THE BURLEY LINE



Lunch at the Tuross BoatShed - Coast Trip

(JM and Jaime unable to make it down in time)



From the Editor's Desk

We typically don't have a January edition, (especially since I've never been able to convince and ex-Vice President to do a special Christmas Edition ©). Nevertheless, I thought it particularly important this year. A chance to report on an enjoyable end of year barbeque catching up after a year of limited gatherings and a successful coast trip (well for everyone except me ®). The ever reliable Jason M has produced reports on his aspect of the Coast trip, but he extended on to head on to Brogo where we missed out last month, plus provided some additional reporting on the Lake G outing which was run when the CAA Brogo event was cancelled. A prolific contributor to *Burley Line* and always appreciated.

Moreover, looking forwards, we have an unprecedented (if ever a word was overused recently that one would have to take the cake) two events in January – Claude's carp caper and our ever popular Jindabyne trip – occurring before we even meet for the first time in 2021. Make sure you put them into the diary, and contact me if you have an interest in Jindy. We already have 12 members showing interest ... and note there are only 14 beds. More information soon via email.

As I write this, President Claude is in Melbourne having his nasal passages probed by Dan Andrew's medical staff and me having to cancel my planned trip to Terrigal later this week due to the Northern Beaches outbreak. How soon the COVID situation can resurge after success – and threaten the chances of a few of us planning a trip to NZ in April. As we have all agreed, 2020 has been an insane year, we can only hope things will feel more normal next year.

From me and my team of helpers, all the best for the festive season and hope to see you all in the new year.

Coming Events

Meeting: 10th February First Meeting for 2021

Fly Tying: 24th February

Next Events

17th January 2021 – Carp Bash hosted by Claude

29th – 31st January – Jindabyne hosted by Bill.

Jan 2021 - Chasing Carp - the Concept

Claude

CAA Activity Description: 'Mud Marlin' ... 'Canberra Barramundi' Fishing - Any Style

Description:

Carp, also known as "Mud Marlins", are an introduced species that has plagued our freshwater lakes and river systems. Even though they are a pest, they can be great fun and allow you to get some great practice for the more complicated fishing in the mountains. Some of you may recall Peter Morse highlighting that one of his most memorable days fishing in Australia was fishing dry flies for Carp. I've only hooked up two on fly and landed one...but it was great fun...they are solid fighters!

Please join us on a fun filled day fishing any style you like and a social catch-up at the end of the day.

Organiser: Claude, (contact details, and a bunch of hints on technique, will come in an email to members)

Date: Sunday 17 January 2021, any time you want. Optional end of day catch-up around 6:00 PM.

Registration: Not essential but helpful if you want me to hook you up with other participants (and also for insurance). Registration can be up to the day prior.

Fishing Style: Any style.

Meeting Point: The intent is that members can fish in any location around the Canberra region that suits them and we will meet up at the end of the day for a counter meal. If you register I can connect you to likeminded fishers: bait or fly, and your preferred location.

Location: Any location you choose. Try the any of the local lakes or rivers. The shallows where you can sight fish are best. I intend to tackle a part of the Murrumbidgee that will require a 45 minute walk-in. You may want to tackle something a little closer to town and easier on your thighs, e.g. below Scrivener Dam, Sullivan's Creek, Uriarra Crossing, Queanbeyan River. If it rains the week before the event and the rivers are dirty, I will be chilling out in a camp chair bait fishing at Lake Ginninderra!

End of Year BBQ



for arranging prizes and especially Compleat Angler in supporting CAA.

We had quite a good roll up to the ever popular Lotus Bay: 15 members, one guest plus a potential member and his sister. A bit of fishing and trying out of a fibreglass rod for Jaime occurred in between sausage cooking, chats and a few beers. The major prize (\$100 gift voucher from Compleat Angler) of the end of year raffle was won by Jeannine - congratulations. Many thanks to Angie





Coast Trip 11-13 Dec



John

Squeezed into the beginning of December amidst the pre-Christmas rush of project deadlines, social commitments and a family baptism saw an early Saturday morning dash to the Coast. As I approached Clyde Mountain in anticipation of viewing the recovery from the bushfire devastation some 11 months prior my mind drifted back to the last club SaltWater outing in July 2019. Three hardy anglers enjoyed three days of hard fishing. I recall a total of three fish were caught... would the change to a summer time slot be more successful?

