

THE BURLEY LINE



Not Sure What Hobby We Are Looking at Here, But This Could Easily be JQ's Fly Tying Room. Hmm, Maybe Too Neat?



From the Editors Desk

Bill

Many thanks to Luke M for his cartoon, Lyall, Claude, BJ and Steve Samuels for their contributions but especial appreciation (and envy) goes out to our Cairns chapter of CAA with Jason Q giving us a comprehensive rundown on life up there. Everyone who reads it will be beating a track, when the Queensland authorities open the border!

By the way, if you get any 'officialdom' asking why you are on a field casting and not home 'hunkering down' you can quote an email I've received from Tara Cheyne MLA and Government Whip: "Yes, I've confirmed that long as gathering/physical distancing rules are adhered to and the area is not otherwise closed (especially places like national parks), an activity like fishing can be carried out". She did recommend that, as much as possible, we should stay at home but it seems some 'move along' instructions may be a bit of over-reach.

On a related matter, I raised with her that the Government website

https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/city-living/recreation/waterways/water_quality_in_our_lakes_and_ponds

was showing Lake Ginninderra as 'untested' for primary contact whereas signage around the lake was clearly saying 'Closed' – the web has now been corrected. Ms Cheyne explained that the testers were fully committed with COVID matters – seems reasonable. What was unreasonable was that the website clearly classifies fishing as a 'Secondary Contact' activity (for which the lake is open) whereas the signs show a red line through a fish.



Ms Cheyne has advised "I have asked the Minister's office if future consideration can be given to clarifying the categorisation and signage about fishing."

Coming Events

Meeting: 13th May

Normal time 7:30PM via Zoom

Our guest speaker will be Canberra's very own Jason Mahoney who keeps winning Fly Fish Australia's elite fly fishing competitions. Under the current circumstances we have had to cancel our May outing to Tumut but fear not, Jason cleaned up the competition at the last all-Australia fly fishing competition in Tumut and will be sharing his Tumut River fishing secrets with us. Let's find all the good things to take out of the current situation. For the Canberra Anglers' community, it doesn't get better than this!!!

Fly Tying: 27th May

Normal time 7:30PM via Zoom – we will be tying the Claret Carrot with Evan of <https://www.createafly.com.au>. More details via email

Tumut: 22nd – 24th May

this has been **cancelled**

Moving North

Jason Q

Dear Team CAA,

As many of you begin to unseal your vacuum bagged winter wear from last season, Darlene, Eli and I are still finding it tough to wear anything more than just our swimmers to try stay cool!! How quickly you forget how uncomfortable the humidity can feel.

For our little family, life has been a roller coaster since our departure in January. From leaving a smoke filled ACT to arriving in Cairns and then following the news daily to try and comprehend what has come to be of today.

In the short space of time between removals, unpacking and work, we have managed to take advantage of the boat ramp which is approx. 5 mins drive from here. There's also a small creek named Blackfellow Creek which is about a 30 minute walk that cascades out of the mountains and drains into the Cairns inlet. It runs beneath a really busy highway and beside the perfect walking/cycling track so Eli and I have taken advantage of it and had some success. We've learned that fish don't discriminate a squirmy wormy up here!

We hope you enjoy seeing our little exploits. Stay warm and most importantly keep healthy and safe.

Cheers, Jason, Darlene and Eli

The three photos here was when I moved up to Cairns in the first week of January to settle into the new job. Al Simson (Kettafly), very good family friend and Cairns local fly guide, put me up at his home for 3 weeks. During this time we spent Australia Day out on the reef, commonly known as the 'Aquarium'. We managed over 40 fish.



I managed my first Blochi Permit on fly, a day I won't be forgetting any time soon.

