

THE BURLEY LINE



Not Quite What JQ Expected to Land



From the Editor's Desk

Bill

The social distancing and isolation continues but some folk have managed to get away fishing. With the gradual relaxation I look forward to more reports from you guys.

Some very interesting news in here from our 'peak recreational freshwater fishing' body – NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers. CAA has an increasing engagement so please raise with your delegate (Stefan) any issues that you believe need to be raised at state level.

While CAA is not a member, the other key representational body in this region, the Monaro Acclimatisation Society, reports here on their pursuit of the 'recreational fishing offset' with Snowy Hydro 2.0 and are hoping for improved engagement with NSW DPI Fisheries. In practical terms, MAS are looking for a facility where larger fish can be grown out for stocking into Tantangara in the event that redfin are translocated by the pumped hydro. Some promising news on the issue of money coming out of Snowy Hydro.

In light of the lack of fishing, I very much appreciate the submission from Anthony Heiser – nice to see some good looking trout grace our pages. Apologies, no such fish photos from the trip Peter and I took.

Good news also from Lyall – our Events Program is set to restart in June given some of the relaxations on social gathering. Mustn't forget social distancing, but at least we can gather and gab.

Meanwhile JQ continues to tease us with photos of warm weather and feisty fish. Our eyes are green with envy.

Coming Events

Meeting: 10th June

Normal time 7:30PM via Zoom
To be Advised

Fly Tying: 24th June

Normal time 7:30PM via Zoom – to be advised

June Chill: 13th June

While we had been hoping that this would be held down in the Snowies per our traditions, events have conspired against us. It has been reshaped into a local event.

From Lyall:

The venue will be Black Mountain Peninsular on Lake Burley Griffin near the final roundabout from midday until it gets too cold to fish. We are not booking a barbeque but feel free to bring your sandwiches or sausages and hot coffee or cold brew. Fish whatever method you like but Rod cleaned up using nightcrawler worms at our last event there. Join us for an afternoon of friendship and fishing.

Sneaky Trip to Providence Portal

Good friend of CAA and Editor/Facebook Administrator for Canberra Fishermans Club, Anthony Heiser, dropped me this article – thanks mate. In respect to the link discussing travel restrictions – please take note of the caution that this is very much a dynamic situation with further changes having been put in place since Anthony wrote to us – thankfully in the direction of easing restraints.

Anthony:

The other week, Stephen Dunn offered me a spot on his boat on a planned day trip to Tantangara. However, the weather forecast was not promising, so we opted for a trip to Providence Portal instead.

The water was high and flowing rather fast, that we had to use three split shots to get our glo bugs and black nymphs onto the riverbed. The water was also blackish, and some banks were covered in soft black silt from the bushfires. I made the mistake of wading into the silt, and discovered it was like having your feet set in concrete.

I'm pretty hopeless casting with split shots, so the morning began with Stephen catching all the fish and myself looking rather foolish.



At some point, I finally got my groove, and I landed four Browns in one small stretch of water.



The best of my four fish was a male with half his lower jaw missing.

This fish seems to have adapted well to his predicament by using his tongue in place of his lower jaw.

Further upstream, I hooked a beautiful 60 cm plus Brown. As I was playing the fish and walking to a suitable spot to land him, I stepped into a rabbit hole and fell over, busting off in the process.

However, I redeemed myself later in the afternoon when I landed my best fish for the day. At the end of the day, I landed two Browns on Glo Bugs and three on Nymphs. Stephen caught the largest Trout, and I lost count how many he caught.





This was my first fishing trip since the COVID-19 restrictions began, and I was concerned about the rules on non-essential travel. The rules are not 100% clear and I guess that means our lawmakers in NSW are relying on everyone to exercise discretion and common sense.

Stephen has set out his understanding of the rules in his blog: <https://flystream.com/covid-19-can-i-fish-the-snowy-mountains/> . I have heard the police in Cooma and Adaminaby are fine with anglers making day trips to the mountain, provided they drive straight to and from their fishing spots without stopping along the way. I've also heard the locals at Adaminaby will not welcome visitors right now.

