NZ for two weeks of mind-blowing fishing – in the end it was not quite as planned. Firstly, Jason decided to move to Cairns, bringing our crew down to 3, then mother nature decided to play as well. On 28 Jan, Peter and Bill left with some trepidation due to the fires approaching Tuggeranong – little were we to know that we would be jumping from the fires into a momentous flood. By the time Claude arrived on 4 Feb, it was getting beyond a joke.



As usual, the first day was travel down to Gore with our first day fishing on Sun 2 Feb. Peter landed three modest fish on nymph in the run opposite the farm. Bill's efforts with the dry to fish rising in the swirl pool were characterised by disdain from the fish and spooking the ones that could be reached easily. The afternoon at Gibson Road was better for him with a matching threesome: one smaller on nymph (photo) and two in the reliable foam lines on dry.



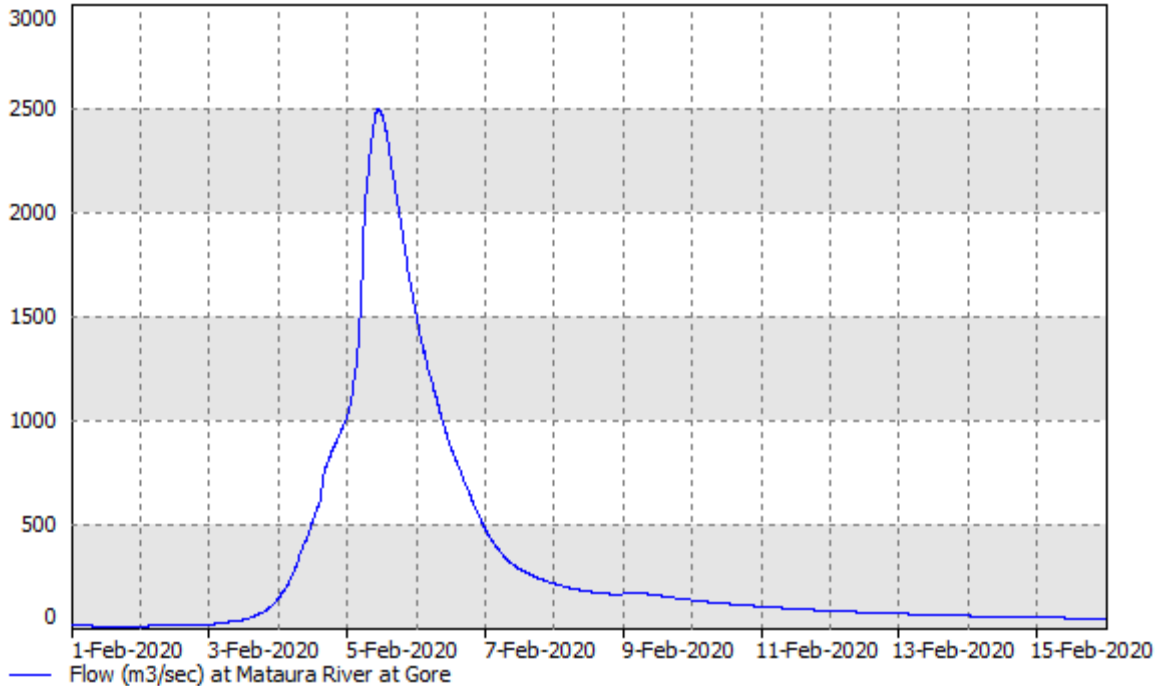
The rain was heavier on Mon 3, so we decided to have a quick look at the Waipahl where Lyall and Bill had fished a pretty little farm stream in 2018 (below).



We started to get the impression that this rain event might be a bit serious:

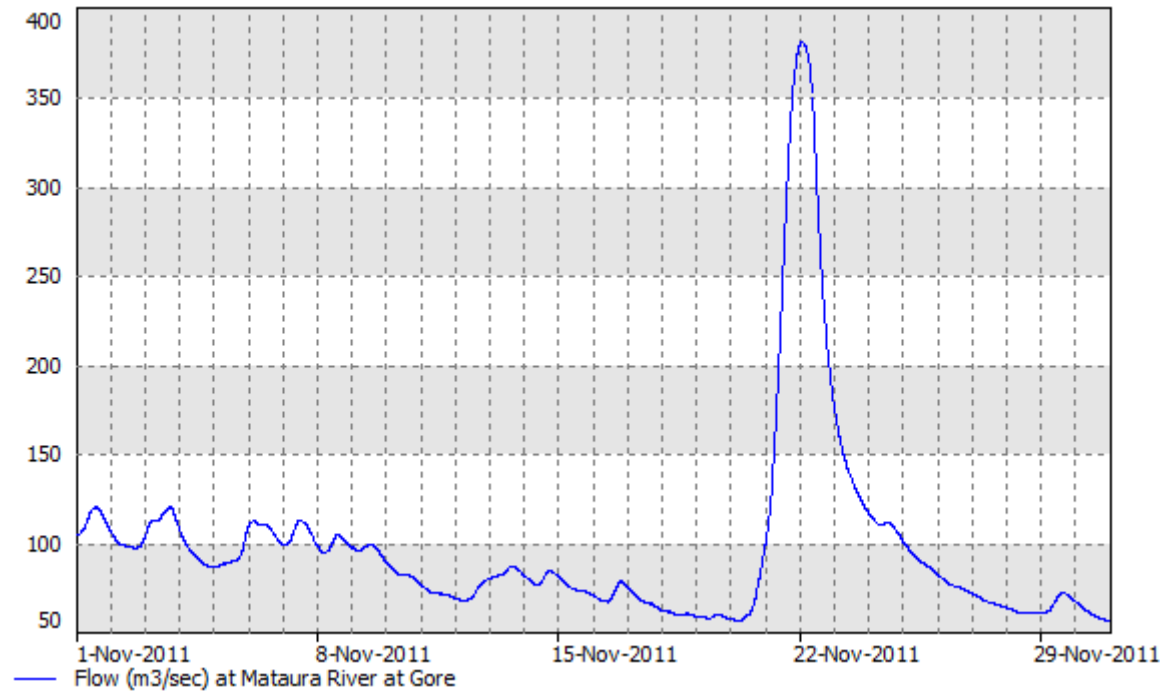


The whole nature of this trip was then dominated by the incredible floods of the Mataura. No-one we spoke to had ever experienced anything like this. The overall consequence is that we had to travel extensively, even moving locations, to get to good water.



To put the graph above into perspective, the river was only just becoming fishable in the last two days of this trip – water still high and unfortunately dirty, though some fish were responding. We have always argued that

you have to plan on visiting NZ for two weeks to cater for bad weather, you can see why. Again, to put the graph above into context, compare with what we thought was a mammoth flood we struck in 2011.



Tue 4 Feb and we had to get up to Queenstown to pick up Claude. Our normal route into Gore along River Rd was blocked by flood waters. 2PM and the river was getting right out of hand. A decision was made to leave and stick to the State Highways. Our route would take us up the East Coast to Milton, then across the South Island to Alexandra thence into Queenstown – 4 and a half hours compared with the normal route of about 2 hours. Claude was duly collected and we dined in Queenstown. The return route fared well until we had a very confusing redirection across the Clutha near Roxburgh. This took us through a town called Miller’s Flat, of which we got to see many more times over the coming days.

*The flood was uprooting trees on the bank as well as more substantial objects as we discovered much later. Shipping container looking much worse for wear.*





We came to the inevitable conclusion that the Matura and nearby streams were not going to be fishable and we'd have to go further afield. Two hours' drive up through the previously mentioned Miller's Flat saw us at Lake Onslow, but Peter and Bill recommended fishing the Teviot River immediately below the dam. This is mountain goat country, but delivered us some good fish, mainly on wets.



*Claude just visible silhouetted on that rock overhang upper left.*



*Brilliant red spots*

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> had us travelling a long drive up through Alexandra and Omarama to 3 nights in Kurow – very pleasant house right in town, very close to Peter’s favourite river the Hakataramea. A quick change and we were on the water low down in the system. Peter and Claude spooked a number of large trout in very shallow water ... we’ve gone from severe floods to severe drought! Bill was content with one miss on a dry fly but focussed on one ‘fascination pool’ where the fish were staying on station and feeding with gusto both visually and audibly. Shame the wind was creating havoc with placing the fly.

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> and we headed right up to the top of the system. Two locals were fishing the very pool that Bill got his ‘big one’ in Nov 2017. Elsewhere the water extremely low and the deep gutters on outside bends were not revealing any fish. Bill had no sightings upstream till he got as far as he wanted to walk. A number of fish were sighted there but spooked, or couldn’t be tempted. Morale just a trifle low.