Giant Trevally ("Geet")





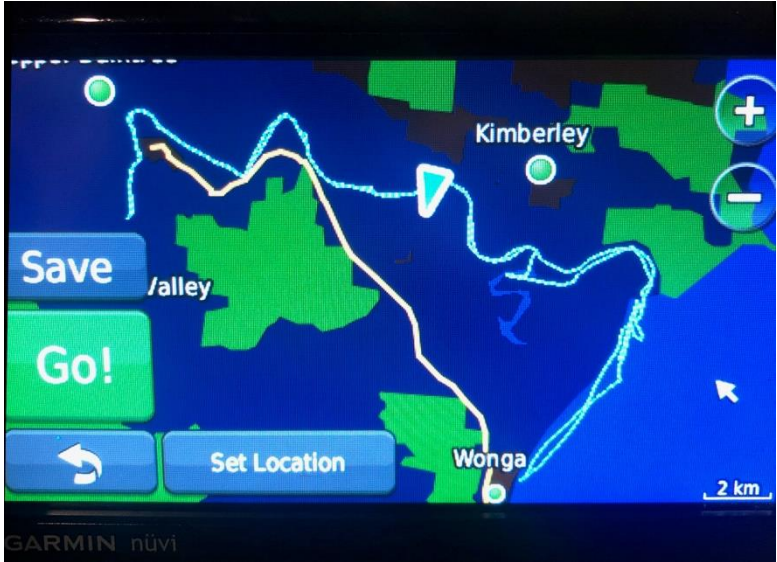
Spangled Emperor

These 4 photos are just some random tying and my long service and birthday gift as sent from Nath Walker (Compleat Angler Canberra). The reel is a Lamson Cobalt 10. The flies are Barra bunnies and the last is an articulated jig fly representing a shrimp thing**!





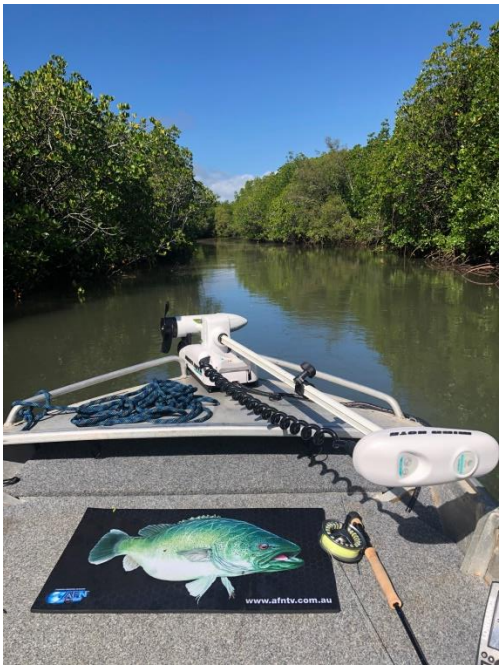
These are from a massive day out on the Daintree River and on the flats just out off Wonga beach (North of Port Douglas). We caught a few Geet and Golden Trevally but our shots were actually quite limited. It was a one cast one chance deal. The tides were neaping (barely running) and the water was very clear with not a ripple on the surface. I haven't got one of those expensive sounder with map things, so I use my car Garmin Nuvi to track the trip! We also found this Toyota Prado which appears someone had thought it a good idea to drive out on a low tide and subsequently got bogged. Pretty cool to climb onboard and have a cast!



Here is Eli whilst down at the local creek named Blackfellow Creek. It's really close to home and pretty little creek. It has lot of fish including Jungle Perch, Tilapia, Sooty Grunter, and other little aquarium looking fish – very pretty things! Eli seen here practising casting with a float and squirmy wormy!



My solo trip in the Cairns inlet. A few fish – all Mangrove Jack. A really cool fish to catch as they hit hard for their size, and fight well. A lot like a bass fight to be honest. A tasty fish at the right size but generally hard to come by as they're all the magic 50mm too small for legal take. No Barramundi this trip. And how calm is it!?





Here is a pic of something that could have ended my life due to the fright it gave me! And that's why we have insect screens on our windows and we close the toilet seat once you've used it!

A final note: a HUGE thank you to the guys who helped Claude build and polish up my dubbing brush tool. What a tool and piece of furniture to boot! I am extremely grateful and honoured to receive such craftsmanship to say the least!



