

# THE BURLEY LINE



**Luke Eyeing off the Late Season Eucumbene River**



# From the Editor's Desk

## Bill

Our angling has slowed down but it was a morale boost to get a number of articles from regular contributors. Thanks Jason and Claude for submitting some interesting articles – even if the results of your expeditions did not include fish (we are an **Angling** association after all), the information obtained will stand us all in good stead. As ever, I'm impressed by how keen young Luke has become – rewarded here with 'photo of the month' plus another photo in his article. Ever vigilant Jaime spotted one item – make sure you click through to the link in respect to the huge cod landed in LBG. There is hope still for all of us to land a lunker locally. Lyall has put in two promotions – for our free casting lessons and for Peter Morse's classes coming up here in Canberra. Lots of other news from near and far in this edition.

Our new Facebook editor had a reassuring incident this month. I'd put up in the CAA (website) [News Blog](#) a promotion for our annual fly casting lessons. Someone following the blog (everyone should think about subscribing) was sufficiently enthused that they then announced the event on the CAA Facebook page just ahead of Shaun doing it himself. We've got 47 folk subscribing to the CAA blog for emailed alerts (some are not CAA members). By contrast we have 424 followers on Facebook (almost none are CAA members) and more every day. I wonder if CAA should get onto Instagram and Twitter with the way this newfangled social media is being embraced. 😊

## Coming Events

### Meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> August

Normal time 7:30PM this will include our AGM and trophy awards.

### Fly Tying: 26<sup>th</sup> August

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

### Next Events.

The Annual Fly Casting Lessons on lawns of Old Parliament House Sun 13, 20 and 27 Sep – see article later in the issue

## The Big AGM Raffle

If you haven't already bought your ticket, best you hurry. Buy your tickets 'contact-free' by transferring your money to the Canberra Anglers' Association bank account at BSB 032727, Account 240159. \$10 per ticket. Be sure to include your name in the bank reference. Lucky winners will be announced at the AGM.

\$300 of prizes suited to all styles of angling. They include a Snowbee fish smoker, a McLean Angling folding weigh net (kg and lbs) made in New Zealand and a SIMMS wading koozy.



## Denison Dash – Final Day Out

JM tells me that under the jacket, son Luke has a CAA fishing shirt – typical of JM, he has snuck extra embroidery on the back saying “Saltwater Champion 2017” – reminds me of the time I asked him to take a shirt of mine out to the embroiderer and it came back with extra stuff 😊.

### JM and Young Luke



With my last mainland trout on the Queens' Birthday last year, Luke and I headed out for a chance to try and catch a fish, and try out my birthday present Fitovers. As usual, by the time we got away it wasn't too early, but the last day didn't have too many fishers (but more than the sleaty day last year). It was interesting to see the fire damage, and driving by Bredbo I began to wonder if the last time I drove to Cooma was the same day in 2019, but then remembered I did the trip to Brogo, so seven months since heading south on the Monaro and a year since heading to the Snowies.



Arriving at Denison, we heard the fish were upstream further, but had been fished heavily, and with a snowfright and a trip to Tumut on the cards, we only had a short time to fish.

Unfortunately, with not much fishing since last year from the lockdown, Luke's casting skills were limited but he had a few goes. He also had some fun with a southern bluefin tuna carcass some fool left behind near the carpark at Denison. We didn't stop at Blowering etc, and noted Bullocks Flat Trail and the 4WD Sawyers Trail were still closed. A quick cast on the road to Blue Waterholes failed to inspire interest, even with a bit of distance away from other holidaymakers throwing rocks into the river.

Although we hoped for a fish on the Goodradigbee at sundown, by the time I collected my firewood for the trip and got back it was well dark, and with work the following morning limited it to a 12hr trip out of Canberra. We'll have to head down to the lakes and have another attempt, and have already booked in at the coast for Gone Fishing Day to work on the casting skills.

## A Lake Trip

**Claude and BJ**

After being cooped up for most of summer, and only having the spawn run Queen's Birthday weekend as recent fishing experience, BJ and I have set goals to give lake fishing a go...not something we have given a serious go in the past.

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After a little research, some advice from local ‘personalities’ we decided to go to Braemar Bay in Lake Eucumbene. The trip had two purposes...to try to catch a fish and to also do a recce for potential camping / fishing weekends of the future.