The plan was to meet Stuart and Mike at the boat ramp, fish to lunch when we would catch up at the Boat Shed for lunch before resuming our exploration of the waterways surrounding Tuross. A call to Bill from Batemans Bay confirmed his plans to fish with Randy were set as the boat was being launched. Jaime was in the area having camped at a secret spot, Alan announced he would be fishing Potato Point and Owen was already beach fishing for Australian Salmon. JM mentioned he would be traveling down sometime on Saturday after dispensing with commitments in Canberra. With participation numbers up – the competition for the SaltWater trophy was on!

Following breakfast at the Boatshed, Stuart and I departed the boat ramp at 10.20am, with the tide falling we headed east to fish the channels closer to the estuary, with little success we headed to the boat shed to collect Mike. Spinning was the order of the day, we were able to cover a significant amount of water with the occasional take. Stuart's local knowledge and prowess delivered a couple of undersized flathead before meeting up with the mob for lunch. Fish and chips was the order of the day, the quality of the food and exchange of the mornings fishing adventures did not disappoint – recharged, re-energised and sun safe we departed for our second assault on the waters surrounding Tuross Head.

With what appeared to be a never ending falling tide, maneuvering the boat in shallow water while navigating the current was somewhat challenging - nonetheless we all caught fish! Mike was crowned king for catching two whiting – one of which was 31.5cm, Stuart had success with numerous undersized flathead and a 28cm bream and I joined the bandwagon by landing a total of four fish including a 36cm flathead and a 27cm bream.







We retired to the boat ramp around 4.00pm, with water levels at an all time low we winched the boat onto the trailer and hosed down the motor before packing our gear away. A great day out on the water, Stuart left for home and I dropped Mike off at his motel before heading back to Canberra. As I climbed the Clyde through the late afternoon mist I wondered how Bill, Randy, Jaime, Alan, Owen and Jason had fared - knowing full well changing the time of the SaltWater trophy to summer had been a great success!!

Jaime

For the Tuross fishing trip I decided I was going to be only fly fishing, it's the only way to really push yourself to learn about flies, techniques, tricks so I didn't bring any other type of gear. I fished a couple of spots on my way to the estuary – beaches, rocks – didn't catch anything. Started fishing the Tuross estuary around 4:30PM on Saturday. I used my kayak not too much for fishing from it but to move and reach nice spots, I prefer to be on my feet. Bill called at 5:30pm to tell me about dinner time, I was in the middle of the estuary, thought about joining for dinner but that meant I had to get out of the water at that moment... I am glad I stayed (sorry Bill and company) because in the next hour I caught my only 2 fish in the trip. Two flatties, not very big but clearly legal size - around 35-40cm – good fun! much more when is with a fly you have tied; photo attached. A bit later got a lot of surface action with a popper fly but did catch any of those fish. I think they were whiting and my popper fly was too big for their mouth (I had about 4-6 missed takes). For the 2 flathead I caught before I didn't bother measuring or taking photos (all good not registering them for the saltwater trophy) because I thought I was going to get more and better ones in the whole day – Sunday – that I still have to fish... but it never happened. Although, during my first casts Sunday morning I got a strong take, it was certainly a much

bigger fish... but the joy lasted only 3-4 seconds, then it was off. I am still having that memory going over and over in my head, it always leave me intrigued when this happens and I don't even have the opportunity to see the fish. The whole rest of Sunday passed without a single bite.

My friend Shaun was spin fishing a bit and had the same experience. But he was mostly snorkelling and spearfishing. He says he saw lots of fish, bream and flathead. So it seems they were there but just not in biting mode. He missed what he says was a huge flathead. He was down diving, water was a bit turbid (with tide current going out in the deep channels in the estuary), so when he saw the fish he was too close, almost on top of it only a meter or so, when he tried to get ready to shoot it the fish swam away. None of us caught more fish on Sunday but in general it was a great trip, lots of fun! Will do it again!



Bill

After convincing past CAA member Randy that he'd need to come out of retirement and fish this CAA event, I was lucky enough to be nominated to be forw'd hand on Randy's rather flash boat. Dinner Friday night at the Pickled Octopus with our wives was an enjoyable prelude to what promised to be a most enjoyable day on the water. Randy showed the way with four different species in a row from various spots on the lake. Meanwhile my secret softplastic was not evincing a response from the promised huge number of flathead, though follow by a whiting during a fast retrieve did raise spirits – a shift to a stickbait surface lure was followed by Randy landing a very nice whiting – shame that would stay still in his hands for a measure and true 'grip and grin'.





The designated hour for lunch at the BoatShed came and we were pleased to find Owen ready to join us with stories about Salmon off the beach (thanks to Mike for this photo).

Jason M

The usual confluence of end of year events, and family duties, resulted in me not heading for the coast until mid afternoon Saturday. Getting down to Tuross at 5pm, I had a choice of a quick fish and recce, or head to the Golf Club for dinner with some CAA members.