Some examples of the brush in use.

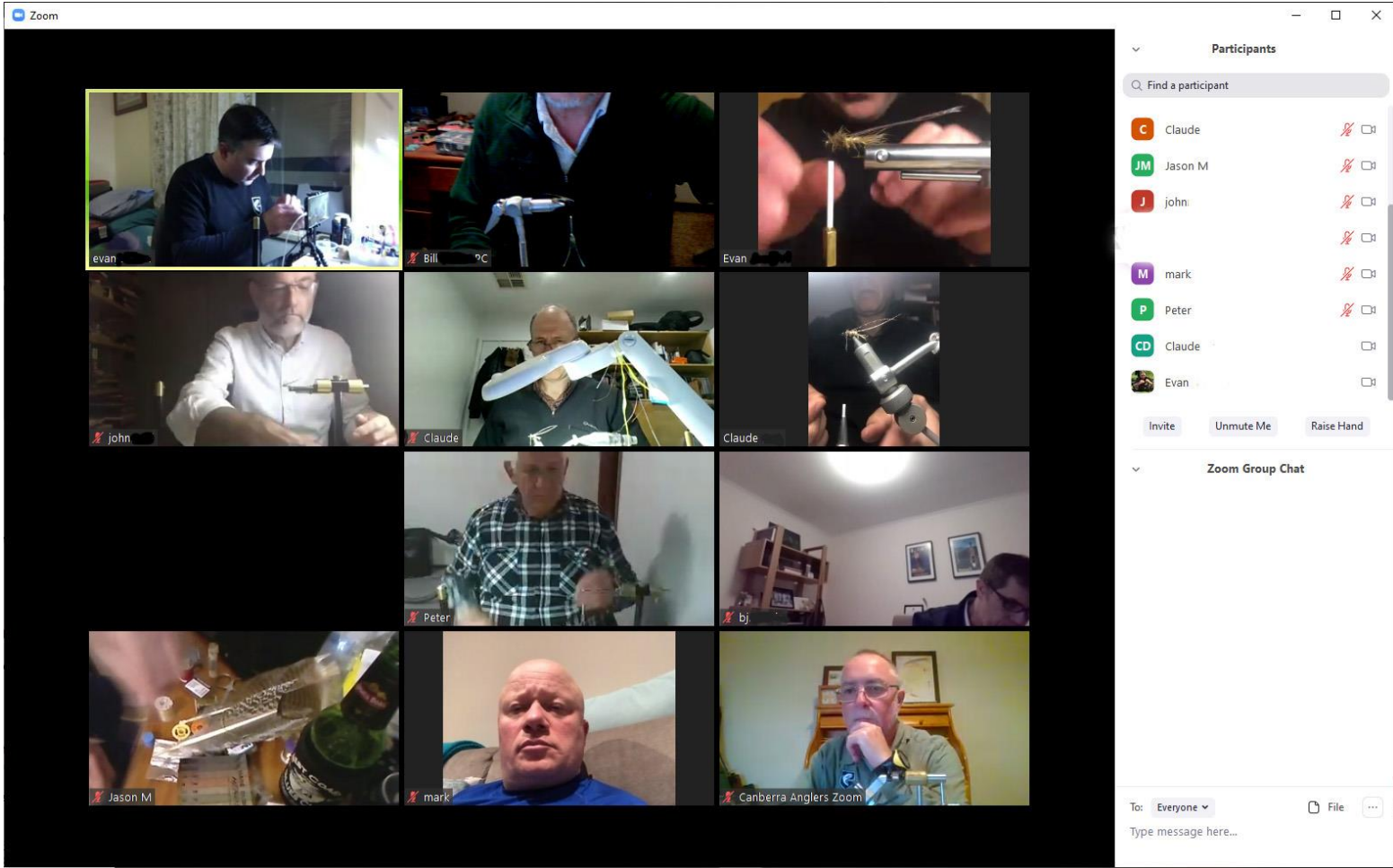


'Virtual' Fly Tying – Wednesday 22 April



Our first virtual fly tying night with Evan from Create-A-Fly <https://www.createafly.com.au> was so successful that we asked him to host it again ... and he kindly agreed. Over the rapidly expanding Zoom platform, we tied the Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear Nymph which is one of the flies in Fly Fishers International Bronze Fly Tying Award (see https://flyfishersinternational.org/Portals/0/FlyTyingGroup/FTGDocuments/FlyTyingSkillsAward/BronzeAwardHandbook_sm.pdf).