One police car had ample opportunity to pull me over on the Snowy Mountains Highway on the drive back, and our presence did not upset the fishing inspector at the Portal, although he was well-informed about our original plans to fish Tantangara! If you choose to fish the Portal, exercise discretion, day trips only, don't stop off along the way, don't upset the locals and the police, and make sure you have your fishing licence handy. And always check the rules for yourself, as they are always changing.

Public Holiday Fishing

Jason Q

Dear Team CAA,

Hope all going solid!

It's nice to start getting out again with the slow release of the restrictions. We had a public holiday here and I managed a sneaky trip fishing. The wind wasn't ideal for the blue water, but it was perfect in the mangroves to keep the mozzies and sand flies away.

Fishing was good too. For much of the day it was Geet and a few Flathead. I actually didn't realise Flathead were up this high for some reason, but they were plentiful.



I learned a heap this outing including what it's like to spook a 80cm+ Barra.. A lot like walking down to the water's edge and pretty much stepping on a brown trout you didn't but should have looked for. Also how to cast flies without weed guards into very tight spots. Yes, I lost quite a few!

So, pretty much littered along the coast line from Brisbane up is the 'achtung' **beware crocodile warning signs near the rivers and ocean, but I'd never seen a croc unless it's from the bridge as I pass over Grants Creek near Port Douglas. Well today I sighted two and accidentally hooked one. There were schools of inch long bait fish jumping along the edge with quite a decent boil, I made a cast at it and then first strip I hooked up, only to quickly learn I'd hooked a small croc in the leg! Luckily for de-barbed hooks the hook freed without my intervention!

I also hooked a mud crab!! I cast out and then had the biggest head ache of a tangle with my fly line,. I messed around with that for a minute or so, untangled and then stripped in in anticipation of a re cast but I've got weight. Bloody mud crab! Not big enough to keep for a dinner surprise and angry like you wouldn't believe!

Managed to get my fly back (don't know how I still have all 10 fingers and toes intact) and he was gone!

Being a public holiday the boat ramp was stupid busy but the traffic flowed quite well. I wasn't too sure on the ramp etiquette so it gave me time to watch and further learn. You never want to be one of 'them' at a boat ramp!!

Right must get to the tying bench... .

Cheers,

Jason, Darlene and Eli





A Little Closer to Home

Bill and Peter

During the period when travel into NSW looked uncertain, the dynamic duo thought to try out the Cotter at Vanity's Crossing – old haunts for Peter. It was a lovely day with only a short period of the sun going behind the clouds, but we both did note that the height of the hills and direction of the sun meant we were shaded (and quite cool) for much of the time after we left the crossing.



As Bill reported: *"I actually didn't tie on my classic Para Adams. ☺ I had thought to put it on, but wimped out and did a dry dropper with a big red posted elk hair thing with rubber legs to support the nymph. Can't believe the fish would take that in place of the #16 flash back, bead head, pheasant tail nymph tied on below. To my surprise two fish ended up taking the dry. I had told Peter that the bigger fish was only 12cm or so – based on the mistake impression that my hand span was 10 cm and it got from nose to base of tail... when I got home I did a measure, handspan is over 20 ... fish would have been over 22/23. I can't believe people keep fish just a little bigger than that size! Also that my concept of length is so poor."*

Meanwhile Peter could only watch and wonder when Bill did a total of three, full-length face-plants into the water – a new record for him. He looked quite uncomfortable with a good few litres of cold Cotter water infiltrating to his boots.

NSW National Parks

NSW has largely re-opened National Parks, however there remains a lot of closures in Kosciuszko National Park. The authoritative web site is <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/kosciuszko-national-park/local-alerts>, but a key road (to Tantangara) is not mentioned. If you are heading that way it would be smart to phone the visitor's centre at Cooma.



MAS News

The big news is that the Snowy Hydro 2.0 Main Works Assessment Report has been released with significant commitments to building and running a salmonid 'grow out' facility. For more details go to the News Blog.

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.