Meanwhile the other two were getting into fish or at least sighting and getting them on the hook.



A return for the evening rise had no success for landing fish. An error trying to free a fly had Bill break his rod. Thankfully Claude could offer a spare rod till we could get back to Gore.



Tue 11<sup>th</sup> and our last day on the Haka. Off to the middle section near Cattle Creek. Working both down and upstream was not an option due to ‘stay out signs’ and we headed up the river concerned about the depth.

*Claude broke the ice casting deep nymphs into fish sighted deep in a gutter (who had ignored multiple dries).*

*Peter enticed a rise with a dry before Claude continued to fool the deep fish with his nymphs – Bill was in despair.*



Walking to go back home, Bill spotted a fish high in the water seemingly looking for surface food. Two casts with the dry fly and a satisfying crunch had the 53cm trout taking the fly. Unfortunately a number of jumps in shallow water meant that even 15 minutes effort couldn't revive her satisfactorily. She ended up smoked for our nibblies back at Gore. At another level, we were disappointed – the only fish killed this trip.



On return to Gore, we found the rivers high and even searching higher tributaries failed to produce fish.

Fri 14 and we normally would be washing and drying. Claude and Bill gave Gibson Road one last go.

Claude actually landed a small redfin – we'd heard that English Perch were present in the Mataura but had never seen one. Bill spotted a rise in what was left of the swirl pool and landed a nice brown on dry on his last cast for the trip. A fitting end for him.



The afternoon saw Peter and Bill doing their scrub and dry whereas Claude managed two on nymph on the bank opposite the farm – the Mataura was coming back to life just as we had to leave.

Check out some of the aerial shots and videos of Gore [in this news article](#).

## Postcards From Tasmania – Part 2

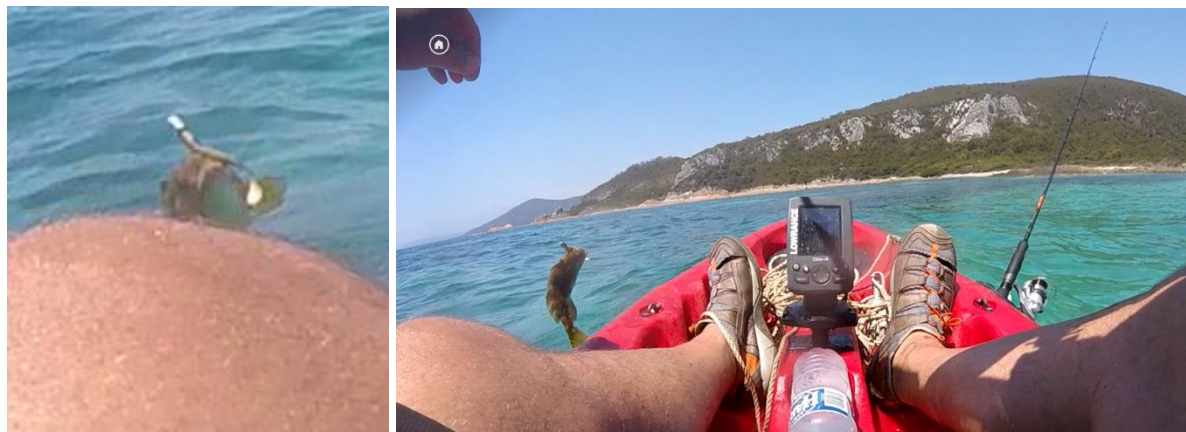
By Jason

These finalise Jason's journey started last month.

### JM's Tassie Postcards – #3 – W Tas (Rocky Cape NP)

With my kayak fixed up after a few war and tear issues at Brogo, I took it for a paddle into Rocky Cape National Park. Launching at Sister's Beach boatramp, my squid jig seemed snagged up, and after freeing it seeing a nice squid following it, a re-cast and catch occurred. It also christened a nice Savage Gear MPP2 3-4kg spin rod I got down here in winter, for a bargain \$30 (\$15 after using a coupon) down from \$99. Stowing the squid, I headed out round the headland into the park area.

There are a number of bush walks between the boat ramp and the Cape, and I occasionally saw a few hikers from my kayak. Most of the inshore water was 7-8m, once I got my Elite 4 onto the right frequency my old Eagle transducer was on. I picked up a 31cm wrasse on an old bony bream soft plastic, but otherwise the trolling was quiet.