Ten attentive souls attended and learnt much about this fly, the materials, plus more during the question and answer. All appreciated Evan's assistance and some pressure was applied to get him back next month to tie the carrot fly. As you'll see below, the camera focussed on Evan's vice (top right) actually works better than looking from the other end of the Raider's Boardroom table.

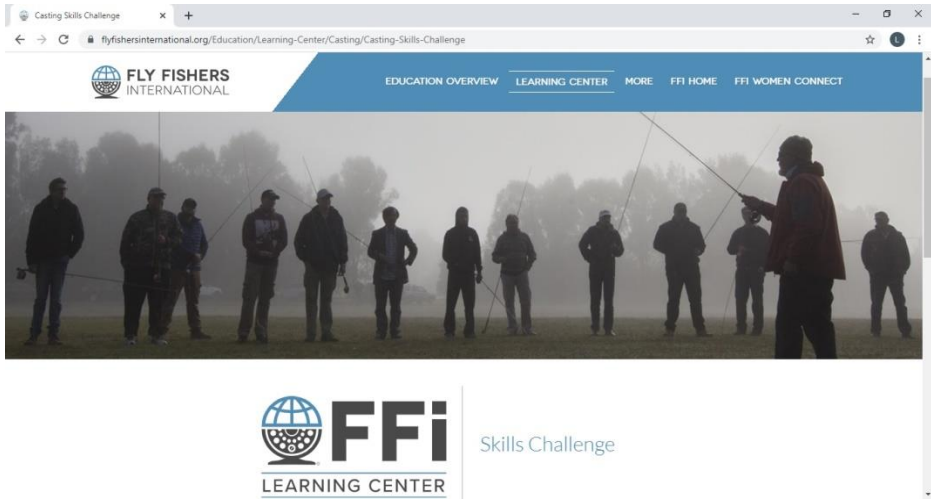


Some examples of the outcomes.



COVID19 Casting

Lyll



If you are isolating and having fishing withdrawal, why not try some fly casting games in the company of your closest friend ... YOU!!! It is officially classified as exercise and all you need to get started is fifty feet of casting space and a 1.5 metre long pointy stick to ward off inquisitive neighbours or dog walkers on the oval.

The Fly Casting Challenge, as it is formally known, is a series of measured casting tasks over three levels – bronze, silver and, you guessed it, gold.

All of the tasks are meant to be practical fly fishing scenarios. If you ever said to yourself “I am bored to death and want to improve my fly casting in a no-stress environment” then this is for you!!!

Get yourself a feet and inches measuring tape from a hardware store beginning with B and half a dozen soccer training cones from a sports store beginning with R and you are set.

The tasks are laid out one-by-one with target measurements at <https://flyfishersinternational.org/Education/Learning-Center/Casting/Casting-Skills-Challenge> and are available to anyone for free. The program was put together for fishing clubs to enjoy on club days but is equally useful for individuals to improve their casting.

An example of one of the tasks in the bronze level challenge is:

Distance: Starting with the fly at 40 feet, the caster will achieve a distance of 50 feet or beyond with the fly landing beyond the line tip and within 4 feet of either side of the measuring tape within 3 attempts. Second and third attempts, if needed, can be started from any point. Hauling and unlimited false casts are allowed. Second and third attempts, if needed can be started from any point.

Other tasks at bronze level include roll casts on and off side, accuracy, varying your casting plane vertical to horizontal, shooting line and the pick up and lay down cast.