Prior to the trip we had tried to identify a ‘Denison like’ campsite somewhere near the lake. We had already explored the possibility of camping and fishing in Tantangara – unfortunately the camping area is still closed due to the fires and the road to the lake is likely to be shut in for the winter. We discovered that camping is ‘prohibited’ on the lake shoreline unless you are in a caravan park or similar...unless you decide to run the gauntlet.

Sunday the 5 June was set to be another spectacular Canberra winter day. We departed Canberra at a relaxed 0715 and arrived at Braemar Bay at 1030. After a bit of phaffing around we started our casting around 1100.



The snow-capped mountains were a very pleasant background to the lake which water only had a slight ripple, there sun was out with only the odd cloud in the sky and the water was very clear. The lake floor had a light covering of weed which provided a level of promise for BJ and I...surely the ideal feeding grounds for trout right?



Many casts later, in what appeared to be ideal water the only thing caught was a tree stump...we decided to call lunch and returned to the car.

After lunch we decided to try a different spot ...Eucumbene Dam Wall area. The trip down to 'close to the water' required 4WD. On the drive down to the lake, we were disappointed to see that someone had camped near the water over night and just left a fire going after leaving the area...not real bright after the summer we've had. More good looking water with lots of trees...surely there would be trout there right? When we got to the water we noted that there were no weeds in the water...just gravel and rock. After another hour and half of casting we only had mildly more successful adventure...this time catching three stumps 😊.



At the end of the day, one goal was kicked ....we did the recce! On the trip back we called up one of the club gurus to work out what we had done wrong...obviously there is not one certain answer...but we were told ..."don't go on a nice day...ideally lake fishing should be done on an overcast day and windy enough to cause choppy water...best when blowing onto your shore". So we worked out that the best time to go lake fly fishing is when it will be most uncomfortable for the fisherman....but that takes a lot more motivation in the middle of winter.

# Tasmania Trippin

Wed 8 Jul meeting saw Jason speaking about the Bronte Fly Fishing School course he went to in Tasmania – this was part of a recent trip he made to Tassie and JM has provided some insights on travelling to the Apple Isle (if it ever opens up again for business!). I've added the full article in our ['Places' blog](#) to record his tips for posterity, but here is an extract.

JM

I thought I'd add some notes on the back of my Bronte Fly Fishing School presentation. One of the benefits of going to Tasmania instead of New Zealand, is you can take your vehicle there. Usually, we drive down to Melbourne and get the ferry over, so I thought I'd share some tips.



One option is to leave Canberra before lunch, and make the evening ferry. In summer, Spirit of Tasmania runs twice a day. The cost of a cabin isn't bad, and comparable to staying in a hotel in Melbourne or Tasmania, and you can get off fishing early the next morning.

The food onboard is good, and we find the pizzas upstairs might be easy for kids near the playground and game machines (about \$14), the buffet is great and now focused on Tasmanian produce. The bar is also quite good, and has some more boutique ales than just Boags Strongarm to help wash down the salmon.

Phone reception is available until around a couple of hours from departure, and within a couple of hours of arriving, but don't expect coverage across the straight (you may get some off the odd island), or deep inside the hull. Take the chance to check out the sunrise/sunset and the stars instead, or go to the cinema with some Valhalla ice cream.

If you haven't stopped for a fish on the way to Melbourne, there is no need to show your fishing gear, so keep it dry like you would for the 48hrs before flying out of NZ. Flies etc are not an issue. Watch out for pine needles etc under the bonnet – expect to open bonnets and tailgates for quarantine.

Tickets can often be picked up cheap, and usually slightly cheaper on the return leg. From memory, I think I paid \$99-119 each way for an adult, and about \$40-70 per child. The vehicle costs around \$400, and with a cabin each way it came out around \$900 – more around \$1200 if you are picking a busier sailing date.

Devonport is where you disembark. If wanting to wet a line, some flathead and salmon can be caught down the beach or the breakwall if you turn left when leaving the ferry terminal to the East Devonport beach.



If heading south, one of the local fly makers now just sells at the Sports scene in Deloraine (the venison pie in Frogs Hollow café was pretty good there, and a public toilet on the same corner as these makes a great reason for a pit stop) before you cross the river and head down to Liawenee and the Central Lakes from Devonport.

Hopefully this gives you some thoughts if thinking of a trip to Tasmania, and considering the ferry instead of flying to Launceston or Hobart.