Watching another boat head out through the sand bars, I followed suit about 8pm, albeit finding some a bit too shallow and having my first fish. Not much action, I then head back towards the channel and watched the water and prawns streaking across the sand flats. I could also see the whiting near my boat, eagerly watching the prawns running out, and a nice little stingray cruising as well.

After netting a few prawns, I putted up between the channel markers to find a spot to anchor up near the peninsular. I found a nice 2-3m deep area and set my lines. The rain came in, and I found my bimini zips weren't waterproof. With an anchor solid, I hit the sleeping bag a bit after midnight...and noted a dripping bolt I must seal up. Checking the situation a couple of times during the night, with little change to my bait except a 22cm yellowfin bream. My hopes for an evening mulloway didn't succeed, and I occasionally heard the splashes as fish and prawns danced through the night.

Up with the dawn at 5am, I found the action soon picked up. I got a nice black bream, and then a small tailor that became livebait. Making a coffee and some toast, I also welcomed a nice dusky flathead into the boat. As the tide slackened, I gave my prawn lure a bit of work, and enjoyed emulating the movements I saw during the night, but it failed to attract a bite. I had some good hits near a tree, but also lost my rigs a couple of times in some oyster rocks. After a second cuppa, and having watched the kangaroos and joeys enjoying the morning on the bank, about 10am I decided it was time to do some trolling and maybe fish the sand bars before heading back.

Working my way through the deep water, with Alan's comments years ago about those deep holes, I saw some good schools of fish and watched a number of ~35cm flathead being caught by some of the boats. Suddenly I found my rock buckling, as my blade was connected to an Australian salmon. After landing it, I repeated my run and got a second one, which I lost by the boat. A few more trolls failed to connect, and I worked my way back out.

Timing it with the outgoing tide, I had some quick fishes and soon decided to move back to the boatramp. After a nice berthing and reversing the trailer, I heard a call for help from down in the channel as two blokes were getting their oars out and trying not to be swept to the bar. Zipping out, and deciding to use my anchor line for a tow rope, I motored from the eddies just as my new prop bumped an oyster rock and threw it to them holding onto a drowned tree in the channel with a seized outboard.

Getting them back, I then had the joy of a lower water to get the boat out and once recovered headed up to the BBQs to cook some sausages for lunch and watched more flathead and salmon being landed. With the boat ready for the road, I headed up near the Bombala boatramp and cleaned my fish before heading south towards Brogo.

Another fun saltwater outing, and I finally got to test sleeping on my boat. Now I just needed to pick my sleeping spot for my next fishing leg.







Fellow fishers enjoying breakfast...







Treble bent on an Australian Salmon

Brogo

After the Coast Trip Jason M headed home via Brogo – to make up for the cancelled Club trip. He reports here.

Jason M

As indicated with the deferred Brogo trip, and hearing an excellent from our membership, the Tuross saltwater outing was an opportunity to head up to Brogo. With the recent results, fish on Sunday afternoon wasn't likely, but an evening rise, and an opportunity to stay down in the area that night held good promise, with minimal chance of showers. I took the Monday off, which was just as well as I missed a three hour meeting, and headed south from Tuross. The one benefit of COVID-19 was lack of school assemblies, so there was a short window to go child free and see how Brogo has recovered.

Unfortunately the other saltwater attendees needed to get back. It seems the usual pre-Christmas rush limited our availability, but great to see the club members down around Tuross. I suspect the sea air, wet night, and a sunny day of casting took its toll – I was certainly a bit weary from the 20hrs on the water.

I thought the boat ramp was down the Upper Brogo Road, but I was a bit off track. The road out to the dam turnoff though is in very good condition, with the usual potholes, washouts, and irrigation risers the only problem towing anything down the last couple of kilometres. I found a caravan parked down there, and avid Canberra angler (but not a club member at this stage). With reports of a few snakes, and small bass, I launched my boat and went for a quick predinner fish before returning to cook some dinner.

I rigged a couple of lures, trying out a new bass bug lure I bought ..or found on a snag. I wasn't sure my motor wouldn't spook the bass, and went for a try. I found my motor only went as low as 2.2-1.8 knots, a bit faster than I would normally troll on my kayak. However, trolling past the reeds and snags I hooked up a little bass. I was then rewarded again, and heading up towards the gorge, got onto a good spot. I had about seven bass by this stage. I hadn't had as good a result since my first trip to Brogo.