Try to find the positives out of the current circumstances and when you are on your next Zoom conference to the office, you can tell them you are spending ten hours a day working and one hour at lunch times improving your fly casting!!! Excellent !!!

Taking a Break From Isolation

Claude and BJ

We decided that the lack of access to trout streams in Canberra should not be a reason to not go fishing. The Monday of the long weekend was the target day to hit the Murrumbidgee River with calm weather forecast. We had an interesting start with thick fog encountered on the way to the Shepherds Lookout Car Park behind Holt. Both of us hadn't been there for around 12 months and both missed the turn-off because the turnoff being unrecognisable due to the large amount of redevelopment in the area. We were extra surprised to see quite a few cars at the lookout before 0800. BJ was in search of natives with his bait caster and Claude was attempting to catch carp on the fly.



The fog was surprisingly thick and we missed our normal walking track to the river, but with walking downhill the error didn't cost much time or effort. We walked for about 45 minutes, over three barbed wire fences, before casting a line. BJ fished the wide open holes whilst Claude walked to an island with lots of surrounding rock pools. Claude had received some advice on carp on the fly from Lyall's good mate, Jason Stratford, prior to the trip – members may remember him from some of Lyall's presentations. Jason is a key contributor to the [Kangaroo Carp Facebook group](#), and has recorded

there setting himself the goal of landing 1,000 carp on the fly in one calendar year... and did it! Meanwhile, our carp were a bit spooky generally only allowing one cast to get it right.

Eventually a nice little run was found where a couple of carp were cruising and feeding off the riffle outflow. A couple of casts later and a hook-up was finally achieved with a 50+cm carp. After a 15 metre run, the fish was lost when the Woolly Bugger hook bent! The sun finally burned off the fog and whilst the sun made it easier to search the water, no other carp were sighted in that area, but Claude met some GeoCachers who found the cache that highlights the lowest point in the ACT. BJ didn't have any luck with the natives but was quite happy to survive the outing without losing a lure....a mean feat when shore fishing with those big expensive lures 😊



The fishing trip was cut short when a rogue branch (30mm diameter) fell out of a tree and broke the fly rod.....the impacts of COVID-19 may result in a very long repair period.

For those that haven't fished the area, the walk back is a little daunting with a big hill climb to get up to the carpark. BJ powered up the hill while Claude took it a bit slower. When we returned to the carpark we were welcomed by around 50 cars parked in the area...lots of folk wanting exercise on the beautiful day. Despite the broken rod and shortened fishing day, a good trip and lots of exercise (10km) was had.