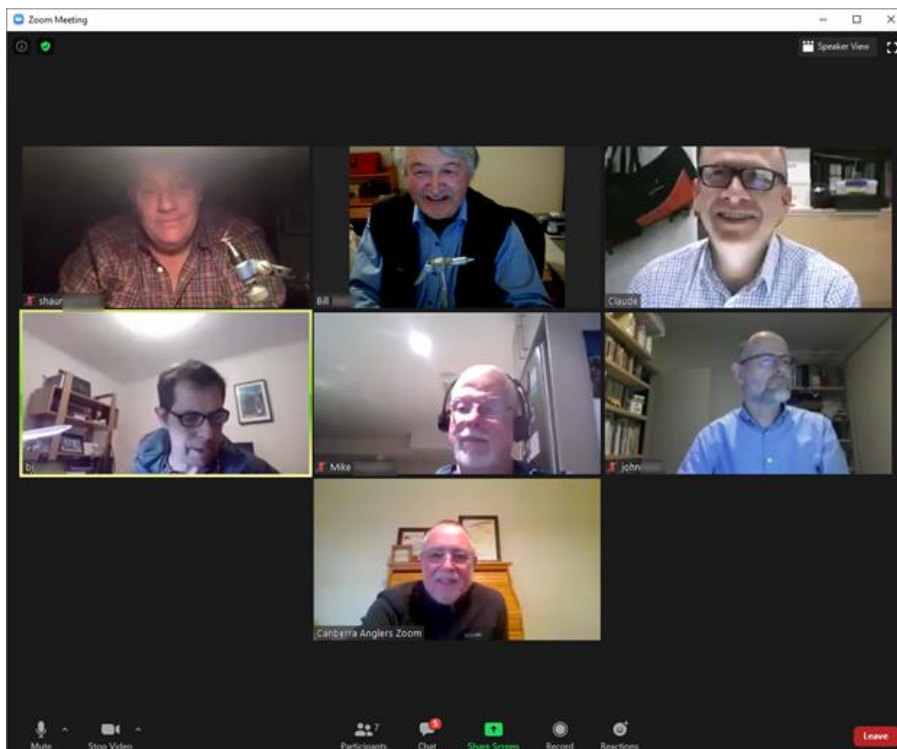
## Fly Tying 22 Jul – Soft Hackles/North Country Spiders



Shaun hosted CAA Zoom fly tying on Wednesday 22 July. We tied Soft Hackle flies also known as North Country Spiders. These are killer flies for trout on our alpine rivers and lakes.

From Shaun:

North Country Spiders - is the name given to wet flies tied in a particular style in the north of England. The Americans refer to them as "Soft Hackles". They are at the foundation of all North Country fly fishing and are tied intentionally to be very sparse. They have been used for over a hundred years and are tied using simple, traditional, fly tying materials, to represent the full spectrum of insects available to the trout and grayling. There are many North Country Spiders variants that can represent virtually every insect and they have been successfully employed in lakes and rivers in Australia. More info and recipe in our [Fly Tying blog](#) collection. Meanwhile, here are some images of the results:



*Geoff from Brisbane and Peter had signed off before I could capture the full scene.*



Claude



BJ



*Bill – I think my barbules were just a little too fluffy. We'll see when we get a chance to try on fish*

## Casting Lessons for the Public At Old Parliament House

Lyall



Yes, it is that time of year again. We are organising COVID-careful fly casting tuition for the public on the lawn at Old Parliament House on 13 and 20 September then moving to Googong Dam on 27 September to cast on the water and maybe catch a fish.

It is an excellent opportunity for outreach by Canberra Anglers'

Association and I have had scores of people tell me that their first exposure to fly fishing was at Old Parliament House. Not to mention the opportunity to sell the best sausage sandwiches in the southern hemisphere ... no, the best on the planet.

We anticipate having our usual fantastic CAA casting instructors and members to circulate amongst members of the public to fine tune their casting. And, as usual, we will have raffles for all kinds of angling gear and hopefully a major raffle prize of a fly rod from a generous benefactor.