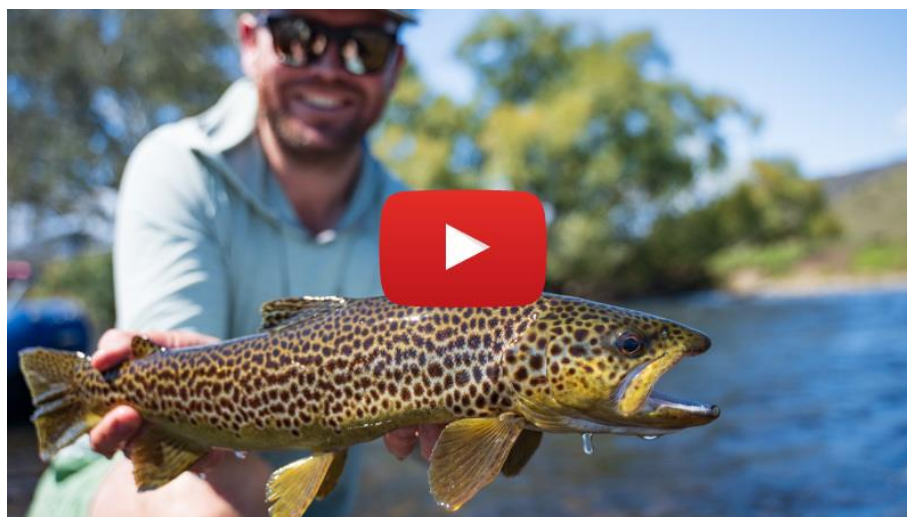
[Monaro Acclimatisation Society Press Release – Snowy Hydro 2.0 Latest News](#)

Bottom Line – a commitment of \$5 Million over 5 years to develop and operate a facility to grow out larger trout – seen to be the most practical response to potential translocation of Redfin into Tantangara.

Meanwhile

Posted on CAA Facebook (thanks Shaun) and disseminated by email (thank JM):

Drifting the Snowy Valleys



This week we're really excited to release "Drifting The Snowy Valleys". This was an awesome collaboration with Aussie Fly Fisher and Great Fishing Adventures of Australia and we're super proud of how it came out. Follow Mickey and Josh as they drift two of our region's best tailwaters hunting big trout and good times! Filmed by our resident filmmaker Henry Smith.

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](#). This was such a newsy issue I put it up on the News Blog as soon as it arrived. Key points were:

- **NSW Trout Strategy Annual Report Cards** – we've been waiting for these to be published and Peter has found them hidden away in the DPI website
- **Environment Minister Kean's response to the Platypus and Turtle Alliance** – NSW moves closer to banning completely 'opera house' yabby nets. This is an action that CFA have been lobbying for over the past few years.
- **Feral horse hospitalises teenager camping in Kosciuszko National Park** – watch out if you plan to camp at Blue Waterholes once the restrictions are lifted.
- **NPWS's plans for horse management in fire-affected Park** – a limited effort here. Meanwhile, did you see the Victorian Supreme Court judgement countering claims of heritage status of brumbies in Victorian high country? Read it [here](#)
- **Snowy 2.0 threat to rivers and fish** – never let it be said that CFA ignores news critical of Snowy Hydro 2.0
- **NSW CFA 16 May general meeting report** – CFA had an ordinary general meeting via Zoom on Sat 16 May.

- **Reminder: Dollar For Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program is back** – CAA had a bid in last year which of course was impacted by the COVID.

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

RFA NSW newsletter hasn't arrived.

Fisheries Victoria News

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

There's been no Nibbles hitting my in-box for a while, we'll blame the virus, but [one just came in](#). Lots of news from south of the border, but one particularly caught my eye: Tiger trout being stocked into Lake Purrumbete! This used to be a haunt of my mate Peter so I can see a trip coming up soon. For those of you fascinated by Trout Cod, Snobs Creek are progressing a breeding program at new facilities. Also news on habitat improvements for cod etc – almost makes you want to emigrate.

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
Bill	Rainbow	To 22cm only	Fly	Cotter River 4 May 2020

Contact Us

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

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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