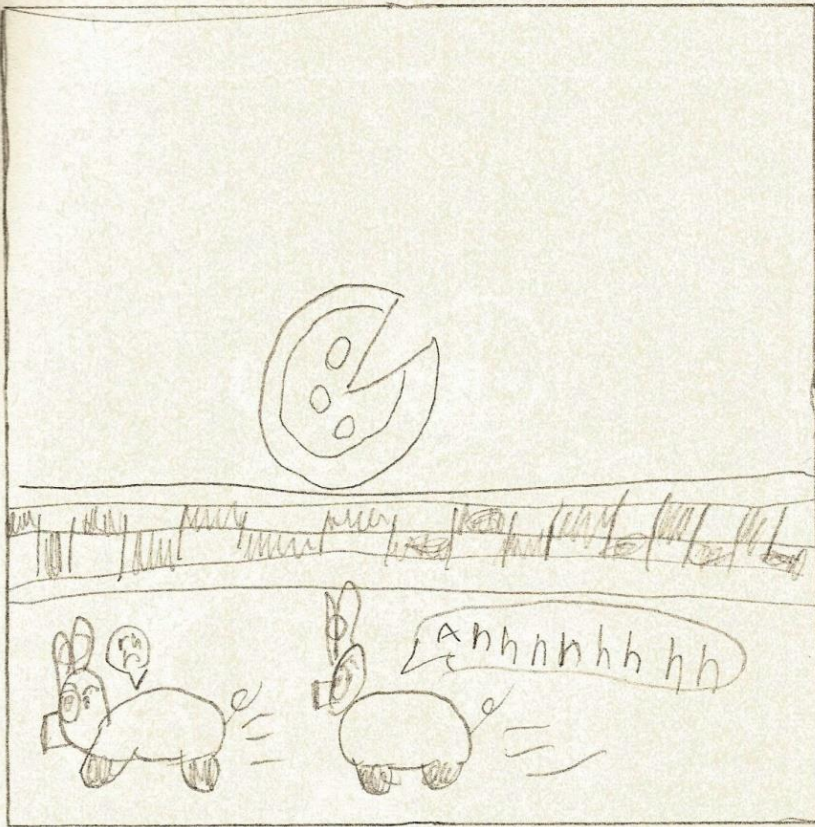


The CAA committee has managed to snag Jason to speak soon at a club presentation. He will have great tips on catching these much maligned fish that are readily available around Canberra. The Kangaroo Carp Facebook group is 'closed' – ie you need to ask to join – but we would highly recommend it for lots of interesting information... and then get into it!

A pair of Wedgetails surveying the scene



Social Isolation Bringing on New Skills



One of our youngest members, Luke M, has taken up drawing cartoons in this period of restriction on travel/school. Seems his favourite objects are pigs and pizzas. Here the one on the right has been frightened by the sun having a wedge like a pizza, while the one on the left is saying to “run”. Jason tells me “I think he drew a ham pizza (one of his favourites) and they were leaving before they were turned into pizza too”.

I look forward to lots more of these from Luke.

Some More Investigations from Alan Bulmer

While we are quite limited in our ability to go fishing, spare a thought for our friends across the Tasman. Alan tells me “No fishing for nearly 5 weeks. We drop a level on the 28th and then it will be all on! Take care and kia kaha (Stay safe in Maori).” Meanwhile, he has to content himself with watching snippets like this [one](#) on backcountry NZ trout with part 2 [here](#). First time I’ve seen an underwater shot of fish release with the angler’s face underwater too.

Alan is the brains behind an excellent angling blog <https://activeanglingnz.com/> which we’ve looked at before. I found this [one on barometric pressure](#) interesting. As an ex research scientist it was good to see credible trial design and analytical technique used.

Alan reviews an American author’s book which argued the case of barometric pressure having an influence on catch rates. While there may well be a correlation, Alan ponders whether it is a direct cause of the fish behaviour, or if the weather consequences of barometric pressure may be the real cause. His further readings and his own 12 month trial suggests the latter to be the case. The article by Fisheries Scientist, Ralph Manns, at In-Fisherman.com entitled [Barometric Pressure and Bass](#) took a very scientific approach to account for ‘confounding factors’. An important factor was seen to be [whether the fish had had a good feeding period and digestion was delaying a return to eating](#) – anyone know how long a trout takes to digest its feed?

Alan's recommendation of "fish as often as possible, even when the conditions and indicators may not appear conducive to fishing" is one that I'll need to discuss with my wife.

Vale Alan Wareham

Many members will not know Alan Wareham, he and his son Neil were members only for a short time but I think a brief note about his passing on 30 Apr at the even Century may inspire some of us.

Alan was a Artilleryman during WW2 serving in North Africa with Monty's 8th Army. Back home, he raised a family and fished in the high country of Victoria.

He came to my awareness when he came to fly casting on the lawns of Old Parliament house after moving to Canberra – I think in his 80s. Neil tells me that Alan caught his last trout at the ripe age of 94 at Geehi Horse Camp – Neil has to admit it became dinner, but we won't dwell on that.

As I said to Neil, I'm sure Alan and Monty are discussing Monty's tactics in the Western Desert ... I wonder if Monty was a fly fisherman.

Rest in Peace

MAS News

Steve Samuels, President of the Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc (MAS), advises that, while things seem very quiet, the MAS is still negotiating with Snowy Hydro for the construction and running of a trout grow-out facility as an offset for the possibility of redfin entering Tantangara lake through the pumped hydro system.