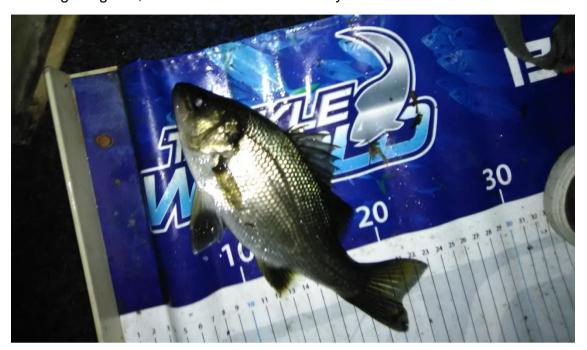
Possibly some fish, but I did find later the bass seemed to show up a different colour with the FishReveal sensing of air pockets





Skippy and cous cous cooked up for dinner, I headed back out for an evening fish. There had been a light shower or two, and the usual surface action wasn't there. It felt like the barometer

had dropped, and a cool breeze added to this. I hooked another few bass on the same lures. With it getting late, I headed back to hit the hay.



Heading back out the next morning, I decided to try a couple of different lures. Always a good place to be after a good session. I put on a deeper diver, and a shallower diver, to see how they went. The deeper only really hooked up on the weed, and eventually went to the lure gods (and replaced by a nice little lure I found in the landing area). I got a few more fish, including another 28cm one.



Brogo looking green in the morning



A couple more morning bass

I then brought the ute down to recover the boat, after boiling the billy and frying some breakfast about 10am. The sun was beating down, and I was contemplating a dunking afterwards to cool down. Coming down the hill, I saw a hatch happening, and fish slashing at them. I decided to take a short detour to recover the boat.



Casting in near the rises, I hooked up solidly, but my drag must have been too high and pulled the hooks near the boat. I continued drifting around, casting around the weed. It looked like jassids, march flies, and gum beetles were hatching. I soon became the first feed for a few of the march flies, but it was interesting watching them rise, twitch away, and eventually get eaten. The damsel flies were also dapping, and I saw some mayflies in the boat. I hooked a few small fish,

and with only a softshell left in the boat, a little sunburnt. I decided to head in, and get ready to head on to the next fishing location.



Whether it was the "flush" of dropping to 10% in January and then refilling overnight, or just more relaxed fishing than usual, it was a great session at Brogo. The usual 33-36cm fish weren't seen, but it was great to see the fish still there. The seemed definite year classes, with a number of 17cm, 19cm, 24cm, and 28cm fish caught. Some fish were barely bigger than my lure.



Success on a bladed vibe casting up near the snags



Off to the next spot, with the bushfire damage apparent in the surrounding hills.

Lake Ginninderra

People will recall from our December newsletter, that Jason organised an ad hoc outing to Lake G to make up for the cancelled Brogo Trip. Here is some more material from Jason.

Jason M

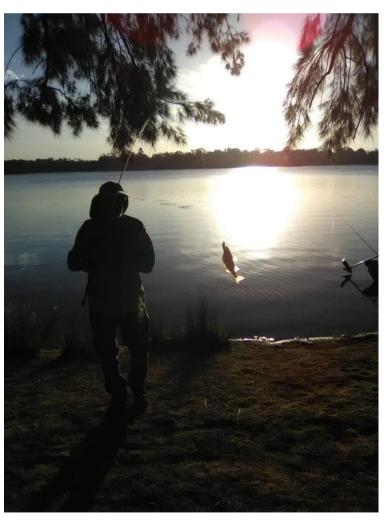
With the lead-up to our November outing, we decided to defer our Brogo trip and held a BBQ and fish at Lake Ginninderra. This saw a great turnout, with a number of vessels, and fishing types going on. Owen broke the drought with some little redfin, and other kept joining in as the sun the dropping and we cycled through the BBQ (ps, if anyone has my bbq spatula I left for use, let me know).



The early arrivers, we soon had twice as many Anglers, rotating between chairs and fishing.



Owen working the shallows to some risers



And is soon rewarded





..and is soon followed by BJ

For Sale

One pair of Simms Freestone wading boots. UK size 7. Very good condition with only some wear on toe and heel sections of the sole. My new waders have slightly thicker neoprene for the feet so I have had to buy a new pair of boots in a larger size.

New prices are around \$350. Asking \$200 or best offer.









Contact me direct or through the Burley Line address

burley-line@canberra-anglers.asn.au

Cheers,

Bill

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.

NSWCFA December Newsletter

Arrived too late for Dec *Burley Line*. A few items of interest relating to ongoing lobbying in respect to Opera House nets plus looking at the priority issue for NSWCFA for the immediate future – fish passage and water extraction impacting on our fishery.

Federal Government Entering the Brumby Issue

Federal funding into brumby reduction.