Canberra Anglers Association Presents

## Learn to fly cast



Bringing anglers together since 1945

**10am - noon**  
ON THE LAWN OF  
OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
Opp. the Treasury Building  
across Parkes Place West

RODS PROVIDED  
OR BRING YOUR OWN

Sunglasses/eye protection  
required to participate

ALL LEVELS &  
AGES WELCOME

27 September will move to Googong Dam to cast on the water.

[www.canberra-anglers.asn.au](http://www.canberra-anglers.asn.au)

September 13, 20, 27  
with Sage Ambassador  
Peter Morse on 13th

Sausage sizzle - Drinks - Raffles

**FREE**

Coaching  
by CAA members  
including Fly Fishers  
International  
instructors

The best news is that we will have Master Casting Instructor, author and photographer Peter Morse joining us on 13 September to showcase the latest in Sage fly rods and Rio lines so expect a big turnout by the public to meet him. Peter was the host of the long-running SBS fly fishing TV series Wildfish and I have been asked more than a few times when we are travelling together “Is that the famous Peter Morse?” “Naaah, this bloke just looks like him.”

Please block off 13, 20 and 27 September in your diaries CAA members and volunteer to take an active role in the premier fly casting event of the year in Canberra.

The flyer (at left) is [available to download](#) from our website – maybe print it off and put up in noticeboards at work.

# Peter Morse Fly Casting Classes – September

Lyll



**Fly Casting Tuition with Master Casting Instructor Peter Morse 11, 12 September**

Beginner or advanced, single or double handed, accuracy, distance or presentation casting.  
Personalised two hour classes for 1 to 4 people

1-2 pax \$200 shared cost  
3-4 pax \$300 shared cost

Come and try the latest from Sage fly rods and Rio fly lines

Book early to avoid disappointment by e-mailing [info@capitalflycasting.com](mailto:info@capitalflycasting.com)

Fly Fishers International Master Casting Instructor, author and photographer Peter Morse (wearing the rust coloured jacket above) is coming to Canberra in September to offer fly casting classes as well as support our first Sunday of CAA Fly Casting at Old Parliament House. Peter is offering classes on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 September.

This year Peter will be offering small, personalised, two hour classes for up to four casters. Book an individual class for yourself, cast with a friend or get a group of three or four together to share the cost. If you wish to focus on two-handed casting, on accuracy or distance, the class can be personalised to suit your interest.

See the flyer for the cost. Take a private class or get a group together. Some slots are already gone so contact [info@capitalflycasting.com](mailto:info@capitalflycasting.com) to see

what times are still available.

With the trout streams currently closed and practice time in abundance, what better than to fine tune your fly casting skills ready for the opening weekend in October or your assault on the salt. “Improve your casting – catch more fish” – it is guaranteed.

## For the Boaties

### Bill

Seems there is confusion on the ACT Government websites (again), but [new rules](#) were enacted last year for power boats on our local lakes (less Lake Burley Griffin, controlled by NCA). According to Access Canberra “*Access Canberra webpage reflects the changes. The Canberra Lakes and Ponds Plan of Management is currently being changed and will align with the changes of the Lakes Act. However the updated plan is not quite finalised. The parks and reserves web page reflects the current Plan of Management. the difference in the two web pages is because of the time lag in the plan of management catching up with the change to the Lakes Act.*” Powered boats are ok so long as you keep the speed down (less than 10 knots ) – Jason will need to control his enthusiasm.

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

Don't forget that you can register to receive automatic emails when new posts are uploaded. Fill out the form on the right of any post.

Click on the headings below to look at the post.

### [Bobeyan Road Confirmed Open](#)

It is official.

<https://www.environment.act.gov.au/home/home-news-listing/parts-of-namadgi-are-now-open-as-bushfire-recovery-progresses>

### [Opera House Yabby Trap Ban](#)

The ACT are ahead of NSW in banning these traps, dangerous to air breathing water animals. We've even got a free exchange program running.

### [Draft State Strategic Plan for Crown land](#)

NSW is looking to establish a Strategic Plan for the management of Crown Land. Some of this land provides for angler access so we should have a strong interest in what might transpire. Comments are sought by 20 Aug.

### [More News of MAS Concept for a Trout Grow Out Facility as Part of Snowy Hydro 2.0](#)

MAS continues to negotiate with DPI (Fisheries) and Snowy Hydro on how the \$5M might be spent on a Trout Grow Out Facility.

# Stuff You May Have Already Read on our [Facebook Page](#)



If you are on Facebook, you should consider “liking and following” the [CAA Facebook page](#).