Also, the MAS is concerned that NSW DPI (Fisheries) has written to Snowy Hydro indicating that there is little support for the MAS grow-out concept. MAS has written to NSW Fisheries and is awaiting a response to the MAS concerns.



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.

Click on the headings to look at the post.

Protest Against Rafting in Two Southland NZ Rivers

For those of you who have read this post, I have removed it from our News and from Facebook. A local guide whose judgement I respect has advised that local fishing guides are seeking to defuse this situation and negotiate with the raft operator.

[DPI Fisheries Gaden Trout Hatchery Report Jan-Apr 2020](#)

Our 3 times a year report – some excellent efforts at Gaden in spite of challenging fire, hot weather and COVID situations.

Controllers of the Use our NSW “Fishing Licence” Fees

CAA’s voice in the bodies that manage the expenditure of our licence fees has possibly been diminished.

CAA and Zoom Internet Video Conferencing

After a number of successful uses of Zoom CAA looks to be adopting it for all meetings and fly tying. A revised ‘Beginner’s Guide’ is available, plus instructions on how to join without a camera or microphone on your computer.

Free to a Good Home

Lyall has a couple of give-aways. The first are a pair of ladies Redington size US 6 wading boots. The second is a pair of Redington medium short size waders. Neither have seen the water. Anyone who wants them is welcome to e-mail info@capitalflycasting.com



Other News

Additional news and links from supporting groups



NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

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.

The latest edition is [here](#). Key points are:

- NPWS completed a cull of Kosciuszko National Park of feral animals – but didn't cull a single horse
- Dollar For Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program is back
- NZ angling group seeks funds to fight rafting consent on Southland rivers – this includes sections of the Mataura that many CAA members frequent. See our News above.
- Have your say on recreational fishing in Australia – a national survey by (amongst others) University of Canberra. There are weekly and monthly prize draws – closes 22 May
- Invasive Species Council article on Redin/EHN virus is quite critical of Snowy Hydro 2.0 but doesn't say much more than we already know and doesn't offer any realistic solutions

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

The May newsletter is [here](#). As we've seen in the past, it has an emphasis on saltwater, but some interesting items are:

- NSW Minister for Agriculture says no more marine parks
- Water temperatures in NSW estuaries have risen more than 2 degrees and become more acidic over the past 12 years

- The University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain is conducting research about the impacts of COVID-19 on marine recreational fishing activities around the world – they have a short survey you can complete
- What happens to hooks left in fish?

Fisheries Victoria News

This is now known as 'Nibbles'. (Remember you can subscribe yourself, there is a link in their fortnightly newsletter).

There's been no nibbles hit my in-box. News and updates from Fisheries Victoria can be found also on their [Facebook page](#) (you don't need to be a Facebook user, though I'm sure they'll 'encourage you' to join 😊).

For Sale

Peter has some UHF radios available for sale. If you don't have his email address, register your interest by emailing me and we'll pass you onto him.

burley-line@canberra-anglers.asn.au



2 x Oricom PMR1000 1w 40ch UHF CB radios with 240 volt charger. Only \$40.00



For an extra \$10: 2 x Oricom PMR88 0.5w 40ch UHF CB radios

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	
	The next run of events have been cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. I've left them here as a reminder of what might come in due course
	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Workshop at Gaden Hatchery https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids
	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Saltwater Workshop at Batemans Bay https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids
	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Saltwater Workshop at Tuross Head https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids
	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Saltwater Workshop at Greenwell Point https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids
15 Oct	Hopefully the COVID restriction will all be over in time for CAA's 75 th birthday. Otherwise perhaps a Zoom session.
2021	These have been annual regulars in the past
Feb	the Thredbo fly fishing expo (free event) https://www.thredbo.com.au/events/fly-fishing-weekend-2020/
Mar	Pirtek One Day fishing challenge – “Fight a Fish for Medical Research’ – information at https://pirtekfishingchallenge.com.au/ .
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/
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/

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
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
Peter	Carp	51cm	Fly	Local lakes 29 Feb 2020

Contact Us

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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

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

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