*The first wrasse on the paddletail soft plastic*

After a lunch top on the beach near the 5 Sisters, and changing rigs, I went to the next feature, Anniversary Point. There was a big sea eagle eyeing me off from the rocky point, and some fish on the bottom which I marked. There was a beautiful lagoon in behind the headland rocks, about 3m deep and great to bring the kids to for a snorkel (except lacking fish). Visibility from the kayak was about 10m deep in the nice clear water here, with good resolution at 5m of the bottom.

Putting some squid mantles on a whiting rig (like a snapper rig but smaller hooks and lighter line), I caught bunches of small wrasse, to around 25cm, but nothing of note on my marks. Trolling back with a deep diver, all was quiet except seeing one bait ball, about 2m in diameter, in 10-12m, but no predators spotted. With it getting late, and the wind building, I kept paddling.





*A bit of quick fun, with some stunning scenery. The sandy spot in the second photo is the lagoon*

Back near the boatramp, I went to where I had spotted boats often loitering, but no fish. I put the squid jig out again, and lost a couple and landed one.



I was putting it in the keeper net when another grabbed my dangling jig, catching the rod as it tipped in my lap. It turns out the locals call this the squid hole.



*Another bite whilst de-sliming from landing the squid (slime can be seen from the butt of my rod)*

The locals usually find their flathead in 30-40m, with people catching flathead, school sharks, and gummy harks further out the other side of a nearby island or of Rocky Cape itself, so I was happy with two squid and a wrasse (quite tasty baked up for NYE). I also tried the Squidezy cleaning tool I saw advertised last year. They probably need a bit more practise, but certainly made skinning the squid much easier, even if I used a different was to skin it (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMwDwON0pTA>).

## Public comment Sought on the Draft Canberra Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan

A review has recently been undertaken of the Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds Land Management Plan (LMP). The draft LMP outlines how our current urban lakes and ponds — and any new ponds — will continue to be managed and developed to cater for recreational use and maintenance of water quality. The LMP is available for comment on the ACT Your Say website at <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/urban-lakes-and-ponds-land-management-plan> until Monday 6 April 2020.

# 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.

## KNP Situation – Keeping Informed

The News blog gives the [situation as at 22 Feb](#), but also the link to [the authoritative source](#) and contacts for NPWS offices.

## KNP – Brumbies and Consequences of the Fires

[A report](#) passed to us from MAS with links to videos and interviews from an aerial survey of KNP post the fires.

## Other News

### Additional news and links from supporting groups



## NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

[Feb Edition](#) has arrived. Key items:

- The NSW Minister's advisory council (RF NSW) has been re-established. Our local rep Steve Samuels (Pres MAS) has been successful in being re-appointed.
- The issue of redfin in Tantangara has hit the national press – the newsletter points us to the item in the Australian. Unfortunately the hotlink doesn't work for me, but the main points are summarised in the CFA newsletter.



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

Feb issue not yet arrived.

(Remember you can subscribe yourself, there is a link in their monthly newsletter).

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

## Fisheries Victoria News

This is now known as 'Nibbles'. (Remember you can subscribe yourself, there is a link in their fortnightly newsletter). The 11 Feb Edition is [here](#). One interesting item is their "[Golden Tag](#)" competition. Tagged fish have been released in many waters and the first ten captured with earn the angler \$10,000.

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>  |   |
| Fri-Sun 20-22 Mar<br>Clashes with new date for Natives event ☺ | Buckenderra Caravan Park organize a trout catch and release event called the Buckenderra Trout Challenge. There is a limit of 150 participants.<br>The information is on their Facebook page (you don't need a Facebook account to look at it)<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/Buckenderra-Holiday-Village-149249308486310/">https://www.facebook.com/Buckenderra-Holiday-Village-149249308486310/</a> or email <a href="mailto:info@buckenderra.com.au">info@buckenderra.com.au</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)<br><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<br><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<br><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<br><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<br>May | NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers InterClub Meet<br><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   |
| Jason M                | Bass                    | 34 and 37 cm  | Lure             | Brogo Trip 23-24 Nov   |
| Claude, Peter and Bill | Brown and Rainbow trout | To 53cm   | Fly              | South Island New Zealand Feb 2020  |

|       |               |         |     |                                   |
|-------|---------------|---------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| Jaime | Rainbow trout | To 54cm | Fly | South Island New Zealand Feb 2020 |
|-------|---------------|---------|-----|-----------------------------------|

## 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