For those of you who don't subscribe, click on the headings below to look at the post – you don't need to join Facebook.

## [What a Monster](#)

1.3m cod in Lake Burley Griffin – it would have rated at 122% on our Native Fish Scoring scale ... amazing – check out the photo.

## [RiverDialogue: Rivers On Fire](#)

Shawn spotted an interesting seminar (conducted 6-7 Jul ... that's why you gotta follow our Facebook page ... it is very 'real time'). The seminar prompted us to see into a much wider/international [program on rivers](#).

## 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 July 2020 edition is [here](#). Key points were:

- **Re-purposing burnt trees as fish habitat.**
- **Draft State Strategic Plan for Crown land**– as discussed above.

The August 2020 edition also came in. It is [here](#). Key points were:

- **Feral horse trapping underway in KNP** – feral horse trapping has finally got underway again in sensitive areas of Kosciuszko National Park flowing on from a July decision in the NSW Land and Environment Court.
- **Snowy Hydro 2.0 Trout Grow Out Facility** – as discussed above.
- **NSW CFA AGM** – will occur on Sat 15 Aug via Zoom. CAA attendance will depend upon a decision in respect to CAA affiliation with CFA to be discussed at our AGM on Wed 12 Aug.
- **Crown road closure applications now ONLY online and in local papers** – the announcements will be searchable at a [NSW Government website](#). From my experience it is easy to search, but then the announcement diagram is a little hard to interpret – liberal use of Google Maps showed me that the only one currently in our general area of interest relates to property near Brogo, but well away from Brogo Dam access. “The price of freedom” of access “is eternal vigilance”.

### **Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW**

Remember you can subscribe yourself, there is a link in every monthly newsletter. Recent, previous RFA newsletters can be accessed via their [archive](#). They also have a presence on [Facebook](#).

The July 2020 edition is [here](#). Lots of saltwater stuff as you would expect, but some interesting points for boat owners, including a local issue:

- **Batemans Bay Boat Ramp debacle - is the community expected to use unsafe boat facilities?**

### **Fisheries Victoria News – ‘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 😊).

None arrived before publication.

## 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>	
	<b>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</b>
	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Workshop at Gaden Hatchery <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</a>
	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Saltwater Workshop at Batemans Bay <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</a>
	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Saltwater Workshop at Tuross Head <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</a>
	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Saltwater Workshop at Greenwell Point <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</a>
11-12 Sep	Peter Morse fly casting tuition - contact <a href="mailto:info@capitalflycasting.com">info@capitalflycasting.com</a> to see what times are available.
15 Oct	Hopefully the COVID restriction will still allow for CAA's 75 <sup>th</sup> birthday. Otherwise perhaps a Zoom session.
<b>2021</b>	<b>These have been annual regulars in the past</b>
Feb	the Thredbo fly fishing expo (free event) <a href="https://www.thredbo.com.au/events/fly-fishing-weekend-2020/">https://www.thredbo.com.au/events/fly-fishing-weekend-2020/</a>
Mar	Pirtek One Day fishing challenge – “Fight a Fish for Medical Research’ – information at <a href="https://pirtekfishingchallenge.com.au/">https://pirtekfishingchallenge.com.au/</a> .
Mar	Buckenderra Caravan Park organize a trout catch and release event called the Buckenderra Trout Challenge. There is a limit of 150 participants. <a href="http://visitcooma.com.au/events/buckenderra-trout-challenge-2019/">http://visitcooma.com.au/events/buckenderra-trout-challenge-2019/</a>
May	NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers InterClub Meet <a href="http://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/cfa-annual-interclub-flyfishing-meet-3-5-may-2019-program-and-other-info/">http://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/cfa-annual-interclub-flyfishing-meet-3-5-may-2019-program-and-other-info/</a>



# 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.

The 'Trophy Season' closed at the end of the July meeting so the list is currently looking bare, but I'm ready to record your efforts from here on. Looking forward to hearing about them.

Angler	Species	Length	Method	Location/Event/ Date

## Contact Us

Canberra Anglers Association Inc.

GPO Box 2237  
Canberra City, ACT, 2601

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)



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 on our website or contact us via email.

## Contribute to *The Burley Line*

Contributions are always encouraged to *The Burley Line* and can be sent in via the email listed on the left (or via clicking the link on the web home page below "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)