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. Facebook is a fast moving medium so I'll only be putting stuff here that is of a long-term interest – often that'll mean nothing in any particular month, but I'll keep the placemarker.

Other News

Additional news and links from supporting groups







NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

Remember you can subscribe to the Newsletter (*Freshwater Fisher*) yourself, there is a link in every monthly newsletter. Previous CFA newsletters can be accessed <u>via their archive</u>. They also have a presence on <u>Facebook</u>. The <u>key correspondence</u> is on their website.

Don't forget you can donate to the CFA by <u>becoming a 'Foundation Member'</u> and personally support their good work. The website explains what that means – only the equivalent of \$0.50 per week.

The December 2020 edition came in just too late for November *Burley Line* and links to key points were provided in "Stuff You May Have Already Read on our News Blog" above.

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 <u>archive</u>. They also have a presence on Facebook.

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 <u>Facebook page</u> (you don't need to be a Facebook user, though I'm sure they'll 'encourage you' to join ②).

<u>11 Dec issue</u> arrived. The masks have disappeared. Top item from my perspective was **Catch up on Talk Wild Trout presentations** – All the talks are on <u>YouTube</u>.

Long Term Program of Events Not Formally Part of CAA Events

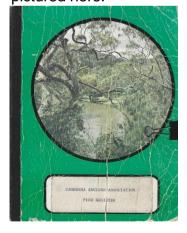
Provided for our calendar planning, members to see the diversity of angling events available to attend and some might even choose to get a CAA group together to attend an event outside our formal calendar which would broaden our horizons greatly. If anyone spots a non-CAA event that might be of interest to members, please email *Burley Line*.

Dates	Event Details
	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

	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.
	Here are some pages related to the 2020 event
	https://www.facebook.com/buckenderraholidayvillage/posts/2749280708483144
	https://www.facebook.com/buckenderraholidayvillage/posts/2820574901353724
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/
Oct	Gone Fishing day. https://gonefishingday.com.au/ .

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 <u>club trophies</u> is the little green book brought to meetings by the Secretary clearly marked as "Canberra Anglers Association Fish Register" pictured here.



We welcome emails advising how you are going, but don't forget to get them inscribed in the book. Please be aware that I tend to collect catch information from word of mouth and articles submitted for publication. I occasionally peruse the little green book, but inclusion in *Burley Line* can't be interpreted as having been checked by me to be in the book.

Angler	Species	Length	Method	Location/Event/ Date
Jason M		55cm (rates an excellent 70% on our Native Fish Rating Tool)		Lake Ginninderra, 29 Aug 2020

Bill	Flathead	65 cm	Soft Plastic	Burrill Lake, 9 Oct
Bill	Flathead	45 cm	Soft Plastic	Tuross Lake, 12 Oct
Alan	Rainbow	47cm	Wet fly	Cotter River, 17 Oct, Lyle Knowles
Shaun and BJ	Rainbow	3 each with best at estimated 28cm	nymph	Cotter River, 17 Oct, Lyle Knowles
Shaun	Rainbow jack	48cm	??	Swampy Plains River, Nov 20
Shaun	Brown jack	62cm	??	Swampy Plains River, Nov 20
Bill	Rainbow hen	35 cm (est)	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 22 Nov 20
Mike	Whiting	Two with best at 31.5cm	Lure	CAA Coast Trip, 11-13 Dec 20
Peter	Rainbow hen	45cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 26 Nov 20
Peter	Rainbow hen	47 cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 26 Nov 20
Bill	Rainbow hen	36 cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 26 Nov 20
Bill	Brown jack	50 cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 3 Dec 20
Randy	Whiting	Too athletic to measure	Lure	CAA Coast Trip, 11-13 Dec 20
Stuart	Bream	28cm	Lure	CAA Coast Trip, 11-13 Dec 20
John	Bream	27cm	Lure	CAA Coast Trip, 11-13 Dec 20
John	Flathead	36cm	Lure	CAA Coast Trip, 11-13 Dec 20
JM	Prawn	7cm	bait	CAA Coast Trip, 11-13 Dec 20
Jaime	Flathead	Two 35-40cm	fly	CAA Coast Trip, 11-13 Dec 20
Jason M	Bream	22 cm	bait	CAA Coast Trip, 11-13 Dec 20
Jason M	Bream	31 cm	bait	CAA Coast Trip, 11-13 Dec 20
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Jason M	Flathead	38cm	bait	CAA Coast Trip, 11-13 Dec 20
Jason M	Bass	7 with best 28 cm	lure	Brogo 14 Dec 20

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.a



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 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 notes 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.







www.capitalflycasting.com